

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1934.

## LABOUR'S ATTITUDE.

An announcement comes from Toronto that "a gentleman's agreement" has been made between the Farmers' and the Independent Labour Parties, under which Labour men shall refrain from entering rural constituencies, but shall support the Farmers' nominees, and that the Farmers will reciprocate in urban constituencies and muster up behind the Labour standard banners. Labour further announces that it "will evade the tariff issue, and will substitute instead their programme of class betterment for the worker."

The first arrangement is no doubt quite workable, but to evade the tariff issue is in operation. Why then the average mind it would appear that the first essential towards bettering conditions for the workers is to take care that they have plenty of work at as high wages as economic conditions will permit. They cannot have either work or wages unless a tariff sufficiently adequate to protect their industries from cheap foreign competition is in operation. Why then is so vitally interested in the maintenance of a tariff as the worker? What is the use of talking about the betterment of working conditions to the man who has neither work nor wages?

Prices are gradually coming down, and it is as well that they are; but it would be better for Labour to keep up and work should be plentiful, than that prices should be low and accompanied by widespread unemployment. Of what benefit would bread at seven cents, and potatoes at a dollar a barrel, be to the out-of-work with no money in his pocket? And it is very certain that the greater proportion of Labour in this country soon would be out of work if goods manufactured in foreign countries where labour is cheap and plentiful were to be allowed to be freely brought into this country to compete with home productions. The very last thing that sensible Labour should do is to evade the tariff issue, for no issue was ever more vital to their interests.

## THE IRISH SITUATION.

All true friends of Ireland must regret to note the position that Mr. De Valera has taken up. The offer made to Ireland by the British Government of Dominion Home Rule is conceded on all sides to be the utmost that it could be expected to make; and by rejecting it, the Irish leader has alienated the sympathies of many moderate men and women who feel that the Irish people should have a large measure of control of their own affairs. The Standard has maintained all along that Mr. De Valera should take what is offered to him and make the best of it, and trust to the future to give him more. This has since transpired, is Gen. Smuts' view of the situation, for in his letter to De Valera, he strongly advised him to accept the government's offer to go on with it.

In declining both he and his friends will accept no terms short of absolute independence for Ireland. Mr. De Valera shows very clearly that he utterly fails to appreciate the situation at all. He is credited with being a man of some intelligence, yet the course he has chosen to adopt belies this. If he knows anything, he must know that the British public will not tolerate an independent Ireland alongside them on any terms whatever. As for his so-called guarantees that he offers that the country shall not be allowed to be made an instrument by means of which Britain might be prejudiced. Bethmann-Hollweg's famous "scrap of paper" would be a valuable document compared with them.

The reply of the British Government to Mr. De Valera's note of rejection is couched with keen interest, although there is scarcely any doubt in the minds of most people as to its probable tenor; but the world will hate to see a recurrence of the reign of terror which existed until a few weeks ago. Mr. De Valera has it in his power to prevent this happening.

## LOWERED FREIGHT RATES.

The lowering of freight rates in Canada is merely one way of translating into practice the fact that we have a more economic and efficient system of transportation so seaboard than exists in the United States. This is also shown by the way in which the bulky export trade of the United States, particularly in wheat and cattle, is seeking the port of Montreal.

With cheaper land, cheaper freight rates, a more generally economical system of transportation, plenty of

ships and cheaper money, the basic producer in Canada should be in as good a position as anybody to dispose of his surplus products on terms advantageous to himself.

He is apt to compare things as they have been and as they ought to be with things as they are for the time, and be depressed. He should compare things as they are with him compared with the situation of other people, and then he would feel greatly encouraged.

Canada has not met the full force of the gale that has swept the world. Our credit system is good, our transportation system is good, and it is upon the excellence of these two services that the producer mainly depends.

The Winnipeg Tribune draws attention to an instance by which the merit of our credit system was well illustrated the other day. The cattle industry was in undoubted danger in Canada. In the United States it was in equal danger. Over there they availed themselves of the temporary and financially dangerous makeshift of a pool. Here it only required a touch on a lever to focus the full force of our credit system on the relief of the danger zone, and the ordinary system in operation every day of the year expanded without difficulty to the special need.

