

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1919.

### MERRIE CHRISTMAS.

There is probably no part of the world where Christmas will be celebrated in a merrier manner than in New Brunswick. This Province is at peace; here more than in any other place in the world the Christian message, "Peace on earth and good-will among men," corresponds with the reality. Nearly all New Brunswick's sons have returned from the war which the free nations have fought in defence of the fundamental principles of the religion which Christmas is the truest and happiest expression.

Sorrow there will be for those who fell in defence of the great cause of "peace on earth and good-will among men," but there will be a feeling that the spirits of these honored heroes if they could appear in the Christmas season would bid their friends carry on in the high hope that the spirit of Christmas will eventually pervade all the relations of mankind upon the good green earth.

Perhaps it was true as the poet said:  
"No trumpet blast profaned  
The hour in which the Prince of Peace was born.  
No bloody streamlet stained  
Earth's silver rivers on that sacred morn;

But o'er the peaceful plain  
The war horse drew the peasant's loaded wain."

In any case we may hope that it may be true in the years to come, and that the Christmas spirit may prevail in future against the spirit of selfishness, ill-will and distrust, which has so often bathed the world in blood and suffering in the past.

The spirit of Christmas is the saving hope of a world.

### UTILIZING RAW MATERIALS.

The retiring president of the Ontario Grange has administered a mild rebuke to Mr. Crerar. The Ontario farmer says he is not a free trader; he wants tariff revision, but he does not want a headlong operation regardless of the consequences to industry.

In consequence of his visit to the East Mr. Crerar appears to have moderated some of his views on the tariff. In his latest public utterance he declares that his programme does not involve the wiping out of the tariff.

But he is still firm in the view that free trade in natural products is necessary to the progress of the country. But this view is not in line with that which is influencing political policy in most other countries.

The question of rounding out the national economy through the scientific utilization of natural resources is everywhere receiving pronounced attention. Countries burdened with war debt especially recognize the need of carrying manufacturing processes as far as possible, and selling the more valuable finished product. And Canada, if she is to provide employment for an increasing population, must face the question whether it is better to encourage the effective utilization of her natural products, or to export them in the cheapest form.

This country is losing millions of dollars every year through the export of raw pulpwood, pulp, leather, asbestos, and other raw materials. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 1918, Canada exported more than 10,000,000 pounds of unmanufactured leather valued at \$8,412,000, and imported manufactured leather products valued at \$4,966,859. If the raw leather, instead of being exported, had been utilized in final manufacturing processes an additional value of some \$6,000,000 would have been created, much of which would have been distributed in wages to Canadian workers and in the encouragement of secondary leather industries.

Last year Canada exported 1,300,000 cords of pulpwood valued at \$8,500,000. If this pulpwood had been manufactured at home the resulting product would have had a value of more than \$75,000,000, and \$25,000,000 at least would have been distributed in wages to Canadian workers.

### THE HARBOR QUESTION.

While the Canadian Government has been denounced for not going on with its programme of harbor development at St. John regardless of other demands upon the nation, it is worth noting that Canada is relatively ahead of Great Britain in the matter of port equipment. Ships coming to St. John or other Canadian ports are able to get a much quicker turn round than they are able to do in British ports; quicker, too, than in many American ports.

The secretary to the Port and Transit Committee of London states that while for every 100 ships flying the British flag before the war there are now 105, this greater shipping is only carrying about half the cargo carried in 1914, because now it takes twice as much time for a ship to turn round. Congestion in British ports has become so great that ships are being used as warehouses. Ships are some-

times held up for two or three weeks waiting for berths, and to add to the difficulty there is a shortage of railway trucks and barges, and the men work fewer hours than they used to do. The fact that ships are discharged and loaded more quickly in Canadian and American ports also increases the congestion in British ports, as they come back quicker.

