

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1919.

## FRENCH AIMS.

The unswerving pursuit of ideas and pride of political spirit which have given France her peculiar place among the nations are manifest in her crusade to abrogate German authority on the west bank of the Rhine. Early in the war French publicists and politicians, asserting that the battle of the Marne was the logical sequel to the battle of Valmy, a continuation of the old struggle of the rights of peoples against the arrogant pretensions of autocrats, harked back to the principles that gave birth to their great revolution, and developed thereon the political strategy that they held should govern the peace settlement after victory. One of their points was that the Entente should never make peace with the Kaiser; that they should compel Germany to change the constitution that made the King of Prussia the irresponsible master of the whole empire. And with delectable irony they quoted in support of this attitude the great Kant, the philosopher of the Germany of Heine and Schiller and Goethe. Kant posed the question: How should a victorious alliance treat a nation which has broken its solemn treaties, and violated the canons of civilization generally? And he concluded that it was not only the right but the duty of the victorious alliance to impose upon the vanquished nation a constitution which would tend to suppress the penchant for war of its people, and make them less dangerous to their neighbors.

Another point made by the French publicists was that while the principle of the self-determination of peoples, France had an obvious right to Alsace and Lorraine, Germany did not have a right to the Rhensian provinces on the Rhine. They pointed out that after the great revolution the Rhensian people voted by an overwhelming majority to cast in their lot with the new republic; and that when France, succumbing to the seductions of the Imperial ambition of Napoleon, rode to disaster, the concert of the Powers handed over the Rhensian provinces to German domination without consulting the wishes of their people in any way. A certain school of French politicians, therefore, conclude that France would be justified in claiming jurisdiction over the Rhensian provinces, whose people formerly sought incorporation in the French political system. Another school holds that inasmuch as the Rhensian people are not racially related directly to either the Germans or the French, their provinces should be erected into an independent buffer state, having as neutrality guaranteed by the Powers. This school points out that if France extended her frontiers to the Rhine she would have to bear the expense of constructing and maintaining a vast new system of fortifications along that river, which would be a constant challenge and provocation to Germany. On the other hand if a buffer state was established, it would be a more formidable barrier against German barbarism than many fortifications, since Germany could not invade France without violating the neutrality of the Rhensian people, and thereby rallying the Powers to the aid of France. So previously has France suffered during the war that her statesmen may not ask her people to assume the heavy military burden which an extension of her frontier to the Rhine would entail. At present the idea of surrounding Germany with buffers seems to hold sway. In any case France wants, and doubtless will have, definite provisions, definite guarantees, against another German invasion. That much the world owes to her.

## AMERICAN PORTS.

In most American ports for some years past the problems connected with the provision of terminal facilities have been receiving considerable attention. At the outset in the majority of United States ports, railways or other private interests undertook the work of development. Each railway attempted to secure for itself the most advantageous location for its docks, and then by setting up artificial barriers through the medium of switching charges, absorption of wharfage and handling charges, pursued a policy that did not always tend to the development of the port as a whole. In most cases where the work was left to railways or other private interests there has not been adequate development or proper co-ordination of water front facilities.

Of recent years, however, there has developed a pronounced tendency to treat questions of port improvement as matters of public interest. Now a considerable number of ports are administered by public commissions, which endeavor to work out plans for the development of the port as a whole, and to have the railway and wharf facilities so co-ordinated that they help to develop the port and surrounding country on the broadest possible scale.

Three forms of public control are in use. New York and Philadelphia represent municipal developments; that is, a city department administers these ports. Baltimore, Los Angeles, and Portland on the Pacific are administered by separate municipal har-

bor boards. In Boston, New Orleans, and San Francisco, the public ports are under the control of a State Harbor Commission. At Seattle the port is administered as a special district, independent of direct municipal or State control.

All these forms of administration seem to have given satisfaction. The ports where a large proportion of the facilities are publicly owned, are precisely the ports which enjoy expanding business. Seattle's foreign commerce increased from \$59,000,000 in 1910 to \$376,000,000 in 1917.

## PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS.

There are certain institutions necessary in every community which the organized governments of such communities are generally expected to provide and to maintain. And there are other institutions which, being more or less of charitable or philanthropic nature, are, as a matter of common consent, left to private or semi-public interest and generosity. Through the great desire for service which has been developed among our people during the past three or four years, we have today many active organizations which believe that they cannot justify their existence unless they are always doing something for the public good. This is a splendid sentiment, and there is not the least doubt that the work which has been accomplished here has been deserving of the unbounded gratitude of all our people. But there is in this the danger of an other less desirable situation. Those in authority, who, in the ordinary course of their duties, are called upon to provide and to care for these various institutions, are, it is feared, gradually assuming the attitude that when they neglect or fail to provide will be better looked after by patriotic, charitable or other societies. There is a growing tendency to shift the burden of responsibility to the shoulders of those who, through eagerness to serve, have accomplished so much of good in the past, but who should not be asked nor expected to assume tasks rightly belonging to the community as a whole. It is true that if our women by strenuous work raise a few thousand dollars for a municipal object, the commissioners or councilors who should provide that money will be able to keep down the civic assessment to just that extent, and thus add to their own records for economy. But such a policy is unfair to the women. And it imposes on a comparative few the burden which should be borne by many. There are so many avenues of activity open, so much to be done in all directions, that those who give so unparagonably of their time and ability, ought not to be expected to labor for those things which are clearly the particular care of our civic or municipal governments.

