

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1919.

PULP AND PAPER.

The difficulty of securing supplies of newsprint in the United States has become so great that the president of the American Publishers' Association has suggested that American publishers cut down the size of their papers. He adds that to increase the supply of paper Congress should be urged to pass the water power bill now pending, and to make arrangements with the Canadian Government to bring pulp to American mills without prohibitive restrictions on the Canadian side.

This is a suggestion that deserves more than passing consideration from the people of this Province. Is it necessary for New Brunswick to continue to be a hewer of wood for American pulp and paper mills? When the old government adopted measures providing for the issue of timber leases under conditions designed to encourage the development of the pulp and paper-making industries, and the placing of an embargo on the export of pulp-wood cut on the Crown Lands, its policy met with general approval. The embargo has been lifted in the cases of pulp-wood cut on the St. Croix and Salmon Rivers, and the reasons given by Hon. Mr. Smith were accepted as good reasons by the Legislature. But in face of the demand of the American Publishers' Association, New Brunswick ought to reaffirm its attitude to the question of the export of pulp-wood in an unequivocal manner.

In Quebec and Ontario, where the pulp and paper-making industries are showing an extraordinary development, the suggestion of the American Publishers' Association will hardly meet with a favorable reception. Canada today has a paper output of 2,900 tons daily, compared with the United States output of 2,900, and mills now being built or enlarged in Quebec will bring Canada's output well above that of America. Owing to reckless waste of forest resources the United States cannot greatly increase her output, and in the present situation the big American paper interests must be seriously considering the possibilities of erecting mills in Canada. The Nashua Pulp and Paper Company have plans for the erection of a new pulp plant near Marysville, and other Maine companies will doubtless be turning their attention to New Brunswick, if the Province settles definitely on a policy of prohibiting the export of pulp-wood.

Undoubtedly provincial enterprise has missed a big opportunity by not embarking more extensively in the business of pulp and paper-making. While in the United States the supply of newsprint is so short and so high in price that hundreds of weekly papers have been obliged to suspend publication. Germany is reported to be short of pulp and not likely to be a competitor in the British market for some years. Sweden, which has been a big producer of pulp for the British and French markets, has now no great forest resources; Swedish companies have been seeking concessions in the forest lands of Russia, but production in Russia is not likely to be important for years. At present some American companies are planning big operations in the Labrador, but conditions there can hardly be as favorable as in New Brunswick.

The remarkable success of some Canadian pulp and paper companies ought to be an inspiration to local enterprise in this Province. The Athol Pulp and Paper Company, whose shares were quoted at 50 in February, 1917, recently reached 100 on the Montreal market.

GREEKS AND TURKS.

At Venizelos may not be justified in his statement that the failure of the Peace Conference to expel the Turks from Europe would spell the bankruptcy of the peace; but he evidently has reason for uneasiness in regard to the situation in Turkey. Uncertainty and procrastination have allowed a new nationalist movement, inspired by the Young Turks, who were the willing tools of Germany and the authors of horrible massacres of Armenians and Greeks, to develop to considerable proportions, and have made possible new troubles in a serious form. It is reported that the Nationalist leaders, with the sinister figure of Enver Pasha somewhere in the background, have broken with the government at Constantinople, and have formed a government of their own in the interior of Asia Minor. They are said to have raised an army of 100,000 volunteers, and are expected to make an effort to expel the Greek army of occupation from the country, including the important city of Smyrna, which skirts the Asiatic shores of the Aegean, and is understood to have been allotted to Greece by the draft terms of peace with Turkey. M. Venizelos plainly wants a renunciation by the Peace Conference, supported by President Wilson, calculated to give the Nationalists notice that it would be dangerous to assault the Greeks.

One report has it that the leaders

of the Turkish Nationalist movement has demanded the complete withdrawal of Greek troops from Asia and it is not improbable that their reported break with Constantinople is mere camouflage, and that they are acting under orders of the Sultan's government. They promise to give no trouble if their demand is complied with. But the Peace Conference can hardly agree to such a demand. A show of weakness would doubtless lead to further demands that the Italians withdraw from the coasts opposite Dodecanese, the French from Syria and Cilicia, and the British from Palestine and Mesopotamia, and possibly from Egypt.

The procrastination of the Peace Conference has apparently given rise to dangers even more alarming than the possibility of Armenia and Anatolia being ravaged by the hordes of barbarous Kurds who are reported to have gathered on their borders—apparently waiting the signal for new massacres. An ominous sign is that a mysterious sheik has visited Constantinople and girded the Sultan with the sword of Osman as a sign that Islam is to be once more a conquering power. According to some English papers rumors of the impending partition of Turkey have aroused alarm and anger in India. And the rumors of friction and disagreements between the Great Powers, following the long delay in arriving at a definite decision in regard to Turkey, are not calculated to allay the feelings which are not only dangerous to the peace of the Near East, but are a menace to the security of European rule all over Asia and Africa.

THE FUEL QUESTION.

