

The St. John Standard

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 Henry de Clergue,, Mallers Bldg., Chicago
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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1919.

THE MINERS' THREAT.

While the door is not yet completely closed on the possibility of a settlement of the controversy between the American soft coal operators and the miners the probability of a strike being averted seems rather slight. And if the 300,000 bituminous miners go out on strike, it will, as Acting President Lewis of the United Miners has remarked, be the biggest industrial disturbance ever staged. With winter approaching and coal supplies short everywhere, a strike of a month's duration would have consequences of a most serious character. To the industrial situation the damage would be incalculable, while a vast amount of suffering would be caused among the poor Canada, which depends upon the United States for about half her coal supply, would find herself in a grievous position in a few weeks. Great Britain could offer little relief. Already she has urgent demands upon her surplus production, and though she might be prepared to cancel her foreign orders, shipping difficulties would militate against her rendering any material assistance. And there is a possibility that a strike in the United States may precipitate trouble in Nova Scotia. Most of the miners there are affiliated with the United Mine Workers of America, and, according to reports, they are restless and excited, and even now preparing to make drastic demands upon the coal companies.

The intervention of President Wilson from his sickbed has apparently failed to accomplish anything, but there still remains the hope that it is not beyond the resources of the State to find a way out of the present deadlock. The public is entitled to what comfort it may derive from the reflection that it was at the eleventh hour that a way was found to avert a strike of 600,000 American railway workers. Certainly between the position of the coal operators and the radical demands of the miners seems to be wide ground for compromise. The miners demand a six-hour day from "bank to bank" five days in the week, in place of the present eight-hour day, and six-day week; a sixty per cent. increase in the wage scale; the elimination of penalties for unauthorized strikes, and the change of the time of expiration of contracts from April 1st to November 1st. The mine owners assert the reduction of hours demanded by the miners would mean that they would only put in 25 hours or less of actual work in a week, cutting down productive effort to one-half the present standard; and they add that granting the demands for a shorter day and more wages would "more than double the already high cost of producing coal, with consequent direct and indirect additions to the cost of living of every citizen and a demoralization and prostration of industry."

Senator Frolin has declared that the miners' demands "would add from \$2.00 to \$2.50 to the price of every ton of bituminous coal marketed and a billion dollars would be taken from the pockets of those who can ill afford any such tax in view of the immovable other demands made upon the family purse."

In justification of the miners' demands Mr. Lewis, their acting president, says the increase in miners' wages has not kept pace with the increase in the cost of living, and he argues that a 60 per cent. increase is necessary to "raise the standard of living of the miner and his family in keeping with the general tendency of the times." Mr. Lewis adds that the miners can and will produce in six hours a day all the coal that can possibly be called for, and that therefore they should not spend eight hours a day on a job they can do in six hours. He points out that coal production in the United States attained its maximum in 1915 when 80,000 miners were away on military service. He also points out that while there are 312 working days in a year the coal miners have worked an average of 226 days per year since 1911, and yet produced all the coal required. Instead of having so many idle days he would have the miners work more days of six hours, and he argues that this plan would produce employment for the miners who have returned from military service.

PACIFIC LUMBER.

The extraordinary development of the lumber business on the Pacific Coast is a matter of interest to the Maritime Provinces. Lumber and railway ties are now being shipped from the Pacific Coast to ports all over the globe. Recently ships with full cargoes of lumber have left Puget Sound for Alexandria in Egypt, Bona for the Persian Gulf, and Genoa in Italy. Parcel shipments have been made to Italy before, but these are the first cases of full cargoes of Pacific lumber being sent to those distant ports. Vessels are now loading Pacific lumber for Bombay, Buenos Aires, and Great Britain, while there are big shipments of lumber going to

China and Japan.

Great Britain has been importing large supplies of railway supplies from the Pacific Coast, and the British government has bought 72,000,000 feet of lumber in British Columbia, of which about 30 per cent. has already been shipped. As fast as the British Columbia shipyards can turn out the vessels ordered by the French government, they are loaded up with lumber on account of the British government and sent on their way to Europe but it is expected that it will be next summer before the last of this immense order of lumber is shipped.

Before the war the lumber industry on the Pacific Coast was developing rapidly, but it is doubtful if it would have been able to extend its markets in such an extraordinary fashion if it had not been that the war made possible the building of numerous ships on the Pacific Coast which became available for taking cargoes almost anywhere. When shipping conditions settle down to competitive basis, it is not likely that the lumber operators of the Maritime Provinces will have any serious cause to worry over the competition of Pacific lumber in the markets which they have heretofore held.

THE VICTORY LOAN.

