

The St. John Standard

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THE BOLSHEVIST MENACE.

Lloyd George hopes that by opening trade with Russia, the turbulent Bolsheviks will settle down, go to work, and abandon their dream of world conquest. The Allies in their dealings with Bolshevism have so far seen most of their plans miscarry. Little has been accomplished, and what will be the outcome of the new policy remains to be seen. There are those who fear the Bolsheviks will continue their efforts to stir up trouble in the East, and rouse India to revolt. There are others who fear the Bolsheviks will seek to overrun Poland, Lettland and other near States, and extend their empire towards the West. And in fact the Moscow papers, in announcing the defeat of Denikin, carried headlines such as "Denikin Now—the Poles Next." General Bliss, of the U. S. Army, a former member of the Supreme Military Council, has recently expressed the view that a general revival of war in Europe is not improbable unless Poland can check the Bolshevik armies; and he has urged the United States to furnish military supplies to Europe. Some military authorities have been urging Poland to take the offensive while the Bolshevik armies are still occupied in the west; but a statement made by Mr. Balfour the other day shows that the British Government is not encouraging Poland in a policy of military adventure.

It is not likely the leaders of the Bolsheviks will show any particular enthusiasm for the offer of peaceful trade made by the Allies, for they have recently captured coal, oil and grain lands in old Russia which will go far to enable them to carry on without regard to a blockade. Lenin and Trotsky are fanatics; they are more concerned to carry their blood and iron gospel against capitalist powers than to establish peace—well knowing that the Russian experiment will be by example made converts to Bolshevism. If the world has a chance to see it in operation under the conditions of peace. These adventures now control the largest armed forces in Europe; and they will doubtless be tempted to try to exploit the unstable political situations in Hungary, Austria and Germany. Their recent offer of peace to Poland may be only intended to lull that country into a false sense of security. If they were able to launch considerable armies westward, they might start all kinds of trouble. Bolshevism has already raised its head in Roumania. Very little would inaugurate another Communist uprising in Hungary. Austria is on the verge of collapse. Even in Poland there appears to be large numbers of oppressed Jews who might become ready converts to Bolshevism. As for Germany, nobody believes the present Government can long survive, and it is freely predicted that its fall may lead to a disastrous civil war.

But there are considerations which militate against the likelihood of the Russian Bolsheviks carrying their war into Central Europe. Their power has been mainly due to their ability to persuade the Russian peasantry that they were fighting for their lands. With the old regime shattered, and foreign powers offering peace instead of the sword, the Russian peasantry will want to enter into possession of the lands they have conquered from their former masters. Lenin and Trotsky will have difficulty persuading them to embark upon foreign adventures, more especially as Central Europe will hardly be worth looting. Such armies as they can keep up Lenin and Trotsky may need to maintain their dictatorship in Russia.

MR. KING'S INCONSISTENCIES.

At Ottawa Hon. Mr. King said: "Anything artificial at present restricting the supply of the principal foods should be immediately removed. This brings us inevitably to a consideration of the tariff." And he went on to express his conviction that the tariff can be so reformed as to reduce the cost of living.

Great Britain is supposed to have free trade in most foodstuffs, as well as manufactures, but is nevertheless troubled by high cost of living. To attribute the high prices of foodstuffs in Canada to the tariff is a far-fetched proceeding, when Canada is a great exporter of foodstuffs. If the few duties on foodstuffs from the United States were removed we would at present still have to pay a premium of 16 per cent. or more, and in any case the hope held out to the farmer by the free traders is that he would be able to get higher prices in the United States than in Canada. And if the argument addressed to the farmer has any force it is difficult to see how a stronger market abroad will enable the Canadian consumer to secure foodstuffs at lower prices.

Mr. King is apparently not convinced by his own arguments against the reform of the tariff. At any rate he shifts his ground and tells us that the cause of the high cost of living lies in

the relative backwardness of rural development as compared with the increase in the number of consumers in the cities demanding food. As a general statement of a world condition there is something in this. In Europe the war has certainly decreased farm production; but it has been the boost of Canada and the United States that as a result of the war the production of foodstuffs has increased. In any case the records show that the chief increase in Canada's foreign trade has been due to the export of foodstuffs. Among the causes of the high price of foodstuffs the foreign demand has figured largely, while in some cases, if we may judge from the spread of prices between the producer and consumer, a poor system of distribution has been another cause; and neither of these are influenced by tariffs.

It is also doubtful whether Mr. King is right when he suggests that rural development has not kept pace with urban development. While there has been a big increase in the export value of foodstuffs there has been no increase in the export value of our city products, and in some cases there have been decreases. Moreover, there are frequent complaints that the city manufacturers are not supplying all the needs of the home market in a great many lines. This would indicate that our manufacturing development has been retarded.

Some people take the view that the great problem at present is the exchange situation. Our manufacturers who import raw material from the United States (free of duty) now have to pay a high premium, and doubtless this is greatly retarding the development of manufacturing. Reducing the tariff will not enable the manufacturers to secure raw materials without paying a premium to the United States. Business authorities of equal weight with the Opposition Leader have said that the solution of the exchange problem lies in making Canada as self-contained a country as possible by the development of new and old industries, and new industries will at any rate require protection from the competition of the mammoth organizations of the United States.

THE HARBOR MATTER.

Members of the delegation who recently visited Ottawa on the harbor matter did not gather the impression that the only votes for St. John this year would be in connection with the works at Conception Bay. The delegation insisted strongly that steps should be taken to extend the Negro Point breakwater to Partridge Island. They were told by the Ministers that it would be the general policy of the Government not to embark upon new programmes of public works until projects underway had been completed. But the Ministers gave the delegation to understand that they considered the extension of the Negro Point breakwater an old project, inasmuch as some time previously tenders for the work had been called for. Further, the Ministers said they recognized the urgency of extending the breakwater, if only for the reason of making the newest Government pier available for shipping in any condition of wind and weather. While the Ministers gave no definite promise, some members of the St. John delegation brought back the impression that provision would be made for the extension of the breakwater as soon as possible.

