

The St. John Standard

THE MARITIME ADVERTISING AGENCY, LIMITED, PUBLISHERS.
43 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.
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Subscription Rates:
City Delivery \$6.00 per year
By Mail in Canada \$7.00 per year
By Mail in U. S. \$8.00 per year.

Contract Display 4c. per line
Classified 11c. per word
Inside Readers 7c. per line
Outside Readers 35c. per line
(Agate measurement.)

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1922.

MR. FIELDING BACKS DOWN.

Mr. Fielding, like the coon, has decided to come down. His Budget proposals have had to run the gauntlet of so much adverse criticism from practically every quarter, that they have been subjected to a revision so drastic in its nature as to be effect, practically produce a new Budget.

That the new proposals are some improvement upon the originals goes without saying. It would have been almost impossible to make any changes in the original proposals without effecting improvements; in fact the originals were so bad, they could hardly have been worse. But even as they now stand, the proposals leave much to be desired.

The proposed cheque tax has been modified to the extent that two dollars is the maximum stamp that will be required; though cheques must bear a two cent stamp for every \$50 until \$5,000 is reached. Now there comes a curious provision: "Where a bill of exchange is payable on demand, or within three days after date, such bill shall be deemed, for the purposes of taxation, to be drawn for an amount not exceeding \$5,000." This can only be taken to mean that such a bill, irrespective of the amount drawn for, must carry stamp tax for the amount a \$5,000 draft would need.

It surely does not mean that a three day draft or demand note for \$100,000 need only be stamped up to \$5,000? If the former of these suggestions is the correct solution, then it means that there will be very few eight drafts or demand notes made; if the latter, it means that the country is going to lose a considerable amount of revenue. The tax on receipts when given for \$10 and upwards should bring in a considerable return, and it is an incident of taxation that should not bear very hardly on the community. This tax, however, for some occult reason, will not come into force till the 1st January next. Just why every other tax should be collectable immediately and this particular one not, is rather difficult to say. There seems to be no good reason for the exception.

By far the most satisfactory of the revised proposals, however, is that which deals with German goods, which will now be valued at the same amount as goods of the same nature and quality coming from England would be valued at. As English goods get a preference in the matter of duty, it follows that German goods will be called upon to pay more duty than English ones. The value of the goods in German markets will have no bearing in the matter.

The Finance Minister, in bringing in his revised edition of the Budget is said to have done so in "an old-time fighting speech." He denied that it was a Protectionist Budget, "because the Liberal party had never stood for Protection and does not now." Yet only a day or two ago, he told the House that he had never approved of the free trade proposals of the Liberal party convention. If he believes neither in Protection nor Free Trade, what is his position? Those are the only two fiscal policies before the country. His explanation may possibly be that he believes in a tariff for revenue only. A tariff for revenue can only apply to duties placed on articles not produced in Canada; for duties placed on articles imported into this country to compete with a similar class of articles made here, cannot be otherwise than protective.

Mr. Fielding may not have had an easy task when he set out to find ways and means to raise revenue enough to meet the anticipated expenditure, but it is rather surprising that a Finance Minister with the years of experience in that line that he has had, should have been obliged to fall back on such crude expedients as the present Budget proposals disclose.

The relaying of the sidewalks on Prince William Street appears to be proceeding along the usual well-established lines. No sooner is a portion completed and set down nice and firm, when along comes the gang to tear a part of it up again.

A GERMAN LOAN.

A cartoon in a contemporary shows a financier holding a bag bearing the sign behind his back, and asking an attendant German: "What will you do with it?" A cut such as this conveys a whole lot of meaning.

That a large international loan is desired by Germany is beyond all doubt, but one of the preliminary questions to be satisfactorily answered, is that asked by the financier in the cartoon. Another thing in connection with such a loan is that under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles Germany is not in a position to borrow money even for the payment of what it owes under that treaty. An understanding with the Allies is therefore

indispensable, but unfortunately revision of the treaty is a sore subject in France, and the modifications needed to enable Germany to borrow money are precisely the modifications of the treaty which the French have been bitterly opposing ever since the demand for revision began.

Apart from getting a satisfactory answer to the query: "What will you do with it," before any loan can be made to Germany there must be adequate security provided. There can be no such security as long as the Allies retain the right to seize all that Germany can produce, otherwise there would be no certain source of income for the service of the loan. Whether a reduction in the total indemnity would be necessary is another matter; it may be that the Allies would not care how great a future burden might be imposed upon Germany, provided the payment of the loan were assured of priority. But at all events, for a long term of years it would be necessary to reduce radically payments exacted from Germany, aside from those due on the loan. It would probably also be necessary to have a clear understanding that during this period the Allies would refrain from crippling the German industries which the loan is intended to revive, whether by selling the Ruhr coal mines or by imposing economic penalties.

