

The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1920.

"CHEER UP AND GET TOGETHER."

We earnestly commend to the thoughtful consideration of our readers the speech of the Hon. Arthur Meighen, delivered yesterday to a non-political gathering of his old fellow-townsmen at Portage La Prairie. It is at once the utterance of a statesman, an orator and an intensely patriotic Canadian. It is full of ideals that every man or woman in the country, irrespective of race or creed, should endeavor to live up to, if they would see Canada take that place in the world that every right-thinking resident of it would wish her to take.

His appeal for a better understanding between the two great branches of the Canadian people should not be allowed to go unheeded. Where there is now more or less estrangement there should be co-operation. "The peril of every nation has been a tendency to divide on lines of race, on lines of religion, on lines of social caste, on lines of occupation. When the tendency gets too strong the be-ginning of the end has come. If we do not come together and reach a better unity on things that are vital and essential to the state there will be a heavy penalty paid." Canadians in their sober thinking moments do not want to have this penalty to pay, but they will realize that it can only be avoided by taking heed to those matters of which Mr. Meighen speaks.

Then, again, what an inspiring prospect opens up when we ponder over his description of our country as it is to be seen today. He says: "This is a grand country—we understand better every year what a wonderful land it is. In the richness of its soil, in the tonic and vitality of its climate, in the wealth of its waters, in the abundance of its minerals—in everything that makes for the prosperity and virility of a nation, we have the best and the biggest of the untraveled areas of earth. Our trade has expanded; our wealth has multiplied. In the rate of increase we have surpassed, I think, every country in the world save one. Our population is growing; the achievements of our people in every field of human enterprise, in peace and war, have astonished even our selves. The distribution of our wealth, though far from ideal, has undoubtedly improved. Is there a country in the world where there is less poverty than in Canada? I don't know where it is."

Truly a country to be proud of, and which it should be the earnest endeavor of each citizen of it to further build up and ennoble. In this good work let all, as Mr. Meighen says, "cheer up and get together."

ADVERTISING SPACE AS MEANS TO A PUBLIC FORUM.

Interesting to note is the cumulative rise in public estimation of the newspaper as the chief and most efficient means, not alone of getting the news of the country across by way of the news columns and the editorial page, but of getting the social business position of the country across by and through the logical business channel—advertising space.

Time was, as the London Free Press points out, when our great financial institutions, manufacturing organizations and public utilities, such as railways, power and water, heat and light plants, went on their way unconcerned, except, in certain instances, by and through an annual statement, or by means of the occasional financial and stock reports that get to the papers in the natural course of news, unconcerned whether or not they had a public hearing.

Today the first thing such financial institutions, manufacturing organizations and public utilities think about is to get the eye, and through the eye the ear, of the public. Their chief concern, apparently, is to enlist public interest and gain public sympathy by taking the public into their confidence, that they may ask the confidence of the public in return. To do this effectively, in their opinion, is to do it not through any intermediary, whether of editor or news writer, but to do it off their own bats and over their own signatures by way of commendments and appeals for which they and they alone are responsible.

In this manner for the past six weeks the Railway Association of Canada (formerly the Canadian Railway War Board) has been utilizing the newspapers of Canada, to the end that the people of this country may know the position in which the railways of Canada find themselves at the close of the war.

The whole plan is thus a great debate, in which the subject under discussion is presented in the form of a resolution. The "year" argue it in the person of the financial institution, manufacturing organization or public

utility, presenting the case, together with the editorial opinion and newspaper correspondence lined-up with that side of the evidence. The "year" argue it in the person of editorial opinion and newspaper correspondence in opposition to the resolution. The public in the end, possessed of all the facts and all the argument, can make what show of hands in its judgment is right and proper.

LABOR AND NATURAL LAWS.

Mr. Gompers says that the laying off of thousands of workmen is a heinous offence against the people and that organized labor will not tolerate any attempt to reduce wages, yet in the final working out of the problem the laws of supply and demand will be followed. Wages are very unlikely to return to the scales of before the war, for prices for products, in excess of those of six or eight years ago, will be accepted as normal. But, as the Bangor Commercial very reasonably remarks, prices that are beyond the willingness or the ability of the purchasing public to pay, will not be established as normal. If the supply is beyond the demand, there will be reductions of price until the mean is reached. The final decision will not be determined by the producers or the employees, but by the buying public and will not be fixed by decision but by the workings of the laws of supply and demand.

