

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. MONDAY, JULY 28, 1919.

BRITAIN'S COAL TROUBLES.

Two months ago Sir Auckland Geddes announced in the British Parliament a deficit of 246,000,000 as the result of a year's operation of coal mines by the government. To overcome this deficit an increase in the price of coal of 4s. 6d. per ton would be required. No intimation was given by the speaker or by other members of the government of the intention of the government as to whether the shortage in revenue would be met from the national treasury or by the consumer. That announcement was withheld until two weeks ago, by which time conditions in the mines had become so much more serious that an advance of 5s. per ton in the price of coal was required. Generally speaking, the decision of the government to place the burden on the consumer rather than on the exchequer is commended. Opposition to this course, which comes almost wholly from mine-workers' unions and their representatives, is of such a nature as to indicate merely unreasonable stubbornness, for the conditions which these opponents of this measure have put forward are contrary to the facts as known to exist.

The Sankey report, under which increased pay and shorter hours were granted the miners, and the profits of operating companies reduced, was accepted by these same miners who now repudiate the results of its operation. The wages of mine-workers have increased from 7s. 6d. a day to 17s., and in the enjoyment of such wages many of the men are displaying a feeling of independence, are becoming shiftless, and are adopting such an indifferent attitude that the production of coal throughout England and Scotland now averages 18.8 tons per working day as against 19 tons before the war. The claim of the miners is that the increased cost of production is due to excessive profits enjoyed by the owners, an entirely fallacious contention in view of the fact that previous to the adoption of the Sankey report the average profit was 8s. 4d. per ton and are now reduced to 1s. 2d., at which figure the return is not sufficient to encourage investment. Were these profits entirely wiped out it would still be necessary under existing conditions to increase the price of coal to the consumer by 4s. 10d. per ton, and this without taking into account any further increases in wages, reductions in hours, or diminished output. Indeed the deficit in operation is not the only serious feature of the situation, for reduction of output will interfere with export business and will place Britain at a disadvantage in markets which she formerly controlled. Export business has been cut down already by thirty per cent, and during the past two weeks the average coal production has been at the rate of 75,000,000 tons per year less than in 1913, which amounts represents practically the total export at that time. It is thus seen that Britain is producing today not more than enough coal for home consumption and this at a price which materially affects the successful operations of dependent industries. This, of course, is irrespective of the conditions created by the recent strike which still further interfered with the normal progress of the country.

HARBOR COMMISSION.

When opposition to harbor commission is openly expressed by such men as Sir Douglas Hazen, Hon. William Tugdale, Hon. W. H. Thorne, Dr. J. H. Frink and others who have had years of experience in national and civil affairs, it will pay the people of St. John to consider very seriously the reasons for opposing themselves to the transfer now proposed. Especially is this advisable in view of the records of other cities where such a plan has been carried out. Look, for example, at what has happened in Montreal and Quebec, and then decide whether or not this city cares to place itself in a similar position.

We are told by certain of our federal representatives that the action of the government in agreeing to take over the harbor of St. John under the commission form of management is the first step toward nationalization. This is nothing more than surmise, for the federal government has never at any time signified such an intention nor given any intimation of a policy such as this. Indeed it is full time that the government adopted some sort of definite policy in this regard. Canada has expended fully a billion dollars on railroads east and west and many millions more in canals in the interior. This has admittedly been for the purpose of developing traffic which might be handled through and Atlantic and Pacific ports. But up till the present time nothing whatever in the way of a clearly defined policy has been adopted with respect to terminals for those railroads nor for harbors through which that extensively developed traffic might be handled. The C. P. R. has been heavily subsidized, the C. N. R. has been up countless millions, but when it came to providing a port at which the business of these lines might be handled during the winter months the government has been content to let

