

## The St. John Standard

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## ABOUT THE TARIFF.

Re-construction is in the air. The papers are full of it. There are reports from Ottawa and other centres telling about commissions being organized, associations formed, steps being taken to bring about a re-adjustment of conditions created by the war. We hear it on all sides, at all times, and no one can help but realize that this most important problem now before Canada is being given wide attention. But so far as the Standard has noticed the one great feature upon which the whole policy of re-construction must stand or fall has never yet been publicly mentioned. This question is the future tariff of Canada.

By mutual agreement the tariff remained untouched during the war. A few years ago there were demands for reductions along certain lines and for increases elsewhere. The West wanted one thing and the East another. Individual communities sought slight variations which would prove beneficial to their own particular interests. But all these demands were brushed aside because the country was at war and the time was not opportune for tariff tinkering. The war is now over and re-construction occupies attention. In the issues now before us certain industrial classes are bound to be more affected than others by the return to pre-war conditions. For example, the western grain grower does not have to vary the monotony of his planting and harvesting, the employment of men and machinery, the method of selling his product, or any other feature of his regular yearly routine. He has no expensive plant or equipment which will require transformation to meet changed conditions, but the western grain grower desires—and always has desired—a lower tariff than at present exists because of the fact that such a tariff would mean more money in his pocket,—or at least he thinks it would,—which is the same thing. The eastern manufacturer—and the western manufacturer as well—finds himself with much of his capital tied up in factories, machinery, etc., which until now, for four years and more, have been operating on a war basis, producing goods most of which will not be required in times of peace.

Now, in order to get back to the manufacture of peace products, the proprietors of these industries must necessarily expend very large sums of money in the transformation of their plants. Shell making machinery will be jumbled and new equipment set up. This all involves very great outlay on the part of manufacturers everywhere and they are the ones who must give closest consideration to re-construction problems, in that they are much more deeply affected than is the farmer, by whom such re-adjustment of plant is not required. Hence, Canadian manufacturers must know before expending capital just where they are going to find themselves when the re-construction policy becomes operative. Manufacturers as a rule have always wanted a higher tariff. It is a feeling they have, just as grain growers want a lower tariff. No person outside their own circle is worrying very much at the present juncture whether the tariff is made higher for the benefit of manufacturers, or lower for the benefit of grain growers. But in the interest of the country as a whole it is really imperative that some sort of an understanding should be reached without unnecessary delay. The agreement which has existed during the war might be extended for a further term of years, and the re-adjustment postponed until some definite time. If, however, there are to be changes, this should form the first item in the programme of Union Government for the coming session in order that the uncertainty which, of necessity, exists may be allayed, and that manufacturers who hesitate about spending their money on re-adjustment may have some definite basis on which to work.

## IS HE RESPONSIBLE?

When a responsible minister at the head of a public department, such as the department of health, is entrusted with the task of checking a prospective epidemic which threatens the people of his Province, and when that minister, by incompetence or carelessness, fails in the performance of the duties required of him to such an extent that the epidemic becomes real and general throughout that Province, then that minister may fairly be regarded, as to a certain extent, responsible for the epidemic.

When that minister, who is a member of the government and also by virtue of his office a member of the Provincial Board of Education, has no knowledge of what the Board of Education is doing in the matter of paying teachers' salaries for time lost, by direct order of that minister himself, then that minister may fairly be regarded as either incapable of performing his duties as a member of the Board of Education, or so indifferent to its actions as to disqualify himself for further service.

And for the benefit of that minister who is a member of the Board of Education, The Standard desires to

repeat that the Board of Education has refused to pay salaries of teachers for time lost through that minister's own orders, although it is quite possible that during the past few days public sentiment in different quarters has compelled the boss of that Board to reconsider his former decision and to hand over the money as should have been done in the first place.

## NEWSPAPER STRUGGLES

The Montreal Herald has passed into the hands of receivers because the cost of publication had increased to such an extent that expenditures could not be met from advertising and subscription revenues. During the past few years Montreal has seen many changes in newspaper circles, and it is not so very long since the Daily Witness, one of the largest and most highly esteemed publications in all Canada, reached such a condition that in order to continue in any form at all it was amalgamated with the Herald. The Telegraph, which was the outcome of certain other changes also lost its identity and went out of existence. Because of the campaign for another afternoon English paper, which was to run in competition with the Star, funds were raised and the Montreal Mail and News were established, the former a morning newspaper and the latter an evening paper under the management of M. E. Nichols and B. A. MacNab. They had a strenuous but brief life, and both went broke. Thus, four English daily papers have been forced out of business by excessive operating costs and reduced revenue in a comparatively few years, leaving in the evening field only the Star and in the morning the Gazette, both of which are very prosperous financially and otherwise. How many of the rest of us have managed to hang on with conditions as they are is surprising, even to ourselves, for a newspaper that has come through the past four years and still manages to make both ends meet is one, which, by this evidence alone, is entitled to, and enjoys, the esteem of the community in which it circulates.

