

## The St. John Standard

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## BEFOREHAND BRITAIN.

Great Britain appears to have conquered a great proportion of the earth in a fit of absence of mind, remarked Sir John Seely in one of his lectures on political history. If John Bull is the absent-minded beggar he is sometimes represented to be, his guiding star serves him in good stead. Now that the coal question assumes phases that threaten the national prosperity, it transpires that he has quietly obtained possession of the next important source of power. British capital now controls the lion's share of the available oil supplies of the world.

Great Britain's industrial, commercial and financial prosperity has hitherto rested largely on coal. Also her position as a world power has been built on coal; her maritime supremacy has been directly founded on her cheap coal, and her possession of coal stations at strategic points all over the globe. During the war her control of bunker coal enabled her to oblige neutral shipping to serve Allied needs—a potent help in winning the war.

Now Great Britain's position as the great maritime trading power is being challenged by America, and America bases her hope of building up a mercantile marine, able to compete with Britain, largely on the utilization of oil. Heretofore America has produced about 60 per cent. of the oil supply of the world; and at the present rate of consumption it is estimated that her oil resources will be exhausted in thirty years. The annual consumption is increasing rapidly. Oil is being used more extensively for power purposes in industry and land transport, and a great many of America's new merchant ships are being fitted with oil-burning furnaces—some are being equipped with oil motors. Already America has begun to import oil; last year she obtained from Mexico 35,000,000 barrels of oil of 42 gallons each. Americans are searching the world over for new oil fields—only to find, almost wherever they turn, that British enterprise has been before them, and that the control of all the most promising oil properties is in British hands. E. MacKay Edgar, a former Canadian, now head of the great London firm of Sperling and Company, declared in an interview recently that soon Americans will have to come to British interests for the oil they need to the tune of many scores of millions sterling a year.

British interests associated with the Alton group control the overwhelming majority of oil concessions in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, and the British interests are proceeding to develop these concessions under conditions which, it is said, will assure perpetual control of them. The Shell Group, a number of British organizations with a paid-up capital of half a billion dollars, control vast oil fields in Mexico, Russia, the Dutch East Indies, Burma, Romania, Egypt, Venezuela, Trinidad, India, Ceylon, the Malay Straits, North and South China, Siam, the Straits Settlement, and the Philippines. This huge concern is now searching for oil in the Canadian West. Mr. Edgar estimates that in ten years time British interests will be selling 500,000,000 barrels of oil to America a year—an annual levy of a billion dollars on the United States.

The British Navy was the first in the world to adopt the use of oil for fuel, and large numbers of British merchant ships are now being fitted with oil-burning furnaces. At present the United States has the largest number of motor-driven ships, but the biggest and finest motor-driven passenger ship was launched in Scotland last year. So it may be taken for granted that the "offshore" Mother Country has her eyes wide open to the possibilities of oil as a new source of economic and political power, and that she is ready and determined to snuff herself to meet any new form of competition which may seem to threaten her maritime supremacy.

## A GOOD OMEN.

The decision of the miners' leaders to obey the mandate of the Courts and call off the strike relieves a dangerous situation, for the decision of the American Federation of Labor to support the miners might have led to a struggle of nation-wide dimensions. In view of the fact that some years ago the coal mine owners defied President Roosevelt for weeks, the prompt acquiescence of the miners' leaders is a victory for law and order in a situation where even the Government's position from the standpoint of democracy, and even of legality, left something to be desired. One of the contentions of the Government was that the strike was not legal because the miners had not taken a referendum on it, but as the strike was called under the orders of a convention of duly elected representatives of the miners who met some time previously, the Government's contention would appear to strike at the whole system of

representative government. Another contention of the Government was that the United States was still in a state of war, and that, therefore, it had the right to order the miners to continue at their work, a principle of doubtful validity seeing that it had not been applied to a multitude of other strikes. On this point the Government's position amounted to a suspension of civil law in favor of military law, a thing that no government in England would have dreamed of after the close of hostilities.

If the miners obey the order of their leaders, and it would be the worse of policy for them to refuse to do so in the circumstances, the Government will be under some obligations to bring about arbitration of the questions at issue between the operators and their men. The whole affair may result in something being done to provide for the legal arbitration of labor disputes, a thing the American Federation of Labor and most Employers' Associations in the United States have hitherto strongly opposed. But this attitude, which practically declares that might is right, is being outlawed by the fact that labor troubles are now on such a gigantic scale that the interests of the general public are disastrously affected in an increasing number of ways.

