

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1919

THE YEAR ABROAD.

Abroad the retrospect is far from cheerful. The Mother Country, with indomitable spirit, has tackled the task of reconstruction with characteristic foresight and energy, and in the circumstances has made remarkable progress towards recovery; but she has many and grave problems to solve from which this country is happily free. British industry and commerce have shown a really astonishing capacity of readjustment to the new conditions begot by the war; but difficulties in respect to raw materials, to plant equipment, and for four years for war purposes only, to the failure to keep railway and dock equipment up to the mark, have put a heavy tax upon British energy. The cessation of house-building for four years, and the demand of a working class that has realized its power for a larger share in the wealth of the nation, present other serious problems. But the spirit displayed by capital and labor during the year gives promise of a satisfactory solution of the many difficulties which confront the nation. Even during the paralyzing railway strike good temper prevailed.

In the United States the year has been marked by great activity; American trade has been extended towards the south though to Europe it has fallen off, mainly perhaps because of exchange conditions. The Republic has been afflicted by disastrous strikes and race riots; in spite of an apparent prosperity the sinister seed of Bolshevism has found root in the land; the relations between capital and labor have been marred by unseemly displays of bad temper and intolerance on both sides; a gigantic struggle between capital and labor, complicated by the possibility of racial conflicts of an ugly character. Unfortunately the United States did not have the vision to see that acceptance of her world responsibilities under the League of Nations would have had a tendency to lift the national outlook above the plane of harsh selfishness and narrow prejudice which is now the fighting ground of the internal political and social forces engaged in promoting civil discord. Her astonishing failure to accept her international obligations is likely to have the effect of intensifying her internal troubles, as it has already had the effect of increasing the burdens of the Allies, and rendering more difficult the establishment of peace in distracted Europe.

In Europe the year has not lifted the burden of terror under which millions have groined since Germany unleashed the madness of war. Valiant France, with habitual sanity and industry, has made progress in healing her many wounds, but her difficulties are many—the condition of many of her people deplorable. Italy has had a year of political turmoil; her economic life is still at sixes and sevens, and her future is gloomy with forebodings of civil strife.

Germany, though her incompetent Government occasionally exhibits a pre-war arrogance and insolence, is in desperate straits, and in Eastern Europe war, famine and pestilence have taken toll of millions of human lives. New States, forged in the blood and welter of war, have been more concerned to prey upon their neighbors than set their economic house in order and settle down to the pursuit of the arts of peace. In the background the sinister spectre of Bolshevism still towers over Europe. On the military side the year has been full of accomplishments for the multitude of mixed idealists and rascals led by those astonishing adventurers Lenin and Trotsky; but according to various accounts their economic difficulties have greatly increased. Apparently the adventurers who have seized power in Russia believe peace has more perils for their grim dictatorship than war; at any rate they are continually intriguing to widen the area of conflict, and may soon be at war with Japan, which has become more at loggerheads with the new nationalist spirit in China. The Young Turks have plucked up courage enough during the year to flout the Allies, believing they have too many preoccupations elsewhere to deal with the ancient Empire of tyranny and corruption as it should be dealt with. In the British Empire itself the year has been marked by the growing strength of new forces which will tax the wisdom and ingenuity of British statesmanship to guide in channels of peaceful progress. Sinn Fein in Ireland has developed an irreconcilable spirit, which has already led to many outrages and threatens civil war in the Distressed Isle. In Egypt the Nationalists have been responsible for many scenes of tumult and bloodshed, and are impatiently clamoring for a measure of self-government which even the liberal spirit of Great Britain can hardly be expected to grant until the Allies arrive at a settlement which will determine the future position of Turkey and rob it of capacity to intrigue in Egypt. On

the borders of India there have been various troubles, but on the whole there has been a measure of quiescence in the big dependency, and the granting of a measure of self-government to its swarming millions may have the effects desired, and make India even more loyal to the Empire.

THE YEAR IN CANADA.

Without being pharisaical Canadians may contemplate their work during the past year with a considerable measure of satisfaction. Probably no country has shown equal power of recovery from the shock of war; the end of the year finds Canada on a flood tide of industrial and commercial activity, and with a remarkable degree of prosperity apparent east and west. Reconstruction of the economic life of the nation has proceeded at a pace unparalleled elsewhere; the readiness with which the re-employment of the soldiers in civil life has been effected is evidence of the broad field of opportunity; and the future is envisaged with an optimism that is full of inspiration for further effort in building up this young nation.