This being the situation there is no immediate danger of undue congestion at the port of St. John, and as it will be years before British ports can be provided with the additional facilities necessary to assure quicker turn rounds on the other side, it will not be a difficult matter to keep the development of this port abreast of the requirements. But the fact that there is no immediate necessity for pushing a large programme of port development is no reason why the Government and the city should not arrive at a definite understanding as to the future status of the port, and that the extent to which the Government is prepared to carry on harbor work should be made known. The city authorities are showing no particular enterprise in this matter, though they have no good reason to be enamored of The Times' favorite policy of not wanting action on the harbor question until after an election.

### SOUTH AFRICA FOR PROTECTION.

The South African Government is now giving its attention to adequate tariff protection for home industries. The Government of that Dominion has already adopted some important measures, designed to encourage the development of industries. It organized a Scientific and Technical Committee, charged with the duty of promoting research work applied to industry and trade. It promoted the organization of the National Corporation of South Africa, an industrial bank, having for its purpose lending financial assistance to industrial enterprises. It has also provided for direct Government co-operation with industry by the creation of an Advisory Board of Science and Industry.

An industrial census taken in 1916-17 showed that South Africa's industrial production was then approximately equal in value to its mineral production, which has long been the preponderating economic factor in the country. In a report to his Government the United States Vice-Consul at Cape Town says there is a very active interest in the movement to make South Africa a manufacturing country even in the farming districts, the farmers believing such a movement will serve to enlarge their home markets. At a Congress of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, held in Durban, resolutions were adopted recommending that the post-war policy of the Government should provide for a complete survey of the national resources, with a view to encouraging their exploitation, and the fostering of industries by means of tariffs and bounties. The Government has adopted these recommendations as the basis of its policy, and is preparing to put them into practical effect.

### FOREST RESOURCES.

The question of conservation of forest resources was recently discussed at a conference between the Quebec Government and representatives of the Quebec Limit Holders' Association and the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association. The revision of regulations governing the methods of cutting timber on the Provincial Crown Lands was discussed, and arguments were advanced for the adoption of some substitute for the present diameter limit method of regulation, which does not leave the cut-over area in a condition to produce a satisfactory second crop of wood. The question of reforesting denuded areas received consideration, and a policy of further co-operation in this matter was arranged between the Government and the limit-holders. The pulp and paper companies are particularly interested in the problem of reforestation, as their large investments make it necessary for them to look a long way ahead. The Quebec Government is showing an increasingly progressive attitude towards the whole question of forest conservation.

### SCRAMBLE FOR MEAT.

Europe's food problem next year will be full of difficulties, according to Mr. McCurdy, Parliamentary Secretary to the British Ministry of Food. Great Britain, he says, will need 1,000,000 tons of meat next year, and other European countries 2,000,000 tons, while the exportable surplus meat of Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and South America together only amounts to 1,210,000 tons. British home stocks of pigs and sheep are much below pre-war level, and the livestock of Europe is reported to be reduced by one-half.

"A policy of free trade and laissez-faire will not see us through," says Mr. McCurdy. "We shall have to grow more food at home and encourage food production within the Empire not as a matter of preference, but of necessity."

### IF EUROPE HAS ANY MONEY NEXT YEAR

to buy food there will be a scramble for meat, and Mr. McCurdy thinks the situation is full of menace, and made more dangerous because a group of North American packers already control a large part of the surplus meat of the world, and stands ready to exploit the world's needs. In view of the world situation, Mr. McCurdy's opinion that there is no prospect of any great fall of food prices in the near future is probably correct, and farmers should take notice. Free trade with the United States at present may have its dangers for Canada and the Empire if it only serves to increase the power of the group of North American packers. When the British Food Controller declares that laissez-faire, which has been the slogan of Liberalism for half a century, will not do, it is time for constructive thinking. Mr. McCurdy apparently is afraid that the North American packers will control the meat supplies of Canada.

### A BIT OF VERSE

"THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM."

'Tis Christmas. Hark how merri-

ment Welcomes a Babe divinely sent,

But there in Bethlehem—

A lonely mother and her Child,

In cheerless winter-time exiled

Shall we not think of them?

