

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1920.

## READJUSTMENTS NEEDED.

G. K. Chesterton, the modern Dr. Johnson, champion of beer and hater of Socialism, has been saying some rare things about the capitalist system. "We do not realize," he says, "that for about three-quarters of the young men of the world our industrial civilization is a rubbish heap. It is something that has broken down in broad daylight, and is simply blocking the road. Utopia syndicalism might work. But industrial capitalism does not work, and it is only one of a thousand signs of this that its servants are refusing to work for it. Commercial England has no longer to justify an unscrupulous success, but an unexpected failure."

Mr. Chesterton is a mortal foe of Socialism, who talks of England following the way of Carthage, and is unable to understand that the capitalist system, with all its faults, is a necessary stage of evolution. The capitalist system is still young. It has carried mankind forward to undreamed of heights of achievement, and it still shows signs of great vitality. At present an oligarchy of wealth is reaching out for control of the capitalist system, and hence its apparent deficiencies. But this is a phase that cannot endure. Our industrial system stops short of the creation of necessities adequate to human satisfaction, but it goes on piling up articles of luxury. The land is full of automobiles, and the air may soon be full of flying machines, but large sections of the population have no proper homes in which to live. Private enterprise is undoubtedly more efficient for production, but it does not prevent the diversion of capital and labor from the satisfaction of essential needs of the masses to the gratification of the vanity of the few.

In the West substantial cities were built in a few years, because capital and labor were expended on primary needs. Our eastern cities are apparently impotent before housing problems of threatening magnitude, because capital and labor are too largely expended on unessentials. The possibilities of the capitalist system have not been realized; during the war, with about one man in eight engaged in useful production, the system in Great Britain creaked along, making millionaires by the hundreds, and paying its workers better wages than ever before. Nevertheless if the capitalist class does not develop a sense of stewardship and a method of control of their system towards the broad purpose of human betterment the melancholy prophecies of Chesterton may be fulfilled.

## THE ANDOVER EXTENSION.

With Mr. Caldwell, M. P., president of the United Farmers of New Brunswick, at its head, a delegation waited upon the Provincial Government yesterday and demanded the extension of the Valley Railway from Centerville to Grand Falls. It is reported that the delegation were told that the extension would cost \$50,000, exclusive of a possible Dominion subsidy, and that the monies in the hands of the Provincial Trust Company of Montreal from the sale of Valley Railway bonds had in part been unfortunately badly invested in the West, and that this money only \$20,000 per mile for a distance of twelve miles was available for railway construction.

Last year during the session a delegation representing both political parties waited upon Mr. Foster and asked that the railway be extended to Andover at any rate, and yesterday there were representatives of three parties in the delegation, which shows the people interested are still united in their demand. The Premier was very curt to the delegation last year, and yesterday his answer to the delegation indicates that during the year he has given no adequate consideration to the question of meeting the legitimate demand of an important section of the Province.

The intimation that the Government has allowed New Brunswick money to a considerable amount to be badly invested in the West will not add to their reputation for financial ability, and was hardly calculated to please the delegation or the people they represent. When a section of the Province of great potential importance is suffering from lack of a railway, it is certainly surprising that the Government should allow money raised for the purpose of railway construction to be badly invested in the West.

It was the original purpose to extend that railway to Grand Falls and connect with the Transcontinental, and the failure of the present administration to carry out the original plan demands a better explanation than the Government has so far vouchsafed. The Government cannot be accused of being afraid to incur capital liabilities; it has shown an unprecedented recklessness and extravagance in the expenditure of public monies. Apart from the fact that the delay in extending the road retards the development of a potentially rich

section of the Province—an exceptionally well adapted district for farming—the Government's inaction is hurting the interests of the port of St. John. Sooner or later the Government, or a new Government, will have to extend that railway to Grand Falls, and immediate action would be good economy in the long run. At present the C. N. R. is not able to bring grain to St. John fast enough to assure reasonable despatch of shipping. One ship has been ten days loading grain from the C. N. R. elevator, because the railway with its existing facilities is only able to deliver grain here in dribbles. Exceptional weather conditions may to some extent have been responsible for this state of affairs, but if the C. N. R. had access to St. John over the Valley Railway it would doubtless have been able to move grain with greater despatch than it has been doing recently.

