

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor. THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY: Henry de Clerque, Mellers Bldg., Chicago; Louis Klebahn, 1 West 34th St., New York; Freeman & Co., 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1919

EUROPEAN DANGERS.

A gloomy view of conditions in Central Europe is given by Sir William Goode, Director of European Relief. Well-to-do people in Vienna are burning their furniture to feed their stoves, he says, and it is not unusual to see street traffic held up by processions of bears, mostly carrying children dead of starvation. "You cannot," he added, "trifle with starvation and privation such as prevails in Central Europe today, without running the risk of a carnival of Bolshevism which will probably not be confined to this continent."

Sir William thinks the overlong armistice, following four years of war, has knocked away almost every fundamental prop, political, financial, and economic. Something is being done by the Allies; since the armistice over 2,400,000 tons of foodstuffs have been sent to the distressed countries. But the crisis in Europe is of such dimensions and complexities that England and France, now relatively poor, can hardly hope to deal with it satisfactorily. Government relief is not sufficient; international action is necessary to help the starving nations reconstruct their economic life. And in the view of the British Director the European Allies cannot do much which is likely to be effective unless the United States is also prepared to extend her credits in proportion to her means.

In contrast with this view the New York Herald says that it is far better for Europe to rely upon herself than to accept further financial aid from America except as a private business investment. "Further loans to Europe will not remedy the situation," it adds. "Rather they will aggravate it. Europe must stop its wild extravagance and establish industry and thrift. Europe needs more production and less politics."

The Brooklyn Eagle says: "Dark days have come again to France, Great Britain and Italy. As before 1917, they again stand alone, facing a crisis as threatening as any that confronted them in the critical stages of the war before the United States entered it. In those days every serious development was followed by a hasty conference."

"It was thus that the Allies worked out their plans, met the new emergencies, diverted measures of security and renewed their faith in the all-for-one and one-for-all spirit. Despite the concern felt in the United States during these days, this Government had no part in these conferences. It held aloof while two men, M. Clemenceau and David Lloyd George, carried the burden of civilization. They kept the faith to civilization and to each other. Undaunted, they faced the crises of Verdun, the defection of Russia, the Italian collapse, the defeat of Romania, unrestricted submarine warfare at its worst and all the rest."

"Once more Clemenceau has gone to Lloyd George for a conference. A new crisis has come. Revolution, famine, economic and social chaos start them in the face. But once more the 'Tiger' and 'the little Welsh attorney' carry on. "Be our view ever so detached, we cannot ignore this aspect of the conference now taking place in London. Driven by amazing circumstances to resume their old roles, these two men have taken up the task of saving Europe as though the Huns were still at the gates of Paris or were again thundering toward the Channel. In the same spirit, with the same courage, they are attempting to bring some kind of order out of the wreck. They are again devising bulwarks of defence against new perils, pooling resources, fighting with their backs to the wall, still standing together though alone."

And the Brooklyn Eagle concludes that the United States should resume her place at the conferences of the men who are trying to save the world from disaster.

POLAND.

Paderewski's political star has suffered eclipse, apparently because his party has been too ambitious to extend the territorial authority of Poland without due regard for the self-determination of peoples. His parties forming a group under the general title of Nationalists have been characterized as too imperialistic; his policies got him into serious troubles with the Ukraine, Lithuania and Czechoslovakia. His fall probably means a new orientation in Poland's foreign policy. General Pilsudski, the President of Poland, has not been on good terms with Paderewski and the Nationalists, having gone out of his way to denounce their imperialism. A Social Democrat, President Pilsudski thinks Denekins' action is a menace to Poland, and has urged Poland to seek an understanding with her neighbors. His idea is to form a powerful Slav Confederation, reaching from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and comprising the Esthonians, Letts, Slovaks, and Poles. Such a Confederation, he thinks, would hold in check

LIFE INSURANCE.

According to the report of Superintendent Finlayson, of the Insurance Department at Ottawa, 1918 was the greatest year in the history of Canadian Life Insurance Companies. New business during the year amounted to \$315,251,556, as compared with \$282,124,430 in 1917. Death claims totalled \$24,903,799, of which \$5,008,098, or 20.95 per cent., were due to war, and \$7,791,698, or 32.60 per cent., to influenza. Of the 45 Life Insurance Companies doing business in Canada, 26 are Canadians, 8 British and 11 foreign institutions. The net amount of insurance in force in Canada in 1918 is given as \$1,785,061,273, divided as follows: Canadian companies, \$1,105,503,447; British companies, \$50,296,113; foreign companies, \$619,261,713. Premiums received in 1918 amounted to \$77,748,862, and payments to policy holders amounted to \$46,814,084. Hence for every \$100 premium received, \$60.21 was paid to policy holders, leaving \$39.79 for transfer to expense, reserve and profits.

Industrial interests in Italy are demanding greatly increased tariff protection. The British Board of Trade Journal says:

"By what is called in one journal a 'provisional indiscretion,' the terms of the provisional tariff reform were apparently made public prematurely. This gave the industrial interests time to marshal their forces, and the general confederation has issued a manifesto to the effect that the proposed new duties, which on an average are about 50 per cent. higher than those previously existing, should be increased by an additional 100 per cent. and should be extended to all articles and not confined to those usually imported from the Central Powers."