As regards the construction of new piers on the West Side, the Minister of Marine appears to have told the delegation that until the question of whether the harbor was to be turned over to a Government Commission was settled his interest in the provision of further facilities on the West Side would be lukewarm. This may be an unfortunate attitude, inasmuch as it is not the interests of St. John alone but of the whole winter trade of Canada that are concerned. Apparently a strenuous effort will have to be made to break the deadlock and induce the Government to proceed with the provision of more berths on the West Side.

A NEW RIVAL OF ST. JOHN.

The Vancouver Harbor Commission of Vancouver has been granted \$5,000,000 to inaugurate a new programme of harbor building this month. It is said that the Government in this case is simply fulfilling an old promise, and that there is no violation of its ruling not to start new public works. As the C. P. R. has just let a contract for a new pier at Vancouver, developments there will bear watching, as it is the ambition of Vancouver to become a rival of St. John in the matter of handling grain from the prairies for shipment to Europe. President Beatty during his recent visit to the West said there was nothing to prevent a considerable movement of western grain through Vancouver, and via the Panama Canal to Europe. If ocean tonnage upon the Pacific was provided in quantities sufficiently large to take care of shipments, the advantage of rates via Vancouver from the prairies over the rates to St. John, Halifax and

New York would be considerable, he said, and might influence shipments by the Pacific route. He added, however, that routing traffic destined for Europe through Vancouver would depend on conditions with which the C. P. R. was not concerned.

IS THE MODEL FARMER IN NEW BRUNSWICK ATTENDING TO HIS JOB OR MAKING A NOISE IN FREDERICTON?

The Times suggests that The Standard has been hard on the Provincial Ministers in pointing out that they have not been attending to their duties as they should have done. It points out that Mr. Tweeddale has been practically living in Fredericton. We believe Hon. Mr. Tweeddale is a better farmer than The Times supposes. The only trouble is how Hon. Mr. Tweeddale is going to square accounts with Hon. Mr. King's speech at Ottawa, in which he practically accused the farmers and their sons of neglecting their duties and being a party to high prices.

According to the Paris Press, Lloyd George on one of his visits informed Clemenceau that His Majesty's Government would like to express its thanks to Marshal Foch, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies, by making him a gift equal to that voted to Lord Haig—£100,000. Clemenceau refused the offer on the ground that it was not the custom of France to honor victorious generals in that way.

Influenza is ravaging Japan. In Tokyo there were 200,000 cases in one month, and nearly 2,000 deaths in one day. While the doctors there say the flu is of a milder type, it is much more infectious. Everybody is reported to be using serums and masks.

WHAT THEY SAY

Normal Figures.

(Punch.)

"Women's gowns," says a fashion writer, "are being designed to show a normal feminine figure." A jaded husband writes to express the hope that they may soon hover round about the figure of five guineas again.

Honored Name Easily Discarded. (Victoria Times.) It is satisfying to have the assurance that the only essential change that is contemplated in connection with the Royal Northwest Mounted Police is in name, which, after tomorrow, will be the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Nations of Talkers.

(Daily Herald.)

Pearls of price may fall from a schoolboy's lips. Among the latest "howlers" collected by the University Correspondent is this: "In the United States of America people are put to death by education." The same might sometimes be said of this country.

A BIT OF VERSE

COLORED SHADOWS.

Until you came I never knew
How from my narrow city room
The colored shadows of the roofs
Could glow and bloom.

Until you came I never knew
The fragile miracle of snow,
That, silvered by a fiery moon,
Lies far below.

Since you have gone must I return
To eyes and heart that never knew?
Or shall I find in common things
A glimpse of you?

—Jessie Douglas Fox.

A BIT OF FUN

A Prodigal's Mistake.

"I once ran away from home when I was a boy."
"Indeed? I suppose the tears flowed freely when you returned?"
"Yes; I made the mistake of returning when father was at home."

Considering Her Feelings.

Mr. Hussel—Why don't you get a job so your wife won't have to kill herself over the washtub as she's doing?

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

My sister Gladie came home this afternoon with a little white paper bag the shape of a candy bag, me seeing her come in with it and saying, Wats you got in the bag, Gladie?

Carmels, but there are only 3 left, so there's no use asking, sed Gladie.

Aw gosh, G, aw Gladie, jest give me one, wats one out of 37 I sed.

There's no use carrying on about it, you herd wat I sed, sed Gladie.

And she started to go up stairs, me saying, Well jest give me a half of one, then, I can chew a half a one as long as most people can chew a hole one.

Don't talk nonsense, sed Gladie. And she kept on going up, me calling after her, Wy is it nonsense? If you know so much, I bet you if you give me a half a piece I'll take as long to eat it as wat you take with the other 2 and a half pieces, do you want to try it?

Don't make so much noise, Gladie called down.

Aw go to the dickins, I called up. Wich jest then ma came out of the dining room, saying, Benny, stop that, wat kind of language is that?

Wy, dickins aint swearing, is it, ma? I sed, and ma sed, Its practically the same as swearing, and I sed, Well how about Charles Dickens, its all rite to say Charles Dickens, aint it, ma?

Serenty, dont be foolish, sed ma. And I quick yelled up stairs, Gladie, Gladie, Gladie, Wich after I had yelled it about 20 times Gladie called down, For hevvin sake, stop that hully-balloo, wat do you want?

Go to the Charles Dickens, I yelled, and quick run out before she had time to yell anything back.

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