

The St. John Standard

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THE POWER PROBLEM.

While private enterprise, generally speaking, is considerably more efficient and economical than public enterprise, the world appears to be running into problems for which private enterprise offers no adequate solutions. Private companies no doubt are able to mine coal more economically than governments could do, but that is scant comfort to the many communities on this continent whose industries are suspended and whose people are suffering because of the shortage of coal. Governments often bungle their enterprises, but often, too, they achieve results that would not be attained if private enterprise was left to its own devices. The railways and canals which have made possible the growth of a Canadian nation are largely the result of public enterprise; at any rate few or none of them would have been built without public assistance. The National Policy is a form of Government encouragement of private enterprise, which has worked well in many respects, but which at the same time has created new problems whose only apparent solution lies in further developments of the principle of public enterprise. The National Policy has created industrial cities of first importance, and now these cities are worried by the problem of securing a steady supply of power, heat and light. With unrivalled water powers and immense coal areas, Canada has allowed herself to become dependent on the United States for one of the most important factors in her industrial progress—and an absolute necessity of her people's life in winter. Annually this country has been importing from the United States 4,500,000 tons of anthracite, and about 14,000,000 tons of bituminous coal, and an illegal strike in the United States has entailed great inconvenience, loss and even suffering over large areas in Canada. And yet the geologists estimate that in the four great coal fields of Canada there are \$45,000,000 tons of semi-anthracite, and, in addition, billions of tons of bituminous coal and lignite, the most of which can be mined with less difficulty than is experienced in many of the coal areas of Great Britain. Besides, it is estimated that Canada has water powers capable of developing at least 19,000,000 horse-power for 24 hours a day in the dry season. "There is no need," says Mr. White, consulting engineer of the Commission of Conservation, "for Canada, with her vast resources of fuel and water power, to go cold or have her industries throttled by shortage of power; but Canada may have a sore trial in both these respects unless every possible effort is made to deal with the fuel and power situation in a comprehensive manner."

While in Canada, unlike the States, coal mines are recognized as public property, and private companies engaged in exploiting them are subject, as in Nova Scotia, to conditions designed to safeguard the public interest, these conditions scarcely operate as restrictions upon private enterprise. If private enterprise is incapable of meeting a national emergency, it is probably because it is not the business of private enterprise to work out a programme of production calculated to serve the national interest in any situation that might arise. In the matter of coal production, as of water power development, increasing national control is becoming necessary in order that effort may be directed to the solution of questions affecting the national interest. The United States may presently be curtailing the export of coal, because her anthracite fields are in measurable distance of exhaustion. On the other hand, Canada has large coal areas contiguous to American States which increasingly need coal. So Canada should retain her mines and other sources of power under national control in order to be in a position to barter successfully with the United States in respect to mutual needs. Unless the expectation of Sir Oliver Lodge that man will discover the secret of atomic energy is realized the time may come when Canada may have to negotiate for the location of winter colonies in the warm south for a large proportion of her population.

BRITISH LIBERALISM.

Liberalism in Great Britain is in the doleful dumps, though not quite as leaderless and despondent as Liberalism in Canada. In most of the recent by-elections when the Liberal party measured itself against Lloyd George's Coalition it was beaten two to one; when it has measured itself against Labor alone it has been beaten by 30 per cent., and doubtless has felt like thirty cents. And the depleted ranks of Liberalism are not free from internal discord. At the meeting of the National Liberal Federation the other day—the first gathering of that body for years—there was discontent and division, and the Manchester delegates left the meeting in wrath over a quarrel about the removal of sex disabilities from women in regard to the professions—a question which the Coalition has now removed from the

political arena by giving the women equal rights with men. About the only things the Liberal delegates were able to agree on are already being dealt with by the Coalition in an effective manner—such things as a tax on war profits, and the Whitley councils.

The younger element of the party tried to commit the Federation to the policy of national control of monopolies which were in the nature of a general public service, such as railways, canals and docks, coal mines, electricity supply, reservoirs and watersheds, but the Asquith Liberals emasculated the resolution so that in the end it meant nothing more than "wait and see." The attempt of the Federation to formulate a programme showed that the Asquith Liberals are unable to find a firm foothold between the Coalition and Labor. On the only issues on which they were able to agree—apart from the question of unrestricted free trade at all times and regardless of economic conditions—they have been anticipated by Government action and legislation. And the discussions on the issues on which they failed to agree showed that the younger Liberals were much nearer the Labor policy than the Asquithian point of view.

"It is all very well," said a prospective Asquith candidate, "for Sir Donald Maclean to tell us we are in the wilderness feeding on spiritual manna. The Liberal party must go over Jordan; and I appeal to the Leader of the Liberal party to give me something to take to my constituents to turn out the Coalition member." And the Liberal Conference gave him a lemon—some pious pronouncements on issues already dead, and a programme of wait and see in respect to the issues that mark the conflict between Coalition and Labor.

HEAVY WATER USERS.

If St. John undertook to measure its water service, and charged rates equal to other cities, the City Commissioners could doubtless obtain a considerable extra amount of money for their spending projects. If cleanliness is next to Godliness and cleanliness depends upon the amount of water used, St. John is the nearest city to heaven in Canada. Its water consumption every day is estimated to weigh twenty-one times as much as the entire population of the city. In Ottawa every inhabitant uses seventeen times his weight of water daily; in Quebec fifteen times; in Hamilton thirteen times; in Montreal twelve times, and in Toronto, where prohibition is supposed to be rigidly enforced, ten times. On the prairies, where the climate is drier than in St. John, the consumption of water bears the following ratios to the weight of the inhabitants: Winnipeg five times; Regina four times; Saskatoon six times; Brandon seven times. These differences do not prove that the people of the prairie cities have four times the weight of the people of St. John, though they appear to think their political opinions should carry so much more weight. Nor are they explained by the fact that the westerners may absorb other forms of moisture of a heavier nature. The prairie cities generally sell water on a meter basis, and the users are consequently more economical.