British manufacturers have perfected an armor-piercing shell which passes unbroken through the thickest of modern hard-faced armor plates. This is the greatest achievement in the history of the attack on armor plate. According to the manufacturers it will render the British big gun, which weighs 180 tons, unsurpassed, and the master of any naval engagement in the future. If the British Fleet had been equipped with such a shell during the war, it is the belief that the German Fleet would have been sent to the bottom of the North Sea, instead of being scuttled at Scapa Flow.

The Quebec Government in six years has spent \$18,813,000 upon the making of good roads, and \$2,894,000 for water storage for power purposes. Quebec municipalities are required to pay half the interest of the capital expended under the Good Roads' Act.

According to the latest calculations for every 100 French officers mobilized during the war 18.7 were killed or died of wounds, while as regards the French privates who served in the war 16 per cent. were killed or died of wounds.

Halifax's estimates for the coming year are \$1,460,212, an increase of \$187,494. The City Council proposes to give permanent increases of wages to employees in receipt of less than \$1,800 a year.

WHAT THEY SAY

Need Two Wars. Hamilton Times. We do not know who Justice Co.



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hasian is, but he is said to have told a House committee of the U. S. Congress that he favored the United States going to war with Britain to free Ireland. What would he do with Ulster?

It Used to be Other Way About. (Toronto Mail and Empire.) The alarm in places outside of Toronto over the smallpox "epidemic" in this city is amusing to those who understand what a relatively small thing it is in Toronto's life. The Montreal civic order requiring visitors to be vaccinated is a panic measure.

A BIT OF FUN

Truly Fortunate. She: "Tom, do you remember the night you asked papa for my hand, how fortunate you were?" He: "Perfectly—he asked me to lend him five and I didn't have it."

Final Proof. The prospective duel between a theatre manager and a critic in Paris may be taken as furnishing the final proof that France is back on a purely peace basis.—New York World.

The Operation of an Active Brain. We lamp it in the news columns that "the R. O. F. A. S. Club will meet this evening." Es? We dunno, unless it's Roll Over for Another Snooze Club, which ought to simply overnight membership these nippy mornings.—Buffalo Evening News.

Did She Mean Just That? He: "But I asked you, dearest, to keep our engagement a secret for the present." She: "I couldn't help it. That hateful 'Yessur?' replied Rastus Rashley. 'Da's what Ah said, sun.'"

An Expert Witness. "You swear that this man is no chicken stealer," demanded the judge. "Yessur?" replied Rastus Rashley. "Da's what Ah said, sun." "What do you know about the facts in this case?"

That Went Double. His gay young wife showed him the picture advertisement of a very short and very skimpy bath-suit. "You might let me have the money, John," she said. "I can't consistently, my dear," said he. "Why not?" "I'm a man of modest means."

Old Mystery Cleared Up. "Why is it, Bob," asked George of a very stout friend, "that you fat fellows are always good-natured?" "We have to be," answered Bob. "You see, we can't either fight or run."—London Blyth.

OUR ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN THE WAR REGIONS

Canadian Brotherhood Federation Makes An Appeal for Funds to Help Relieve Distress.

Toronto, Dec. 16, 1919. The Editor, The Standard, St. John, N. B. Sir,—There is a growing feeling in Canada that our present prosperity carries with it a great responsibility towards the millions in Europe who are faced with starvation this winter. It may, therefore, be of interest to say that through the Canadian Brotherhood Federation relief is being sent. (The World Brotherhood Federation (with which the C. B. F. is affiliated)

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE JOINTS. Everybody's body has a few joints in different places to relieve the monotony and improve the motions. No matter how ungraceful a person is, they would be even worse without joints. The knuckles are very common in the hands. They keep the fingers from being too much like the rest of the hand and can be cracked by some people more than by others. It is more a sign of merriment to be able to crack the knuckles than what it is a sign of intelligence. The neck are joints half way down your leg. They are useful to lean on and to swing your feet when you are sitting on a chair and want to keep from not doing absolutely anything. The neck are the 2nd hardest joints on stockings, first hardest being the toes. The back is one of the most useful joints. It is just north of the shoulders and helps us to shake our head in any direction and turn it when we want to see if there is any danger that we to be avoided. If it wasn't for the neck many people would get run over, and those who are not run over in spite of their neck use it much awfully if they recover from the accident. The ribs are attached to the narrow end of the arms and are used to wave goody and tern dor nbbs. There is another joint at the other end of the arm to keep them attached to the shoulders and swing them around in a circle to keep warm. Thus preventing many coal waggin drivers from freezing every winter.

has undertaken the care of the half-million fatherless and orphan children in Serbia; and is also bearing 50 per cent. of the expenses of the French Red Cross in supplying relief to the refugees. In September last, 60 delegates from Canada and the U. S. A. to the World Brotherhood Congress in London, were invited to visit the war-regions. Part of their report is as follows: "We saw scenes of desolation such as cannot be described. Old men, women and children are valiantly attempting to begin anew their lives in the regions that the enemy has destroyed. Our hearts have bled at their dire extremity, and we thank God that through the Brotherhood relief is being sent. "All men agreed when more men and women from this country visit these regions they will be impelled to alleviate the suffering, but without waiting until then and before the full force of winter comes, we would request them to support the work of the Brotherhood in the places that unbrother-

ly enmity has laid waste." At this Christmas season thousands of dollars are being spent in presents. May we suggest that it would be in the nature of a gift to Him who gave such gifts to men, to send a donation to help these hungry and homeless ones, among whom are so many children for whom in the world there seems to be "no room."

T. HOWELL, General Secretary. J. O. McCARTHY, General Treasurer.

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