

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1920.

THE INTELLECTUAL CENTRE.

The Winnipeg Telegram has a terrible grouch. The Sun and Herald, a paper published in a place which the Dutch bought from the Indians a few years ago for beads and trinkets worth \$24.13, asked a professor in a town called Toronto the Good to tell its readers all about the political, economic, educational, near-prohibition, new woman and old woman movements in progress in Canada. Naturally, Prof. Mayor, being a good Torontoian, sat down and wrote or dictated a long-winded article on the archaeological collection in the Toronto museum. The Winnipeg Telegram thinks it possible that the Toronto Professor thinks his is another Leacock, but on the whole it is inclined to take him seriously, and to complain that the professor ought to know that anybody writing about Canada might find something worth mentioning outside of a Toronto museum. Of course it is sad that the Toronto professor did not mention that Winnipeg was the finest and flattest city of the great West, the converging centre of humpbacked railways, though too small to be the focal point of Mr. Crow's wandering political gaze; the happy home, also, of J. W. DeLoe, the only Canadian dead or alive who had the privilege of watching Sir Robert Borden smuggle Canada into the League of Nations when Uncle Sam was not looking.

But the Winnipeg journal is consumed with a raging jealousy because the Toronto man assumed that the undeveloped parts of Canada outside of Toronto do not deserve mention in polite American journalism, and hints that Toronto considers itself the epitome and example of all Canada. It says: "Toronto is Canada. That which does not transpire there cannot happen in Canada. The citizens of Toronto are the Athenians who have all the Greece they know of centered in their town limits." Very rude of this journal of the wild west. If Toronto is rapt in the contemplation of its own greatness why try to disturb it? Although there be many Orangemen there, the good people of Toronto have always felt as the old Romans about their city and the world beyond it. And now with Premier Drury and his farmers at the gates of the city, more than ever must the Torontoians feel that all beyond their gates are barbarians, and naturally they turn to the consolation of their museums wherein perhaps are enshrined the trophies of their intellectual conquest of this country.

U. S. FARMERS WORRIED BY EXCHANGE SITUATION.

The New York Evening Post, which has been making enquiries in the American West, finds that country, as well as city, bankers are in favor of something being done to provide loans for Europe and relieve the growing uncertainty in respect to foreign trade. The views expressed as to the nature of securities America should ask is that there should be some uniform issue, with Government guarantees, possibly under the sanction of the League of Nations. The Bache Review of New York says the sentiment of the West in this matter is the general view of thinking people all over the United States. To get down the hill of high prices European trade must be intelligently fostered. The Post says: "The West especially wants a market for its foodstuffs, not merely abroad but in the industrial East, and wants to see that section of our own country very busy for the next two years. It realizes that there is likely to be very little foreign buying of our production with the American exchange rates as high as at present and that unless we get some sort of reciprocal trade system established by next summer, when the wheat harvest comes, we may see a most disorganized market. "On the whole it is believed that we shall have a rapidly falling market for Western farm products without the establishment of foreign trade routes. This, on the face of it, may look good to the consumer, but it means demoralization to the farming communities for a time, especially as there is no indication that manufactured goods are to fall in the same proportion. It is not merely the exact price level, the bankers point out, that counts in this discussion; it is the general effect on the business of the country and the maintenance of confidence in the progress of trade and production. Tasty, they say, is needed today as a basis for going on with the country's affairs on a solid basis."

HEALTH INSURANCE.

British Columbia has a commission inquiring into the advisability of adopting a scheme of state health insurance. Labor representatives are supporting the proposal, and women's organizations are urging the provision of pensions for mothers. Giving evidence before the Commission, Wm. Thompson, president of the Insurance Federation of British Columbia, argued that compulsory health insurance would not

improve public health, and contended that legislation to improve working conditions was the most economical and effective way of promoting the desired object of public health. The Medical Societies are not taking a definite stand in the matter, but one has urged that the proposed scheme be limited to occupational diseases. Dr. McInosh, representing 15,000 veterans and labor men, argued that any disease could be traced to occupational origin by an astute pleader, and thought no distinction should be drawn. He urged, as a feature of the scheme, health education through a small, paid staff, and predicted that eventually most doctors would become salaried officials of the State.

