

The St. John Standard

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THE GARAGE QUESTION.

Members of the City Council are still undecided in the matter of the erection of a garage on Cliff street. Whether the commissioners are afraid of this one request in particular of whether a ridiculous by-law interference, is not altogether clear, for at one time the council appears to ignore that by-law, while on other occasions it professes inability to act because of that regulation. It is plain, however, that in so far as its administrative responsibilities are concerned, the council have no adequate realization of the rapid development of the motor industry. Before many years go by this city will be more thickly dotted with public garages than it is today with grocery stores. We have not in the past had any by-laws prohibiting the operation of evil-smelling livery stables in the vicinity of private residences, and certainly the existence of these stables is much more objectionable to persons residing near them than the insignificant disturbances found around a garage can possibly be to the worshippers in a church which is open for two hours a week. The operation of a garage is everywhere else recognized as a legitimate business enterprise and with the growing demand for such repair, storage and livery shops, it is inevitable that the number of these must greatly increase in the near future. Why prospective owners of such garages should be compelled to search the city with a microscope in an endeavor to find a location exactly so many feet distant from places of worship, and to be held up for fancy prices on the purchase of suitable property when far more objectionable lines of business are conducted without restriction at almost any point selected by the proprietors, is a condition for which there is no excuse. Of course if we desire to live under conditions of a generation ago we can afford to let the grass grow in the streets, but if St. John is to conform with modern progress it must be in line with other cities in offering facilities for the carrying on of legitimate business enterprises without such sentimental restrictions as old time by-laws and farcical notions imposed.

THE NEW BOND ISSUE.

The controller general is calling for tenders for the purchase of a million dollars worth of five and one-half per cent. three year gold bonds. It is the evident wish of the Government that tenders be submitted only by Liberal investors—at least that is the inference to be drawn from the fact that only Liberal newspapers are favored with the advertising. And only those investors who are in a position to purchase the whole million dollars worth of bonds apply. It is not the policy of the present Government of New Brunswick to afford its own people an opportunity to invest at reasonable prices in what will undoubtedly be attractive securities. The city of St. John found no difficulty in selling over the counter almost half a million of debentures, practically all of which were taken up by small investors and for which the city in every case received par. Applications were received by St. John for a very much larger amount than was available for sale, and there can be no doubt that if the province of New Brunswick desired to adopt the same plan it could dispose of its million dollars worth of bonds to equal advantage. However, it is easier, and perhaps more in the interests of party government to place these bonds through a middleman. Certainly the last issue afforded brokers ample opportunity of making money at the expense of the Government in a transaction entirely creditable to those responsible for the financial affairs of New Brunswick. This time, however, although an explanation is offered in the announcement, is needed to cover the million dollar overdraft now running in the banks, created by Mr. Veniot's highway extravagance. His playful habit of over-expending in ditching, grading, etc., in the way of ordinary repair work and charging these expenditures to capital resulted last year in a liability never equalled in the history of the Province, a liability which must be wiped out.

PAVE FOR ECONOMY.

Business men of St. John, from the standpoint of economy alone, if for no other reason, should strongly advocate a definite policy of street construction. Such firms as are now employing motor trucks, and others who would be in a position to use this class of vehicle if pavements were satisfactory, can learn if they so desire by experience of other cities, that there will be saved in the upkeep of motor trucks regularly engaged here more money than is demanded through added taxation due to the cost of pavements. In the wear and tear on machines, life of tires, the consumption of gas, and increased capacity of the trucks by reason of higher speed and heavier loads, such saving may be made by concern regarding heavy trucking as will more than justify contributions by those firms through the assessment neces-

sary to cover original construction. It is an actual fact that there are in St. John today many business houses which would under different circumstances be employing numbers of heavy motor trucks, but which now carry on their work by teams in a much less satisfactory manner, this being due wholly to the fact that the roads and streets over which the motors must pass are not considered suitable for motor truck transport. These firms are losing money every day of the year by the continued use of horse-drawn vehicles, but believe they are not losing as much money as would result from depreciation, as well as gas, cost of operating expenses, etc., of motor trucks over our present roads.

THE SYNOD.