## CAPTURE THE GUN.

While the speakers at the Victory Loan meeting last evening were hopeful that the city of St. John would attain its objective, evidently the citizens will have to make a big effort if the German gun is to come to this commercial metropolis of the Province. According to the statement made by Mr. Patterson that gun is now in possession of Madawaska, which is 25 per cent. over its objective and to beat that St. John would have to raise \$5,000,000, a matter of two millions to be obtained in four days. In previous loans St. John made enviable records, and it is greatly to be desired that the chief city of the Province should capture the German gun, as a memento of a final war effort. Mr. Estabrooks told the meeting that the business men of St. John were making an effort proportionate to their previous efforts in other loans, but that the anticipated subscriptions from the wage earners of the city had not materialized for some reason. In previous loans small subscriptions were a notable feature, carrying St. John well over the top, but whether the workers are not earning as much money as during the war, or do not appreciate that Canada's needs are still imperative, the small subscriptions so far have been disappointing. Possibly there may be a better showing in the last four days; at any rate there ought to be. As regards New Brunswick, Mr. Estabrooks said that while some towns and counties had done well, the outlook for the Province staining its objective was none too bright. It is to be hoped that he was unduly pessimistic. New Brunswick's effort in putting soldiers in the field bears comparison with any Province, and it would be a reflection on her citizens if they failed in the final effort of raising money, even though they may be proud of their previous efforts.

## INSTALLMENT PLAN.

"It's just as good as cash" is a common expression in relation to the Victory Bond that was bought last year or the year before. The same applies to the bonds now being sold for the Victory Loan 1919. The Nation requires capital in order that the interests of every citizen may be protected. It is willing to pay liberally for the use of the money and offers the best security imaginable. Strain your credit to the limit if you have not ready money to put into bonds. The installment arrangement which has been provided is most considerate. It gives all people a chance to keep themselves. The small investor can make no mistake in following the example of Canada's most expert financiers who consider the loan is a "good buy". The banks will subscribe liberally and will be investing the savings of their depositors. Why should the depositors hang back from making the investment themselves and getting almost double the rate of interest. Buy Victory Bonds even if you have to borrow to do so. The installment plan provides a good way to save money.

Touthing its incorrect version of what took place at the Opposition Convention, The Globe dolefully asks: "How could The Globe obtain an accurate report when the reporters were excluded from the convention session at which Mr. Baxter spoke?" If The Globe was not satisfied that the report of the proceedings upon which it based its peculiar observations was not accurate, it has shown less regard for its own reputation than it had any need to do. If it was not satisfied that its own version of the proceedings was correct it was its duty as a public journal to make

further enquiries. Before publishing its incorrect version of the proceedings The Globe might at any rate have checked it by reference to the secretary, or chairman of the meeting, or the men whom it has attacked.

## WHAT THEY SAY

Hard to Understand.  
 (London Free Press.)  
 The London Times says Canadian politics are hard to understand. But so are the politics of The London Times sometimes difficult to decipher.

A Logical Step.  
 (N. Y. Herald.)  
 If this sort of thing goes on—everybody endorsing her candidacy—Mr. Lloyd George will be forced in sheer self-defence to take Lady Astor into the Cabinet as soon as she is elected and so show that he is correct on the subject of the rights of women.

Would End Government.  
 (Toronto Mail and Empire.)  
 The men who are holding up the bituminous coal supply in the United States decline to go back to work unless the Government withdraws its injunction against unlawful courses on their part. If the Government agrees to cease governing, they may be good enough to come back to work. Organized labor sets itself up as the rival or dealer of the State its course is both foolish and criminal.

Irish Freedom.  
 (Los Angeles Times.)  
 The writer of this editorial is of Irish descent. He too, dreamed in his salad days the dream of Irish freedom. But the world war brought to him an awakening, and he would no more touch the hand of De Valera with his German tainted war record than he would that of a Hohenzollern. The way to Irish freedom was the road to France. It might have been won upon the plains of Flanders.

