

The St. John Standard

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ST JOHN N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1920.

THE SUPPLY OF NEWSPRINT.

The announcement that no fewer than twenty-seven Canadian newspapers will be compelled to suspend publication unless a supply of paper can be guaranteed them, is disquieting to say the least. This is all the more serious in view of the fact that the amount of paper needed by these publications is only two per cent. of the entire Canadian output. On the face of things, it would not appear to be a very difficult matter to supply so small a quantity as that; but the position appears to be that contracts made by Canadian newspaper manufacturers with United States newspapers call for the supply of such large quantities of paper that there is none left to turn over to Canadian publishers.

The utter unfairness of this condition of affairs will be apparent to all. This country needs the largest export business it can reasonably get, but its reasonableness is thrown to the winds by its inability to supply an export trade, our own industries have to shut down by reason of not being able to get the very articles that are being exported. It is bad enough from the standpoint of Canadian publishers that the price they are called upon to pay for their newsprint has increased so enormously as a consequence of the United States demand, and the price that the publishers in the latter country are willing to pay in order to get their demands supplied. There is, however, nothing whatever to justify the starvation of Canadian publishers in order that American publishers can continue to bring out the unnecessarily large-sized papers they do. There is not the slightest need for American publishers to turn out sixty to one hundred page Sunday editions. There is not, in fact, any need whatever for the publication of any Sunday editions at all.

What must be done is to safeguard an adequate supply of newsprint to Canadian papers before any is allowed to be exported at all. It would be intolerable if paper makers in Canada were permitted to contract for the sale of their whole output to American and British newspapers, and so compel Canadian newspapers to cease publication, and only in the degree, and not affecting the principle, is it unendurable when supply is denied some Canadian newspapers, provided always they will pay current market prices. Canadian publishers are entitled to first call at open market price on the output of Canadian paper mills, and their right must not be alienated. Domestic demands being satisfied, manufacturers are free to dispose of surplus stock where they please; not otherwise. That is the case in a nutshell.

THE POLITICAL POT IN THE UNITED STATES.

Canadians who think that sometimes they take their politics with all-dread intensity should be living in the United States today if they would know something of the depths to which political partisanship can descend. The degree of bitterness which is being manifested in parts of the neighboring republic over the choice of a presidential candidate has perhaps never before been equaled even in that country where judges are elected upon the popular vote and where democracy, so-called, has full cry. This condition is due not doubt to the prevailing abnormal state of affairs. Party feeling has always run high; it runs higher today because the people have more grievances and grouches than hitherto, more or less traceable to the Great War. Living costs are high and the future is uncertain. Uncertainty is a bad thing; it is worse for a tense people—people who live largely upon their nerves. While other nations have wiped war off their respective national slates and are heading back to post-war conditions, the United States continues, nominally at least, in a state of war. Partisan politics killed President Wilson's peace programme, and President Wilson in turn has vetoed the peace programme of his political enemies. Business undoubtedly suffers from this incalculable state of affairs. But if business suffers, a certain kind of undesirable political strife, led by such men as Senator Hiram Johnson, of California, thrives in such circumstances. Senator Johnson represents in the presidential contest the dissonant of the nation, and naturally he feeds that dissonant. Feeding national unrest at any time is dangerous; today it ranks as criminal. The consequences of it are seen in the fears of the stable elements of the country, and in the rising tide of Johnsonism among the classes who are susceptible to appeals to prejudice. These in turn become food for reckless agitators, to the end that the degree of unrest increases.

But, as a contemporary points out, there is one overwhelming fact favorable to the continuance of good order, and that is the prevailing prosperity. If prices continue high, wages are also high, and where the money is in the hands of the consumer wherewith to meet the high prices there is much less rancor than will be the fact when a possible slowing down takes place and numbers of men find themselves without employment or upon short time. It

often happens that men of the Johnson type are more dangerous in their bark than bite. Hiram Johnson as president might turn out to be a sober and far-seeing head of the nation. Nevertheless there is no doubt that today he is viewed with something hardly short of alarm by the conservative elements of the nation.

IN THE INTERESTS OF "GREATER PRODUCTION."

The storm in the French Parliament over the bill to tax bachelors and spinners over thirty years 35 per cent. of their income is an unusual event. Some of the French suffragist societies have declared their approval of the measure, because it puts woman on an equality of duty with the man. But even the French system of arranging marriage, formal and calculating as it is, cannot undertake to find husbands for the superfluous women. Britain has a million women for whom husbands are unprocurable at home. France is in a worse position. The loss of a million and a half of the flower of France's manhood leaves a great superfluity of women. Any Frenchman over thirty who remains unmarried must have exceptionally good reason for doing so in the circumstances, and the Government rightly deems dereliction deserving of a heavy penalty. But why should the spinners be penalized so unmercifully? The French custom of parental supervision of marriage and the requirement of dowry may make the lot of France's maids easier than if they, as under the Anglo-Saxon custom, had most of the responsibility of finding their own mates. But the fact remains that there is an enormous superfluity of women to whom is denied the prospect of matrimony. The underlying reason for the tax is not, apparently, financial, but national. It is hoped to force into wedlock every possible eligible person to improve the birth-rate, and bring France's man-power back to normal. The wastage of a German professor and other "intellectuals" calmly discussed polygamy as a possible recourse for Germany in making good the losses of man-over in the war. Some English writers have talked of some arrangement where a man might have a wife for his home and an "intellectual companion" in some other unattached woman. But France is the first country to propose penalizing both delinquent bachelors and spinners. If the measure is enforced its effect upon the interesting social problems of France will be closely watched.