the people of St. John spend money out of their own pockets. Certain contributions have been made from time to time from the department of Public Works, but the bulk of the expenditure has been our own. In the case of Halifax the alleged explanation is offered that the C. N. R. is providing the new terminals which will cost twenty millions but which will eventually mean double that amount. That statement is merely camouflage, for the money is coming out of the country just as it would come were the expenditure made by the Marine or the Public Works departments. And if Halifax, with such an excuse as this, can be equipped with modern wharf accommodation, why should St. John be burdened with a load of interest which will handicap us forever. The harbor of Quebec was placed under commission and was unable to produce enough revenue to pay operating expenses excepting at such charges as would have been sufficient to drive away all prospective business. Consequently Quebec defaulted on its bonds. Does St. John desire a similar experience? In Montreal the commissioners were relieved by the government of millions of dollars of liability, and many millions more are being expended in work on the approaches to the harbor. Nothing of the kind is offered to St. John. Our total outlay is to be capitalized and interest collected on it as well as on all that may hereafter be spent. And this future expenditure, which will be a charge against St. John harbor, will include the cost of the deepening of the channel, the extension of the breakwater, and other necessary construction which, in the case of Montreal, would be regarded as beyond the harbor limit and a proper charge on the country as a whole.

Realizing what has been done for other ports, what is now being done on the Pacific as well as on the Atlantic, and what is demanded by Ontario for canals, it is nothing but fair to ask that St. John be made a national port, that the city be reimbursed the amount already expended, and that the government undertake to carry on in the interests of this harbor and of the country as a whole. Failing this, which would perhaps mean the application of a policy not yet recognized, we should at least have a definite assurance that the government will under commission so operate this harbor as to enable it to compete on even terms at least with any other ports either in Canada or the United States, that repairs and new construction be undertaken as required, and that these and other necessary expenditures shall be absorbed by the country and not permitted to become an accumulated charge against this port. So far we have in this respect only the hopeful supposition that this may be the eventual policy, and the unfounded opinion of one of our federal members that Ottawa will do generously with St. John, an opinion which certainly has not been justified by action taken to date.

HAWTHORNE AVENUE.

With further reference to Hawthorne Avenue, it would appear people living on this street face such a serious problem that ordinary procedure in matters such as extension of water service might reasonably be overlooked in this one instance. Hawthorne Avenue, although within the city limits, does not enjoy the advantages possessed by other districts. The residents of that street are taxed at the usual rate. They have been refused fire protection, they have no police protection, the roadway has received very little attention, there are no sidewalks, the street lighting is poor. These residents are thus asked to pay taxes at the same rate as others who enjoy much greater advantages and it is not reported that they have objected to such payments. On the contrary it is intimated that, while no definite promises were made to the present owners of homes on Hawthorne Avenue, some of them previous to building were given to understand that water and sewerage services would be extended along that street. The majority of these residents are not wealthy, indeed only a few of them are what could be called comfortably situated, and a burden of \$600.00 per year, representing 5 p. c. on the estimated cost of the water extension is rather more than twenty-five or twenty-six families of this class can reasonably carry. In view of all the circumstances and while admitting the many objections which may be raised, it does not appear unreasonable that the city should undertake the extension of the service even though the revenue produced may not be the full amount ordinarily anticipated, particularly as the residents of Hawthorne Avenue are paying for other public services which they do not enjoy, and that had the water service been provided several years ago as anticipated, the cost would have been much less than it will be today. This extension, if carried out, should not, however, be regarded as a precedent for similar work elsewhere, and prospective builders should be given

clearly to understand that only under the policy of sufficient revenue to cover interest, sinking fund and replacement charges will future extension be made.

WHAT THEY SAY

Where Ice is Plentiful.
Kansas City Times: It is rather tough to have to read about heat winter's predicted coal famine here, we have even had this summer's ice famine.

Disagreeing With Haig.
Washington Post: We're sorry, but we'll have to notify Field Marshal Haig that Greece and Portugal disagree with him when he says the British army won the war.

London Victory Celebration.
New York Times: But the greatest enthusiasm next to that which was naturally displayed for the British soldiers and sailors themselves, was for the French and Americans. Neither is there any divergence in the reports as to the heartfelt sincerity and spontaneity of it. The frank and hearty good-will and admiration for our men and for the French and so conspicuously that even correspondents who have shown no liking for England report it.

