

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1920.

BUY IN CANADA.

His Worship some days ago remarked that the indignity which Uncle Sam has put upon our Canadian dollar was galling to his national pride, and that he was not going to send any more dollars to an unappreciative uncle for goods that he could obtain elsewhere. With the exchange rate down to 13 1/2 cents, other business men of this community will not only feel annoyed but worried. This Province imports quite a few commodities from the United States, and the exchange rates mean that they will have to cast about for goods elsewhere, or jump up prices to the annoyance of their customers. And at present some commodities are not obtainable, except from the United States.

The so-called laws of finance have been behaving rather erratically recently. Uncle Sam—that is the American people—may not be to blame; at any rate it is no good to blame them. Finance is a social institution; its laws are subject to social forces, and in this case are probably not free from influences which aim at group aggrandizement rather than anything else. Political power could do much to stabilize exchange, as it did during the war to a large extent, though Governments are sometimes subservient to the money powers even in war.

Uncle Sam is probably not serving his best interests in allowing his financial system to treat Canada as if she were a nation on the down grade. His answer to Mr. King's offer of reciprocity and free trade must be disconcerting to that gentleman. Obliterating the tariff is evidently a difficult matter. Uncle Sam has put a tariff wall around Canada equal to 13 1/2 per cent, and he collects the tariff for his own benefit. The slump in the rate of exchange will have a sad effect on the free trade agitation.

More than ever will there be a sentiment in favor of encouraging home industries and making the country independent of a neighbor which discounts our own money at rates that would make Shylock turn in his grave. The Buy in Canada campaign will have a new meaning and a new strength, and even Commission form of Government may do something more than endorse the principle. Mere over the exchange situation is likely to create a real live interest in the question of close trade relations with the British countries in the Caribbean. Many of the commodities which we import from the States can be raised in the West Indies and British Guiana; others can be raised in British West Africa, to which country we will have a steamship service this year. By helping in the development of the tropical and sub-tropical possessions of the Empire, Canada can help herself and the Empire.

GOMPERS ON BOLSHIEVISM.

Sam Gompers has issued a broadside condemning Bolshevism flatly and finally. He affirms that the internal conditions of Russia at the moment have nothing to do with the merits or demerits of the Bolshevist philosophy of Government. He points out that the Bolshevist definition of a proletariat only embraces a small fraction of the peasants, and even of the factory workers, and hence the dictatorship of the proletariat as practiced in Russia is a tyranny of a fourth or fifth of the people. He quotes from a message from Russian trade unionist to W. A. Appleton, of London, president of the International Federation of Trade Unions, which says that the Bolshevists have split up the reserve funds of the trade unions, throttled labor, suppressed unions, and put down strikes by force of arms and executions.

Mr. Gompers is particularly drastic in his condemnation of the features of the Bolshevist system of things which provides for and enforces compulsory labor. He observes that in any American conception of freedom the principle that is above all others fundamental is that there shall be no compulsory labor, no involuntary servitude of the working people. And he warns the labor of America that the autocratic concept which underlies the Russian plan of a minority dictatorship logically breeds the cruelty and intolerance which has marked the history of the Bolshevist experiment.

THE LEAGUE AND EXCHANGE.

United States Secretary Glas is of opinion that it is no part of the business of Government to undertake the righting of the exchange situation; he thinks the task may well be left to private finance. Chancellor of the Exchequer Chamberlain is not anxious to add to the work of the British Government, but he did not turn an altogether deaf ear to the delegation of financial and industrial magnates who waited upon him the other day and urged him to take the initiative in calling a conference of the

world's big bankers and big business men to see if something could not be done to improve an exchange situation which threatens a serious interruption of international trade. Now Sir George Paish, an eminent authority on finance, urges as a means of righting the exchange situation the issue of international bonds guaranteed by the League of Nations.

This would be an extension of the system worked out during the war when the financial resources of the Allies were pooled to provide the combatants with munitions and supplies, and the strong placed their credit at the disposal of the weaker. The trouble at present is that the strongest nation financially is still outside the League, and others may not be inclined to forego the advantages of relatively stronger positions in order to facilitate the movement of trade in the interests of a common humanity.

Whether the British financier's suggestion gets anywhere will depend on the attitude of the United States, and the Secretary of the Treasury does not offer much encouragement. If some such scheme is not worked out under Government auspices, the alternative may well be an international financial trust operated in the interests of the private cliques, which may give a new lease of life to Bolshevism.

