

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1922.

QUEBEC AND PROHIBITION.

Premier Taché, of Quebec, in his speech in the House of Assembly, stated that the debt of the Province was \$51,000,000 of which the municipalities owed \$28,000,000. He further stated that if \$1,000,000, out of the proceeds of the sale of alcohol, were permitted to be applied to the reduction of the debt of the Province, in twenty years the Province would be out of debt. He stated that the liquor law, as enforced in the Province, increased the revenue by 25 per cent. Out of the \$4,000,000 profits, made by the Liquor Commission, \$1,000,000 would be devoted to wiping out the debt of the Province, \$1,000,000 to be given to the Minister of Highways, for the maintenance of highways, and the balance to be distributed to colonization, agricultural and public instruction purposes.

This statement makes one wonder which is the better law, prohibition, such as obtains in Ontario and which does not prohibit, and where the boot-licker gets the profit, or Quebec where there is a direct tax, for Provincial purposes, on the person who drinks moderately? Quebec showed a surplus due to its liquor law. Quebec is getting the reputation of being temperate, except for visitors that come from dry Provinces. One wonders if Quebec has not solved the difference between the use and the abuse. In any case, Quebec is getting away with the bacon.

Ottawa hockey fans, says The Journal, always get plenty for their money. Take the case of the lady who on Wednesday night saw 20 seconds fast play, got hit on the nose with a puck, had a tooth broken, and got a ride home in a hack, all within the first 20 minute period.

MR. MEIGHEN'S BY-ELECTION.

The individual who has undertaken to oppose Mr. Meighen in the by-election in Grenville, appears more than likely to find himself after the declaration of the poll, a sadder and wiser man. Judging from the report of the public meeting which was held after the nomination proceedings were closed, Mr. Meighen's opponent met with anything but an enthusiastic reception from the public. In fact the attitude of the meeting was decidedly hostile to the interloper. Considering that Mr. Casselman, who resigned to make way for Mr. Meighen, got more votes on December 6th than the Liberal and Farmer candidates put together, to oppose Mr. Meighen now strikes the average man as a very needless and useless act.

From the report of Mr. Meighen's remarks upon that occasion, it is clear that he never spoke to better advantage. He showed himself once more to be what he is, a statesman without peer in Canada. A smaller man would have indulged in a tirade against his successful opponents; Mr. Meighen did no such thing.

"That I did not think that the verdict was right, goes without saying, but that does not mean I do not accept it cheerfully. As Canadian men and women, it is our duty to accept the verdict of the people, and loyalty to serve the country, whatever government is in power." Only a big man would talk in that strain.

Those members of the Progressive party who are responsible for the opposition to Mr. Meighen apparently are not inclined to follow the counsel of their leader, or nominal leader, any way. Speaking to his followers at Winnipeg the other day, Mr. Crows said:

"I do not want to see any narrow partisan spirit invade the Progressive party. It has a higher mission—to educate, to develop, to stimulate to higher ideals; to punish public men who fall below its standards, and to reward those who maintain its high standards. We must think in terms of public good. We want to see equity and justice prevail. We want to see the standard set that common welfare is the ideal."

By putting candidates in the new by-election not only Mr. Meighen, but new ministers seeking re-election, the Progressives are exhibiting a partisanship of the character they so often condemn in the old time parties, and are putting the country to the expense of needless and foolish contests.

It is not so much in the interest of his own party, as in that of the country at large, that Mr. Meighen should have a seat in Parliament. Nobody else has such an intimate knowledge of the mass of legislation passed by Parliament during the last seven years, when the country was in the thick of war and reconstruction work. No one else can bring to the new Parliament such a fund of knowledge as will be necessary to face the

measures and policies that will be presented there. A few days ago the Financial Times of Montreal expressed itself in favor of the uncontested entrance of the ex-Premier into the House. While, as that non-partisan newspaper says, it has been critical of Mr. Meighen and has opposed many of his policies, it recognizes him as one of Canada's ablest citizens, and considers that there never was a time when ability was more needed at Ottawa than it is now. "Canada," it says, "needs a good, strong, intelligent Opposition party at Ottawa, and for this reason we indulge the hope that 'Mr. Meighen will be back at the 'coming session.' In the Manitoba Free Press there was recently published a letter signed by Dr. T. A. Patrick, of Yorkton, a political opponent of Mr. Meighen, wherein the writer states that, while he was pleased that Mr. Meighen was defeated in Portage la Prairie, he would be pleased to learn of Mr. Meighen's election in Grenville.

