

The St. John Standard

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THE COST OF WAR.

Since the war in the Balkans began last October it is estimated that 348,000 men have been killed or wounded and the cost to the belligerents has been \$245,800,000. Bankers of Paris, who have been the chief financiers of the Balkan war, are stated by the Monetary Times of Toronto to have formed the following estimate of the losses sustained since last autumn:

Killed and Wounded	Cost
Bulgarians	140,000
Serbian	70,000
Greeks	30,000
Montenegrins	8,000
Turkey	100,000
Total	\$245,800,000

The London Economist sees reason to suppose that the expenditure on money actually expended and of money drawn from the taxes into war must be very much less than this prodigious and appalling figure. "But it may," the Economist continues, "stand as an approximate indication of the total economic loss which has befallen the five peoples, to which may be added an estimated expenditure on mobilization and armaments during the last nine months of 12 millions by Roumania, and of perhaps 20 millions by Austria-Hungary and Russia."

Some of Roumania's money was found by Berlin no doubt with the usual arrangement that armaments should be bought in Germany. Part of the Austrian money was supplied by New York and part by Berlin. Moreover, the war has been a ground for pretext for a capital levy of 50 millions in Germany, a capital expenditure out of loans of perhaps 25 millions in France, and a large increase in the army estimates of France, Germany and Russia.

The chief argument for these national sacrifices was that the strength of the Little Balkan States had been so enormously increased by the war and the balance of power in Europe altered. The Kingdom of Italy, which started the trouble by its attack upon Tripoli, has also suffered heavily, and it is not difficult to see why the banking resources of Europe are just now undergoing a severe strain.

THE ADVANCE IN PRICES.

A comprehensive report covering the fluctuation in the price of commodities during 1912, giving some comparisons with previous years, has been issued by the Department of Labor. The experts of the department have reached the conclusion that wholesale prices of the articles of general consumption advanced nine per cent. last year. Retail advance is found to be something less. It is computed that a modest family budget, which would be \$12.24 per week in 1910, was increased to \$12.89 per week in 1911, and \$13.63 in 1912, supposing the household required the same goods in the same quantities. This computation is based on the average price in all the cities of Canada. Current prices are said to be the highest known in Canada since the early seventies. The surprising statement is made that since 1897 the average of prices has been advanced in Canada by "very nearly 60 per cent."

Turning to the schedule of average prices for the last fifteen years by classes of articles, it is apparent that the prices have increased in some commodities much more than in others. The price of grain and fodder has more than doubled. That of animals and meats has increased by 77 per cent., dairy products 76 per cent., other foods 37 per cent. The price of textiles has advanced only 23 per cent., implements 13 per cent., house furnishings 15 per cent., metals 37 per cent. Lumber has advanced 18 per cent., paints, oil and glass 55 per cent. Those who use fur wear more than three times the price of fifteen years ago. Liquor and tobacco cost fifty per cent. more.

A PARCEL POST PROBLEM.

Is it illegal to collect bad debts by parcel post? This problem is yet unsolved in the United States. It is stated in the Boston Transcript that law-fearing creditors of the Republic are anxiously awaiting the verdict of the Transcript, who invented this bright idea. There were a number of small accounts which this Kansas merchant had been carrying on, on an apparently charity basis. When the cash on delivery feature went into effect on July 1st he resolved to end them. Note the process:

He filled a number of boxes with paper waste. On the top he placed the receipted bill. Then he sealed on the cover. A five-cent stamp was required for each box and ten cents for the C.V.O. D. fee. Next day the returns began to come in. Almost every day the debtor made good. The post office would not surrender the package until its value had been received in full, and since the destined

victim could not resist his curiosity and his gambling instinct was his undoing. He paid, opened, and found an insulting receipt for a long owed debt.

"Now it is impossible," comments the Transcript, "not to sympathize with this sort of thing. The question is, will the United States Post Office share that sympathy? Personally, there is not the slightest question of it. When the scheme was unfolded, officials chorused unofficially with a gusto suggesting that they had been victims of bad debtors themselves. Officially? They were grave. In the United States District Attorney's office, the device excited cordial admiration. 'Now that's clever!' The opinion was that it did not constitute fraud. You have not written to the man telling him he is to receive something. You have not represented to him that what he receives is of value. But, come to that, it is of value—a receipted bill. He is not obliged to accept the package; he does so; takes his chance, and receives value for value. The test is not whether the sender is settling something which does not belong to him. The test is whether he is getting something by fraudulent or extortionate methods. The man who accepts the package under such circumstances is simply in the position of him who buys a pig in a poke. Whether we accept the risk of the poke depends on how badly we think we want the pig."

