

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1919.

## THE GRAIN GROWER'S TROUBLES.

The United States Government having removed the embargo on Canadian wheat, Western grain growers, at whose solicitation the Canadian Wheat Board was organized and undertook to nationalize the sale of the wheat crop, are now busy blaming the Canadian Government because it did what they wanted it to do. Now United States millers across the border from Manitoba are offering \$2.75 per bushel for No. 1 Northern wheat, and it is perhaps natural that the Western grain growers are disgruntled because they have turned over most of their crops to the Wheat Board to market for them. But there is hardly justification for the indignation query of a Western grain grower in the Winnipeg Tribune: "Does any farmer suppose that if there was a representative body of Western farmers at Ottawa such an unjust and ridiculous state of affairs would be allowed?"

The Canadian Government was not responsible for the American embargo which created the situation which led the Western grain growers to demand that the Government undertake the sale of the wheat crop. The Government fixed the minimum price of Canadian wheat at \$2.15, and if the Wheat Board is able to sell at higher prices the farmers are to receive the difference, less the cost of marketing. How much of the crop the Wheat Board has contracted to deliver to Great Britain or other countries the Board has not divulged, nor is it saying whether it has at its disposal any considerable quantity of hard wheat that might now be sold to the United States. This is information the farmers may be entitled to, but if the Wheat Board said it had a large quantity the price might come down.

When the grain growers asked the Government to fix the price they had a fear that the world's wheat market might not support a profitable price for them. But now they appear to forget that the Government took the risk of guaranteeing them a price, and might have sustained a loss, which the people of Canada would have had to make good.

The Western grain growers are keen for their own interests all the time. Canadian flour mills are reported to be running on a hand to mouth basis, and none of them at full capacity, but this is a matter of indifference, except to the consumer. Ontario has large stocks of wheat, but according to the Financial Post of Toronto there is no American demand for Ontario wheat, as American mills are amply supplied with wheat of similar grade, and only want hard northern wheat. The Ontario wheat growers are not making a noise, but they are holding their stocks in the hope of higher prices. Being able to study a Farmer's Government at close range they may have arrived at the conclusion that no Government can give them everything without regard to situations beyond its control.

## AGRICULTURE AND PROTECTION.

While the Western grain growers are clamoring for free trade, in Great Britain comparisons are being made between the decline of British agriculture under free trade, and the development of German agriculture under protection. Addressing a meeting of British farmers recently Premier Lloyd George stated that since 1871 the number of men engaged in cultivating the soil in Britain had decreased by about 700,000. "That means," he added, "that you have a population of about three millions less than you had at that date directly associated with agriculture. That in itself is a loss to the state. The men engaged in agriculture, especially the young men, have been streaming to the towns, to the industrial centres, where they pursue their avocations under much more unhealthy conditions, and especially where they bring up their children in more unhealthy conditions. They have been passing across the seas to other lands to give new strength to other countries. That has been a serious and almost irreparable loss for this country; and had it not been for the shock of war, the shock of a great war, that process might have continued. But we discovered during four or five years of gripping, terrible conflict that this neglect of an essential industry had brought this land to the very verge of a great disaster."

The striking contrast between agricultural conditions in Germany and Great Britain was emphasized by Mr. Lloyd George. "Take 100 acres of cultivated land in Germany," he said, "and 100 acres in Britain—arable and pasture. Britain feeds 45 to 50 persons out of that 100 acres; Germany feeds 70 to 75. Britain grows 15 tons of corn; Germany grows 33 tons. Britain grows 11 tons of potatoes; Germany 55 tons. I know it is said: 'Well, if you go on cultivating potatoes and grain and devoting the whole of your strength and soil to that purpose, then meat and milk will suffer.' Let me give you the most figures. Britain produces the

equivalent of 17 1/2 tons of milk to Germany's 28 tons. Britain produces no sugar; Germany produces 2 3/4 tons. Now, these are the figures—the comparison of what Germany with her soil makes out of 100 acres with the figures of what Britain, with her richer land, makes out of hers."

## SELF-GOVERNMENT.

For the publication of a paper in the interests of the United Farmers, the farmers' organizations in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have agreed to put up \$12,000, and the Western grain growers will put up \$13,000. Of the five directors three will be western men and two eastern men. Mr. Crenar has evidently persuaded the Maritime farmers that the control of the paper, which doubtless will devote itself mainly to the political propaganda of the Farmers' party, is safer in the West. But do men living in Winnipeg or thereabouts really know more about what is in the best interests of the farmers of the East than men actually engaged in farming in this part of the world? It may be a purely business arrangement, arising from the fact that the publishers of The Grain Growers' Guide will assume the responsibility for making the eastern paper a success; and it is possible that the eastern directors will be permitted to shape the political policies of the new journal. Until it is proved that the interests of the western grain growers are identical with those of the Maritime farmers the suspicion that the new organ is controlled from the west may detract from the authority it would doubtless have if the control is exercised by the eastern farmers.