Yesterday's discussion in the Anglican Synod is typical of the spirit of brotherhood so rapidly affecting the church throughout the world. On the one side is seen the head of the church in this diocese upholding, irrespective of his personal opinions, the law under which he and his clergy are expected to shape their conduct in religious affairs; and on the other hand ministers of the Gospel who refuse to acknowledge themselves confined to the service of one particular denomination when duty, as they see it, calls them to wider spheres of usefulness. What is occurring in the Anglican Church as indicated by this discussion is nothing more nor less than is taking place in every denomination. The church itself, no matter how desirous of holding on to old and established usages, must before long, feel the influence of that freedom of thought engendered by the coming together of all denominations in the war, and must respect the convictions of those among the clergy and laity who recognize that good can be accomplished apart altogether from the confining influences of denominationalism. No minister of the Gospel who has served with the army, and none who has a true perception of what that service involved, can feel otherwise than that the barriers must be broken down and that academic questions of doctrine, and legendary safeguards against error no longer existing, must give way to the desire for fuller opportunities of service. It is right that the head of the church here, to whom is entrusted the duty of upholding the authority of that church, should in his annual message draw attention to the obligations imposed upon the clergy. But it is equally right that the clergy themselves who realize the spirit of the time shall make known their views in a manner which will command for these views adequate recognition and eventually lead to a wider freedom in the things that mean much to humanity and in reality little to the church. Among the members of the Anglican Synod who disagreed with the wording of the Bishop's charge, are some who, despite the restrictions imposed under church law as recalled by him, will in future, as in the past, act in accordance with the dictates of their own consciences, and will as formerly feel that their opportunities to serve are not confined to the pulpit to which they are ordained, but that in the preaching of the Gospel they may accomplish good in other pulpits and to congregations not their own. Such a policy on the part of these ministers of the Gospel does not indicate any disrespect to the church they are pleased to call their own, but is evidence of a devotion to duty which permits of no restraint through conventions calculated to protect their church against an undesirable influence not now existing.

HE MAKES AND BREAKS.

"The United States considers any attempt on the part of European nations to extend their system to any portion of the Western Hemisphere as dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States. Any interference for the purpose of oppressing American States or of controlling their destiny is regarded by the United States as an unfriendly act." This, in brief, is the Monroe Doctrine as originally laid down and as approved by later presidents than James Monroe. It implies its own corollary, which also has been recognized and expressed by successive United States presidents and statesmen, that the United States may not attempt to extend its influence to European nations nor to interfere for the purpose of controlling their destinies at the risk of being regarded by European States as an unfriendly nation. Yet President Wilson, with a great flourish of trumpets, has succeeded in having the Monroe Doctrine especially named in the covenant of the League of Nations, an accomplishment which puts on record the triumph of European over American statesmanship, for on that very day President Wilson appeared in his new role of administrator of the affairs of Europe. If in the covenant of the League of Nations the Monroe Doctrine is to be included in so far as its application to European interference in American concerns is involved, then it must

certainly be included in its reflex action, and under that covenant the United States binds itself to the avoidance of all interference in European affairs. President Wilson is directly responsible for the violation of the first by his attitude on the Danish question, and secondly by his insistence that in the Covenant the Monroe Doctrine shall be specifically named. President Wilson, as head of the Government of the United States, is also directly responsible for the application of the Monroe Doctrine and is equally responsible for the direct violation of that policy, displayed in his attitude towards Italy.

WHAT THEY SAY

Bar Them Out. Brantford Expositor: This country should see to it that there are no more special arrangements made with sects that want to come here and settle, but not want to assume the whole duty of citizenship.

A Bad Combination. Chicago News: Enlisting unnumbered Chinese in the Bolshevik army, where they are said to make excellent soldiers, is a conception of the "yellow peril" never presented by professional yellow perilists. It might be called the red and yellow peril.

All Workers Here. Woodstock Sentinel-Review: In a country like Canada most people are workers and wage-earners. Every kind of work that is useful should be regarded as honorable. Both the archivist and the hod-carrier render necessary service in the erection of a building. Neither one is entitled to monopolize the name of laborer or wage-earner. Modern industry depends upon the cooperation of many kinds of labor.

Dr. Clark's Whisper in Toronto. Montreal Herald: "If you are a radical in Toronto," said Dr. Michael Clark, M. P., in the Queen City on Saturday, "you have to speak with bated breath and whispering humbleness!" And then the dauntless doctor who must have a strong sense of humor, proceeded to roar for free trade!

The Waste Of It. Calgary Herald: Settlement of the Canadian Express Company strike is announced, and the men will return to work, differences will be referred to an adjustment board. How foolish these strikes are, when nine times out of every ten they are ultimately settled by the method that is available at all times, which, used in time, would save all necessity for a strike.

Backing Down. New York World: First the decree of nationalization of women by the Bolsheviks; then denial of the report that the system has been abolished because of outrages committed under it, and the consequent popular outcry.

