

The St. John Standard

ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1921.

REPRESENTATIVES: St. John, N. B. Canada
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 Stevenson & Co., London, Eng.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 City Delivery \$5.00 per year
 By Mail in Canada \$5.00 per year
 By Mail in U. S. \$6.00 per year
 Semi-Weekly Issue \$1.50 per year
 Semi-Weekly to U. S. \$2.50 per year

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LABOR AND WAGES

It is announced that the Railway Board of the United States will proceed at once with the application from thirty-seven railroads for a reduction of wages to employees. Such a reduction has of course to come sooner or later, not only in the United States, but in Canada also; conditions demand it. During the war, circumstances were such that high wages could be demanded, and they had to be paid; now however that conditions are returning to something like normal, wages must be re-adjusted to meet these conditions. The process may not be altogether to the liking of the employees, no one particularly likes to feel his pay envelope getting lighter; but the great mass of labor will be reasonable enough to realize that the present scale of wages cannot be maintained as things are now.

Public opinion is, speaking generally, usually in full sympathy with the reasonable demands of labor; and labor, as a rule, not unreasonable in its demands. But most of the troubles that labor has to contend with are created within its own ranks; they are the product of the activities of so-called leaders, who having nothing to lose themselves, occupy their time in inciting discontent, where there is really no general desire for it. Organized labor only speaks for a minority of the workers of the country, and the agitators that its leaders foment are only designed to benefit the few at the expense of the many. A very considerable part of the unemployment that exists at the present time is due to the fact that labor leaders will not allow men belonging to unions to accept wages and conditions of labor that are now offered, and which are rendered necessary by the present state of business, but they will wherever possible try to prevent other men accepting them either. They have become used to a certain scale of wages, and to certain hours of work, which were justified by extraordinary circumstances, but which are now no longer in existence. The great trouble is that labor leaders refuse to recognize these changed conditions, and to adapt themselves to them in the same way that the general public has been compelled to adapt themselves to them. The Standard has no quarrel with organized labor; we merely desire to point out to it the unreasonableness of the position it has taken up. Capital has been compelled to make its plans according to present day conditions, and labor has done the same. Capital cannot get along without labor, neither can labor get along without capital. The two must pull together, or the whole industrial fabric comes to the ground. Neither can have things, all its own way. Labor has hitherto had to its hand a powerful weapon in the strike, but this has latterly lost much of its strength. Few strikes now-a-days get very much sympathy from the public, and if public sentiment is antagonistic to any movement, the latter never gets very far. Labor leaders who are advocating strenuous action on the part of their fellow workers, should pause and consider what the ultimate effect of their action is going to be before committing their organization to any aggressive action.

CANADIAN MADE PAPER

Just now the paper manufacturers of Canada are making a great effort to induce Canadian concerns to buy only Canadian made paper, using the plea that a home industry would thereby be greatly benefited. They object to the importation of American made paper into this country in the quantities that are coming. Some time ago the market for the higher grades of Canadian made paper in the United States was a very good one, and Canadian manufacturers were in a position to ask, and get, exceedingly good prices for their output. They naturally particularly to the American market, and home consumers had to take what they could get and when they could get it. In plain English, the manufacturers took advantage of the good market they had across the border to "soak" Canadian consumers. Now that conditions are becoming more like normal again and the United States market is not as good as it used to be, in consequence of the overabundance of competition from other countries which were unable to ship paper over during the war, the manufacturers are turning to home consumers, whom they found convenient to ignore before, and hanging out the patriotic sign "Buy only Canadian made goods." When they could sell a better market to good advantage, home consumers could go hang; but now the market has to a large extent gone by, the home consumer is forced to follow. But all the same he is not going to forget in such a hurry that the sort of treatment he

got from the manufacturers when they thought they could do without him. He remembers that when he wanted paper he had almost to beg to get it at all. Canadians are perfectly willing to patronize home industries as long as they can get a square deal; but when they have been accustomed to see foreigners supplied before they themselves could be, and then only be supplied themselves at all, as a favor and at big prices, they are not apt to be overly anxious to come to the rescue of the manufacturer when he finds himself left by his foreign customers.