We do not sufficiently realize our advantages and the good order of our estate because we do not project our selves beyond the difficulties of our own environment which are pressing enough. But other people both see and admire how trimly Canada is riding out the storm, without the loss of a spar or the stretching of a seam.

## IF NOT FREE TRADE, WHAT THEN?

Speaking at Kenora, Ont., last Friday, Mr. Cramer, the Progressive leader, said that nowhere could any warrant be found for the statement that the Progressives got control of affairs. Free Trade would be the result. He continued:

"We Progressives would shape our fiscal policy to encourage the industries based on the national resources of the country, the chief of which is agriculture. We cannot develop the wealth of Canada by closing ourselves in with a high tariff fence. We will grow rich only as we produce and sell abroad. We cannot sell abroad unless we trade with the world. Further, a protective tariff is the most fruitful agency in building up trusts and combines that oppress the people, and, if I mistake not, the Canadian people have definitely set their faces against 'of these trusts and combines.'"

If that sort of policy doesn't mean free trade, it would be hard to say what it does mean.

If it is true, as announced in yesterday's afternoon papers, that the Mayor has stated that Jimmy Lenses will be granted where the requirements of the new by-laws are complied with, then it is high time some strong representations were made to His Worship on the matter. There are already a considerable larger number of these jitneys running loose around the streets than are needed to handle all the traffic available, and their presence there and the manner of their operation is fast becoming a public nuisance. If their number is to be increased, it will soon become necessary to provide subways by which to reach the other side of a street.

Is not The Globe somewhat in error when it states that "a recently enacted law allows a candidate to run in one constituency only, the probable fate of the two 'old party' leaders on election day is one of the most interesting 'of political problems.' Should it not be that there is a law which provides that a member elected by more than one constituency, shall not be allowed to hold both seats, but shall within a fixed time declare which of the constituencies he chooses to sit for?"

Those managing our railroads display a peculiar lack of knowledge of human psychology in their methods of operating their dining cars. The ridiculous cost of a meal on a train angers passengers of all classes, creating more railway "knockers" than any other feature of our railway system. Moreover, the most affluent traveller now orders sparingly when he enters a dining car, while ordinary folk are being educated to take a lunch basket with them when they are making a long trip.

Autoists should be kind to Exhibition visitors. The worst use one can put an Ex. visitor to is to spill him all over the street.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

## LIKED NEIGHBORS' STYLE.

If I were asked to say off-hand the best address I have heard of any member of this Imperial conference I should declare for that delivered by Mr. McGeorge when proposing a loyal toast at the annual dinner of the Royal Colonial Institute. His remarks were brief and to the point. His accent was not harsh and added a definite Canadian flavor to his speech. The words were well chosen, the statements expressed seemed genuine, and were certainly in admirable taste. He did not rant or roar; the voice was seldom raised above a pleasant level, but it was precise and clearly audible. The wary restraint, perhaps by force of contrast, gave it an added value.—Britannicus in London Standard.

## SERVICE FOR SALE.

What goes for nothing one is apt to undervalue. That fact is being urged in some quarters as a reason for non-attendance at church services. It is argued that what is needed to attract people to churches is an admission fee. The argument, as presented by Dr. Frank Crane, is interesting. What the church has either to give away or sell, he points out, is not religion, but service. The lawyer sells, not justice, but his service. "So the clergyman and his church are bringing a service to the community which the people of the community want, and would be eager to get if they could pay for it like honest folk, and not have it thrust upon them as if they were mendicants."

Dr. Crane doesn't seem to take the collection plate into account at all. However, his argument is interesting as illustrating the view point of many people on the subject of church services. He assumes that people go to church to enjoy sacred music, vocal and instrumental, and to listen to a sermon more or less instructive and entertaining. But there are many who go to church mainly to join public worship. To them it is a religious duty, irksome at times perhaps, although it may be a source of spiritual comfort and stimulus.

To those who, with Dr. Crane, regard attendance at church service as a form of pleasure, the proposal to charge an admission fee may seem fitting and proper; but it will not so appear to those who go to church to engage in worship. Payment of a fee for entertainment is one thing; payment of a fee for the opportunity of performing a religious duty is quite another thing.—Hamilton Herald.

## A BIT OF VERSE

## GENTLEMEN ADVENTURERS.

Gentlemen adventurers in days of long ago, Huddled it from Wapping Stairs round to Plymouth Hoe, Waiting for their ships a-titting and as soon as it might be, Drained the tankards, buzzed the girls and took their ways to sea.