CANTERBURY STREET ORGANS, ALL AT SEA, ATTEND ORDERS FROM HON. MR. VENIOT

Apropos of The Standard's comment on the Government's financial statement, The Telegraph observes: "The Standard makes one mistake. It published the figures presented in the Royal Gazette." No doubt the mistake was from The Telegraph's point of view. For reasons which doubtless seem good to it, The Telegraph did not publish the statement which shows an increase of \$2,500,000 in the public debt of the Province, or the balance sheet of current assets and liabilities showing bank overdrafts amounting to over a million on October 31, 1919. The Telegraph cannot be particularly proud of the Government's financial statement for the past fiscal year, or it would probably have printed the whole of it for the edification of the faithful throughout the Province.

If The Standard's allegations were wild, the best way for The Telegraph to refute them is to publish the financial statement in its entirety, and explain it if possible, though an explanation may not be necessary, as, according to the Provincial Secretary, the financial statements of the present Government are so simple that they can be understood at a glance.

The Telegraph pretends that The Standard is excited over the Provincial accounts, which is to say The Telegraph is excited and troubled. The Standard is only seeking light; it does not pretend to understand the Provincial accounts as presented by the Government at a glance. It has a natural curiosity as to how Hon. Mr. Veniot has spent so much money on capital account, and also on current account. It would like to know the way and wherefore of the heavy bank overdrafts. But it has not any fear that even Hon. Mr. Veniot will be able to bankrupt this fair Province.

Unless we are mistaken, Hon. Mr. Veniot will step in where the angels of Canterbury street fear to tread, and tell us a few things about Provincial finances that will be at least interesting.

The Times is evidently not able to understand the Provincial accounts at a glance. When The Standard printed the statement of capital assets and liabilities showing an increase in the Provincial debt of \$2,500,000, The Times suggested that perhaps the increase was due to our old friend the Valley Railway, which by all accounts is going to prove an important factor in the development of this Province, and may cause some of the interests which have heretofore considered New Brunswick their own particular domesticated milch cow to sit up and take notice. When The Standard pointed out that so far as the public accounts showed the increase in the debt was due to Mr. Veniot's expenditures, The Times remarked that anyway two million spent on what Mr. Veniot once called permanent roads and now calls durable highways was not worth bothering about, because the motor vehicle taxes funded would look after the debt. That may be all right. But are the motorists satisfied that the two millions on roads has been well spent? Up to the present Mr. Veniot has spent on his permanent roads a little more than the amount which represents the capitalization of the motor vehicle taxes. Unless the number of automobiles greatly increases, the outlook is not promising. Last year, with a barrel of money to spend on capital account, the Minister over-expended on maintenance by a very large amount.

ONTARIO CONSERVATIVES.

The attitude of Mr. Ferguson, leader

of the Provincial Conservatives of Ontario, to the Farmers' Government is more reasonable than that of Mr. Dewart, who apparently wants to make sure of receiving the Opposition Leader's salary. Mr. Ferguson says that to unduly harass the new Government before they have had an opportunity of really getting into office, familiarizing themselves with procedure, of elaborating and enunciating their policies and demonstrating a capacity for carrying those policies into effect would be unfair, unparliamentary; not in accordance with British traditions, and, therefore, not likely to be approved by the people at large.

Canvassing a statement of Mr. Drury that the Government does not intend to initiate legislation, Mr. Ferguson said that the Government could not be permitted to overthrow the principle of responsible government. The Ministry would have to accept full responsibility for its measures and policies.

With the narrow majority possessed by the Drury Government it would evidently be an easy matter to overthrow them, but Mr. Drury's idea of evading this risk by assuming no responsibility for measures brought before the Legislature is a proposal that cannot be entertained, unless responsible government is to become a chimera. So far as the Ontario Conservatives are concerned the new Government will be given every reasonable opportunity to show their capacity, if only for the reason that it is felt the people would resent another election at present without a very important cause.

WHAT THEY SAY

The Grouch Habit.

(Toronto Star.)
 When Sir Robert Borden left Canada he said he was going to take a complete rest. A lot of fuss is being made because he has kept his word.

Jefferson Brick's Way.

(Hamilton Herald.)
 Alluding to the disappointment of Britain and France over the failure of President Wilson to win the support of the senate to the peace treaty and the league covenant, the Chicago News says that the Governments of these nations were not able to understand and take into account "the powerful underlying forces of American national and political life as distinguished from outstanding elements of place and personality." Isn't that impressive! But after all it is only Jefferson Brick's way of saying that in view of the near approach of a presidential election Republican partisans could not afford to allow the President to get any credit for his work at Versailles.

Sounds Easy.

(Exchange.)