## AN EXCEPTION.

The Standard has been asked to say, and finds great pleasure in doing so, that the policy of releasing boys arrested for various offences does not always lead to unfortunate results. In the matter of a case to which reference was made a few days ago, information has been received which is in support of this request. Three boys were arrested some time ago and were set free after their parents and the magistrate had spoken to them endeavoring to point out to them the folly of their conduct. These three boys have never since that time behaved improperly, and are all three holding good positions, working steadily and enjoying the respect of their employers. In this particular case the Standard is pleased to note that without serious punishment, good has been accomplished. While all the above is true, the original contention of this paper is still maintained that lads are repeatedly brought before the court for various offences are released without proper punishment, and that these lads are becoming worse and worse every year. The Standard holds that the policy of dealing too leniently with these youthful offenders is a mistaken policy and leads to a development of crime, and to friction between the department administering justice and the department of police responsible for the observance of the law.

## HAS BRITAIN LOST?

Different writers have from time to time intimated that, as a result of the war, the drain on Britain's resources, the wonderful opportunity for industrial achievement afforded the United States, the depletion of British manpower by death and disease, and for other reasons, the financial centre of the world will hereafter be transferred from Europe to America. It is suggested that London will no longer be the centre of the earth from the monetary and industrial standpoint.

Really there is no reason for worry over this regard. True, America will gain very greatly in power, but without undervaluing the strength of the United States, take a look for a minute at what Britain has achieved for herself. Her accomplishments are condensed by Count Reventlow, formerly one of Germany's foremost editors and statesmen. He points out that Britain has not only secured the land route to India, so long desired, but has obtained pre-eminence in the vast reaches between Egypt and India over which her troops have fought so gloriously. In Africa all her dreams have been realized, and she rules the "Dark Continent" without a rival. In the north British power stretches to Iceland and Spitzbergen. By her rule in the North Sea she influences the Scandinavian, Finnish and Baltic coasts as well as, to a great extent, much Russian territory. Add to that her boundless sea power, which will not be in the least affected by Wilson's ambiguous plea for "Freedom of the Seas," which not only gives her great political strength

but enormously increases her margin of wealth, then indeed Britain's position appears to be so strong that those who believe the world's centre of gravity will be displaced must very soon be undeceived. Count Reventlow omits the mention of many other German colonies, which have passed from that empire to the possession, not of the Allies, but of Britain, and offer further opportunities for Britain's provinces overseas to expand and to augment their wealth.

## WHAT THEY SAY

## Hohenzollern's Punishment.

(New York Times)  
Time without limit, unending time spent in torment without any respite, ceaseless, hopeless, that is the punishment appropriate to the crimes of Wilhelm of Hohenzollern, for sins altogether inexpressible, sins that appall, that outrun experience and overstep the powers of imagination. Leave him as he is, that is the worst the world can wish him. This man felt himself to be the greatest on earth, he is now the meanest. He has come down from his high place where he dreamed of extending over all nations the supreme power he wielded over one. He has come down to a condition from which the wretchedest would flee in horror. He is not in a way of punishment which the most inexorable would hold to be fitting and adequate? Yet some men say there is no God!

## Labor's Demands.

Buffalo Evening News: United labor has battled hard and successfully for the eight-hour working day principle and it now stands as a recognized institution. But although hours of labor are a matter of principle, rate of wages is largely a question of supply and demand, and when the labor chief declares that labor will not stand for a wage reduction in times coming he is on different ground.

## Poor Losers.

(Calgary Herald)  
The German people are showing themselves pretty much the same kind of people whether in victory or defeat. During their period of excess they were overbearing, cruel and boastful. Since disaster fell upon them they display the corresponding traits of character by showing themselves hypocritical, cringing and whining. They are not good losers.

## Venting Her Spleen.

(St. Thomas Times-Journal)  
It is the same old Germany, beaten but not repented. Willing to commit further crimes if she dared. Helpless to meet force with force, but not so helpless that she will not vent her spleen and hatred to the last moment on defenceless prisoners of war.

## Turning the Tables.

(Ottawa Journal-Press)  
It was the aim and boast of the Germans that they would replace British inefficiency and stupidity with German practical efficiency. But bumbling British inefficiency and traditional impracticability have brought German power to a humiliating fall.

## Public Ownership Scores.

(Winnipeg Tribune)  
Is there not some food for thought and reflection that during war times the price of water, light and power has not been increased? The city of Winnipeg, under a public ownership policy, controls the price of these great needs of the people.

## And Her Gentle Kindness—

Kansas City Star: Germany also wants some economic changes in the armistice. If that is anything else, Germany wants it is to be hoped that she will speak right out. The trouble with Germany always has been her modesty.

## A BIT OF VERSE

## For Answered Prayer.

Great Father of nations! strength of Help of the feeble hand, we give Thee thanks.  
Unto Thee ever our thanks should belong—  
Thy power so mighty has been in our ranks.

God of our Fathers! Thou knowest our weakness,  
Help us, Thy greatest lesson to learn,  
Endow our hearts with Thy spiritual meekness.  
Show us our need of Thee each way we turn.