Late American crop reports show a decided improvement in the condition of the winter wheat crop. While early reports indicated that this crop would be much less than the average, more favorable weather conditions have changed the outlook and it is now expected that the average yield per acre will be large and go a considerable distance in offsetting the greatly diminished area planted. On the other hand the outlook for the cotton crop is not favorable. The condition as reported for May 25 is placed at 67.2, and it is said that the crop is four or five weeks late, which does not indicate that normal prices for cotton will be speedily reached.

One matter in which our Canadian neighbors are apparently leading us, says the *Business Commercial*, is in the marketing of eggs, for the Canadian eggs are selling in British markets at from 3 to 17 cents higher than American eggs. The Department of Agriculture believes that this is because the Canadian eggs are carefully graded as to quality, size and color; packed in clean cases with clean fillers of proper weight and provided with adequate refrigeration. Greater care by American shippers will lead to higher prices, and the Department remarks that the same principles apply to eggs marketed at home.

The sensational reports of price cutting that swept the country a fortnight ago have not been followed by any more great reductions and it was hardly expected that they would be, although the range of prices is steadily sweeping downward with the exception of foodstuffs, in which not much change is noted. Many manufacturers have made statements that the fall would be followed by a swinging back of the pendulum, but such a result is not indicated by the reports from New York that say that buyers sent abroad from that city have received instructions to cut down their orders and even to cancel some orders placed.

About 200,000 horse-power generated on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls and belonging to this country, is exported to the United States. If the politicians at Washington were to deny us coal, in order to compel free access to our pulpwood for their exploiters, this power would be immediately necessary at home. It is necessary now, so far as that goes.

Lovers of Shakespeare contend that there was never a situation he did not foresee and for which he did not frame fitting words. For instance, says the

Toronto Mail and Empire, when a policeman arrested Sam Levi, charged with a breach of the O. T. A., might he not well have used the line from "The Merchant of Venice" and exclaimed, "Now, Jew, I have thee on the hip!"

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Practical Politics.
 For the cause that lacks assistance, For the wrong that needs resistance, For the future in the distance, And the good that I can do.

Contempt of Human Rights.
 The essential element in building up the great fortunes whose growth is such a marked feature of our development we have already seen. And just as clearly may we see that from the same cause spring poverty and pauperism. The tramp is the complement of the millionaire.—Henry George.

Liquor and Labor.
 (Daily Herald, London.)
 Do you know why South Wales is so "red"? The secret is out at last! It has been discovered by Mr. C. Bond, who disclosed it to his fellow "mine boys" at a meeting of the fraternity at Cardiff. "There is more Syndicalism and Bolshevism in this part of the country," he said, "because the government by closing the public-houses on Sundays drive the miners to go and listen to all this rot instead of allowing them to enjoy themselves in their own way among their own people."

The Square Deal.
 (Henry George, "Protection or Free Trade.")
 Here are two simple principles, both of which are self-evident: "The right to the use and enjoyment of the elements provided by Nature." "That each man has an exclusive right to the use and enjoyment of what is produced by his own labor." There is no conflict between these principles. On the contrary, they are correlative, and secure fully the individual right of property in the produce of labor, we must treat the elements of Nature as common property.

Why Go Short of Necessities?
 "This our earth this day produces sufficient for our existence. This our earth produces not only a sufficiency, but a superabundance, and pours a cornucopia of good things down upon us. It produces sufficient for food for stores and granaries to be filled to the roof for years ahead. I verily believe that the earth in one year produces enough food to last for thirty. Why, then, have we not enough? Why do people die of starvation, or lead a miserable existence on the verge of it? Why have millions upon millions, to toll from morning to evening just to gain a mere crust of bread?—Richard Jefferies.

A BIT OF VERSE

CANADIAN BOAT SONG.

Listen to me, as when ye heard our
 Sing long ago the song of other
 shores—
 Listen to me, and then in chorus
 All your deep voices as ye pull your
 oars:
 Fair these broad meads—these hoary
 woods are grand;
 But we are exiles from our fathers'
 land.