Until the courts declare that this scheme is wrong the district attorney's office, according to the Transcript, is of the opinion that it may pass as righteous. But a warning to creditors is added. Mr. Choate was trying a case before Judge Story. Said the judge tartly: "That isn't the law. Said the attorney suavely: It was, until Your Honor spoke."

NAMES OF WAR SHIPS.

The naming of British battleships rests with the First Lord of the Admiralty subject to selection being sanctioned and approved by the King. Mr. Winston Churchill made a new departure recently by deciding that the names for twenty new destroyers should be taken from the works of Sir Walter Scott and Shakespeare. Florizel, Ivanhoe, Waverley, Rob Roy, Portia, Orlando and Rosalind are some of the names chosen. This is said to be quite a modern innovation, although the selection of literary names for warships is not entirely unprecedented. About the middle of the last century there were vessels called Rob Roy and the Lady of the Lake, and a century ago one or two of Shakespeare's names were used.

Nearly all names in the present Navy List have a long record of past services. There have been eight Dreadnoughts, for instance, since 1873, but the Dreadnought is not the oldest name. The oldest ship name in the Navy List is The Queen and there have been five Queens since 1232. Regarding the most popular names for warships there have been ten Cygnets, and a similar number of Drakes. But the name which has been most frequently used in the Swift, for there have been sixteen Swifts since 1552. There have also been eleven Eagles, eleven Falcons, twelve Foxes, and thirteen Hawks.

CURRENT COMMENT

Laurier's Speaking Tour.

(Montreal Gazette.)
 Sir Wilfrid Laurier is announced to begin his speaking tour at St. Hyacinthe next Saturday, and the news that his friends expect much to follow in the way of results. The result of the recent Portage la Prairie bye-election shows also that the party will need much in the way of results if it expects to make a fair showing in the general contest which should take place within two years. The inference of the situation is that the business of the late session of Parliament made the people, not angry, but weary.

Fifteen Cents.

(Toronto News.)
 Wheat which brings a dollar a bushel at Winnipeg is quoted below 85 cents a bushel in Minneapolis, but the fact is not featured under heavy headlines in Canadian newspapers which fought hard for reciprocity less than two years ago. For practically the whole of the crop year the Winnipeg market has ruled above the American market. The present "spread" of 15 cents a bushel rather clinches the argument.

Express Rates.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
 The Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington has ordered reductions of express rates that will amount to \$26,000,000 a year. Naturally enough, the express companies say the order is an outrage, which after all can amount to a saving of no more than about a dollar or a dollar and a half for each family in the United States.

DIARY OF EVENTS

THE HUMAN PROCESSION

EMMA EAMES, PRIMA DONNA.

Emma Eames Gorgosa, for two decades one of the most popular prima donnas of the English and American operatic stage, is Chinese by birth, having been born in Shanghai forty-six years ago today, August 13, 1867. Her parents were American, however, her father being a lawyer in the international courts of Shanghai. The childhood of the great singer was spent in Boston, where she studied music and sang in church and other concerts. She went to Europe to complete her musical education, and made her debut at the Paris Grand Opera in 1889, in "Juliette." Two years later she sang before a noteworthy audience in Covent Garden, London, and was greeted with continued applause.

That year also marked her marriage to Julian Story, the artist, a son of W. W. Story, the sculptor and poet, and a grandson of Justice Joseph Story of the United States Supreme Court. For many years the painter and the singer lived happily together, but in 1907 the break came and Mme. Eames secured a divorce. A few years later she married Emilio de Gorgosa, a famous baritone. Mr. Story also married again. A few months ago Mme. Eames announced her retirement from the professional stage, and declared that in the future she would sing only for charity.

SIR ARTHUR L. LIBERTY.