O Great God of Battles! the war Thou hast ended  
And over our land shines Thine own star of Peace.  
On us in our anguish Thy mercy descended.  
Teach us to serve Thee till this life shall cease.

O God of Love and Peace, how undeserving  
Of Thy great mercy our whole lives are.  
Yet with compassion kind, Thy aid unwavering,  
Shows us on Thine alone faint hearts may lean.

The Surrender of the German Fleet.  
Ship after ship, and every one with a high-resounding name,  
From the robber-nest of Heligoland the German war-fleet came;  
Not victory or death they sought, but a rendezvous of shame!

Sing out, sing out,  
A joyful shout,  
Ye lovers of the sea!  
The "Kaiser" and the "Kaiserin."  
The "Konig" and the "Prinz."  
The powers of the sea,  
Are coming to surrender,  
And the ocean shall be free.

They never dared the final fate of battle on the sea,  
Their sea-wolves murdered merchant-man and mocked the drowning crew.  
They stained the wave with martyrs' blood, but—  
We sent our transports through!

## Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

There's a new house being built out of a old one around the corner, the street being full of piled up dirt and things, and last night I was walking past and there was a red life on each end to keep anything from bumping into the piles and knocking them down, and some man was sitting on a empty barrel as if he was supposed to, being a middle size man with one wooden leg chewing tobacco, and I thwift, G, I bet he's a nite watchman.

No, said the man. And he kept on chewing tobacco and spitting some but not much, and pritty soon I sed, Well could anybody bet and he sed, Yep.

G, he don't tawk much, I thwift. And I kept on looking at him, wondering if he would spit agen as soon as I thwift he would, wich he dident, and I sed, If anybody came and tried to steel a pile of dirt or anything wat would you do?

Do you want to do me a favor? sed the nite watchman.  
Yes, wat? I sed, thinking maybe he wanted me to set on the barrel a wile for him, and he sed, Go to the fetherst drug store and get me a quart of cattapiller oil.

Wich there probably aint any sutch thing, and I thwift, G, maybe he wants me to go away and leave him alone.

Wich I did.

blood, but—we sent our transports through!

What flags are these that dumber troop from the gaff o' the main-mast tall?  
The black of the Kaiser's iron cross, the red of the Empire's fall?  
Come down, come down, ye pirate flags—yea, strike your colors all!

The Union Jack and the Tricolor and the Starry Flag o' the West  
Shall guard the fruit of Freedom's war and the victory contest.  
The flags of the brave and just and free shall rule on the ocean's breast.

Sing out, sing out,  
A mighty shout,  
Ye lovers of the sea!  
The "Kaiser" and the "Kaiserin."  
The "Konig" and the "Prinz."  
The robber lords of death and sin  
Have come to their surrender,  
And the ocean shall be free!

HENRY VAN DYKE, U.S.N.  
The Admiral's House, Boston,  
Nov. 11th, 1918.

## A BIT OF FUN

Holding Something Back  
Mrs. Rafferty (coidly)—"Tis not long ye stayed on yer new job, Terence. Explain!"  
Mr. Rafferty—"Th' boss don't like me."

Mrs. Rafferty—"Indade! Since when?"  
Mr. Rafferty—"Since he axed me iv I could shapke German."

His Choice.  
Dear mamma was going out and, in order to save two children put of trouble, she left them two apples, telling the older child to give first choice to the younger. When she came back she found the younger darling weeping bitter tears.

"Did you not give Bobby the choice first, as I told you to?" she said to the older.  
"Yes, mother," replied the boy. "I told 'im he could have the small one, or none at all, and he chose the small one."

Some Solace.  
"Nothing is left but the ashes of our love," she exclaimed as she broke the engagement.  
"Well, anyhow," he replied cheerfully, "you don't have to lift those ashes."

A Smart Clerk.  
"He's an ideal clerk,"  
"So?"  
"Knows more about the business than the boss."

"Yes,"  
"Without letting the boss suspect it."

"Tom," she said, softly, as she looked trustingly into his eyes.  
"What is it, dearest," he asked tenderly.

"Don't you think, Tom," she continued slowly, "that you had better throw away that cigar?"  
"Do you object to smoke, my dear?" he asked.

"Oh, no, Tom, not at all," she replied quickly, "I rather like the smell of a good cigar, but—but—"

"But what, dearest?"  
"But you are so forgetful, Tom, and—and—if you should forget to take the cigar out of your mouth, you might—even a slight burn on my cheek, you know, would cause comment."

The cigar was thrown away, and a

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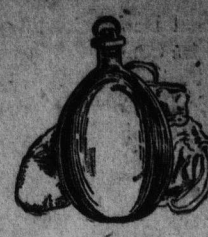
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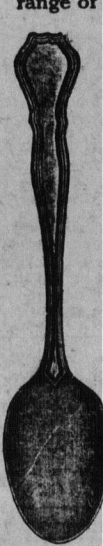
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