## DANGERS OF RECIPROCITY.

Frank Vanderlip, the American authority on finance, says Europe cannot work out her salvation without food and raw material from America, and he thinks it would be good business for the United States to supply a billion dollars worth of food and raw materials on credit. If the American farmer and cotton grower cannot find a market in Europe prices will drop. At present American field crops yield a value of ten or twelve millions annually, and if prices dropped only 15 per cent, the American farmers would be worse off than they had supplied a billion of credit to the nations of Europe. "But," asks the New York Herald, "who thinks that if their foreign markets were lost to them the prices of American farm products would fall only a beggary 10 or 15 per cent? Who doubts that without that foreign demand American farm product prices would fall at least 25 per cent? They might be, more likely would be, cut in half."

At the best the outlook for the American farmer is not encouraging. He can only hope for a big market in Europe for a year or two, and he can only sell in that market on credit. Europe is bound to recover in food production at any rate, and because of her huge debts will restrict her purchases from America to the lowest possible minimum. What will the American farmer do then? The New York Herald threatens him with a reduction of fifty per cent in prices.

And will the Canadian farmer be anxious for reciprocity with the United States when that condition arrives? Having developed production on an unprecedented scale, the American farmer is not likely to slow down all at once, and he will have a surplus to sell at slaughter prices in Canada. If Mr. King and Mr. Cramer offer them free entry to our markets, Canadian farmers, when they consider the possibilities of the near future, are likely to come to the conclusion that they need the home market for themselves. They are bound to realize that the United States is not likely to offer them a market for any of their products except hard northern wheat for blending purposes, and they will probably conclude that the possibilities of the British market are worth more consideration than those of the Republic. For political as well as financial reasons will impel the Mother Country to give Canada the preference in the purchase of foodstuffs.

## RUSSIA.

American reports from Paris suggest that the Allies will shortly recognize the Bolsheviks on the ground that the Soviet form of rule may be taken to express the desire of the majority of Russian people. It does not seem likely, however, that the Supreme Council will make any categorical declaration in the matter, for the present at least. The Allies are evidently desirous of opening trade with Russia, if only for the purpose of securing grain supplies to relieve the desperate food situation in Europe. There may be a hope that the resumption of economic relations, to be followed later perhaps by diplomatic relations, may be a means of moderating Bolshevik aggression, and preventing active co-operation with the Turks to sow the seeds of a holy war, disaffect India, and fan the troubles in Egypt. But it does not appear that the Allies put any great faith in the peaceful proclivities of the Bolsheviks. Great Britain has now an immense fleet in the Mediterranean and also a fleet in the Black Sea. And according to the American State Department the Bolsheviks are forming a military headquarters in Turkestan, with designs on Persia and India.

## TAG-DAYS.

The indifferent results of the Free Kindergarten tag-day will be a disappointment. Apparently this very excellent institution has been overworked, though it has proved a very gratifying source of revenue for various deserving causes for some years. Originally tag-day was inaugurated in

St. John by the Free Kindergarten Association, and while it remained a novelty it furnished the principal source of income of the Free Kindergarten, and people were glad of the opportunity to testify their appreciation of what was being done for the children in a practical way. For some time the Free Kindergarten looked upon this method of raising money as peculiarly its own, but other associations took up the idea till the year has been fairly dotted with tag-days, and people are no longer showing the same willingness to contribute to the collection boxes of the taggers. Two or three tag-days in a year would doubtless continue to find the people in a generous mood, but an undue number tends to provoke a certain resentment. The Association which instituted tag-day here should have first claim on any programme of tag-days, and other associations might do well if they developed some original methods of appealing to the good-will and generosity of the public. Their causes may be equally deserving, but to overwork the institution of tag-days is to defeat its purpose.

Influenza is said to have got its name through a mistake of British physicians in the eighteenth century. The Italian authorities whom they consulted spoke of the disease as "una influenza di freddo" (an influence of cold). British doctors accepted that as the name of the disorder, and influenza it has been ever since. It is interesting to observe how every country has tried to make out that the ailment is a native of some other country. In Russia it is called Siberian fever, and in Siberia Chinese fever. In France, though generally spoken of as la grippe, it is often called Spanish catarrh. Germany and Spain both call it Russian fever.