The campaign for the Victory Loan opens today, and the previous records for money should be an assurance of success. The Minister of Finance has declared that his minimum requirement is \$300,000,000, but it is hoped that the subscriptions will reach \$500,000,000. With the latter sum at its disposal the government will be able to set the financial house of the nation in order, but after liquidating the current floating indebtedness, and providing for the various schemes of civil re-establishment for the soldiers, it will not have any noticeable surplus on its hands. The present fiscal year has to take care of a very considerable war expenditure, and there are large disbursements in connection with the cleaning up of affairs in France and England, and the demobilization of the soldiers. It is estimated that there will be an outlay of nearly \$300,000,000 in connection with the soldiers' re-establishment schemes, but a considerable portion of this outlay as for instance the advances to soldiers taking up farms, will be in the form of loans which will no doubt be repaid in time, and another considerable portion is in the form of expenditures which will not be repeated another year.

The Government must have the money, and if it is not subscribed voluntarily measures of a drastic character might become imperative. As it is the Government is offering generous terms, and it is in the national interest that the loan should be floated among our own people. The interest will be at the rate of 5 1/2 per cent, payable twice a year, and the issue price will be 100 and accrued interest. That is a bond paid in full at once will cost 100 flat, while on bonds paid for on the installment plan the accrued interest on the unpaid balance will be charged against the dividend payable in May and November. The installments will be five in number, but the banks under an arrangement with the Government will carry the bonds of small investors for ten months. There will be two classes of bonds, one reaching maturity in five years, and the other in fifteen years.

NOTES.

Melville.

The soldier.

Asks your votes.

Ladies! Be sure to vote.

The soldier made your voting possible.

None but the brave deserve the fair sex votes.

Col. Melville served you in the field. See that he has opportunity to serve you in the forum.

Mr. Caldwell doubtless served the country faithfully as a farmer during the war. Let him continue to do so in peace.

Carlton-Victoria eagerly supported the soldiers during the war. It will hardly fail to support a soldier now.

The Great War Veterans, the men who fought and suffered to keep the nation free, are watching Carlton-Victoria today. Its electors will not serve notice, that the war being over, they have no further use for a soldier.

If the predictions which have sometimes been made on behalf of prohibition come true, it may transpire that St. John's city fathers were only exercising wise foresight when they decided to pull down the old Court House. When the millennium of the prohibition arrive courts may be useless, Well for the weal of the world that

And the city's great problem of obtaining the resignation of the police magistrate may solve itself.

Complaints are made that St. John does not offer many opportunities of amusement. In Victoria, B. C., street dancing has become popular. It is reported that at a recent hop on Yates street as many as 2,000 couples were dancing at one time, and that the total number who took part in this new form of entertainment, either as dancers or spectators, was between 12,000 and 15,000. Before street dancing becomes fashionable in St. John, Commissioner Fisher will have to make some progress with his million dollar programme.

If President Wilson fails to induce the coal barons and the miners to conclude a settlement of their dispute, all hope need not be abandoned. Possibly Hon. Mackenzie King, who according to his own account showed the United States how to avoid strikes during the war, may be persuaded to come to the rescue, and apply his magic medicine to the situation. Canada, which got along without its great services during the war, does not need him so greatly that there would be any serious objection to loaning him to Uncle Sam again for a few days—or a few years.

WHAT THEY SAY

Ready to Sign.

Montreal Gazette: The President Wilson is now reported to be well enough to sign documents, including, doubtless, the Peace Treaty.

The Name Explained.

Hamilton Herald: That Quebec girl who inherited \$75,000 from a Butte, Montana, prospector, and who is called "dough" boys, was called "dough" boys.

Is This Allied Policy?

Boston Transcript: The slogan which some cynical individual has attributed to the doctors: "Keep the patient alive; dead men pay no bills," is called to mind by the announcement that the Allies are "giving Germany just enough food to keep her alive and going."

Travelling in a Circle.

Chicago Tribune: But how can the cost of living be reduced? Attacks upon profit-making in one method. It will help. We will not go into questions of money. There is one sure method of reduction and it is the most important. It is by increasing production. The general policy strikes therefore comes to this. Perpetual strikes will decrease production and therefore increase the cost of living. This reduces the value of increases in wages, so that we are travelling in a circle from which there is no escape. Perpetual strikes also weaken industry and will bring on bad times, which will mean reduction of wages as well as unemployment, without relief from the high cost of living.

The Homework Problem.

Boston Globe: Some teachers complain that with the wide variety of the present-day curriculum and the over-crowded classes in many schools the homework is not only unnecessary if the pupils are to be kept up to schedule. No doubt there is much in this contention, but the argument might be refuted by a revision of the curriculum that would eliminate some of the more or less faddish subjects now taught. Many contend that children are loaded down with a number of courses that really mean little to them except overwork, and that could be dispensed with without injury to the scholar's chances in life. With the curriculum lightened there would be more time in school hours for work on "regular" subjects. This, in itself, would be an important factor in cutting down the need for homework now said to exist.