Interest in health matters increases all over this continent, as well as in Great Britain. The doctors are in the anomalous position of being paid not for preventing disease, but looking after people when they are sick. In some parts of the East they pay a doctor a small fee as health insurance, and the fee ceases while a person is sick. It must be said to their credit that despite the fact that they are apparently working against their pecuniary interests the doctors show a keen interest in the problem of promoting public health by tackling the conditions which are responsible for disease.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN.

Discussing the political situation, the Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Star says:

"A fundamental factor in the situation is Sir Robert Borden. Played out by extraordinary exertions, he is in search of health. Those of us who were wont to see and talk with the Premier before he left understand, full well, the motives he had for his intended retirement. One was impressed with the obviously impaired nervous vitality and the need of opportunity for recuperation, but time and rest and diversion work wonders and the latest reports are that he is much better. With nerve force greatly vitiated, but nevertheless organically strong, many believe that six months hence Sir Robert will come back all right. After all, he is the big man of his party. The extraordinary pressure exerted to have him remain showed that it was he who made the Union Government possible, though the measure of outside assistance need not be minimized. If the Government, or rather the particular principle of union, in any appreciable degree, is to continue, Sir Robert, of all others, is best qualified to secure its perpetuation. He commands support and respect by moral and intellectual force, rather than by any particular exploits as a politician or party strategist. If circumstances, unhappily, should force his retirement, the Government and country would appraise, perhaps higher than now, the personal status and strength that go with his leadership."

THE HARBOR QUESTION.

The Commercial Club did well to initiate public discussion of the harbor question, and the speeches made before the meeting last evening should do much to clear the air. "It's You," the official organ of the Commercial Club, announced that there would be a debate on the subject. "What shall we do with our harbor?" But the discussion which took place last evening can hardly be described as a debate. The great majority of the speakers were strongly in favor of accepting the plan of Harbor Commission as proposed by the Government, and there was no opposition at all to the principle of harbor commission. City Commissioner Bullock made a speech against the Government's offer on the grounds that the harbor was worth several times the price the Government is willing to pay, that there was no guarantee that the development of the port would be proceeded with, and that the position of the ferry was left up in the air, but he admitted that he had been in favor of the idea of harbor commission at the outset.

H. C. Schofield, who voiced the views of the shipping men, took the stand that the Government was bound to provide for port development to meet the demands of national traffic, and declared that he did not know of any shipping men who were worrying about the question of port charges. The Government, he said, will not permit port charges which would drive Canadian traffic to foreign ports. L. J. Seidensticker pointed out that to meet modern demands wharves were needed capable of carrying heavier loads in the way of mechanical cargo handling facilities, and increased storage space, and that the city wharves had not been designed to meet present-day needs. The majority of the speakers were evidently of the opinion that the further development of the harbor should be carried on as a national enterprise, and that the city of St. John had done enough to provide for the trade of the country. Even those who claimed an open mind on the question of harbor commission admitted that

important as was the city's interest in the harbor, its existing facilities might soon become a liability, rather than an asset.

The majority of the speakers declared that the Government was expected to provide further facilities here, and the main cause of worry seemed to be whether under harbor commission the Government would authorize the expenditures necessary to carry on the development of the port in a proper manner. To this question Mr. Schofield, the shipping man, replied that it would have to be because the trading interests of the nation would demand it; and one speaker pertinently summed up the situation when he said: "If we cannot trust the Government of our country, whom then can we trust?"

The Halifax Shipyards, Ltd., now employs over 1,000 men and has plans under way which increase the demand for workers. The company is laying out new slips where they will construct the largest ships yet built in Canada. In addition to new construction for the Government the company has four large steamers under repair.

Eight out of every hundred people in the Canadian West are unable to speak English.

The City Council of Toronto has decided to apply for authority to set up a fair rent court.

WHAT THEY SAY

A Real Test.

(Pittsburg Gazette-Times.) Chicago detectives have credited the outfit board with having located in New York a man sought for desertion. The supreme test will come when we see if he is asked to find a lost collar-button.

Suggestive.

(Peterboro Review.) John S. Rarey, of Ohio, the greatest farmer of horses that ever lived, never struck an animal. His plan is being generally adopted by those entrusted with the training of children.

The Universal Problem.