## THE SALE OF BEER.

Premier Foster announces that there will be no increase in the alcoholic percentage of beer now permitted to be sold under the Prohibitory Law until the matter has been referred to the people of New Brunswick. In adopting this policy Mr. Foster is carrying out the idea of the Murray government which first seriously considered the whole temperance question. That government did not consider that a referendum taken after a long period of license would be a true test of the feelings of the people. The voters of New Brunswick, in many counties, had known for years only the license law. They had no experience of prohibition, and with this one-sided view it was felt that they were not in a position to decide intelligently as to the merits of license vs. complete prohibition. Hence, the policy adopted by the Murray government was the introduction of prohibition by legislation, to be followed after a fair trial by a plebiscite at a time when experience would permit an intelligent decision.

Hon. Mr. Foster feels that until all the soldiers return, a referendum will not be advisable. In this decision he expresses the views of temperance advocates who have made to various provincial governments and to the federal government, requests along this line. The Province of Quebec is inclined to adopt a different attitude. There pressure upon the government has been very strong in favor of a referendum on the sale of beer, but elsewhere in Canada the provincial governments are adopting the attitude towards this question announced by the premier of New Brunswick. Ontario figures that the soldiers will be home by September, and the vote will then be taken.

The disturbance at Kimmel Park, Rhyl Camp, in Wales, in which Canadian soldiers took part, might have been avoided if the Olympic and Aquatic had continued on the Halifax run. The Ministry of Shipping fell down on its promise to provide accommodation for Canadian soldiers, according to programme, this failure being due to the cancellation of the two most important steamers on the Canadian route. This diversion of vessels has blocked Canada's program of demobilization.

## WHAT THEY SAY

## Enmity to The Kaiser.

Vancouver Province: Declaring that his reign would be short and his days few in the land, a Boston paper takes much pleasure in nominating the ex-Kaiser for king of Ireland.

## Longer Open Season.

New York Herald: Bartenders receive more money than Harvard instructors, university publications' figures show. But then there is no July 1 embargo on the instructors.

## Military Defaulters.

Toronto Globe: Military defaulters are still being fined in Quebec. Ontario will insist that conscientious objectors and defaulters in this province shall not be treated differently. The doors of the penitentiary must be opened.

## Carpers Rebuked.

New York Herald: Two year sentence of Chicago millionaire convicted in obscenographic conspiracy is reduced to sixty days by President Wilson. And yet certain tendencies insist there is no consideration for the downtrodden and unfortunate.

## No Return to Patronage.

London Free Press: Mr. Hocken's demand that the government should return to the system of patronage in the outside service will not find an echo except in quarters where formerly these alleged favors were distributed to the faithful. Patronage is the great curse of politics.

## Expressive.

Montreal Gazette: President Wilson is accused during his late flying trip home, of having said that the League of Nations was only fit to serve as a toilet for the bodies of untravelling, which is expressive but not academic or, perhaps statesmanlike. It will not leave any doubt, however, as to what the speaker meant, and that is the purpose of language.

## Canada's Water Power.

Canada is well known to have gone energetically about the utilization of water power, but it will surprise many Americans to learn that a census of hydro-electric developments in the Dominion shows a total of 2,365, 210 turbine horsepower developed. Unless methods of computation have differed radically from those usually employed, Canada has developed nearly half as much water power as the United States. The Canadian census shows about 1,750 horsepower developed in central electric stations and most of the rest in pulp and paper manufacturing. Ontario and Quebec are furnishing more than two-thirds the total. Only Norway uses more water power per capita. N. Y. Evening Post.

## Merit of The Caucus.

Lethbridge Herald: Without the caucus there would be complete power in a Cabinet. The Cabinet would submit matters to Parliament without consulting the members of the party and the decision to support or oppose would then have to be made by the voters. The caucus, is nevertheless, the best place for the government to obtain party opinion. Far better caucus rule than cabinet rule. The caucus can be defeated only when it does not bind a man to support a measure that at heart he believes to be contrary to the public interest.

## A BIT OF VERSE

## The Ultimate Consumer.

From "Friendly Rhymes," by Jas. W. Foley.

I'm only a consumer, and it really hurts me to see the money that I pay for the things I need. I'm only a consumer and the strikers may go striking. For it's mine to end my living if it isn't to my liking. I'm only a consumer, and I have no special mission. Except to pay the damages. Mine is a queer position: The baker sells me bread, and I squeeze me till I'm only a consumer, so it really doesn't matter.