## A BIT OF VERSE

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON, DEVON, ENGLAND.  
 Oft in memory of thee, O dear Devon home of mine,  
 By the vale Coleridge fancied, when June's sun was quite sublime;  
 See the ocean vast and mighty (now it lies so strangely still),  
 And white gulls like living foam flakes, adrift in far placidity.  
 I can see red cliffs majestic, high above the shingled shore,  
 And the purple heather patches with the golden grass once more;  
 Then, seaward, brown-winged travelers adrift in far placidity.  
 Hopeful for their haven, Britham, where Lyte wrote "Abide With Me";  
 Glimpses a slender line of water, gleaming like a silver thread;  
 'Tis the little river Otter stealing to its ocean bed.  
 Sweet perfume from honeysuckle whiffs to me a fresh delight.  
 As long the winding footpath I wend to the "flagstaff" height;  
 There I pause and gaze enraptured; weak indeed is my poor speech to reflect the wealth of beauty outspread far as eye can reach;  
 While silent is day's requiem, as rises the evening star,  
 Save the warnings of the bell-buoy tuned by tide at Exmouth bay.  
 Now were all Saints at East Budleigh I am seeing once again,  
 And valiant Raleigh's natal home, beyond Hayes' wood and lane;  
 Ah! those paths hold many treasures, oft fresh glories are revealed.  
 As the gateways frame me pictures which the hedgerows have concealed.  
 There's the Topley's Church at Harford, loving close the river's brim;  
 His immortal "Rock of Ages" hath a fame over every hymn;  
 So until my own life's river flows into the unknown sea,  
 Salterton of peaceful beauty, thou art fresh in memory.  
 —Christina V. Partridge.

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Pop was smoking and reading in the settin' room last nite, and I went in to ask him for a nickel to go to the movies, and I sat down on a chair on account of not wanting to ask him too quick, and I hadn't hardly sat down wen I realized I was setting on something I hadn't wnt to be thinking, G, it feels like pops hat.  
 And I sat there a while trying to sit as lite as possible, and after a while I sed, Say pop.  
 How sweetly sings the mocking bird, say pop, say pop, sed pop.  
 And he kept on smoking and blowing rings with more of a satisfied expression than wat he would of had if he thawt I was setting on wat I thawt I was setting on, and pritty soon I sed, Do you know wate your hat is, pop?  
 That's a strange question, but then year a strange boy, so that makes it even, sed pop.  
 And he kept on blowing smook rings with his legs crossed, and I sed, Well, do you, pop?  
 Do I wat?—O, the hat, setteny I do, its on the hall rack down stairs, wate it belongs, sed pop.  
 Are you sure, pop? I sed.  
 Sure Im sure, sed pop.  
 Well, Im glad of that, because I bin setting on something and it feels like your hat, I sed.  
 Jumping jabber, I bieve I did bring it up stairs tonite, hop up, dont sit there like a cheshire cheese hop up, sed pop all excited. Wich I hopped up, and wat was on the chair but pops hat all smashed down, me saying, G, pop, thats wat it was all rite.  
 Tell me smthing I dont know, confownd it, wy the blasted dont you look wate yours sitting? sed pop. And he started to try make his hat look as if nobody hadn't sat on it, and I snuck out without saying anything about the movies.

## The November Christmas

No, the title is quite correct, because in our business we are advising everybody to do their Christmas Shopping during November.

To advertise "Shop Early" is not enough—everybody does this, and people don't heed it.

The fact is that there is every indication of a greater demand for our goods than we can supply.

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Vital Step.  
 "I have crossed the rubicon," murmured the woman who had just quarrelled with her red-faced cook.

Careless of Him.  
 Movie Manager—I wish you wouldn't do so much vamping. New Pianist—How dare you, sir? Oh, pardon me—I suppose you mean in a musical way?

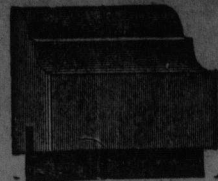
His Prospects.  
 "What are that young man's prospects?"  
 "Well, father, he belongs to a

union that intends to keep on striking for higher wages."

Turn About.  
 From a novel: "The two women, huddled together in a big chair, wept into one another's eyes."

Misleading Sound.  
 The cat settled herself comfortably in front of the farm kitchen range and began to purr. Little Dolly, who was strange to the ways of cats, regarded her with horror. "Oh, gran'ma, gran'ma!" she cried, "Come here quick. The cat's began to boll."

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ALEX. WILSON, Chairman

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