(Pittsburg Gazette-Times.) Everybody seems to be in favor of raising the pay of teachers, and the only problem seems to be how to raise the raise.

The British Way.

(Brantford Expositor.) Surely it is a most marvelous tribute to British freedom of thought and discussion when an enthusiastic audience of 10,000 persons carrying Sinn Féin flags could parade the heart of London, and hold a mass meeting in Albert Hall. Is there any other place in the world where such a scene could be enacted?

Common-Sense.

(Hamilton Herald.) A contemporary remarks that the willingness of "England" to import goods from Germany evinces a remarkable forgiving spirit on the part of a great nation. What it really evinces is the business sense of Englishmen. They know that if they do not buy what they need from Germany they will not be able to sell to Germany what the Germans need.

A BIT OF VERSE

DAYBREAK IN FEBRUARY.
 Over the ground white snow, and in the air
 Silence. The stars like lamps soon to expire.
 Gleam, tremblingly, serene and heavenly fair;
 The eastern hanging crescent climbeth higher.
 See, purple on the azure softly steals,
 And Morning, faintly touched with quivering fire,
 Leans on the frosty summits of the hills.
 Like a young girl over her hoary fire,
 Oh, such a dawning over me has come:
 The daybreak of Thy purity and love—
 The sadness of the never satisfied tomb
 Thy countenance hath power to remove.
 And from the sepulchre of Hope thy palm
 Can roll the stone and raise her bright and calm.
 —William C. Roscoe.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Puds Simkins got interdoomed to the pritty new girl yesterday afternoon. Mary Watkins interdoomed us on account of not being able to get out of it wen me and Puds waked up and stood there while her and the pritty new girl was tawking to each other. Mary Watkins jest leaving us stand there a while and then saying, O hello, boys, do you know Loretter Mincer, this is Loretter Mincer.

Pleased to meet you, sed me and Puds.
 How do you do? sed Loretter Mincer.
 All rite sed me and Puds. And we stood there trying to think of sumthing elts to say, and Mary Watkins sed, Me and Loretter were jest tawking about Miss Maud, I think Miss Maud is the prettiest teacher in skool, thats wat I think.

Yes, she's sertenly pritty all rite, I sed.
 She sertenly is, its too bad she's a teacher, sed Puds.
 Wy I dont see a single pritty thing to her, sed Loretter Mincer, and I quick sed, I didnt axully meen she was axully pritty, I jest ment she was kind of pritty for a teacher, thats wat I ment.

Thats wat I ment, too, as far as being axully pritty goes, she aint axully pritty, sed Puds. Both of us not wanting to counterdict either of them on account of them both being axully pritty as anything, and Mary Watkins sed, Well then wat did you say she was for, I think you boys are perfectly awfull, Miss Maud is perfectly bewiffl, thats wat I think, and I sed, O well, she mite be bewiffl; a persin can be bewiffl without axully pritty, she's bewiffl enuf, if thats wat you meen and Puds sed, O sure, enybody can see she's bewiffl, but not axully pritty, thats wat I ment.

I dont bleeve you boys know wat you do meen, and I think she's pritty as a picture, so there sed Loretter Mincer.

Well, it all depends on the picture, I've saw some pictures she's as pritty as, sure, I sed, and Puds sed, I've saw lots of pictures, and Mary Watkins sed, O you make me tired, both of you, come on, Loretter, lets go. Wich they did with their arms around each other and Puds sed, Aw heck, wats the use trying to please girls and I sed, No use.

Wich there aint.



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A BIT OF FUN

A Fighting Chance.
 Miss Passee—Oh, Mr. Plunks, are you married or unmarried?
 Mr. Plunks—Married, generally. But if you would call every day you might strike me some time when I wasn't—Judge.

Things Men Hate to Do.
 To go shopping with women.
 To sit for a portrait.
 To carry home bundles.
 To tell the boys "I can't tonight."
 To wheel the baby carriage.
 To seem to be thoughtful.
 To kiss his wife or mother in public.
 —New York Mail.

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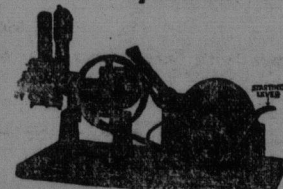
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