## WHAT THEY SAY

Something is Cracking.  
 (New York Financial American.)  
 A condition of half producing, half striking, and all consuming can not endure.

All in One Boat.  
 (Guelph Herald.)  
 The Germans are reported to be picking out those responsible for the war. About the only practical mode of procedure, it seems to us, would be to draw lots for it.

Slow Progress.  
 (Toronto Telegram.)  
 Attitude of the U. S. in regard to peace is reminiscent of Mark Twain and the weather: "Everybody's talking about it, but nobody seems to do anything."

Can't Make it Out.  
 (Hamilton Herald.)  
 Many people at Washington are bewildered at finding out that Japan is keeping her word, the theory there being that the most characteristic trait of Japanese statesmen is oriental duplicity.

Spiritualistic Profitteering.  
 (Montreal Gazette.)  
 When a spiritualistic fortune-teller relieved a victim of \$300 in the course of her business in New York, she remarked: "See, the spirit has collected your offering." The case is one of many so far as the stealing was concerned. The same is progressing at a famous rate everywhere. These are palmy days for the frauds and charlatans, who are taking full advantage of the situation.

Union Government.  
 (From the Kingston Whig.)  
 Union government has given this country a large amount of splendid legislation, but it has been slow to advertise its own virtues, and has been deprived for long periods of the services of a leader who could interpret to the public its ambitions and its accomplishments. In the meantime, however, its critics were not silent, and as a result the popularity of the government suffered. Though Mr. Meighen, in his address in this city, did not refer to these facts, he no doubt understands them well. He has done something, though, to acquaint the people with the problems and the duties of the present day, and has given expression, in some measure at least, of the government's desire to supply leadership and direction to the nation in these critical days.

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## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THIS PARK AVE. NEWS.  
 Weather. Snow, hurray! Rain, heck!  
 Sissidy. Miss Mary Watkins says she is going to take 3 more horseback riding lessons, and if she don't stop bumping by that time she is going to take violin lessons instead.  
 Intriguing Packs About Intriguing People. Sam Cross has to grind the coffee in the coffee thing every night for supper, saying the only time he don't get any pleasure out of it is when his mother has a head ache and won't leave him make a noise like a herdy gerdy wile he's doing it.  
 Pome by Skinny Martin  
 The Champen  
 I aint much good at drawing froot in skool  
 Sutch as orldages, appels or pears,  
 But Im exter good at eating them  
 On skool or enywares  
 Sports. Puds Simkins is learning himself to swim by going throu the motions in bed every nite, putting the bolster around his stumick for a life preserver to give him confidence.  
 Wy take a chance of poisoning your family in case some hing falls in the dizzard wen you can have expert ple and disort tasteere sample everything absooltely free of charge. See Sid Hunt and Leroy Shooter.  
 Lost and Pound. Neither.

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## A BIT OF FUN

The Reason.  
 The Grocer—Yes'm the high price of mustard is due to the scarcity of fuel. You see, people are buying up mustard and are keeping themselves warm with poultices.

Preparedness.  
 Wife—Dear John, mother was so pleased with all those nice things you said about her in your letter to me. You see, she opened it by mistake. Hubby—Yes, I thought she would.

And She Generally Does.  
 When a young fellow is teaching a pretty girl to swim he always acts as though he hopes she'll need at least another lesson or two—Detroit Free Press.

## SICK HEADACHES CONSTIPATION

If you have suffered from constipation for years, tried doctors and all the remedies you ever heard of read of, without getting relief, if you have been subject to all the miseries associated with constipation, such as sick and bilious headaches, biliousness, specks floating before the eyes, water brash, heartburn, jaundice and the painful, troublesome, internal, bleeding or protruding piles, etc., wouldn't you consider it a blessing to be able to keep the bowels in a good healthy condition and prevent disease getting a foothold on your system.

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Pleasures of the Chase.  
 To her husband who had returned empty-handed she said, "I wonder why you men like to go hunting when you don't shoot anything."  
 "For the same reason," he answered "that you women like to go shopping when you don't buy anything."



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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, 32 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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