The electors of Grenville will do themselves great honor and the country at large inestimable service by electing Mr. Meighen, and leaving his opponent at home to stew in his own Progressive juice.

A Bavarian peasant, having purchased a second-hand pair of English military trousers, found a five-pound note in one of the pockets, which the Montreal Gazette says, indicates that the previous owner of the garment was unmarried.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.

The world is more or less accustomed to Cabinet crises in France, but not of late years has an incident of that character been quite so dramatic as that which M. Briand's sudden resignation so unexpectedly brought about. That something would happen about this time had been forecast, large instalments of the war indemnity being due from Germany on the 15th inst., which that country had no expectation whatever of being able to pay. Just what the magnitude of the present crisis will amount to remains to be seen; it may quite possibly be the most serious since the armistice, for the new premier, M. Poincaré, is one of the most aggressive and extreme of the French imperialists.

As long ago as last November the financial world became aware that Germany would probably be unable to make the January payment without such a sacrifice as would make certain a default in February. This prospect at once stirred to action the French militarists who had been disappointed at the failure to seize the Ruhr coal basin last spring, and their attack on Briand has grown steadily in violence. On the other hand an earnest effort was made in England to avert or postpone the crisis by granting Germany a moratorium, in the course of which ways and means were to be devised for enabling the French Government, which has acted with conspicuous good faith, to secure resources for future payment.

This movement for an economic solution, which in principle found strong support in the United States, coincided with the effort of Premier Briand to rescue France from the perilous isolation into which it had fallen since the war. At Washington he learned definitely, if he had had any doubt on the subject, that the United States could not be counted upon; there remained, for his purpose, only England. But England quite as definitely could not be counted upon, unless France made large concessions in the interest of the tranquility and prosperity of Europe. First of all more time must be granted for the payments which Germany could not make, and arrangements must be made for bringing both Germany and Russia once more into the economic system of Europe. There were other matters to discuss, such as the position of France in the Near East, but these were the broad lines on which Lloyd George was prepared to negotiate a treaty of defensive alliance between France and Great Britain.

This proposal Briand accepted, and from the moment that his acceptance of it was foreseen the attack upon him redoubled in intensity. The downfall of his Cabinet would have caused little surprise if it had come as the result of an adverse vote in the Chamber of Deputies, but Briand did not ask for a vote, and the Chamber seemed rather responsive to his blunt speech last week—its members were as much astounded as the rest of the world at his resignation immediately after making it, it can only be inferred that after his return to Paris and his talk with President Millerand it was clear to Briand, an old Paris-

mentary hand, that a blow had been formed against which he could do nothing and that it would be best to place responsibility at once to his opponents. Presumably the opposition of Millerand to the treaty was the decisive factor, for in such matters the President of the French Republic has large powers. The full consequences of this overturn cannot yet be foreseen, but they are certain to be great and they may affect European history for a long time to come.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Wondering.
(St. Catharines Standard.)
The question is now: Will the Irish rebel against Ireland?

Paradoxical.
(Manitoba Free Press.)
We notice in the Press that certain gentlemen of the Saskatchewan Legislature have been appointed to sit on a standing committee. The English she's a fine language.

Good Suggestion.
(Boston Transcript.)
Perhaps nothing would better promote prosperity in the year to come than a whole-hearted effort by both employer and employee to make it a year without a strike.

Worth Everybody's While.
(London Advertiser.)
A light on a busy driving along the road at night is a great protection to the occupants of that rig as to other vehicles or motorists that meet or pass it. The wonder is that any rig cares to venture on the road at night without a light attached.

Should Finish Their Work.
(Vancouver News.)
It was desirable that Soviet Russia should retain Lenin and Trotsky in supreme command. They introduced the economic and social system called Bolshevism. They have found that the system does not work, and are carrying out a programme of modifications and discards. So long as the people of Russia can be induced to follow these leaders no one else can get them out of the trouble better than those who led them in. A counter revolution would mean anarchy, with more blood and destruction.

The Value of Books.
(Goderich Signal.)
Now that the long winter evenings are here parents might do something to interest their children in books and reading. At present dancing appears to be the chief pursuit of the young people, but here and there are boys and girls who would rather read than dance. At present dancing appears to be the chief pursuit of the young people, but here and there are boys and girls who would rather read than dance. At present dancing appears to be the chief pursuit of the young people, but here and there are boys and girls who would rather read than dance.