'Tis Christmas. Here on British soil

With plenty blest we cease from toil,

But as in Bethlehem

Mother and child in other lands,

Beg for a crust with eager hands,

Have we no thought for them?

'Tis Christmas. Hear the carolling,

The happy children dance and sing,

But many a Bethlehem

Has little girls and boys today,

Too sad to laugh, too weak to play,

Lord Jesus, think on them.

'Tis Christmas. Come we then and

Our God for all our happiness,

But think on Bethlehem.

Lest we unwittingly turn away

The Mother and her Child today,

And spare no joy for them.

—B. C. Beutler in the Christmas "Treasury."

### A BIT OF FUN

She Didn't Find All.

"I found a letter in your pocket

that you had not mailed."

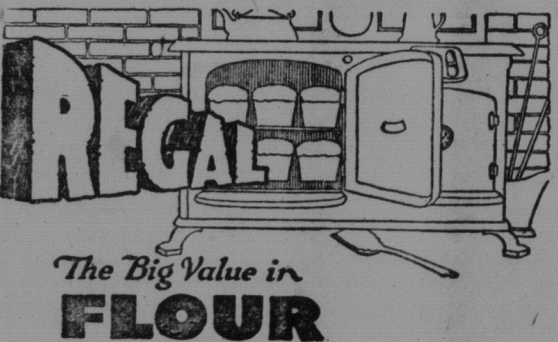
"Is that all you found in my pocket?"

"That's all there was in it."

"O no, it's not."

"What else, I'd like to know?"

"A rip under the sleeve but, of course you were not looking for anything like that."—Detroit Free Press



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## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Last night I had to write a composition for school illustrating the Christmas spirit. Which I did, saying to pop, Pop, do you think this composition illustrates the Christmas spirit enough?

And I red it out loud, this being it:

The 3 Boys and the Dime.  
Once there was 3 boys named Ed, Edger and Edward respectively, and one day while they was out taking a walk with each other they saw a lost dime laying in the street and they all made a grab for it and Edger got it on account of having the shortest legs to stoop with and the longest arms to reach with, saying Hurray, I found a dime.

The heck you did, sed Ed, you picked it up, maybe, but I found half of it, didn't I see it as soon as you did and maybe sooner?

Well how about me? sed Edger, Ill bet I saw it the soonest of any of us, wats you think I got glasses for?

And they started to fite a fist fite about it, and they all got black eyes and bloody noses and was getting more wen some man came up with a worried expression, saying, Did any of you boys happen to find a dime?

Yes, he did, sed Ed, and Edger.

Yes, I did, sed Edger honestly. And he gave the man the dime, and the man sed, It is a grate pleasure to meet 3 such honest boys all at the same time, heers 10 dollars to divide it among you.

Which they divided it by getting 3 dollars and 33 cents and a third of a cents worth of jelly beans.

Honesty is the best policy sed Edger pece on earth good will to men winnin' and children.

The End.  
Do you think it illustrates the Christmas spirit enough, pop?

I sed.  
Well, I suppose it could be worse, sed pop.

Which it properly could.

### THE IMPASSIONED LOVER.

Bid me to live, and I will live  
Thy protestant to be;  
Or bid me love, and I will give  
A loving heart to thee.

A heart as soft, a heart as kind,  
A heart as sound and free  
As in the whole world thou canst find,  
That heart I'll give to thee.

Bid that heart stay, and it will stay,  
To honour thy decree;  
Or bid it languish quite away,  
And 't shall do so for thee.

Bid me to weep, and I will weep,  
While I have eyes to see;  
And having none, yet I will keep  
A heart to weep for thee.

Bid me despair, and I'll despair,  
Under that cypress tree;  
Or bid me die, and I will dare  
E'en death, to die for thee.

Thou art my life, my love, my heart,  
The very eyes of me;  
And hast command of every part  
To live and die for thee.  
—Robert Herrick.

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