From the lone shieling of the misty is-
 land
 Mountains divide us, and the waste
 of seas—
 Yet still the blood is strong, the heart
 is Highland,
 And we in dreams behold the Heb-
 erides—
 Fair these broad meads—these hoary
 woods are grand;
 But we are exiles from our fathers'
 land.

We ne'er shall tread the fancy-haunted
 valley,
 Where 'twixt the dark hills creep the
 small clear stream,
 In arms around the patriarch banner
 of the clan;
 Nor see the moon on royal tombs-
 tone gleam;
 Fair these broad meads—these hoary
 woods are grand;
 But we are exiles from our fathers'
 land.

When the bold kindred, in the time
 long vanished,
 Conquered the soil and fortified the
 keep,
 No seer foretold the children would be
 banished,
 That a degenerate lord might boast
 his sheep;
 Fair these broad meads—these hoary
 woods are grand;
 But we are exiles from our fathers'
 land.

Come, foreign rage—let Discord burst
 in slaughter!
 O then for clanmen true, and stern
 claymores—
 The hearts that would have given their
 blood like water,
 Best bravely beyond the Atlantic
 roar;
 Fair these broad meads—these hoary
 woods are grand;
 But we are exiles from our fathers'
 land.

THE LAUGH LINE

When a woman really has to buy something she wastes very little time shopping.

No, the average man doesn't understand classical music—and he is proud of it.

Expanding His Property.
 "What do you mean by saying that Rogers is on the home stretch?"
 "He's trying to get a ten-room family into a five-room house."

"Mushrooms always grow in damp places, don't they, father?" asked Tottie.
 "Yes," said father.
 "Is that why they look like umbrellas, father?" asked Tottie.

Not Serious.
 "Excuse me," said the detective as he presented himself at the door of the music academy, "but I hope you'll

Benny's Note Book

Cleanliness is next to Godliness, being the main reason why people take baths whether they need them especially or not. Some people think one bath a week is plenty, while others take a bath every morning and still don't look satisfied. This proves the more people get the more they want.

Wat fun it is to splash around in a tub half full of water! But beware the effects on the bathroom floor if you splash more than you awter!

The only thing necessary for a good bath is soap, water, towels, and a lock on the bathroom door. If the soap floats it is a grate satisfaction not to have to feel for it when you drop it in the water, but when it falls out on the floor it don't make any difference whether it floats or not, you have to put one leg out after it just the same.

If you are forced to take a bath But the thaw strikes you with pain. Just close your eyes in a shower bath And imagine you're out in the rain.

Saturday afternoon is considered the best time to take a bath, probably on account of the next day being Sunday and you don't have to get up early in case it has a bad effect. If there are several people in the family, some of them prefer to take their bath Sunday morning instead of losing sleep by waiting on Saturday night.

A hot bath is one of the most comfortable sensations there is, and it would be easy to go to sleep in one, but anybody that tried to go to sleep in a cold bath wouldn't be considered sensible, to any the least.

give me what information you have, and don't make any fuss." "What do you mean?" was the indignant inquiry. "Why, that little affair, you know." "I don't understand." "Why, you see, we got a tip from the house next door that somebody was murdering Wagner, and the chief sent me down here to work on the case."

No Meter For Lightning.
 "Bether," questioned the teacher of a member of the juvenile class, "what is the difference between electricity and lightning?" "You don't have to pay nothing for lightning," came the prompt reply.—Everybody's Magazine.

About Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
 Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
 And saw within the moonlight of the room,
 Making it rich, and like a lily bloom,
 An angel sitting in a book of gold;
 Excelsior! Excelsior! had made Ben Adhem bold,
 And to the Presence in the room he said,
 "What wisest thou?" The vision rais'd his head,
 And with a look made all of sweet accord,
 Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."

"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so."
 Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
 But cheerily still; and said, "I pray thee, then,
 Write me as one who loves his fellow-men."

The angel wrote, and vanish'd. The next night
 He came again with a great awakening light,
 And show'd the names whose love of God had bless'd,
 And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

How It's Done.
 Brown was about to have some alterations made, and asked Jones—who had just got rid of the builders—

Practical Philosophy.
 Never try to convince a friend that he is wrong. If you succeed you will gain nothing and you are likely to lose a friend.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Those Girls.
 Edith—Maud Elderby has a remarkably fresh complexion.
 Marie—Hass' she? I never saw such a young head on such old shoulders.—Boston Transcript.

Nothing But Sympathy.
 "Then you have no sympathy for the deserving poor?" asked the man who was collecting for charity.
 "No," replied the rich man. "Why, sir, I have nothing but sympathy for them."

Probable.
 Miss Snipe: "I wonder why Maud gave her age as twenty-five when she married that rich old man?"
 Miss Snapps: "Oh, I suppose she made a discount for cash!"

Met the Emergency.
 Hotel Clerk—The gentleman in 201 says that his room is full of steam from the laundry.
 Proprietor—He does? Add \$1.50 to his bill for a Turkish bath.

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