A BIT OF VERSE

Allons, Enfants! Cadaverous walls, protruding, naked beams; And, above, adrift the half-stunned square. A baby's hand upon the cobwebs seems Quite naturally, palm upwards, lying there. Out the straight roads, through poplars, stream the folk, Pushing their world before them in a PRAM. With nowhere much to go; and if one spoke To younger child, whose face is smeared with jam: Or is it blood?—she could not tell. What happened; where they are: She only knows the nostril-reading of gas, and aches with walking very far. Blue lines of surging coats; Expectant faces throbbing prayers to Chance. A shout explodes out of a thousand throats. And one more regiment will die for France! —Henry Mond in Westminster Gazette

A BIT OF FUN

A Bricker in Advance. "I like Jobson; he always laughs at the climax of one's funny story." "You're mistaken; his laugh nearly always comes from the thought of the funny story he's going to spring on you."

The Necessary Horse. "Do you think the motor will entirely supersede the horse?" "I hope not," replied Farmer Corntossel. "There must be some market for hay. I depend on what I make on hay to buy gasoline."

Possibly. "To these manifestations the President raised his hat," says a London paper, "his smiling face indicating the measure of his pleasure at the leave-taking with the British public." This, as Punch remarks, is one of the things that might perhaps have been expressed differently.—Outlook.

She Knew What It Means. A teacher was reading the Christmas recitative piece to her class and came across the word "unaware." She asked if anyone knew its meaning. One small girl timidly raised her hand and gave the following definition: "Unaware is what you take off the last thing before you put your nightgown on."

The Unconscious Kind. Editor—Your friend deeply left some verses with me yesterday that were quite amusing. Friend—Indeed! I didn't think he was a humorous writer. Editor—Neither does he. What it suggests to Him. The little man made his way back

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE. Pop was sitting in the setting room smoking and thinking of something else, and me and Pats Simkins was on the floor arguwing about wich one had the best memory for remembering things, me saying, G, I can remember once I had a tooth ache one time wen I was only 3 years old, and I bit the dentists hand wen he tried to pull it out, and he wouldnt try any more, and its still there for all I know. G, wats that, that aint anything, sed Puds, G, I can remember I remember wats I wassent a year old yet, and some man gave me a dime and I put it in my mouth and swallowed it all the way down, and the man said if he had of know that, he would only of gave me a cent. I dont call that anything grats, I sed, I can remember I remember wats I wassent hardly 5 months old and nadent even had a birthday yet, and the nurse was pushing me up and down the street in my baby carriage, and a lady stopped to look at me and sed, Dear me, wat a perfectly bewtiful baby. Couldnt she see strats? sed Puds, and I sed, Go on, youre only jellus because me remember further than you. You only think you can, sed Puds, G, I can remember, wy, wats I remember I remember I fell out of my cradle wen I was only 7 days old and the hole family looked for about 20 minits, and at last they found me under the safer without a bump on me or anything. Well, gosh, wats that? I sed. Thats plenty, sed pop, I fear if you try to go him one better than that you mite jest possibly say sumthing that lacked the full flavor of truth. Wich maybe I mite of, so I dident.

to the box office. "This seat number sounds like a German submarine; its U 13," he said. "You dont want to exchange it merely on that account, do you?" asked the ticket man. "No, but I thought you mite be able to supply me with a periscope to see over that big woman sitting just in front."

None to Brighten Life. "Is your wife superstitious?" "Very, but in a one-sided manner only." "I dont get you." "The signs she believes in are all bad ones. There seems to be no good luck whatever in her superstitions."—Detroit Free Press.

GERMAN MEMOIRS TO BE PUBLISHED

Berlin, Tuesday, April 29. (By The A. P.)—The spring book lists continue to feature memoirs by former governmental, political and military leaders, the newest acquisition being two comprehensive volumes written by former Imperial Chancellor Dr. Von Bethmann-Holweg. The first volume deals with political developments preceding the outbreak of the war. Another work soon to appear will be by Gottlieb von Jagow, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, which is reported to be a plain defence of Germany's pre-war position. German publishers are apparently putting an extraordinary appraisal on the foreign interest in these books, as they are demanding fat royalties for British and American editions. A Leipzig firm is offering the foreign rights on a combination work by Admiral von Tirpitz, former Minister of the Navy, and General von Seeckt, former Prussian Minister of War and State, and Colonel von Lettow-Vorbeck, commander of German troops in German East Africa, for \$35,000.

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PERSONAL. Archibald Gull, of Bloomfield returned to his home last after spending a week in the Public Hospital as the result of an infected hand. J. T. Knight of the J. T. Shipping Company, left on the real train last evening on New York on business. Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Kirkpatrick, West St. John arrived home today from Toronto, where their son, Corporal G. H. Kirk of the Canadian Engineers, was posted, Manitoba, who arrived in to last Friday evening per the Belgic, from the army of occupation, Bonn, Germany.

His For The number select effort

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