No doubt the Union Government which met the demands of the time of reconstruction with broad, bold policies some credit is due for the splendid manner in which the country has recovered its stride, and resumed its forward march; but much also is due to the favored position of the country and its wealth of natural resources, and more to the cheerful self-confidence, the hopeful enterprise, and eager industry of the people. During the year manufacturing industries in Canada have shown considerable expansion, and, though wheat production fell off a little in the west owing to the drought, field crops as a whole were greater than ever. Our foreign commerce appears to have fallen off slightly, owing to the cutting out of munitions of war, but the export of profit-yielding products has considerably increased. And agriculture and manufacturing have found a much better home market, due to the reaction towards greater prodigality on the part of the people, and the return of hundreds of thousands of soldiers and their dependents. Probably business was never better in Canada than it has been during the past year. The great problem of manufacturers has been to fill orders, and even to deliver them. It is worth reflecting that on the average conditions in the east have been much better than in the west—which would indicate a change from pre-war days.

ADVOCATES CANADIAN SYSTEM.

Although the Canadian Board of Commerce don't appear to have many friends in this country, Senator Capper, down in Washington, is urging the adoption of the Canadian system of dealing with profiteering. The Senator does not think much of the law which Attorney-General Palmer is endeavoring to apply to the situation in the United States, but believes the Canadian system is proving a success. He thinks the fundamental difference between the Canadian system and the American Food Control Act is that Canada fixes a limit on gross profits, but does not try to limit net profits. The situation in the United States appears to be complicated by the excess profits tax which is added to the price of an article as it passes from hand to hand. Senator Capper says prices of meats to producers in the States have been reduced 40 per cent. in some cases with out any appreciable reduction to consumers. One thing the excess profits tax does is to make the Government a party in any profiteering.

"Montreal, Dec. 30.—Members of the Quebec Legislative Assembly said yesterday that important matters are before the Cabinet, notably the question of the retirement of Sir Lomer Gouin. There was recently held in Montreal a caucus of Montreal members at which this question was taken up. It was then mentioned that Hon. J. E. Caron, Minister of Agriculture, might become Quebec Premier, and Hon. J. L. Perron, Minister of the Legislative Council, might enter the Cabinet as President of the Council, representing Montreal interests. Further, Hon. Walter Mitchell, Provincial Treasurer, is said to have ambitions to enter Federal politics as Liberal leader of the English-speaking people of Quebec."

If all this is correct it is in line with Ernest Lapointe's movement to sidetrack the United Farmers in Quebec. Hon. Ed. Caron is a farmer, all

wool and a yard wide, and might be able to persuade Hon. Mr. Caron that he is the bell-wether of the Quebec flock.

WHAT THEY SAY

History in Cycles.
(Huntington (W. V.) Advertiser.)
History moves in cycles. So with the cornob pipe. It is coming back to popularity. One finds it on the street, in the workshop, behind the polished doors of bank directors' rooms. It is an old friend, returning to its old dress.

The Expression of the People.
(Providence Journal.)
Carranza is having so much trouble about naming his successor for the presidency that it would not be surprising if he should prudently conclude to have a spontaneous uprising of the people urging him to take another term.

Krupps Today and Yesterday.
(Springfield Republican.)
The Krupps, who made great fortunes turning out war munitions, are now losing money constructing locomotives, freight trucks, agricultural machinery and moving picture apparatus; but they are adding vastly more to the world's real wealth.

A BIT OF VERSE

A NEW POEM FOR "O CANADA."

The January number of the "Canadian Bookman" contains the following from the pen of the Hon. W. S. Fielding:—
"O Canada! 'neath Northland's bright-est skies,
From loving hearts our songs of praise arise,
What grandeur in the rugged heights,
What charm in wood and stream,
What beauty in the myriad lights
That in thy heavens gleam!

Refrain:
O Canada! let heart and hand
Yield loyal service in this freemen's land!
For freemen's rights and freemen's duties stand!