Where they fared they little cared, or when they came again, What they sought was less than thought, yet more than most attained. Liberty to do and be all they had never been, Fill the eye with seeing and the heart with having seen.

But who goes adventuring, adventuring today? Well, here's one, and there's a one and more of us besides, Aboard the outward-bounders on the Morsey or the Clyde, The sailing ports have changed, per haps, but not the sailing breed, So sign and seal 't us if it's adventure that you need.

Gentlemen adventurers, in fighting days of old, Hunted both the hemispheres for glory and for gold, Snuffing, like the war-horse, the battle Homing with eagles on the sight and sound of war.

Hot and foot for fight or loot of town or days of old, Just as quick to join or pick the quarrel bare of gain; The first in the forlorn hope, the last in the fighting mob, Making war a sport and trade to live and learn and teach.

Now, who will go a-riding, a-riding to the wars? There aren't wars enough today to keep up all in jobs, But you may find a few of us in most of the fighting mobs, And in our country's battles the address of me an' mine is still the same old number one, front rank, the firing line.—Boyd Cable.

## THE LAUGH LINE

"The early rest that makes early rising sure."

Unanimous.

"The only trouble with a sixty-horse power motor is that every darned horse balks at the same time.—Cambridge Daily Courier."

True.

"When is a loafer busiest?" "Whenever anyone asks him to work."

Gladly.

"The idea of erecting a monument over your pet dog!" exclaimed Mr. Graybeard. "I'll warrant you wouldn't do as much for me."

"Indeed," replied his young wife; "I'd be delighted to!"

Harmless.

He—I'd like to know what you mean by getting engaged to Tom and me at the same time.

She—Why, there's no harm in it. Neither of you can afford to marry me, you know.

Sure of Tender Treatment.

Reginald was trembling, but he knew the music must be good. "Hail"

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Pop was smoking and thinking and I was just thinking, and I said, Hay pop?  
 Hay yourself, and pop, and I said, Hay pop, what are you thinking of getting me for my birthday?  
 To tell you the truth my thaw's haven't been running in that direction at all, my mind is so full of petty personal matters that I have practically no time to devote to big public questions, and pop.  
 Being sarcastic, and I said, Well hay, pop, will you get me one of those punching bags that goes up on the ceiling? They only cost \$20 and Puds Simkins has got one, so has Sid Hunt and so has Leroy Shooster.  
 Sounding like a pretty good of an argument, and pop said, Are you quite sure these boys all have one?  
 Yes sir, I'm so sure I'm positive, I said.  
 Well then you can take terms using theirs and avoid having the noise around the house, and pop.  
 Me thinking, Heck, and I said, Well then hay pop, how about a bowtie so I can learn all the bowtie calls. None of the fellows have got a bowtie, pop, so I'll be the only one has one.  
 Do you mean to say not a single one of the boys has a bowtie?  
 And pop, and I said, No sir, nobody's got one and that would make me the only original one.  
 It doesn't do to be too original in this world, people are liable to misunderstand you, and pop, and I said, Well then G, goah, pop, can't I have a bowtie for my birthday?  
 No, and pop.  
 Proving sometimes no argument is any good.

I ask your father for his consent to-night, darling?" he inquired.  
 "You had better," spoke up the small brother unexpectedly, from behind the sofa. "Pa's in his stocking feet."—Vancouver Daily Province.

## If It Only Had!

Desk—Do you believe in writing anonymously?  
 Quill—Well, I've often wished that one of my productions had been anonymous.  
 Desk—What was it?  
 Quill—A letter proposing to Mrs. Quill.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

## As Angels Do.

"When I married you I thought you were an angel."  
 "It's quite plain you did. You thought I could manage without either clothes or hats."—Kankakee (Christiania).

## PILES

Do not suffer another day with itching, bleeding, or protruding Piles. No surgical operation required.

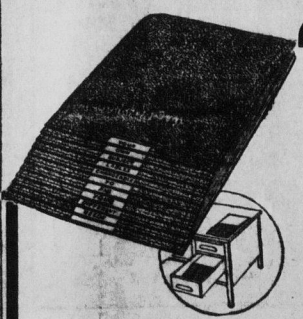
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