A BIT OF VERSE

A LETTER IN AUTUMN.

I wish that I could show you how the moors look in October,
 With flaming bands of sumac and a crown of golden-rod.
 The dune-grass bends to autumn and the purple asters robe her,
 The gray sage spreads a silver path across the sunburnt sod.
 If we could start at dawning I would guide your feet to places
 Where reeds have tried to hide the marsh pond's mirror from the sky,
 And slender blue sabbats finds a refuge from embraces
 Of the vagrant, rough salt ocean wind that nightly blusters by.
 And you could pick a w-r-sh-rosemary, the head's countess shrub,
 Or search out sunny blossoms under sheltering cedar scrub.
 That look like yellow primroses the springtime left to stray.
 And just before the daylight grew through gray and rose and gold to blue,
 We'd come upon a glowering hill, and stand quite close and very still—
 And all the brown horizon hills would war our worship there.
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THE ENGLISH.

Pent in a sea-girl's life, theirs is the dominant, strong and deep; steady and grave and free.
 Though the mark of their misty skies may often dim their eyes,
 They can see to fight in the blackest of the night.
 For the cause of Liberty,
 Well for the weal of the world that

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

ADAM AND EVE.

Adam and Eve had no father or mother or other relations. With proves that everything has to have a start before it gets any variations.

Adam was the first person in the world. Of any size or gender, And he said, "I don't see any shoe stores. What of it? My feet ain't tender."

Eve was the 2nd person in the world. And the first you could call Madam. And she said, "It's a wonder I'm so comfortable, Being made from a rib out of Adam."

And they went and married each other. Because there was nobody else around. And for a while they were perfectly happy. And they both felt safe and sound.

They lived in the Garden of Eden. Ware all the wild beasts was tame. And their house was short and ventilated. And the clothes they wore was the same.

Then Eve went and ate an apple. With was strictly not allowed. And just for that they was both put out. Wawking fast but proud.

their will holds like the rock; Well for our land at ease when they bore the battle shock! Ah, we who dwell in the sun, Where the mingling rivers run May serve our race with a lighter grace, Yet boast of our parent stock.

Summed by a critic eye, their faults and their failings mount; (Even may be the score with ours, in the long account!) But they bear the Word of God Whom ever their foot has trod. And they teach the weak of the world to seek For wisdom at the fount.

Liberty laughed one day, with Manna Charta sealed. Craving the whole wide earth, she claimed her an English field. And she ruled there from that day With a wider, wider sway. And her light shone out on the lands about, And the world's hope was revealed.

Legion have been her foes, folly and greed and pride. Hunger or pomp and power, and a hundred things beside. But the English, even as we, Have striven to be free; If they scorn one thing, 'tis the heading of King Who drove us from their side!

Taught by his wild mistakes, they have learned their lesson well. Ask if their rule be light! Their colonies will tell. Ask if their cause be loved! Africa even has proved! Then east one glance on the fields of France Where the slaughtered Anzacs fell!

That which we love, they love; that which they hate, we hate. Weak was the river, but strong is the bond of fate. And it binds us each to each With a tie of common speech, And our common ward, where we stand on guard, O'er Freedom's vast estate. —Grace Agnes Zimmerman, in the New York Times.

A BIT OF FUN

Ups and Downs.
 Mother: "Did you call Edith up this morning?"
 Daughter: "Yes, but she wasn't down."
 "Why didn't you call her down?"
 "Because she wasn't up."
 "Then call her up now, and call her down for not being down when you called her up."

Slugs to be Shot.
 Aunt Jane was desirous of purchasing a gun for her nephew. The shopkeeper produced a couple. "This one shoots caps and sends one slug," he said.
 "Oh, thank you," exclaimed Tommy's aunt, "I'll have the second one, for we're troubled terribly by those slugs."

Rather Rough.
 "Will you be asked, his voice trembling—"Will you give me a kiss?"
 "Gently, but firmly, Angelina thrust him from her."
 "He started, his face pale. Could her love not stand the test of possible kisses?"

Of the vagrant, rough salt ocean wind that nightly blusters by. And you could pick a w-r-sh-rosemary, the head's countess shrub, Or search out sunny blossoms under sheltering cedar scrub.

That look like yellow primroses the springtime left to stray. And just before the daylight grew through gray and rose and gold to blue, We'd come upon a glowering hill, and stand quite close and very still—

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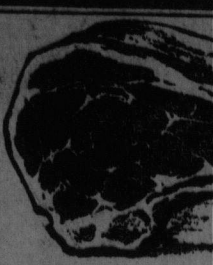
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