This means that before an international loan to facilitate reparations can be floated, France will have to decide whether it desires the economic reconstruction of Europe, or prefers to keep the mastery over Germany for which the Treaty of Versailles provides, even at great cost to itself as well as to other countries. With the political side of the question the International Committee of Bankers are not concerned, except as political questions impair the security of Germany as a borrower. Yet even on the political side their considered judgment is likely to have influence, because the preponderant desire of Europe, not excluding France, is for economic reconstruction. Later a way may be found to overcome the present obstacles.

In one respect the Bankers' Committee has a great advantage over a conference of statesmen in that it does not need to argue. If the terms on which it considers a loan to be practicable are not accepted by the statesmen of the nations concerned, it can simply adjourn and wait until its advice is again sought. If an agreement cannot be reached today, perhaps in three months or six months the world's chronic needs of ready cash will have overcome some of the objections now raised.

ANOTHER "DYING KICK"?

The Times' resume of Mr. Durost's "qualifications" as an orator for the Provincial Opposition seems to be fairly complete. About the only qualification he missed obtaining seems to be that he failed to turn his office into a clearing house for the Timber Limit grant and did not act as treasurer of the fund. When it came to having the "swag," Mr. John E. Moore, The Times' owner, took the leading role himself. No doubt it never occurred to him that in so doing he was standing in Mr. Durost's light.

A despatch sent out from Ottawa yesterday over the Canadian Press wire on the unemployment situation, credits New Brunswick with only five hundred unemployed as at June 10th, according to Labor Department officials. Mayor McEllan in the course of conversation with The Standard last night referred to this despatch, and remarked that if other Government statistics are no more correct than those dealing with unemployment in New Brunswick, they are not of very much use. According to His Worship, there are at least, fifteen hundred unemployed in St. John alone, and, as he says, he should know, because he has to deal with them.

Punch: Miss Gloria Swanson, the famous film star, reached England last Monday week. She encountered rough weather on the Atlantic; but we are pleased to say that there is no truth in the rumor that, on her arrival, she called to America as follows: "Sick transit, Gloria Monday."

Seven years ago yesterday, the 35th Battalion sailed from St. John to do their bit overseas for the sake of civilization. They way they did it is too well known to need recapitulation here; but it will ever remain a source of pride to St. John.

An address on the subject of "The Control of Fire" is to be given at the annual meeting of the Women's Institute next week. A more suitable subject to talk to women about would be how to get the fuel to make a fire.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Mr. Fielding's Sincerity.
(London Free Press.)
Confidence in Hon. W. S. Fielding as a public man is sadly shaken by his statement now that he did not support the tariff platform of the Liberal party when drafted in 1913, and that he did not subscribe to it. Mr. Fielding was present throughout the whole conversation and was a candidate for the leadership on the platform enthusiastically endorsed by the convention. He did not tell the delegates that he dissented from the fiscal policy enunciated, nor during the elections did he ever make a speech specifically repudiating it.

Besides, Mr. Fielding in a beautiful outburst of oratory made the following declaration at the convention: "Sincerity is a queer thing in politics. It should be. Politics is not a mere game and should not be a game, and it is a poor, miserable game when they do things merely to win power."

In view of this noble and lofty sentiment it seems incredible that Mr. Fielding should have endeavored to gain leadership and political power by deceiving the convention and the public. If he had been a man of real moral courage he would have proudly stated where he stood, as did "Honest John" Oliver, of British Columbia, who vigorously protested at the time against the fiscal resolutions. Apparently he compromised to receive the thanks of a "poor, miserable game," merely to win power.

In the Enemy's Lines.

(Quebec Chronicle.)
Mr. William Randolph Hearst, anglophobe, lunched with Prime Minister Lloyd George at 10 Downing street. There is nothing remarkable in his being invited. When the British are slapped on the right cheek they turn the left, not wishing to withhold anything of enjoyment from those who find their happiness in twisting the lion's tail. It is only when their solar plexus is threatened that they bring themselves to regard the assailant as a possible enemy. The British Prime Minister would not receive Mr. Hearst with all the courtesy he would extend to Judge Alton B. Parker, President of the Sulgrave Institute.

But what of Mr. Hearst? Could even he refrain from blushing in entering the chief office of state of the nation he has attacked and vilified and lied about in season and out? Was his hand steady as he broke bread with the Premier of Great Britain? Surely even one so hardened as Mr. Hearst must have felt some embarrassment.

'Rah for Economy.

(London Advertiser.)
After urging the need for rigid economy some folks just naturally start out for Ottawa to show the people down there where they can buy a new suit for a two office or a customs building.

The Probable Finding.

(Toronto Star.)
The international commission with representatives from Holland, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland, which is sitting in Stockholm to determine the causes of the great war, will doubtless use some tact in awarding the blame. Small nations acquire tact. Punch had a picture on one occasion of a small shrimp of a man acting as referee in a football match. He had just been threatened with terrible things by the rival captains of the teams as to what each would do to him if the other won. The small referee, continuing with himself, observed: "I can tell right now that this game is going to end in a draw."