The country knows that there is great need of increased production and it has been believed that such will cause the supply to outstrip the demand and hence reduce prices. But there appears to be a difference between national demand and individual demand. Very high prices maintain demand for textile products and yet mills are shutting down for lack of orders. This causes Mr. Gompers to register objection, but it seems probable that the mills would continue production if they found it profitable to do so. As soon as the mills found that their stocks were accumulating, they lessened production.

Labor is a commodity that is undesirable to the laws of supply and demand, and if the mills and manufacturing must reduce costs to dispose of goods at a profit because of the attitude of the buying public, labor will be obliged to participate in the reduction or else be idle.

SKIN DEEP.

Face or figure? The ancient rivalry has been stirred again to life. It is impossible to decide this question—when all is said we come back to individual taste. It is true that many men and more women are attracted rather by mind and character than by outward seeming. Many really homely women wield a tremendous fascination. Wilkes, who enslaved women was no sort of beauty. It is absurd to argue from this that the lack of beauty is not a handicap. Many of the greatest triumphs of love have been won by women in the forties. It is absurd to pretend that youth has no great advantage. It is commonly supposed, chiefly by men, that women care nothing for a man's looks, dress or physical perfection.

Fortunately, taste is catholic and very variable. To some beauty is dark to others fair; to some mature, to others only young; to some it is expressed in face, to others in figure; to some it is purely of the mind or soul. So there we are. And very well, too. What a world this would be if all men longed only for one woman! What a tragedy if all women hungered only for one man!

"YOUR MONEY OR A WIFE."

Bad times appear to be in store for the bachelor, both in Louisiana and Argentina. Other States may follow suit. Representative Borgiano has introduced a Bill in the Louisiana Legislature which would force every man in that State to marry at the age of twenty-five or go to prison. He gave notice in the State Parliament that if no standing committee of the House could be found to act favorably on his Bill he would ask that a special committee, composed of six old males, be created, and that the Bill be referred to them for favorable action.

In Argentina every unmarried man between the ages of twenty and thirty is taxed \$1 a month. Between thirty and thirty-five, if he still is "bachelor," he is taxed \$2 a month. From thirty-five to fifty the monthly tribute is \$4. The tax ceases at the age of seventy-five on the ground that no man will then have him. Great countries, Argentina and Louisiana!

"No, Mama," answered Jimmy, with a grin. "I gave it to my teacher at school instead."

"That was very nice and generous of you, Jimmy," complimented his mother. "And did your teacher eat it?"

"Yes, I think so," answered Jimmy. "She wasn't at school today."

WHAT OTHERS SAY

She is NOW.
(London Free Press.)
Ontario will one day be intimately concerned in the business of those "who go down to the sea in ships."

Beauties of Lynch Law.
(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
It turns out that the gang who lynched a young negro near Roxboro, N. C., some days ago got hold of the wrong man. Their victim was innocent of the crime for which he suffered.

Theory and Practice.
(Vancouver Sun.)
Domestic civil servants have formed an "association" affiliation with the trade unions. There is a specific provision that the association "is not to be involved in any trade union dispute which may arise," but the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

The Merry-Go-Round.

(Vancouver World.)
The addition to the freight. This accounts for the philosophy with which the railway executives of the United States, so recently put back into possession of the property have received the order of the Railway Labor Board, giving some two million employees an average increase of pay amounting to \$35 a month. Application is already being made for an increase of freight rates amounting to 18 per cent.

In short, the merry-go-round has started again. The addition to wages means an addition to cost which in turn adds to the cost of articles of consumption the whole continent over—for in this department of economics what is done in the United States one follows that by and by we shall all have reason to know that the cost of living has again advanced. Judging by the records of the last three or four years this will mean application for increased pay from the workers in other industries until gradually the general level of the cost of production is raised to such a degree as to deprive the railwaymen of part at least of the advantage they at present enjoy.

