

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1919.

THE PRICE OF MILK.

According to The Telegraph, which has been interviewing a number of milk producers, these folks are determined to shut off the supply of milk to St. John, commencing October first, unless the retail price in this city is increased two cents per quart. The Milk Producers' Association will be well advised to do nothing of the sort pending the inquiry into the milk situation which will be conducted here within a few days by the National Board of Commerce, nor will it be advisable for retail dealers to advance the price of milk in accordance with the producers' demand. It is utterly absurd for anyone to contend that St. John is enjoying cheaper milk than anywhere else in Canada. The word "cheaper" applies properly, in a number of instances at least, to the quality of the milk furnished, but certainly not to the price, for unfortunately in this community it is only during the past few months that any attention whatever has been paid by the local health department to the quality of milk bandied out to consumers. And whether the blame rests with the retail dealers, with the shippers or with the producers, some of the milk sold in St. John in the past has not been fit for human consumption. The people in this community would be perfectly contented to pay fourteen or fifteen cents per quart if they could get wholesome milk for their money, but when they buy a product so laden with disease germs as to be condemned even on casual inspection, when they get milk so lacking in fat as to bear conclusive evidence of coming from very inferior stock, when they buy so-called heavy cream which tests no better than whole milk should test, then they naturally object to an increased price.

Milk producers have not been guilty of watering their milk, but some, to the detriment of all, have observed the rules of sanitation. And a few retail dealers have not exercised sufficient care regarding the quality of the milk distributed by them in respect to its fat content, thereby depriving their customers of the wholesome article which they have a right to expect.

ITALY'S PROBLEM.

Italy is on the verge of a revolution. She has appealed to the Allied Powers for aid in solving the Fiume problem, realising that single-handed her government is unable to cope with this dangerous situation. It is characteristic of the Latin race that they permit themselves to be carried away by a wave of sentiment and in the present instance the action of Gabriele d'Annunzio is in accord with the feelings of the great mass of the people. He has become their popular hero; his determination to seize and retain control of a bit of territory which means as much to Italy as Alsace-Lorraine did to France, typifies the desire which every true Italian entertains. The fatal blunder which Nitti made in publicly condemning d'Annunzio and in endeavoring to force the Italian army to move against him, has brought the present administration to the brink of disaster. It has done more than this—it has shaken the very monarchy and made uncertain the throne of Victor Emmanuel. The King, however, has shown a measure of common sense in declining to endorse the policy of his ministers and is evidently unwilling to urge further military action against the patriots now holding Fiume. By this attitude King Victor may retain his crown, but any determined attempt by himself or by his government to force the Italian army against d'Annunzio will, from all appearances, result in immediate civil war, in a mutiny of the troops, and in the overthrow of the government. The Allies very wisely refrain from interference. They are, from the outside, better able to judge the Italian situation than are the leaders at home, and they realise that any interference at the present time would earn for them the condemnation of the great majority of the Italian people, while in return they would enjoy merely the evanescent gratitude of the few politicians whose opinions do not count. d'Annunzio if successful, will solve for the Supreme Council a very difficult problem. The Italian government by persisting in its attempt to drive him out of Fiume will only bring disaster upon itself.

THE STEEL STRIKE.

The strike of the steel workers, which commenced on Monday morning and which is now well under way, promises to be the bitterest struggle in many years. Organized labor has thrown down the gauge to industry and in this contest stands to win or lose not merely the objects for which this strike has been called, but the success or otherwise of labor in practically every other line of activity. In the United States, by reason of the innumerable difficulties for the past few years, strike funds of unions have become depleted. Certain amounts of money remain, but not sufficient to

carry on a nation-wide undertaking of this nature without imposing grave difficulties on many other occupations. As opposed to this, the action of important steel-producing companies must depend to a very considerable extent the continued progress of those other branches. If the steel people decide and it is practically certain that they will, to make this a fight to the finish, with the purpose of delivering a crushing blow to labor all over the country, their failure to produce materials necessary for building trades, for railroads, and for similar dependent industries, must result in something approaching national stagnation. By the collapse of the steel industry hundreds of thousands of employees, in every city, will be thrown out of work, creating a situation which must engender bitterness and make more difficult the prospect of a reasonable settlement. The steel strike in itself insignificant in comparison with the possibilities involved in its spread to other industries.

SUNDAY CONCERTS.