MR. BRYAN'S VIEWS

Mr. William Jennings Bryan, announces that he considers it an unfriendly act on the part of Great Britain to permit the sale of liquor in the Bahamas in view of the fact that the United States is dry and the islands are so near. Mr. Bryan spends his winters in Miami, Florida, and can therefore speak from personal knowledge of the smuggling traffic that goes on. Liquor flows across by steamer, motor boat and even by airship. The traffic is light in comparison with the illicit tide that sets in from Canada, but it is important enough to alarm Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Bryan's remark about the British Government, however, is, says the Mail and Empire, in his own best vein of nonsense. It would be just as reasonable for him to complain of the fact that liquor is sold in Canada, and that by continuing the traffic Canada is committing an unfriendly act against the United States. Now unfriendly acts are the sort of acts that lead to war, but Mr. Bryan is an incurable pacifist, and probably would shrink from the idea that the United States ought to declare war upon this country because of the conditions that prevail in Quebec and British Columbia. We know that Mr. Bryan does not meditate war upon Britain because he negotiated a treaty between that country and the United States which would have committed both to settle all disputes by arbitration. Unfortunately the treaty was not ratified by the United States Senate. The spirit of intolerance that characterizes Mr. Bryan's remarks on the subject will not make the people of the Bahamas more trustful towards the United States.

It is abundantly clear from Premier McLaughlin's remarks at Toronto on Saturday night that the Government intends to make the utmost use of the Grand Trunk Railway. He is reported to have said that the Government "had to get possession of the whole Grand Trunk system so that the Eastern railways would contribute their quota to the Western lines." The Transcontinental was built from Quebec to Montreal for the sole and simple purpose of transporting the traffic to be got on these Western lines to and from Atlantic ports. The acquisition of the Grand Trunk will render the Transcontinental useless. No shipper is going to ship by a route which involves an additional train haul of 1000 miles if he can avoid it.

It apparently is definitely established, says the Bangor Commercial, that the liabilities of that wizard of high finance, Mr. Ponzi, are over four and a quarter millions and the assets about one and one-half millions. Had the authorities delayed action a little longer, the assets would have been less and the liabilities greater. Many people who could not afford it, have met with material financial losses but there is some public gain to be placed in offset for the Ponzi operations will be a lesson to those who attempt to gain unreasonable dividends through unwise investment. It will prevent some operator of the Ponzi type from misleading the public in the future for there have been similar disclosures before, but it will lessen the number of suckers.

President Harding is said to pronounce either and neither as though they were split "neither" and "neither," while President Wilson pronounced them with the long "i" sound. Dr. Johnson on being once asked which was the right pronunciation, "neither" or "ni-ther," replied with somewhat of a snarl, "neither."

Mr. Hanna declares that it will never go for the C. N. E. to let the C. P. R. into its business secrets. The shareholders of the latter road will probably hastily re-echo the sentiment.

The Minister of Finance proposes to have a nickel five cent piece struck. If there is any prospect of a coin of that denomination ever having any purchasing power again, the idea is all right.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Winners in Paris.
 After reading J. M. Keynes' "Economic Consequences of the Peace" and Lansing's book on Wilson, at all, one wonders why they called it a peace conference.—Ottawa Herald.

Same Everywhere.
 Well, four billion dollars will be needed by the Federal Government during the fiscal year, and the only methods there are of raising it are going to be unpleasant for somebody.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Violence.
 Leaders of the Welsh miners' protest against the use of troops which they turn violence. Anything more violent than threatening the country with starvation by trying to all trains and stopping industries is hard to imagine.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Must Play Be a Crime?
 A by-law is being prepared making it unlawful for children to slide, skate or toboggan on the streets. It is a good idea, and doubtless will save many a young life. But—

If children cannot play on the streets, where are they to play? We cannot shrink our responsibility to the young by telling them where they cannot play. We must tell them at the same time where they can play and make provision accordingly.—Montreal Herald.