## NEW SOURCES OF POWER.

Sir Oliver Lodge has been dealing with the future possibilities of utilizing the static and kinetic energy of the atom before a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts in London. A piece of chalk weighing two grammes contained enough energy to raise a Dreadnought to the top of a mountain 3,000 feet high, he declared; and he expressed the view that within a hundred years man would solve the problem of utilizing the tremendous energy of matter. We are already on the verge of doing it, he added. In the wireless telephone we have the first step in that direction. In that marvellous invention, particles given off by a wire, electrically heated to a whiteness, are used to break the circuit, and so sensitive and prompt are the particles to respond to the electrical stimulus that 300 words a minute can be sent by the Morse code—a feat that cannot now be accomplished by ordinary mechanical means.

Present modes of producing power are wasteful, because it was first turned into heat, said the scientist. Plans had discovered how to utilize the energy sent out by the sun, without converting it into heat, and men could not better their method. Before many years it would no doubt be possible to secure as much energy from an ounce or two of matter as we now do from 100,000 tons of coal.

Sir Oliver thinks the idea of utilizing the energy of the tides is amateurish. Vast areas would be required to form reservoirs, and the areas so covered would be of great value if reclaimed and used for agriculture. The possibility of utilizing the power of the waves is a more attractive proposition in his opinion.

## GROWING CANADA.

Building activity in Canada during the year was twice as great as in 1918. Among the cities Toronto has shown a big lead with building permits for eleven months of the year valued at \$117,739,921, an increase of nearly \$10,000,000 over the corresponding period in 1918. Montreal comes second with \$9,378,500, practically double building construction for the previous year. Hamilton, Ontario, is third with \$4,906,712, and Halifax fourth with \$4,880,666, an increase of over \$2,000,000 over last year. St. John for the eleven months issued building permits to the extent of \$506,540, an increase of \$155,215 over the same period in 1918. Quebec, London, Ottawa, Windsor, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver have all gone over the \$2,000,000 mark.

In St. John during November permits were issued for \$228,500, practically as much as for the whole preceding ten months. There are other evidences of a revival of building activity here.

In view of the difficulties of obtaining raw materials and labor troubles during the year, the showing made by Canadian builders is exceptionally good, and indicates a recovery from war conditions that augurs greater growth in the future.

## WHAT THEY SAY

Farmers' Obligations. (Hamilton Spectator.) The Dominion Government is to

guarantee repayment of loans made by Saskatchewan companies handling seed grain relief this year; but, judging by former experience, this by no means guarantees repayment to the Government by those benefited, some millions yet remaining in default from similar loans in the past.

## Needed the Money.

(Toronto Star.) Liberty league wants a recount, does it? The Liberty league action recalls the case of the gentleman who was hanged for murder, but whose lawyer went ahead and entered an appeal after the execution, because the dead man's estate was good for it anyway, and he needed the money and the advertising.

## A Logical Position.

(Hamilton Herald.) For Canada to spend any money whatever for naval purposes would be "a national folly and a national crime"—so thinks the Farmers' Union of the U.F.O. And it thinks the British navy should be scrapped also. These opinions come naturally from a moderate size. The political absorption of Canada by the United States.

## Spellbound.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.) Herbert Hoover says that starvation threatens fifteen million people in Poland, Austria and adjacent countries of middle Europe, and advocates sending United States wheat to them on credit. But Washington seems to be spellbound when credits for bankrupt peoples are concerned.

## The Final Loser.

(Philadelphia Record.) Strikes in 1919, according to a computation made by The New York Sun, have cost labor about a billion dollars, and capital and the community in general about two billions. The laborers' loss is a respectable allowance for a war of moderate size. The laborers might recover the billion they have lost by means of wage increases, though it takes a long time to do this. Possibly, but not probably, the employers may recover their losses. But in these cases the entire loss falls upon the consumers and the public at large.