Lots of Room Yet.

(Montreal Gazette.)
Many big transatlantic liners are arriving daily in the St. Lawrence River, laden to their full capacity with desirable new settlers. The big majority of those coming in are British middle class folk who have decided upon making Canada their future home. "The more the merrier," is the cry of the West, where the virgin soil, of which there are still millions of acres, beckons.

A BIT OF VERSE

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

(Social Welfare.)

The Antiseptic Baby and the Prophylactic Soap.
Were playing in the garden when the Bunny gambolled up;
They looked upon the creature with a loathing undisguised and it wasn't sterilized.

They said it was a microbe and a hot-bed of disease,
They screamed it in a vapor of a thousand odd degrees,
They froze it in a freezer that was cold as Banquet Hope,
And washed it in peroxide with carbolic soap.

In superheated hydrogen they steeped it till it was as hot as hell,
And trimmed its frisky whiskers with a pair of hard-boiled shears.
They donned their rubber mittens and took it by the hand,
And "kicked it a member of the Pump-gate Band."

There is not a microbe in this garden where they play,
They swim in pure iodine for a dozen times a day,
And each imbibes his rations from an hygienic cup.
That Bunny, says the Baby and the Prophylactic Pup.

THE LAUGH LINE

Night Shift
"I hear you are working in a shirt factory now."
"Yes."
"Why aren't you working today?"
"Oh, we are making night shirts this week."

Holding Him Off

Miss Banks (to her father's cashier): "I don't believe, dear, that papa will give his consent."
Cashier: "Oh! yes, he will, after he has examined the books. He'll want to keep the money in the family."

Couldn't Find It

Scene: A platform of a railway station.
An Irishman was observed to walk up to an automatic machine and

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather. Grate.
Exter! Mysterious Disappearance! Last Thursday morning the Simkins piano was found locked and the key no wares in site. The family is still looking for it and believe it is a plot on the part of Puds so he went have to practice for a while, altho Puds says not and is helping to look.

Pome by Skinny Martin.
JEST THY OPPOSITE
I dreamed I heard sweet music
Filling the surrounding air,
But it was only in the bath room
Gurgling in there.

Sisisty. Miss Mary Watkins only measures 20 inches around her waist even after a harty meal.
Intrifing Ficks about Intrifing Peeple. Sam Crosses baby sister Udeen tries to put everything in her mouth irregardless of size, the rest of the family thinking its smart of her but Sam thinking its dum.

Cakes stirred by experts. 10 cents a half hour, or speall rate of 5 cents if we lick the bowl. The Ed Wernick and Lew Davis Cakes Stirring Co. (Advertisement.)
Errands ran quick and reliable. Reasonable rates. No free list. Consult Artie Alexander.

place his penny in one of the receptacles, after which he seemed puzzled what next to do, and was seen to be examining the machine from top to bottom. At last a porter went up to him, and said:

"Hello, Pat! What's the matter? Won't the machine work?"
"Begob! I don't know," said Pat. "I've put me penny in, and it says 'Pull the handle with a jerk.' But where is the jerk to pull it with?"

That Was Enough.
Actor: "Do you really think that picture looks like me?"
Audience: "Yes, but I can find no other fault with it."

Justified.
Miss Flap—She swears that no young man has ever touched her.
Miss Flip—Well, that's enough to make any girl swear, I think.—New York Sun.

Unnecessary Climbing
Sandy Thomson went to visit his son in London.

It was his first visit to the city, and the young man showed him all the sights, concluding with a climb to the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. In a burst of enthusiasm young Sandy said:

"See, isn't it wonderful down there?"

The old man was not and tired. "Well," he grunted, "if it's so wonderful down there, what did you drag me up here for?"

Too Much For Him.
"What's become of the barber who was shaving me?"
"He's having a bit in the rear," said the proprietor, who had taken the missing artist's place.

"Do you mean to tell me you employ a man to shave people who is afflicted like that?"
"I haven't the heart to turn him out. Bill is a good worker and he never had fits until women started coming here to have their hair bobbed."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

A Mere Quibble.
A lawyer advised his client to plead guilty and go to the penitentiary.

"You'll have plenty to eat there, with clothes and lodging. You can sleep nights instead of roving around in the dark to find an unoccupied stable. The only drawback about the penitentiary is that sentiment is against it; but what is sentiment to a man who steals horses for a living?"—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Too True
The profiteer was talking at dinner about his California visit and about Santa Catalina, with its wonderful glass-bottomed boats, wherein you float over rose-colored coral reefs and watch gorgeous fish swimming in the crystal water thirty or forty feet below.

"Yes," he concluded, "we could see attractive doors are the making of interior finish; yet they need not be expensive to be good. Our California Sugar Pine Doors

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