"For always in thine eyes, O Liberty! shines that high light whereby the world is saved," so one might pay poetic tribute to the genius of Sir Arthur Lasenby Liberty, who found England a dreary waste of sartorial and decorative ugliness, and transformed it into the abode of taste and beauty. The founder of the world-famous house of Liberty was born seventy years ago today, and with Horace Petherick, the "chew-chew" man, was a pioneer importer of Oriental wares. The stiff and stuffy styles of interior decoration then prevailing in England aroused his animosity, and he began preaching a gospel of beauty that soon made his shop the gathering-place of famous artists, including the English painter, Ruskin and William Morris. He next turned his attention to the clothes worn by Englishmen, but his German taste, and his acquaintance with the famous "Liberty-draped" woman," was too extreme for general adoption. Sir Arthur was made a knight the first of this year.

DR. FELIX ADLER.

Dr. Felix Adler, the German Jew who founded the ethical culture movement, was born in Alzey, Germany, sixty-two years ago today, the son of Rabbi Samuel Adler. He came to America in his youth and graduated from Columbia University, later returning to his native land to study at Berlin and Heidelberg. From 1874 to 1876 he was a member of the Cornell faculty, and in 1876 he founded the New York Society for Ethical Culture, the first of many similar societies throughout the world. The greatest need of the day, according to Dr. Adler, is "trained and scientific motherhood." "Motherhood must be a vocation," he recently declared. "Motherhood must become intellectualized. We must desire to be mothers, not to be mothers. The mother must be trained—must have a knowledge of the mental life of the baby, of the character development of the child."

THE PASSING DAY

MANILA CELEBRATES.

In Manila, that city of strange contrasts, where the Occident meets the Orient and the statement of Rudyard Kipling that "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet" is disproved, there will be a great celebration today of the fifteenth anniversary of the American occupation. American residents of the island will commemorate Manila's fall with oratory, fireworks, and a "bean banquet" for the Philippine department of the United States Navy. Yet today, which will hold its annual reunion today. Many Philippines, but by no means all, will join in the festivities. The majority of the natives still long for independence and the restoration of the republic which was the short-lived dream of Aguinaldo and his associates.

Fifteen years of American occupation has made Manila the cleanest and healthiest city in the Orient, with the possible exception of Hong Kong, where British sanitary science has also accomplished wonders. The Anglo-Saxon passion for cleanliness can never be fully appreciated, nor valued at its true worth, by those who have not visited these cities, and compared them with other cities of the East. When the Spanish flag was lowered on the thirteenth of August, 1898, a death blow was struck to dirt and disease. The walled town, now so clean and picturesque, was once the favorite haunt of those malignant germs of cholera, smallpox, plague and divers fevers. The death rate in the city of Manila is now 32.22 per thousand, and the birth rate 39.16 per thousand. This mortality rate is only about a third more than prevails in such cities as Washington, New Orleans, Toronto, Dublin, St. Petersburg, Rome and Venice.

Outside of the walled city, the dolce far niente of the East no longer prevails. Fifteen years of Yankee control has given the city an air of almost feverish activity, which seems strangely out of place where the climate is eternally summer. Stores and office buildings and factories of the most modern American architecture are scattered throughout the city. In between are the "goods box" shops of the Chinese and Japanese, called tiendas, where the entire stock in trade is within reach of the shopkeeper. The "women's houses" of the natives, made of nipa palms, are sandwiched in between more imposing dwellings. What a sight is the universal costume of men of all races and classes. The costumes of the women afford a wide variety.

OPHELIA'S SLATE



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IN LIGHTER VEIN

Stung.

The two men who occupied the seat directly in front of the little man in the passenger coach were chuckling over a mysterious pamphlet. They would read a few paragraphs and say: "Gee, ain't this hot stuff?" Then they would turn a page and laugh. "This is the spiciest stuff I ever read," said one of the readers. The little man's curiosity got the best of him, and he quietly stood up so he could get a glimpse of the spicy reading matter. He took a look and sat down and kicked himself. The legend on the pamphlet read: "Normal Composition of Various Red Peppers, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C." Cincinnati Enquirer.

No Deserter.

The mayor and corporation of the town were entering the "Tomnies" after the manoeuvres at a banquet in the town hall. As the meal neared its conclusion a corpulent corporal furtively loosened his necktie. A waiter approached him with a plate of luscious fruit. "Desert, sir?" inquired the waiter. "Desert?" gasped the corporal. "Not me, while I can get a meal like this for nothing."

Retort Courteous.