Of course St. John, with its large water supplies, has no particular need of adopting the meter system, which would involve a considerable outlay, but when the Commissioners have raised taxes on everything else to the limit they may consider this method of raising more revenue.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION.

A Washington report places Canada fifth in the rank of nations contributing immigrants to the United States. As early as 1850 no less than 147,711 Canadians had crossed into the Republic, and by 1910 the number had increased to 1,288,000, including 385,083 French-Canadians. In the ten years 1909 to 1919 the movement of population was in Canada's favor, 562,000 Americans having come to Canada, against 367,000 Canadians going to the United States to settle. The total immigration into the United States during the present year has only been 20,790, which, however, is larger than the immigration for 1918. On the other hand, 123,322 foreign-born residents in the United States have left for their old homes this year with the intention of remaining there. Washington appears to be uncertain about the prospects for immigration in the future, but has the idea that a great many people would like to leave the troubled areas of Europe if they could find asylum in America. The foreign element is not at present popular in the States, and there will be greater discrimination in the admission of immigrants for some time to come.

Jack Dempsey wants \$250,000 to go to France to fight Carpentier. In the second year of the war Carpentier was offered a large sum of money to go to

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America, and the French Government was more than willing he should go, because it thought the prize-fighter might do good propaganda work for France. But Carpentier had another idea. He said a fighting man's place was in France, and he did not want to make money when he could do his bit. If Dempsey goes to France he will meet a fighting man anyway.

England and France are reported to have agreed to allow Italy control of Fiume, and regular Italian troops are said to be taking the place of D'Annunzio's forces. If this is correct the Italian Government will be relieved of a serious embarrassment. While the United States was associated with the Allied Council the Italian Government could not very well assert its sovereignty over Fiume, and it could not attempt to dislodge D'Annunzio without danger of revolution. If England and France have agreed to carry out the provisions of the Treaty of London they have probably incurred the displeasure of President Wilson, but they could hardly do anything else in the circumstances.

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

My cousin Artie stayed at my house all night last night, and I took up about 6 o'clock this morning and tickled Artie on the end of the nose with the end of a piece of string till he got tired of thinking it was a fly and woke up, saying, Hay, that ain't funny, do you think that's funny?

Yes, I said, With I did, and Artie said, I'll tell you a good game, lets play this is a hospital and we're both in it.

All right, I said, lets play you got one leg amputated and I got 2 legs amputated.

Aw, you always want the most, said Artie, and I said, All right then you can have the 2 legs off and I'll just have one, I ain't selfish.

And I got a little hunk of white chalk out of my pants pocket and we rubbed it on our faces to make ourselves pale looking and we both laid there making noises like 2 men having fearsome panes, and pretty soon the door opened and pop and ma came running in, me and Artie jest keeping on making panell noises.

Wy, theyre both as pale as a sheet they must of eaten something that poisoned them or something, sed ma.

Grate Skott, wats the doctors fone number? sed pop, And he came over to the bed and looked at me close and rubbed one finger over my face, saying, Confownd the blasted little devils, theyre got chalk on their faces, Benny, Benny. My opening my eyes, saying, Sir? Me? and pop sed, Wats the big idee at this time of the morning?

Were playing hospital, I sed, Artie got 2 legs off and I got one on.

Well how many hands have you got? sed pop, and I sed, 2, and pop sed, No you havent, youve got 3. And he gave me sutch a krack some place with his hand it hert all the way throo the covers, and then he gave Artie a krack and him and ma went back to bed and me and Artie went back to sleep.

A BIT OF FUN

Explained.

The Judge: "You were found under a bed with a bag of tools. Any explanation?"

The Prisoner: "Force of habit, yer washup! I've been a motorist."

The Difference to Him.

Friendly Constable: "Come, come, sir, pull yourself together your wife's calling you."

Convivial Gent: "What she calling me, Billy or William?"

Constable: "William, sir."

Convivial Gent: "Then I'm not going home."

Terrible.

Mac: "I'm smoking a terrible lot of cigars lately!"

Jack: "You certainly are, it that's one of them!"

A Return Walton.

She: "I appreciate the compliment, but I'm afraid I could never make you happy."

He: "Oh yes you could. You don't know how easily pleased I am."

Appreciation.

Husband (after handing his wife some money): "There, Amelia, is ten dollars, and it has bought me a little to get it for you. I think I deserve a little applause."

Wife: Applauding. "Why, my dear, you deserve an encore."

Women's hats next year are to be smaller. What about the cost of them?

Matrimony is a school in which women unlearn most of the things they knew about men.

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Be sure you get the Genuine Look for this signature

E. W. Grove
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House Slippers \$5.00 to \$10.00
Walking Boots \$3.50 to 7.00

FOR GIRLS

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Felt Slippers \$1.50 to \$3.00
Evening Slippers \$5.00 to \$10.00
Skating Boots50 to 8.00

FOR FATHER OR MOTHER

Plaid Felt Slippers \$2.00 to \$3.25
House Slippers 1.50 to 6.00
Nice Overshoes 1.35 to 4.25
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Call and inspect these and other suitable gifts that will give pleasure not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

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The Real Trouble.
"Henry, we'd get along better if you had more will power."
"No, Martha, we'd get along better if you didn't have so much."

At the cigar booth of the charity bazaar:
He—How much for a cigar?
She—Twenty-five cents plain, or 50 after I bite the end off.