A BIT OF VERSE

Clarenda, you're the girl for me!
I caught you Tuesday darning hose,
And even the dullest eye can see
Neat patches on your last year's clothes.
Your shoe-lacked bar, home-lan-
dered blouse,
Your gloves with well-kinked finger-
tips.
Your careful ways about the house,
Bringing prayers to a lover's lips.

I picture some safe ingenue,
A kitchentide, with you the queen.
I've heard you say you love to cook
The costly supper, the humble bean.
I've learned how simple are your
tastes—
You're mindful of a poor clerk's
purse;
Scorn her who coils on candy
wastes—
Vow loaves bad and lobster worse!

Ah, my Clorinda, heed these rhymes
Of one who's love will e'er prove true—
Who, in these fearsome, high-price
times,
A treasure, girl, seems to you!
Applied Domestic Science, pet,
Your household platform's chiefest
plank.
Out of the salary I get
Each week a dime we ought to bank.
—Ella Fanning, in N. Y. Sun.

THE LAUGH LINE

A Wise Father.
Absent-minded Professor meeting his son—"Hello, George, how's your father?"

And Green in Judgment.
"When are a man's salad days?" "I guess they are when he is most particular about his dressing."

"I punished you severely to show my love for you," said the father.
"That's all right," sobbed the little fellow. "It's a good thing I ain't big enough to re-re-turn your love."

Every-Day Clothes.

"One finds it difficult in these times to dress as one ought."
"Oh, I don't know. I have a suit of clothes for every day in the week."
"Really?"
"Yes, this is it."

Appreciating the Views.
Mrs. Newrich (returning from tour).—"We went very swiftly all the way."
Cutter—"But travelling in a fast auto how could you get any idea of the country?"
Mrs. Newrich—"Oh, I bought a lot of picture post-cards every place we stopped at."

All in One Word.

As the man and the maid strolled through the picture-gallery, the woman stopped before one of the exhibits.

"Oh, how sweet!" she breathed.
"I wonder what it means?" questioned the young fellow, as he eyed the pictured pair who clung together in an attitude of love and longing.
"Oh, Charlie, don't you 'see'?" the girl chided tenderly. "He's just asked her to marry him and she has consented. It's lovely! What does the artist call the picture?"
The young man leaned nearer and eyed a label on the frame.
"I see!" he cried. "It's printed on this card here—'Sold!'"

Suspicious.

"Jimmy," said the fond mother to her smart eleven-year-old, "what became of that little pie I made you eat as a treat yesterday?" "I did eat it?"

"No, Mama," answered Jimmy, with a grin. "I gave it to my teacher at school instead."

"That was very nice and generous of you, Jimmy," complimented his mother. "And did your teacher eat it?"

"Yes, I think so," answered Jimmy. "She wasn't at school today."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

I was sitting on our front steps watching the fellows play base ball in the street, me not getting in it on account of expecting to hear our supper bell ring any minute, and all of a sudden Swinny Martin yelled, Cheese it, cheese it.

Meaning Flatfoot the cop turning around the corner and starting to wawk down looking mad, and the fellows all stopped playing and ran a mile a minute, me jest keeping on setting there thinking, I ain't going to run, he can't do anything to me, I wasn't even paying how can he do anything to me?

And I kept on setting there and Flatfoot kept on getting neerer and neerer and I kept on getting nerviser and nerviser or thinking, O well, I wasn't in it, I'm innocent, wat rite have I got to worry?

Wich jest then Flatfoot stopped going past and made a grab at me and cawt a hold of the back of my blouse, saying, I've got you this time, you don't need to think you can put anything over on me by setting there like a statue in the park.

Wy, wats the matter, wats the matter, wat did I do, I wasn't in it, wats the matter? I sed, and Flatfoot sed, You was in it, because I seen you in it, you come with me.

And he pulled me off of the steps and started to take me to the patrol box, me saying, Hay, wats the matter, I was setting there all the time, you can ask anybody if I wasn't, certy I was, wats the matter?

You can tell that wats the matter stuff to the judge, sed Flatfoot. And he took me all the way to the patrol box, me feeling worse and worse and wishing more and more I had ran too, and Flatfoot sed, Well, I'll leave you go this time if you promise never to play ball in the street again.

Wich I did, being easier to promise than to tell him how innocent I was all over again, and he left me go. Proving no matter how innocent you are, you're lucky if you don't haff to prove it.

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