

The St. John Standard

H. V. MACKINNON Publisher
43 Prince William St. St. John, N. B., Canada
REPRESENTATIVES:
 Henry DeClerque Chicago
 Louis Klebasha New York
 Frank Calder Montreal
 Freeman & Co. London, Eng.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 City Delivery \$5.00 per year
 By Mail in Canada \$4.00 per year
 By Mail in U. S. \$5.00 per year
 Semi-Weekly Issue \$1.50 per year
 Semi-Weekly to U. S. \$2.50 per year

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1921.

THE TAX QUESTION

It seems to be rather a pity that such a nice, easy-going bunch of gentlemen as at present compose our City Council should get themselves "in bad" with the people, as it appears they have done, as a result of their decision regarding the discount period for payment of taxes. But such is unfortunately the case just the same. If the man in the street is to be relied upon as a fair gauge of public opinion—and he usually is—the feeling among the general body of taxpayers is very bitter. They think that the tax-payers are not getting "a fair show," when all circumstances are taken into consideration. The plain truth of the matter seems to be that a very large number of them simply cannot find the money in the time allowed, and they must have a longer period in which to find it.

This shortened discount period, and the imposition of a more than six per cent. penalty on tardy taxpayers, together with the great exertion in case of non-payment, with all its additional costs, are only further instances of the highwayman methods frequently adopted by municipal authorities, and of which the people are getting heartily sick and tired. Evidence is plain to be seen on all sides of a strong reaction against what are practically hold-ups, that have taken place on several occasions within the past few years. These big stick methods do not produce any better results than were achieved when municipalities and governments too got along by the use of much more reasonable methods of collection. We are compelled to put tax stamps on cheques, notes, drafts and all negotiable papers, and are liable to heavy fines if we fail, either through forgetfulness or in the hurry of business, to do so. A pistol is pointed at us, and we are compelled under threat of imprisonment or tremendous fines to die into ancient history for records of business done in former years, upon which the Federal tax may be collected. Under the Federal tariff we are robbed of whatever benefit might otherwise accrue to us through the working of American exchange, and are not only forced to pay duty on such exchange, but are also liable to pay the same on our goods, which are payable in American funds, but are robbed of the entire benefit if payment is made in Canadian funds.

Briefly, we are necessarily or unnecessarily taxed in an arbitrary manner, not after the people have been impressed with the necessity for this taxation, but when they have been thoroughly frightened and cowed by threats of imprisonment, seizure of property and otherwise. For years practically every employer has been under the arbitrary policy of labor unionism, which has systematically appeared to be adopting the same methods, and are outraging all sense of decency, disregarding all those feelings the ordinary resident of this country might reasonably be expected to entertain, and bludgeoning the people into a state of mind which must eventually create a serious reaction. For even the proverbial worm will turn, in the last extremity.

LONDON NOT EXCITED.

Mr. Gratian O'Leary, a clever young journalist who has gone to England as a representative of the Canadian Press, has observed with surprise and sorrow that nobody in London seems much concerned in the meeting of the Conference of Premiers, about which there is much drum beating here. The situation in Ireland and England's frequent defeat by Australia on the cricket field are, he says, the subjects which occupy the attention of the public. "Thus far," cables the correspondent, "even the most important journals here (London) afford little indication of what the British people want, and show less understanding of what the Conference really is." Might not much the same thing be said about the people of Canada? According to the view of the Journal of Commerce, they are showing little indication of what they want from the Conference, "for the good reason that they want nothing unless it be to let the let alone." When the Conference was expected to deal with the question of a readjustment of constitutional relations between the Mother Country and the Dominions the meeting was regarded as an important one. When official authority excluded that subject, what remained was not of the highest importance; though of course any meeting of the Premiers is an interesting event. It is not to be forgotten that the Conference has no power to do anything. It can only give the British Government the benefit of its opinions.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Looks and Deeds.
 Less than a third of the world's population is white. And only about 10 per cent. of these act that way.—Canton Repository.

Education Still Slow.
 Germany is almost ready to admit that she lost the war, but it will be long before she admits that way.—Boston Shoe and Leather Reporter.

A Soothing Force.
 It must be admitted by the most casual observer that the presence of the Black Watch has had a more soothing effect upon the situation in Silesia than all the armies of the League of Nations, just as a good natured but efficient policeman is more useful in a street brawl than an amiable old lady.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Railroad Strike Talk Puertic.
 If every one of the hundreds of thousands of track workers and other laborers on the American railway system should strike this afternoon against the United States Railroad Labor Board's order to reduce their wages, there would be three men standing in line to fill every vacant job tomorrow morning. That is why there could be no strike to which the carriers, the shippers, the public or anybody but the old men who were off the payroll to make room for the would ever give a second thought. In the leaders of the four big brother-hoods should canvass the membership of their organizations as to going on strike against the Labor Board's order the locomotive engineers, firemen and trainmen would be able to tell them that without any strike too many men are already off the payroll to suit them. For hard sense there is no body of men in the United States to surpass the workers on the railway trains of the country as a whole. Hard sense tells any man who possesses it that going on strike these days against lower wage scales, when there isn't work enough for a big margin for those who want to work, is about as sane as going on strike against eating three square meals a day.—New York Herald.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE LOST HAT.