Complicating the Problem.
New York Tribune: The Russian problem has been complicated by the practice of sending over men who did not go to ascertain and report facts, but who reached their conclusions before they took ship. Such have, of course, found the confirmation which they sought. Relying on such tainted information, the State Department naturally has gone from error to more error. There has been reliance on agents firmly committed to this or that school of opinion, and so full of preconceived opinion that they and little interest in facts.

Don't Go Too Far.
New York World: Furthermore, there is public opinion, a force thus far belittled and defied. Secedatolism had to yield to it in New England and the time came when ex-franchised non-church members outvoted the elect. It may be so again, for tolerance of justice, it is on the grounds and not from any lack of interest in true reform, that they say, "Don't go too far."

High Food Prices.
New York Sun: When the United States government, although this country has wheat enough to feed every American man, woman and child with bread, although it has plenty of it to feed to live stock until it would break the price of corn when the United States government takes up and keeps up the price of wheat in this country as if there were a war, it is the United States government which thereby makes the consumers of the United States pay more for their food than they otherwise would need to pay. I shall jump pay more than anyone else could make them pay for all the beef trusts or all the other trusts or the trusts that exist in real estate or in the imagination could not get prices that are now so high if the United States government itself did not force them up against the very laws of nature.

A BIT OF VERSE

The Hills o' Skye.
There's a ship lies off Dunvegan,
An' she longs to spread her wings,
An' through a' the day she beckons,
"Come awa' awa', my darlin',
Come awa' wi' me and fly
To a bonny shore o' the sea,
Than the moors and hills o' Skye."
Oh, my heart! My weary heart!
There's a ship lies off Dunvegan,
But it turns hame to Dunvegan
By the storm-beat hills o' Skye.
I have wandered miles fu' many,
I have marked fu' many a change,
I have won me gear in plenty,
In this land sae fair, but strange;
Yet at times a spell is on me,
I'm a boy once more—to rin
On the hills aboon Dunvegan—
An' the kind sea shuts me in.
Oh, my heart! My weary heart!
There's a ship lies off Dunvegan,
But it turns hame to Dunvegan
By the storm-beat hills o' Skye.
—William McLennan.

A BIT OF FUN

Nobody gets mad these days if people forget to shut the door.
Some men call women angels—but then you can't believe a word some men say.
Sometimes it seems easier to make the world safe for democracy than to make it good for three meals a day.
The man who makes money too easily takes his turn at the hard work when it comes to explaining how he got it.
Weary Willie—"I lost 'art a crown yesterday."
Tired Timotheus—"Did yave a 'ole in yer pocket?"
Weary Willie—"No; the bloke wot dropped it heard it fall."
"This watch will last you for a lifetime," remarked a jeweller.
"Onsenise!" retorted the customer.
"Can't I see for myself now that its hours are numbered?"
Neil—"He hadn't known me ten minutes before he announced that he was going to kiss me."
Belle—"The ideal! You should have

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

TEETH.

Your teeth are to chew and smile with. If you tried to chew without teeth you would chew in vain, and if you tried to smile without them you would look much better if you had them.

Ladies with beautiful teeth smile the oftenest, being more on account of having beautiful teeth than on account of having fatter cheeks. If you suddenly went up to a lady with beautiful teeth and asked her what she was smiling at, she would probably just close her smile with no answer.

Everybody has 32 teeth belonging to them, only many people have spaces and teeth instead of all teeth. Nobody can have 32 teeth and spaces besides. People with their spaces rite in front are less beautiful but easier to remember.

Babies have no teeth to begin with, making their mouths feel so vacant that they try to stick everything in they can get a hold of. When a baby gets its first tooth it's a sign that its going to get more, and the whole family thinks it's doing something wonderful, and the baby would probably think so too, only it can't think yet.

A few things that are bad for the teeth are as follows, picking them with pins, biting stones and other hard substances, getting ghit in the mouth with flats, and falling on the face from high distances.