Who's Boss?
 Are the miners and other Old Country workers really as powerful as they imagine they are? Who's Boss? If so, these workers should be the Government of the United Kingdom. It is not better to put the onus of the question, Who's Boss? to those theories to realize their true position to the other people of the British Isles.

Britain is menaced by a loss of millions of treasure, and by suffering that cannot be measured in money. Loss and suffering will force an answer to the question, Who's Boss? whether the rulers of Britain are a majority of the people in the polling booths or a majority of the people in the labor camps? That question cannot be evaded. The question must be answered. Until that question is answered peace and prosperity will not make their home with the people of the British Isles.—Toronto Telegram.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE EARLY DAYS.

Yes, times have changed since the early days and things are different now;
 We used to tramp from dawn to dusk in the trail in the bush;
 And now our grain from a canvas sack with a barrel-hoop for a mouth,
 And we kind of felt that Providence controlled the frost and drought;
 And in the harvest work we always neared forth and back,
 And never thought of threatening till the grain was in the stack;
 And hauled our wood in the winter time, and smoked beside the fire,
 And felt our lot was everything that reason could desire.

True, we had little money; our homes were plain and bare;
 Maybe a box for a table, maybe a block for a chair;
 Straw to repose our bodies at the end of the well-worked day,
 And the stars saw through the knot-holes in the shingles where we lay;
 Food that was mostly our raising, coffee from toasted wheat,
 Cotinade for our Sunday suits, moccasins for our feet;
 Hard were our frames with labor, knotted our hands with toil,
 And we went to bed at twilight to save the price of oil.

Hardship? Perhaps, but old-timers look back at the early days, before we had come to realize that practical farming ways,
 Back at the times we were all so poor that that note of our thought of wealth,
 Back at the times when we found content in industry and health,
 Back at the nights in the shanty, when the wolves howled in the snow.

Back at the old stock stable and the cattle in a row,
 Back at the distances still unmapped, at the trails that were still untrod,
 When round about were the wastes of earth and overhead was God.
 Yes, times have changed since the early days; farming is now an art;
 They're coming for land in motor cars; but we came in a cart;
 They're tearing the prairie with steam and gas, turning the rivers loose, turning them into regions and bring them into use;
 Binding the earth with railway lines, netting the world with wires,
 Leaving the mail at our corner-posts, pampering our desires;
 They show us that times are better, prove it a thousand ways,
 But we think of the old-time comradeship and sigh for the early days.
 —R. J. C. Stead.

THE LAUGH LINE

A woman's face isn't always as bad as it is painted.

Another Advantage.
 "They say a woman cannot keep a secret."
 "That's why I believe in having women in politics. I'm in favor of pitiless publicity."

Forearmed.
 "I've borrowed our neighbor's phonograph for this evening."
 "Giving a party?"
 "No, but I'm going to have one quiet evening at home this winter."—Boston Transcript.

The Clasp.
 "Do young women read the classics?"
 "I am afraid not," replied the professor. "I'm inclined to think many of them neglect the reading and content themselves with studying the pictures for costume suggestions."—Washington Star.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE

Puds Simkins and Leroy Shooter started to have a fist back in the alley this afternoon and his fellows all got around and started to encourage them to punch each other, with several times they started to and didn't, Puds Simkins saying, "Aw I ain't going to fist with all this crowd around me."

Neither am I, this is a private fist, come on in my back yard, said Leroy Shooter. With they quick did and locked the gate, and I said, I tell you what I'll do, fellows, I'll run in my house and look out our setting room window into Leroy's yard and report the fist, and you all stay out here and listen.

With I ran in to do, and Puds and Leroy were standing on Leroy's grass with their fists up looking at each other like 2 statues, and I yelled down to the fellows, The fist is now ready to start.

Hurray, the fellows all yelled.

With just then Puds and Leroy started to walk around each other slow with their fists still up, and I yelled, The fist is now almost ready to begin.