An editor received a letter from an indignant subscriber, who said: "I don't want your paper any longer." To which the editor mildly replied: "That's all right. I wouldn't make it any longer, if you did, because, in that case, I should have to buy a new machine. The present length just suits you."

He Still Hoped.

Mrs. Matchem—Forty years old, Mr. Singleton, and never been married. "I don't care," said Mrs. Matchem. "I hope I am safe for another forty years, anyway."

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Young wife—John, dear, I do hope you will like this cake. I put my heart and soul into the making of it. Husband—Oh, I say, do you take me for a cannibal?

A Pertinent Question.

"Too bad you lost your pocketbook, old man, much in it?" "A number of bills."

Strongest of Reasons.

Griggs—Wonder what prompted the slowpays to move.
 Briggs—The landlord, I understand.

Misplaced Affection.

They were enjoying a motor ride and had just entered a country road. "May I kiss your hand?" he asked, a little confusedly.
 She removed her veil. "No," she replied, "I have my gloves on."

WEEK-END BARGAINS

We are culling out the odds and ends of Summer stock—broken lots and sizes; samples and novelties.

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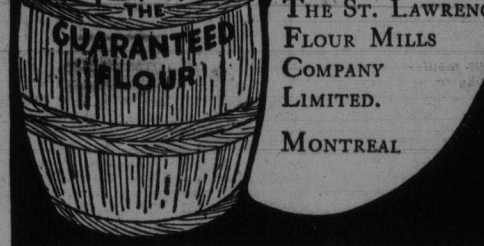
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URGES LABOR MEN TO AWAKE

AND CONTRA

Labor Interests Must Co-

trol Governments of F-

tute, Declares Alphon

Verville.

"The foundations of society are being shaken," said Alphonse Verville, addressing a well attended meeting of working men held under the auspices of the Trades and Labor Council last evening. "The workers are waking up to the fact that something is wrong with society; they are getting tired of working hard all the time for a bare subsistence, and unless labor question is solved and the workers given a fair share of the economic and culture of life there will be trouble. Up in parliament your representatives are beginning to realize that the foundations of society are in danger and they are beginning to see the necessity of giving consideration to rights and interests of the workers. When I went to parliament seven years ago I was told by the liberals that outside of myself there were three or four members who were taking out books on sociology from the library. Now I can tell you there quite a number of members who are reading books on sociology, and studying the problems presented by growing social unrest."

Another thing very significant of the changing spirit of the times is the attitude of parliament and the public generally to new measures. A year ago any progressive measure was called radical, and anything that was supposed to have a radical tendency was regarded as insane. Now progressive measures are called moderate, and we have reached a stage where to call a thing modern or to say we need it in order to keep with the times. One seldom hears word radical, and it is losing the meaning."

The Cost of Living.

Mr. Verville dealt at some length with the high cost of living and pointed out that workmen even with higher wages were having great difficulty in bringing up their families in a satisfactory manner. One of the chief causes of the high cost of living, he said, the practice of forming mergers, and he gave a number of instances of companies leasing out of watered stock and raising prices of consumers in order to pay dividends on the inflated capital. Another factor in increasing the cost of living, he said, was the cold storage system. In order to develop the cold storage system, government subsidies had been given to the system, but he said that the system was not for the benefit of the people, but for the benefit of the few who controlled the cold storage facilities. He said that the system had been abused, and that the government should take steps to control the system in order to protect the people.

Becoming Physically Weak.

Mr. Verville declared that the present conditions of the working class were leading to physical weakness, and that unless something was done specially to enable the workers to better their physical condition, the future of the nation would be in danger. In a rich country like Canada, with the great resources and powers of wealth production it was absurd to see sections of the people suffering from the low plane of existence. It was said we were living in a Christian state of society, but he said that the people were unable to see anything but a Christian nature in the present state of society, wherein the few lived in abundance at the expense of the many.

The speaker pointed out that workers, if not in their own interest at least for the sake of their children should study the labor question, and organize and train themselves for the purpose of getting control of the government, and reforming society so that they and their children might share in the fruits of progress. In conclusion he urged St. John trade unionists to send a large delegation to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada at Montreal this year, and try to get the attention here next year.

After Mr. Verville's address a discussion took place on the plans for the Labor Day parade, and the various unions were urged to get their members to turn out and make the demonstration a success.

The Daily Hint from Paris.