Standing Grievance
Revived by Trade
Agents in London
London, Jan. 15.—The coming of a new High Commissioner to London from Canada prompts one or two reflections here to the old standing grievance of the Canadian Agents General against the High Commissioner. Tonight's Evening News says the agents do not believe in being expected to play second fiddle to the High Commissioner. They assert that they ought to be able, as a matter of right, to approach the Colonial office direct like the agents of the Australian states. When official invitations are going round for social functions it seems the High Commissioner is often charged with sending them out to the agents of the various provinces who can go to an official lineage running back to the eighteenth century, whereas the High Commissioner goes back only to 1880.

A BIT OF VERSE

"MAC"—IN MEMORIAM.

With every man who is worth the name,
Sober or later, 'tis always the same;
He ends that his heart belongs to a dog.
For though out in the world affection wanes,
His dog is a friend who never complains.

Into his hand at the evening's close
There will come the touch of the cool
And eyes will say, plainer than words can do:
"Don't be gloomy, my master, your dog loves you."

And he never forgets, though the years may go,
The sound of the voice that he used to know.
When the lamp is lit in the cozy room,
And the curtains drawn on the evening's gloom,
He will lie in front of the fire to doze;
But down in the heart of his dream he knows

When the single tread of familiar feet
Comes out of the roar of the busy street.
And he'll spring awake as he hears them sound
On the path outside, with a single bound.
The quickest of all of his master's friends
To know what the lift of that step portends.

Sooner or later, 'tis always the same,
With every man who is worth the name,
The day he misses the bark at the door
He'll find out then, if he hasn't before,
That's if he's a man, not a soulless log.
How much he'd given his heart to a dog—
Toronto. —Charles M. Hale.

THE LAUGH LINE

Bungalow Thrown In?
(A Classified Ad. in Highland Park Herald.)

For Sale—A widow, equity \$1600; \$500 down without commission, modern 6-room bungalow, 1 block to car. Price \$6000. Call—W. Ave.—Gar.

O. C. Horse Marines.
(Punch.)

In a notice of a new novel a contemporary mentions that the author is the son of a "Glen" in the Army. There have been, of course, many instances of literary talent in the families of Navy Generals.

Easy.
(The Bullock Way.)
"What's all that noise gwin on ovah

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Sunday morning pop was shaving his face in the bath room and all of a sudden he slammed the razor down on the window sill saying, "Confounded with a mirror blade, that blade would take the hair off an egg. Its the last one too, ding blast it!" Benny, ran around to the drug store and got me a package of blades, and he kind of remember that my face is full of lather.

Meaning not to wait any time, and I quick started to run around to Wines drug store, you can I got half way around I saw Puds Shinkins yawning as if he couldn't wait any more, and I stopped running, saying, "Wait the matter, Puds, wait you yawning like that for?"

These gotten leather shoes are tie as anything, you'd wawk worse than this if you had them, said Puds. And he kept on yawning slow and funny and I kept on yawning slow but not funny to watch him, and after a while I said, "Holey smoke my fathers got lather all over his face. And I started to run again to beat the band and Puds yelled, "Wait for? Meaning wai did he have the lather all over his face, which I felt keep running without waiting any time answering him, and I ran in Wines drug store and got the blades and ran out again and I saw Puds home still yawning and I saw Skinny Martin and Leroy Shooter looking down a cellar window and I stopped running, saying, "Wait the matter, fellows, wait doing?"

Theres 2 wire rabbits down there jumping around and eating hunks of cabbage, said Skinny Martin. Which there was, and I started to look down too, making 3 looking, and after I looked about 10 minutes I remembered something all of a sudden, saying, "Goo nit, my fathers got lather all over his face."

Wat for, wat for? said Skinny and Leroy Shooter. Ill tell you later, I said, and I started to run again, and ran all the rest of the ways home, and there wasn't hardly any lather left on pops face on account of the rest being all dried in, and when I told him I had ran nearly all the way both ways he gave me 3 feece cracks some place and sed he could stand anything but lies.

Proving was the truth sous ds impossible its useless.

at you' house last night?" asked an old colored woman of another. "Sounded like a lot of catamounts done broke loose."

"Dat? Why dat was nothin' only de gen'man from the furniture store collecting his easy payments."

Me Will Do.
(Boston Transcript.)
The shoe dealer was hiring a clerk. "Suppose," he said, "a lady customer were to remark while you were trying to sell her, 'Don't you think one of my feet is bigger than the other?' what would you say?"