Seated one day in a hat shop
 I was bored and a bit blasé
 And my fingers wandered idly
 Over the plumed array.

I know not what I was saying
 Or what I was trying on
 But I saw a feathered wonder
 Like the hat of a Spanish Don!

'Twas flooded with crimson velvet,
 The dress of a Shehan queen,
 And laved by a feather fan,
 With a touch of real Blondine.

It tickled gold and silver
 Like a sin overcomin' rain;
 It seemed the harmonious jumble
 Of a genius gone insane.

It linked all perplexed shapings
 Into one perfect hat,
 And tumbled away to a tricorn,
 From a sort of toque or flat.

I have sought, but I seek it vainly,
 That one lost hat divine,
 That came from the head of an artist,
 And sat so well on mine.

It may be that haughty salesgirl
 Has sold it to some old hen!
 And it may be at somebody's luncheon
 I shall see that hat again!

—Caroline Wells, in Life.

THE LAUGH LINE

She Gets Hers.

"Tell me, old man, you've been married longer than I have, do you give your wife an allowance or does she ask you for the money she needs?"

"Both,"—Cornell Widow.

Some Short Skirt, Say We.
 Bullets Strike Girl's Knee Without Penetrating Skirt.
 —Headline in Philadelphia Record.

A Jolly and a Knock.
 That Gotham girl says men may be hypocritical but they do not go around kissing each other.

The Daily Don't.
 Don't forget to walk in the straight and narrow way—between the two white lines.

I'm bothered here with rats, said Mrs. Casey, owner of the boarding house, as she talked over the back fence with her neighbor.

Did you buy any of them rat biscuits for them? suggested Mrs. Kelly. Now Mrs. Kelly, what kind of a house do you think I'm running?

Share, if the bastards can't eat what the rest of us do they'll go hungry.

That young man who just went into the smokin' car seems very fond of you, ma'am, said an old lady to an elderly bride on her wedding trip.

Elderly Bride—Ah, yes, John loves me most dearly.

Old Lady—It does my heart good to see such affection these days. Is he the only son you got, ma'am?

She concluded her discourse, as she presented the orange to her sensitive though bewildered pupil, by saying, So you see my dear, it is now night in New Zealand.

Yes, yes, said the little pupil, impatiently, but what night, last night or tomorrow night?

A Scot was taken out of a train at Wilkesden for being drunk and disorderly. We had got into bad company, he said. "Bad company—how?" the magistrate asked. "Well, sir, I've seen I had two bottles of spirits in me bag, an' at the fitter men in me compartment wis testin' it."

According to one of the city scholars, the letters M. L. A. mean "Member of the Lunatic Asylum." Well, there are those who will not be disposed to contradict him.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was wawking along yestiddy jest wawking along and I saw a loose horse shoe out in the street, thinking, Gosh, some horse must of took it home on account of loose horse shoes being good luck, thinking, This is a good chance to prove weather they really are or not.

Wich jest then was did I do but trip over a stuck up brick, and I fell down holding on to the horse shoe for good luck, and it gave me a farse crack on the nuckles wen it hit the pavement, me thinking, Owch, heez.

And wen I got home I got a hammer and a nule and put 2 chairs on top of each other in my room and climbed up to nule the horse shoe over my door for good luck, and every time I misse the nule I let my thumb, being about every other time, thinking, Heck, owch, wens this—good luck going to start?

Wich jest then the 2 chairs fell off of each other and I fell off of both of them and landed in a setting position on the floor with a farse bump, thinking, O well, the horse shoe is up anyway.

Wich it was, but not very good, the nule any being in a little ways on account of being misse sh awfien, and pop came up stairs to see what the farse bump and he opened my door and the nule came out on top of the head, being the horse shoe.

Wat in the name of blinckin' blazes, sed pop.

Its only a loose horse shoe pop, its supposed to be good luck, I sed.

You dont tell me, sed pop. And the next thing I knew I was being shook and smacked both at the same time, and pop still gets mad every time he feels the top of his head.

Proving loose horse shoes may be good luck for some people but mine is out in the alley.

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DUKE AND GLADYS MARRIED.

Paris, June 24.—The civil marriage of the Duke of Marlborough and Miss Gladys Deacon was celebrated at the British consulate in this city at 11 this morning. The witnesses for Miss Deacon were E. Higgins, a cousin, and Leon Renault, former minister of the interior, while Judge Walter Berry, president of the American Chamber of Commerce here acted in a like capacity for the duke.

Little? For Today.
 Why do men like to be put on committees?

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Pembroke, Ont., June 24.—M. Brown, aged 84, and his little grandchild, were burned to death yesterday in the little village of Lapease on the Ottawa River, about six miles from Westmeath.

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