The teeth should be brushed at least once a day whether they need it or not.

had a haplin to stick him with."
Neil—"Oh! He didn't need to be spurred on."
"Do you consider it a moral wrong to cheat a lawyer?" asked the person who is always looking for a chance to start something.
"No," replied the man whose speciality is worldly wisdom, "but I consider it a physical impossibility."

A New One on Teacher.
Miss Decorous had made a special study of Biblical history, and she addressed the Sunday School class thus:
"Now, children, I have told you all I can concerning the nations which were driven out by the Israelites. They were the Hittites, the Hittites, the Jebusites, the Perizzites, the Girzaites. And let one see—yes, the Ammonites. Can you remember them all children. Now you look puzzled, Rosie. Have you any questions to ask?"

"No, teacher," came the shy reply, "except that you haven't told us about the fleabites."—Pearson's (London).

Hunger And Unrest Are Disorganizing The Bolsheviki

Dissatisfaction and Irritation Among the Working Men Have Reached the Highest Point.

Washington, July 24. (Russian Telegraph Agency)—Hunger, unrest and disease have created an acute situation in Bolshevik territory, according to a wireless report by Leo Kamenoff, the Bolshevik commissary, made public here today by Colonel A. M. Nikolaidoff, military attaché of the Russian Embassy. The Bolshevik wireless message received from Omsk by cable. Kamenoff's message reads:

"The dissatisfaction and irritation among the working men has reached the highest point. The plants in Moscow are on strike. The motto of the movement is 'down with Soviets.' Epidemics are spreading. There is no bread and no medicines. The number of deserters is immense."

URGE AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF MEXICO AT ONCE

Belief That the United States Should Withdraw Recognition of the Carranza Government.

Washington, D. C., July 26.—Military occupation of Mexico by the United States was advocated by Representative Hulsbath, Democrat, Texas, in an address today in the House. He urged withdrawal of American recognition of the Carranza government, and said American troops should be kept in Mexico until an established government had been made.

REPUBLICANS ARE QUITE INQUISITIVE

Insist That Pres. Wilson Reveal Terms of Treaty by Which U. S. Would Aid France.

Washington, July 24.—A resolution requesting President Wilson to submit to the Senate the treaty by which the United States would promise to aid France, in the event of an unprovoked attack by Germany, was offered in the Senate today by Chairman Lodge of the Foreign Relations Committee. Unanimous consent for its immediate consideration was refused by Senator Robertson, Democrat, Arkansas.

Senator Lodge offered the measure after a sharp debate during which the Republican speaker declared that the terms of the treaty required that it be submitted to the Senate for ratification at the same time as the treaty with Germany.

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ABE MARTIN



It's just a constant struggle these days to keep from gittin' talked into somethin' you don't want. If th' girls wuz as careful about who they run with as they are about findin' their hair they'd be a whole lot o' lone some dbe.

SPEEDY RELIEF FOR NOVA SCOTIA WORKMEN URGED

Selby Barrett Says They Must Have a Chance to Live, and if They Are Not Provided With That No Telling What May Happen.

Halifax, July 24.—"The best material for the making of a Bolshevik is a hungry man. Give some Canadian labor a decent chance to live, and it has no more use for this red revolutionary idea than you have," said Selby Barrett, International Board member of the United Mine Workers of America, to the Canadian Press tonight.

"Nova Scotia labor is sound," Mr. Barrett went on. "But I want to solemnly warn the government and the people that unless speedy relief is forthcoming, the conditions existing today in some industrial districts in Cape Breton Island are going to lead to—who can say what they might not lead to?"

"The people of Nova Scotia are a peace-loving, hard-working people. Give them work and a fair show and you will never hear a murmur from them. But some of them are being asked to do an impossible thing—they are being asked to live on nothing."

Mr. Barrett makes these statements in connection with the situation in Sydney Mines and Inverness, where he says that some men are working only three days a fortnight, while many steel workers are out of work entirely.

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