With Puds and Leroy started to walk around each other fast, and I yelled, The fist is now nearly about to commence.

And the fellows all started to yell outside of Leroy's back fence, Hay in there, a little action, a little speed, soak him Puds, soak him Leroy, that's a boy.

With just then Puds almost hit Leroy and Leroy pretty near hit him back, me yelling, The fist is now still war it was.

A little pop in there, hay, go to it Puds, go to it Leroy, that's a boy, the fellows yelled.

With Puds and Leroy keep on making circles around each other and jumping back without anything to jump back from, me yelling, The fist is now still in the same place.

With just then Puds yelled, Aw shut up up there, how do you expect people to fist and Leroy yelled, Sure, now you've went and spoiled it.

And he picked up his cap and so did Puds and they went in Leroy's house looking like friends again.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

We have received a communication from a correspondent questioning the bona fides of a person living at the Provincial Hospital. If our correspondent has any information to allege, he should communicate with Premier Foster, the chairman of the Hospital Commissioners.—Ed.

A Box For Nix.

A theatrical company was playing, "As You Like It," in a small town, when a man without any money, wishing to see the show, stepped up to the box office and said, "Pass me in, please."
 The box-office man laughed.
 "Pass you in? What for?" he asked.
 The applicant drew himself up and answered haughtily, "What for? Why because I am William Shakespeare, author of the play."
 "Oh, I beg your pardon, sir?" replied the other in a shocked voice, as he hurriedly wrote an order for a box.—Spare Moments.

The Bright Side.

Thomas A. Edison was talking about his investigation into spiritualism.
 "Spiritualism has its bright side," he said. "An old lady remarked the other day:
 "Since my husband died I've been able to have a chat with him. What with golf, cottonists and chorus girls, that's more than I'd been able to have in the last thirty years when he was alive."

Quite Truthful.

Fred—"They tell me at my office that you were only one of the clerks. And were you a director?"
 Charles—"So I am. I direct envelopes."

To cure is the voice of the past; to prevent is the demand of the future.

NEURASTHENIA NERVE STARVATION

A Disease of the Down Hearted—Practical advice on what to do.

Many a man is broken down and discouraged without having any actual disease in his organs and tissues—he has lost his grip, feels weak and nervous and everything looks dark. He is suffering from the great American disease—Neurasthenia or nerve starvation, due to over-work, worry, continual hurry and nervous strain. The longer this continues the more certainly will it end in real disease of his organs, his nerves or his mind.
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The Tunisian Concert on their farewell performance last evening in the institution before a well-attended audience. The programme was as follows: The Tunisian Concert on their farewell performance last evening in the institution before a well-attended audience. The programme was as follows:

Part I
 Fantasia on the...
 Song "Chimney of Mine"
 Humorous song—"The Little"
 Song—"Selected"
 Song—"The Little"
 Song—"The Little"
 Song—"The Little"

Part II
 Song—"The Little"
 Song—"The Little"
 Song—"The Little"

Part III
 Song—"The Little"
 Song—"The Little"

Part IV
 Song—"The Little"

Part V
 Song—"The Little"

Part VI
 Song—"The Little"

Part VII
 Song—"The Little"

Part VIII
 Song—"The Little"

Part IX
 Song—"The Little"

Part X
 Song—"The Little"

Part XI
 Song—"The Little"

Part XII
 Song—"The Little"

Part XIII
 Song—"The Little"

Part XIV
 Song—"The Little"

Part XV
 Song—"The Little"

Part XVI
 Song—"The Little"

Part XVII
 Song—"The Little"

Part XVIII
 Song—"The Little"

Part XIX
 Song—"The Little"

Part XX
 Song—"The Little"

Part XXI
 Song—"The Little"

Part XXII
 Song—"The Little"

Part XXIII
 Song—"The Little"

Part XXIV
 Song—"The Little"

Part XXV
 Song—"The Little"

Part XXVI
 Song—"The Little"

Part XXVII
 Song—"The Little"

Part XXVIII
 Song—"The Little"

Part XXIX
 Song—"The Little"