The report from Ottawa that Canada is facing a serious coal famine is interesting. It suggests that possibly those much abused officials the fuel controllers might have remained on the job with advantage to the country. We appear to be representing a state of affairs where unregulated private enterprise tends to raise problems which the public powers are expected to solve by taking hold at the wrong end and the wrong time. This spring and summer the Halifax papers were full of doleful complaints about conditions in the Nova Scotia coal fields, where some mines were reported to be closed down, others working short time, and thousands of returned soldiers unable to obtain employment. Apparently the lack of sufficient work to go round was responsible for the recent demand of the Cape Breton coal miners for a five-day week.

The situation does not appear to have been the fault of the coal companies. They complained they could not get ships to move coal to the St. Lawrence market; representations were made by the Canadian Government to the British Shipping Controller with a view to having ships released for this trade, but without much result. An interesting sidelight on this situation was a report that during the summer the Nova Scotia coal companies had received an order for 200,000 tons of coal from European countries. It is possible that the purchasers undertook to provide the shipping. Otherwise the matter might require explanation in view of the shortage of coal in Canada. Possibly it would have been a patriotic policy on the part of the Government to have allowed some of the ships of the Government Merchant Marine to be used for carrying coal to St. Lawrence ports; but apparently the attraction of high freight rates and the need of finding new markets for Canadian goods, were stronger considerations.

Probably if prices go much higher more attention will be given to the development of the coal resources of New Brunswick, and also to the utilization of water powers.

COST OF LIVING.

During the first month's activities of the Board of Commerce the average retail cost of a family budget of staple foods in sixty cities of Canada went down one cent, according to the Dominion Labor Gazette. In the same time the index number of wholesale prices rose decimal four per cent. In the second month of the Board's labors the average retail cost of the family budget fell twelve cents, according to the same authority. A reduction of twelve cents per week for all the families of Canada means a considerable total saving. If the Board is responsible for the reduction, its members are at any rate earning their quite substantial salaries. Whether the Labor Gazette is always reliable as another matter. It notices all and sundry that in St. John a six-roomed house with all sanitary conveniences rents for \$15 a month. Apparently some landlords have not read the notice.

IN BOHEMIA.

Bohemia has been generally regarded as an indefinite sort of place where irresponsibility and extravagance had their natural habitat. It is, therefore, interesting to note that the Czechoslovak state in Bohemia has set the world an example in economy and deflation of paper currency. The Prague Government, composed of Socialists, Social Democrats and peasant proprietors, has retired from circulation two billion of kronen in paper money, which at the pre-war rate of exchange would be equivalent to four hundred thousand dollars. This bold policy caused an immediate rise in the value of Bohemian money on foreign exchanges, and it is said has caused no inconvenience to the internal business of the country which is showing a marked revival.

Commissioner Thornton's statement as to the need of more policemen is interesting. So many people in St. John have automobiles that the employment of the police as traffic cops has become necessary at numerous points. Possibly the establishment of a system of routing automobile traffic might release some policemen for night duty. St. John cannot have all modern improvements without adding to its police force now and then. The city has to bear the cost of an enlarged police force and wear and tear of streets due to automobiles, and the province collects the taxes on them.

Wait for the formal proclamation of peace before ordering booze, is the advice from Ottawa. Many people watching the American Senate are evidently afraid to take a chance on waiting for a formal occasion to celebrate peace.

There isn't much the matter with a country which can afford to loan the Government well over half a billion dollars with all kinds of attractive propositions appealing to the investor. Recent elections in Canada have been interesting, but not so exciting as in France, where one unpopular candidate was nearly killed by the voters, and "Butcher" Mangia was placed in charge of the troops commissioned to keep order in Paris.

The Rumanians are evacuating Hunan territory — also everything portable. Evidently the bootleggers go heeled.

WHAT THEY SAY

Is it Possible? (Bristol Herald Courier.) And in the first election in New York in which women had the right to vote a Tammany candidate is accused of buying votes for three pounds of sugar each.

Conscience Gane. (Canton Repository.) Reports from Holland state that the ex-Kaiser is living at ease—that is, in ease in all respects but his conscience, if he still has one in good working order.

Tax Payer Warnings. (Tacoma Ledger.) New York is to put a tax on poker winnings. Will that not give poker winners a legal status which they have not hitherto enjoyed?

Can't Beat It. (Savannah Press.) The attitude of the laboring classes in the East compares with that of the colored underclass in the South. Last year made a great deal of money. She went into a store to buy a pair of shoes and was shown some at \$4. "Oh, no, white man, I want a pair of shoes that will last," she exclaimed. So the storekeeper took a companion pair, just like the others, and sold them to her for \$18. And she went away happy.

A BIT OF VERSE

VIVE LA FRANCE. (The following poem, "Vive La France," says the New York Herald, is the work of a Frenchman who has come out of the great war.)

Franceline rose in the dawn gray, And her heart would dance though she knelt to pray, For her heart was for holiday Fighting for France.

She offered her prayer by the cradle And with baby palms folded in hers she cried: "If I have but one prayer, dear crucifix."

SUFFERED WITH BOILS LAST 5 YEARS.