C. F. Higham, member of British parliament, says that every healthy man is a potential earner of \$50,000 a year. Then he tells how to go about it.
 "The secret is to get others to work out your ideas," he says. "And to have the courage of your convictions; to say 'yes' and 'no' and stick to it. Don't be too tired when Opportunity knocks at your door. Have an infinite capacity for taking pains. Be ready for any question—for any emergency. Look and act prosperous. Be an optimist—it's the cheapest thing in the world. Never break your word. Business men are looking for reliable men. Fire yourself from the job that doesn't make you happy. Take chances if you want big chances. Have faith in yourself. You will be judged by what you can do, and do, do. But no man who works for a minimum wage will ever earn \$50,000 a year."

From A Child Was Constipated

According to the best medical authorities, fully three-fourths of the people of the civilized world suffer in some form from costiveness or irregular action of the bowels. There is no doubt that many distressing diseases are caused by constipation. It gives rise to sick and bilious headaches, jaundice, heartburn, floating specks before the eyes, catarrh of the stomach, biliousness and the painful, troublesome piles. Therefore, it is of supreme importance to health that the bowels be kept regular. Simple food, fruit, etc., should be used, and rich food and stimulants of all kinds avoided. This, with the use of Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills to regulate an established healthy action of the bowels, cannot fail to give permanent relief in the most obstinate cases.

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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Skinny Martin took a walk throo the park Saturday afternoon jest to take a walk, and we saw a bunch of little kids standing near the entrants as if they was waiting for somebody, Skinny Martin saying, Hello kids, wats you waiting for? and one of the little kids sad, We're waiting for teetcheer, she's going to tell us about diffrent trees and things.

G. Skinny, lets us pertain to tell them, I wispered to Skinny, and he wispered back, G. all rite. And he sed to the little kids, Come on, kids, we'll start to tell you a while, there aint much about trees we dont know, is there, Benny?

There aint hardly anything, I sed And we started to walk up to the diffrent looking trees and the kids wawked in back of us, and I pointed to a tree, saying, Do you know wat kind of a tree that is, kids?

No, sed the kids, and Skinny sed Thats a monkey rentch tree, it takes 2000 years to grow and ony about a second to stop. And we went up to another one, me saying, Heers a grate tree, kids, do you know wat it is? and they sed No, and I sed Its a pickle tree, there aint eny on now, but wen there is you haff to pick them off, and thats wat makes them pickles.

And we started to walk to another tree and jest then a short lady with long feet came running up, saying, Children wat do you meen by this, didnt I tell you to wait at the entrants? and one of the kids sed, These boys have bin telling us, teetcheer, theyve bin telling us about the monkey rentch tree and the pickle tree and everything.

Wat nonsense, how dare you deform the minds of these little children wen theyre in the formative state? sed the short lady with the long feet.

We didnt know they was, sed Skinny, And we quick wawked away as if we jest remembered a engagement.

A BIT OF VERSE

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE H.C.L.

(Kansas City Star.)
 Jack and Jill went up the hill—
 That fact is not surprising,
 They should desire to go still higher;
 All other things are rising.

Mary had a ton of coal;
 She worked ten years to earn it.
 She froze to death the other day—
 She couldn't bear to burn it.

Sing a song of sixpence,
 A cellar full of rye;
 But not a single drop of it
 For sixpence could you buy.

Old Mother Kellar went to the cellar
 To get her poor daughter a drink;
 But when she got there the cellar
 was bare,
 So she led the poor girl to the sink.

Little Bo Peep has lost much sheep,
 But it isn't any wonder
 She lost her flock of woolly stock
 With mution high as thunder.

A BIT OF FUN

Playing Safe.

"Why do you call every operator on the street a Napoleon of finance?"
 "Well, it's a safe term. Pits whether he wins or goes broke."

Couldn't Oblige.
 Mother—Johnny, did you go and ask Mrs. Naylor for the loan of her wash-tub, as I told you?

Johnny—Yes, mother. She said she is very sorry, but the bands of the tub are loose and the bottom is out and it is full of soapy water.—Boston Transcript.

Window Backs For Store Windows

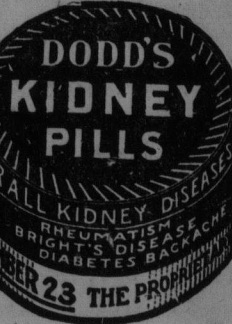
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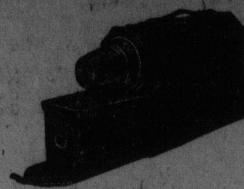
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NOTICE OF MEETING.

A Special Meeting of the Shareholders of The Standard, Limited, will be held at the Company's offices, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., at three o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 17th, 1920.

THOMAS BELL,

Secretary.

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