O Canada! where health and wealth intertwine,
Where Northern blasts bear fragrance of the pine!
From soil and mine and lake and sea
Come riches for thy dower,
Cascade and river joyously
Bring wondrous gift of power.

O Canada! thy page in story glows
With chivalry of fleur de lis and rose.
Adown the vista of the years
Heroic forms advance,
In light and shadow, smiles and tears,
The flower of Albion-France.

O Canada! thy sons will proudly share
Service that links with Empire's world-wide care.
Britannia's far flung lands are bound
With slender stolen cord,
Yet strong as steel the tie is found
When foes take up the sword.

O Canada! thy sons will proudly share
Youth visions seen and elders dream their dreams.
An Empire's splendor thou canst share,
True wealth is labor's crown,
Shall not a land so rich and fair
Win honor and renown?

O Canada! may we our trust uphold!
Life's minor things must not our hearts enfold.
Not all the wealth of earth and sea
Can win thee worthy fame,
It service of our God and thee
Be not our highest aim.

*For adaptation to the music, the French form of the exclamation "O Canada!" is retained, the accent falling on the last syllable.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Puds Simkins and Mary Watkins was wawking along taking a wawk last Sunday, and Puds was saying things and Mary Watkins was laffing at them as if they was about twice as funny as wat they really was, and I thawt, O, that guy must think he's sumboddy grate. Meaning Puds, and I sed, Hay Puds did you ever get that big hole fixed you tore in your pants climbing over your back fence?

O, Puds, for shame, for shame, sed Mary Watkins.
Aw, he's krazy, sed Puds. It was sutch a little hole I wouldn't of had to have it fixed at all if I hadn't of wanted to, it wasn't hardly a hole at all, I dont bleeve it was a hole anyways. And he started to blush and wawk along without saying any more, me thinking, I gess that'll show him he aint so darn mutch.

And I started to say some funny things myself, making Mary Watkins laff like anything, and all of a suddin Puds sed, I dont see wat youre tawking so mutch about, if I had a picture of me in my house like I saw of you in your house, I wouldn't tawk for a week.

Wat picture, wat picture, Puds? sed Mary Watkins, and Puds sed, O, I wouldn't even mention it, Im glad it aint a picture of me, thats all.

He's jest making it up, I sed, and Mary Watkins sed, Now Puds dont be meen, tell me wat picture, I think your aeking awill meen, Puds, and Puds sed, All rite Ill tell you, its a picture of him setting on a cushion wen he was a baby, and so you want to know wat he's got on?

Wat? sed Mary Watkins.
He's making it up, I sed.
He aint got a single thing on, and he's setting there as if he's proud of it, sed Puds.

O, Benny, for shame Im shocked O, Benny, sed Mary Watkins and I sed, Could I help it?—I couident even tawk yet, how could I help it?

And I kept on wawking without saying anything more, and Puds started to say things agen that was supposed to be funny, and Mary Watkins kept on laffing at them as if they really was.

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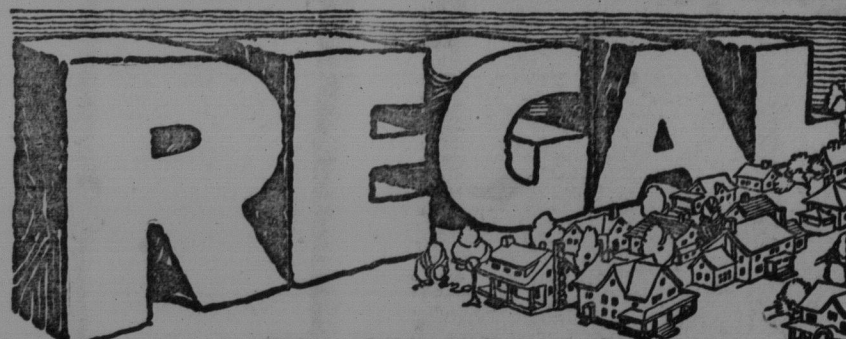
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

and a prosperous one to all our customers and friends.

FLEWELLING PRESS

Money Talks.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)
France wants to see a lot of American tourists this year. But if tourists are too busy to go, they can send their money and France will try to repress her affectionate desire to see their faces and press their hands.



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