The Methodist clergymen have gone on record as opposed to Sunday evening sacred concerts proposed by music-lovers of St. John. It may be purely the effect of imagination, or perhaps on the other hand the Methodist clergy are good advertisers, but whatever the reason it seems to be the Methodist clergymen who are always in the lead in matters of this kind. Perhaps the Anglicans, the Presbyterians, the Baptists and other Protestant denominations entertain similar views. If so, they are lacking in the faculty of giving those views equal publicity.

The present movement to which this objection is taken is probably regarded as the point of the wedge toward a more open Sunday, and actuated by a desire to guard the observance of the Sabbath these clergymen have thus placed themselves on record. It is doubtful, however, if that protest will seriously interfere with the plans of those now interested in the concert scheme, for people of St. John are fond of music and have altogether too few opportunities of hearing something really worth while. They will be strongly inclined to support the movement for Sunday evening concerts. These would naturally be held at an hour which will not interfere in any way with attendance at church services, and, indeed, the inducement of having somewhere to go after church services may be an incentive to more regular attendance by those who are now inclined to remain at home.

TO BOOST ST. JOHN.

The Rotary Club has an active membership of fifty or six men and a semi-active membership of a considerable number of others. An organization such as this, actuated by a real desire to improve conditions of life in its community, can accomplish much good, and the ability of the Rotary Club to produce results has been exemplified on many occasions during the past half dozen years. If, therefore, this organization sets itself to work to carry out the purposes outlined in the resolution which it adopted at Monday's meeting, we may look for action on record as favoring those principles, that Club will add its name to the list of ineffectives which has already become historical. We have had citizens' committees, people's leagues, committees of one hundred, improvement associations, rejuvenated boards of trade, and others, all organized and reorganized for the purpose of bringing about exactly what the Rotary Club now advocates. And they have all died without accomplishing anything, not through lack of opportunity but because, failing to see immediate results, their enthusiasm soon faded away. The only definite accomplishment to be credited to such a movement was the introduction of commission government and there are few who will say today that this has been a matter for congratulation. But fifty live men can work wonders and if the Rotary Club lives up to its reputation it will find every opportunity, but as "home deferred maketh the heart sick," it will be well for us not to anticipate too much until we see things beginning to move.

WHAT THEY SAY

An Unwieldy Attorney General
 New York World: At a time when popular disorder is mental as well as physical, it is to be regretted that there should be an exhibition of the prevailing contagion on the part of the Attorney General of the United States. Speaking at Albany yesterday, he said of the prosecution of the picketers now under way at Chicago

that he is to present proofs against them so complete "that the wrath of the American people will compel a verdict of conviction." To say nothing of the bad taste of this trumpeting of what is presumed to be an orderly judicial proceeding, verdicts of conviction are not usually compelled in this country by the wrath of the American people.

The Real Policy.

New York Tribune: It is evident that we do not need a standing army of more than 250,000 for ordinary police purposes at home. Is the Baker-March bill for a regular establishment of more than 500,000 men drawn with a view to providing 150,000 or 200,000 men for foreign service? Mr. Wilson deserves credit for forcing this issue into the open and possibly uncovering the administration's real policy in the Near East.

Negation Will Not Answer.

Boston Transcript: If we are to combat Bolshevism or Socialism, or any excesses on the part of organized labor or capital, we cannot do so successfully by mere negation. We must affirm while we negate, and must strengthen and solidify while we repel assaults on it.

Hoover's Directness.

New York Times: There is a strong directness about Mr. Hoover's way of putting things that stands out in refreshing contrast to the nebulousness that clouds most of the talk about the war. It was said of Colonel Roosevelt that he could make almost every man who met him believe in him. Mr. Hoover seems to have something of the same quality.

New York Herald: Mr. Wilson declares that while the covenant would not bind the United States to assist in putting down rebellion in any foreign country, "it would not limit the power of this country to recognize the independence of any people who seek to secure freedom." It would take more than the ingenuity of the President to reconcile this with the fact that under the League of Nations the members would be guarantors of the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members. Is it any wonder that the brains of those who have tried to follow the arguments of the Chief Executive as put forth on his tour are in a maelstrom?