Boils are simply a breaking out of bad blood, and anyone who has suffered from them knows how sick and miserable they make you feel. Just when you think you are cured of one, another seems ready to take its place and prolong your misery. All the poulticing and lancing you can do will not get rid of them. While the skin appears to be the cause of the irritation the real disease is rooted in the blood, and to get rid of these painful pests it is necessary to get right at the seat of the trouble. When the blood is purified, deoxygenated and vitalized, by Burdock Blood Bitters, the boils will quickly disappear, your misery is at an end, and health and strength come back again. Mr. Robt. Johnson, Barkway, Ont., writes:—"I have suffered very much, during the last five years from boils, having as many as five at once. I tried different remedies without any relief. I was advised to try Burdock Blood Bitters, which I did, and after taking just one bottle I have had no more boils."

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE THREE CLOUDS. A Play. Scene. The middle of the sky. First cloud. G. Its kind of slow being a cloud, away up here looking at all the exciting things down below, and what good does it do you? 2nd cloud. O, it ain't so bad, nothing to do but just lay back and float all day long. What you want for nothing? 3rd cloud. Aw, you 3 are always picking arguments with each other. Ill race you both to the other end of the sky and back, and the last one back is a old woman. First cloud. Aw, you always want to race, As soon as every body gets settled you want to race. 2nd cloud. Gosh, look at all those people rite down underneath of us eating hard boiled eggs. First cloud. Its a picknick, heray! 3rd cloud. Wat do you say we all got together and rain on them? 2nd cloud. Wat for? First cloud. Wat did they do to us? 2nd cloud. Aw, you 3 always want reasons for everything. I'm going to rain on them, anyway. (Which he starts to do.) 2nd cloud. G wiza, look at them all starting to run! Im going to rain on them too. First cloud. So am I. (The hole 3 do.) 3rd cloud. Hay, look at us disappearing! I never thart of that. Help! The hole 3, Help! Help! (They all disappear.) The End.

And Christ, save France!

"But if I have two, then, by Mary's Carry me safe to the meeting place, Let me look once again on my dear lover's face, Save him to France!"

She crooned to her boy, "Oh, how glad Little three-month-old, to set eyes on thee!" For "Fatter than gold would I give," wrote his A son to France."

Come now, be good little stray sauterella, For we're going by-by to thy papa Michel; But I'll not say where, for fear thou will tell, Little pigeon of France!"

"Six days' leave and a year between! But what would you have? In six days clean Heaven was made," said Franceline, "Heaven and France."

She came to the town of the nameless name, To the marching troops in the street she came, And she held high her boy like a taper flame, Burning for France.

Fresh from the trenches and gray with grime, Silent they march like a pantomime; "But what need of music? My heart beats time!" "Vive la France!"

His regiment comes. Oh, then, where is he? "There is dust in my eyes, for I cannot see!" Is that my Michel to the right of the Soldier in France!"

Then out of the ranks a soldier fell, "Yesterday—'twas a splinter of shell— And he whispered thy name, did thy poor Michel, Dying for France."

The tread of the troops on the pavement sobbed, Like a woman's heart of its last joy robbed, As she lifted her boy to the flag and sobbed, "Vive la France!"

A BIT OF FUN

What She Called Father. Master (showing pupil a picture of a deer): "Now, Tommy, surely you know what that picture represents. What does your mother call your father sometimes?" Tommy: "But that don't look like a pig, sir."

What She Thought. Mrs. Naxdore: "I suppose you heard my daughter grunting today. She's taking piano lessons by the quarter." Mrs. Pepprey: "Indeed! I thought it was by the pound."

He Suspected. "You are praising your time, old man," said Fred to George, "You're courting the wrong girl." "No, she's the right girl. I'm afraid the trouble is that I'm the wrong man."

Like All the Others. "What can be the cause of that crowd gathering over there?" "Oh, vulgar curiosity, I suppose. Let's go over."—Boston Transcript.

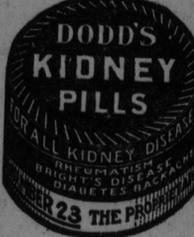
A Sad Case. "That fellow Smith has more money than brains," said Brown. "Yes," replied Jones, "And even then he's on the edge of bankruptcy."

Reportorial Restless. Clergyman—The couple I just married were deaf and dumb. Reporter—Then why say it was a quiet wedding.

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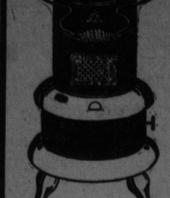
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OBITUARY. David A. Phillips. The death of David Allen Phillips occurred suddenly Sunday at his home in Randolph. Many friends will tend sympathy to the bereaved family. He had been in the employ of Randolph & Baker for some time. He was survived, with one sister and two sons, Randolph, of Fairville, and Wallace, of Randolph, and four brothers. The funeral service will be held Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock at his late residence, and on Wednesday the body will be taken to Cole's Island for interment. Mrs. Hattie Cook.

HO Gillett's Lye will respect the house with Lye will minutes. under the "GILL".