## A BIT OF VERSE

THE WIND AT THE DOOR.  
 (William Barnes.)  
 As daylight darkened on the dewless grass,  
 There still, with no one come by  
 To stay awhile at home by me,  
 Within the house now dumb by me,  
 I sat me still as eveningtide did pass.  
 And there a windblast shook the  
 rattling door,  
 And seemed as wind did moan with  
 out,  
 As if my love alone without.  
 And standing on the threshold without,  
 Had there come back with happiness  
 once more.  
 I went to-door, and out from trees,  
 above  
 My head upon the blast by me,  
 Sweet blossoms there were cast by me.  
 As if my love had passed by me,  
 And flung them down, a token of her  
 love.  
 Sweet blossoms of the tree where now  
 I mourn.  
 I thought, if you did blow for her,  
 For apples that should grow for her,  
 And fall red-ripe below for her,  
 Oh! then how happy I should see you  
 kern.  
 But no. Too soon my fond illusion  
 broke.  
 No comely soul in white like her,  
 No fair one, tripping light like her,  
 No wife of comely height like her,  
 Went by, but all my grief again  
 awoke.



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## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yestidday some man went erround ringing door bells and giving away little bottles of perfume for sampels, and I quick ran in the house so as to be the one to open the door wen he rang our bell. Wich I did, and he gave me a bottle, saying, perfume everywhere and not a drop to drink, even wattrir would taste good to me jest now.

I'll get you a drink, mister, I sed. Wich I quick went back in the kitchen and did, and he drank it all up without stopping for air, and I sed, Have you got any more bottles you dont want, mister?

I dont want any of them as a matter of fact, heers a few extra ones for you, sed the man. And he gave me 7 more, making 8 all together, being sutch good perfume you could smell it without even taking the cork out, and wen you took the cork out you couldnt help smelling it, and I thawt, I know wat I'll do, I'll put some on everybody's hankercichs to seprize them.

Wich I did, opening their bewro draws and sprinkeling 3 bottles on ma's hankercichs and 3 on Gladdies and 3 on pope on account of a man not needing so much perfume. And after suppr I went up in the setting room and started to look at the jokes in the paper, and ma came in, saying, Benny, you didnt by any chance put anything in my top bewro draw, did you?

Wy, ma, I sed, did you smell anything?  
 Did I smell anything? sed ma in a voice as if she had smelled a lot. I dont see how I'll ever get rid of the smell, everything is saturated with it, watever it is, my goodness, its simply frite-fil.

I only put it on the hankercichs, ma, I sed, and ma sed, Then it was you, well for goodness sake, wat kind of stuff is it, for mersey sake?

Breth of the Desert perfume in little sampel bottles, I sed, and ma sed, O for hevvin sake, my goodness grayhairs. Wich jest then Gladdis came in mad looking, saying, Theres a lot of terrible smelling stuff in my bewro draw, wats the meaning of it?

Ask Benny, he put some in mine too, he says its called Breth of the Desert, sed ma. And jest then pop called out from his room, Pew, pew, wat the mischief is this stink in my draw?

Breth of the desert, called ma.  
 Wat? Wat? called pop, and sed, can I go out, ma?

You'd better hurry, sed ma.  
 Wich I did.

## A BIT OF FUN

Really.  
 Son: "Father, what is the rest of the quotation, 'Men propose and—'"  
 Father (sadly): "Women seldom refuse!"

Beating Them to it.  
 "Why don't you marry me?"  
 "Because I don't love you."  
 "Why need that matter? We'd simply have a 5-year start on half the people in our set"—Brightly, London.

Worse and Worse.  
 Mrs. Homebody—The cost of living is something awful. I don't know where I'll end.  
 Mrs. Runabout—Yes; isn't it terrible? Our bridge club has just advanced the stakes 10 cents a point.

Unnecessary.  
 "Pay your debts, boy."  
 "Ugh!"  
 "And keep your credit good."  
 "Aw, what's the use of credit if I gotta pay up all the time?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Terrible.  
 Mac: I'm smoking a terrible lot of cigars lately.  
 Jack: You certainly are if that's one of them—London Opinion.

FROM THE LUMBERMEN.  
 The men in the lumber camps of McIntyre & Johnstone, at Rocky Gully, Reddoubt county, raised a Christmas collection of \$1875 for the Provincial Memorial Children's Home in Wright street, and it was presented yesterday morning by Mrs. Philip McIntyre, who lives in East St. John, to Rev. W. R. Robinson.

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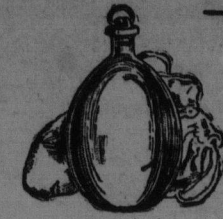
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