A BIT OF VERSE

GLADNESS.
 I am the elfin spirit you heard in the Springtime glade;
 I am the wisp of wonder you took for a dancing maid;
 I am the dewy sparkle of the young grass in the springtime glade;
 I am the fairy fancy that flies on an April wing.
 I am the silver bubble you saw on the rippling stream;
 I am the childhood chatter you heard in a day of dream;
 I am the bloom of meadow, the delicate green of the rye,
 I am the violet morning that blooms in a sapphire sky.
 I am the song forgotten that slips from the vale of sleep
 Light as a whisper of moonlight over and over on the deep;
 I am the height unmeasured, I am the height unknown
 Between the gates of the portal and the armpit of the throne.
 I am the whispered music you listened to yesterday
 When you thought the children of summer had come to the world to stay;
 I am the magic moment in the life that knows love's spell
 When lips touch lips and the music of Eden is in the dell.
 —Baltimore Sun.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Weather. You had to go to school anyway.
 Sports. Big Hunt chase ups anybody in the world to produce a dog that swells up more when he eats than his fox terrier Toddy.
 Similes. Mr. Persey Weaver stepped on a loose brick while he was all dressed up last Sunday, and a lot of mud squelched up all over his white pants, causing a topic of conversation for the hole rest of the afternoon.

Pome by Skiffy Martin.

A moth laid on a closet floor,
 Cold and stiff and dead,
 Did he smell the smell of a moth ball?
 No, one hit him on the head.
 Intriguing Facts About Intriguing People. Ruddy Merly likes to bump into place-men when he goes past them, being so good at it that the place-men always think it is an accident.
 (Advertisement.) Fishing pole for rent. Rates, 3 cents a day and half what you catch. See Artie Alexander.
 Lost and Found Department.
 Lost—Nothing.
 Found—Nothing.

A BIT OF FUN

The Challenge Accepted.
 So strongly had the theory and practice of ambidexterity appealed to the bourgeois and freemen of Pushville that they called a meeting to urge the necessity of bringing up children to use both left and right hands with equal facility.
 "I defy anyone in this audience to mention a single action that I can perform with my right hand that I cannot do equally well with my left hand," cried one of the speakers.
 There was a short pause, and then a voice at the back of the hall cried:
 "Try putting it in your right-hand trousers' pocket, governor."

A woman's tears and a man's grin are not always on the level.

Love may be blind, but unfortunately it is neither deaf nor dumb.

Just as the average man reaches for fame his pipe goes out.

Making Progress.
 He—Aren't you beginning to care for me just a little?
 She—I really believe I am. I can almost listen to your proposals now without laughing.

The Same Only Different.
 "I want to know," said the grim-faced woman, "how much money my husband drew out of the bank last week."
 "I cannot give you that information madam," answered the man in the cage.
 "You're the paying teller, aren't you?"
 "Yes, but I am not the telling payer."

An Awkward Predicament.
 Midnight, and in the smoking-room of the club sat a young man huddled in a chair.
 A friend entered.
 "Hallo, Smith," he asked cheerily; "not going home yet?"
 "No," muttered the despairing one. "I—daren't!"
 "Why, what's the matter?"
 "Matter? It's the end of every thing! It means ruin, grief, and a spoiled life!"
 The friend looked frightened.
 "Here, Smith, tell me what's up. Perhaps I can help you."
 "No one can help me," he cried, in agony; "I have come to the end of all things! At eight o'clock I telephoned to my wife, and gave her a perfectly good excuse for not coming straight home, and—his voice sank to a whisper—'I've forgotten what I said!'"

ABE MARTIN



Dr. Moppe operated on Tell Binkley, t'day, for a second hand roadster. It seems like a thing never gets 'goin' good, 'til the feller that got it up is kicked out.

How He Fell.

His pockets were as empty as the average doughnut is of jam, and his whole appearance gave one the impression that the world had been wiping its feet on him of late. He had seen better days, however. So much was clear from his conversation.
 "Yes," he was saying to a sympathizer, "once upon a time I was the cynosure of all eyes. You see, I was the tattooed man in a circus." And how did you come to lose your job?" questioned his listener.
 "Oh," exclaimed the seedy one, dismally, "folks nowadays are mad on moving pictures, an'—an' mine wouldn't budge!"

Be Strong.

Progress doesn't come of sighing, or recitals of your woes.
 Fame will be a lost endeavor if you can't deal hammer blows!
 Put your troubles in the background and resolve to battle through.
 Then bid "go!" to all the dark clouds and the sun will shine for you!
 There are men who know their power; who plot on when others fail;
 Men who "keep on keeping on" what time the weak get to the wall.
 Yes, the wall is good for resting, and for easy-going, too.
 But keep distant from its shadows! —see the sun that shines for you!

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