"I should say, 'On the contrary, madam, one is smaller than the other.'"

"The job is yours."

Necessity For Haste.
"I should like to marry your daughter."

"Very well. Can you make it convenient to marry her today?"

"Why—er—I shall be delighted, of course. But may I—er—"

"You see, the cook has told us our family is too large, and perhaps if you can take my daughter at once the cook can be induced to remain with us."

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IS FRANCE REVIVING OF THE MIND

France, by Intrenching Herself Making It a Submarine India.

Athens, Jan. 12.—The Near Eastern question has a long history. It began with the fall of Constantinople in 1453. It has been since that day a conflict of Asiatics with Europeans. Under Solomon or the Magnificent, their fortunes reached their apogee beneath the walls of Vienna. The defeat of the Osmanlis in Central Europe marked the swift decline of their power and the reaction of Europe against Asia.

Until the seventeenth century, the Near Eastern question was mainly an effort of the Russians and the Hapsburgs to drive the Ottomans out of Europe and divide between themselves.

But from the day Robert Clive and Warren Hastings consolidated the Indian Empire of Great Britain, the Near Eastern question became a many-sided struggle. It became a duel now between France and England, now between England and Russia, now between the Central Powers and the Entente, and now again a duel between France and England.

For centuries Russia pressed from the north; Austria-Hungary from the northwest; France established her influence in Syria, Great Britain pressed from the south, in Egypt, and from the rear in the Persian Gulf, in Afghanistan and Persia.

The Central Powers have been eliminated for the present from the Near Eastern strife. And the two principal antagonists left are France and Great Britain.

The Quai d'Orsay's policy is not new. Aristide Briand follows in the footsteps of Napoleon's spectacular but disastrous New Eastern adventure. Had not Nelson's fleet destroyed the warships of Napoleon at the Bay of Alexandria, Great Britain might have lost her Indian Empire, and France might have been today the mistress of the seas in the place of Great Britain.

Napoleon's Policy Reweaved.

And just as Napoleon's plan was to reach India by stretching himself in Syria, and threatening, if not actually holding, Egypt, so today the Quai d'Orsay believes that by holding Syria, France can always threaten the British communications with the Indian Empire.

It is in the light of this Franco-British antagonism that we must examine the developments of the Near Eastern question. The struggle of the Greeks and Turks is only a minor incident in the great arena in which France is endeavoring to endanger the security of the Indian Empire, Britain, and Great Britain is trying to make secure all the accesses to the Suez Canal and to the Persian Gulf.

France depends for the realization of her scheme upon the following factors:

(1) The strategic position Syria occupies in the basin of the eastern Mediterranean. From this vantage point, France can watch the development of the nationalist spirit in Egypt, in Turkey, and in Arabia, and give it all the encouragement necessary.

(2) The return of Russia, as an ally of France, and the inevitable Russian push toward Constantinople and toward Persia. And Syria would form an excellent base for France to make her northward toward Constantinople, as it did for the ally of France, Mehmet Ali of Egypt, in 1833.

But in order that France may make the best of her position in Syria, two things must be brought about by French diplomacy:

(1) The expulsion of the Greeks from Asia Minor.

(2) The return of Constantinople and of all Asia Minor to Turkey.

The establishment of Greece in the province of Smyrna would weaken the position of France in Syria. In the first place, France would not be able to march northward on Constantinople to join her Russian ally. The French would not tolerate Russian occupation of that city. Great Britain

Quit Meat If Your Kidneys Act Badly

Take Tablespoonful of Salts if Back Hurts or Bladder Bothers.

We are a nation of meat eaters and our blood is filled with uric acid, says a well-known authority, who warns us to be constantly on guard against kidney trouble.

The kidneys do their utmost to free the blood of this irritating acid, but become weak from the overwork; they get sluggish; the eliminative tissues clog and thus the waste is retained in the blood to poison the entire system.

When your kidneys ache and feel like lumps of lead, and you have stinging pains in the back or the urine is cloudy, full of sediment, or the bladder is irritable, obliging you to seek relief during the night; when you have severe headaches, nervous and dizzy spells, sleeplessness, acid stomach or rheumatism in bad weather, get from your pharmacist about four ounces of Dr. Sear's Kidney and Bladder Salts.

This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate clogged kidneys, to neutralize the acids in uric acid, to keep the kidneys active and healthy.

Dr. Sear's is inexpensive and cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink, and nobody can make a mistake by taking a little of it daily to keep the kidneys clean and active.