The baker tilts the price of bread upon the slightest rumor of damage to the wheat crop, but I'm only a consumer. So it really doesn't matter, for there's no law that compels me to pay the added charges on the loaf of bread he sells me. The ice man leaves a smaller piece when days are growing hotter. But I'm only a consumer, and I do not need ice-water. My business is to draw the checks and keep in a good humor. As it really doesn't matter, for I'm only a consumer.

The milkman waters milk for me, there's garlic in the butter. But I'm only a consumer, so it does me no good to mutter. I know that coal is going up and beef is getting higher. But I'm only a consumer, and I have no need of feeding. And beefsteak is a luxury that only wealth is needing: I'm only a consumer, and I have no need of feeding. My business is to pay the bills and keep in a good humor. For I have no special mission since I'm only a consumer.

The grocer sells me added eggs, the tailor sells me shoes. But I'm only a consumer, and I am not anybody. The cobblers peg me paper soles, the dairyman short-weights me. I'm only a consumer and most everybody hates me. There's "fifteen" in my pumpkin pie and the world's my lazaretto and I'm nothing but a leper. So lay me in my lonely grave and tread the earth down flatter, I'm only a consumer and it really doesn't matter.

## Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE, FLOWERS.

Flowers are grown up seeds, any nobody wouldn't think it to look at the seeds and then look at the flowers. Seeds look nice, like the flowers do, proving that the unexpected always happens. If you saw 2 different kinds of seeds in somebody's hand you would say, Ah, look at the 2 seeds. But if you saw the same person holding 2 different kind of flowers you would say, Ah, look at the rose and the geranium.

One of the most enjoyable things about flowers is their smell. Even one flower by itself causes a happy expression if you smell it hard enough, while a whole bunch together smells without being smelled at. This proves in union there is strength. The other most enjoyable thing about flowers is their looks. You can never tell how a flower is going to smell by its looks, and a person is liable to start smelling one with a hopeful expression and stop with no expression at all.

The rose is one of the best looking flowers and it also has one of the best smells. This proves it never rains but wat it pours.

Many people wear a white coronation in their button hole on Sundays to distinguish it from the other days of the week.

The cabbage is shape something like a flower, but if you sent a girl a bunch of cabbages she would ask you what you wanted the next time you rang her front door bell. This proves all is not gold that glitters.

## A BIT OF FUN

More Trouble in Politics. "Have you seen the lady candidate I told you to vote for?" demanded Mrs. Wombat.

"Yes," answered her husband, "and she's a peach."

"Um, I guess we'll vote the other way."

A Promising Singer. Wife—"That girl in the opposite flat is quite a promising singer."

Husband—"Well, get her to promise that she won't sing any more."

Bound to Hit Him Hard. Lawyer—"Don't you think \$25,000 cash would be a handsome enough for his breach of promise?"

The Aggrieved—"No. Indeed; I want him to marry me."

Not Strange. Barber (entertaining his customer as usual)—Your hair is getting very grey sir.

Customer—I'm not surprised. Hurry up.

She Knew. "There's one thing I'm thankful for," said Mrs. Crosslots. "My John is never going to be one of them Bolsheviks."

"How do you know?"

"Well, of course, I'm not sure how people go about it to be honest. But I understand it's largely done by spreading flames, and I don't believe there's a man on earth that hates the idea of getting up an' starting a fire worse than John."

Expert Advice. The young man slid into the jeweler's shop with a furtive air. He handed the jeweler a ring with the stammered statement that he wished it marked "with some names."

"What names do you wish?" inquired the jeweler in a sympathetic tone. "From Henry to Clara," the young man blushed and whispered.

The jeweler looked from the ring to the young man, and said in a fatherly manner: "Take my advice, young man, and have it engraved simply, 'From Henry.'"

## RICHIBUCTO.

Richibucto, March 8.—Miss Kate O'Donnell, who has been visiting her father, has returned to her work in Montreal.

Miss Campbell has returned to her home in Danville, Que., after a few weeks' visit to Miss O'Donnell.

Mr. Earl Hains has returned from a trip to St. John.

Harry O'Donnell, who has been spending the past few weeks here, returned to Boston on Tuesday.

The people of Richibucto welcomed back on Friday last, Corp. Basil Johnson, who was overseas in the 165th Trench, and has been over two years in England and France. On Wednesday his son, Corporal Alvin Johnson, was also warmly welcomed back by the people who are delighted to see both these citizens of the town.

Some time ago, Corporal Alvin Johnson, took a course in the Flying Corps. Their many friends are glad to see them both looking so well.

Misses Yvonne and Irene LeBlanc have returned from a visit to friends in Moncton, Shediac, and Memramcook.

Miss Jeanne Legere, who has been visiting her aunt, Mrs. A. L. LeBlanc, has returned to her home in Barachois.

Mrs. J. H. Baird, who has been spending the past few weeks with relatives in St. John, has returned to her home in Moncton.

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## PAYS A TRIBUTE TO WOMEN WORKERS

Factory Inspector John Kenney in Annual Report Says Girls and Women Are Responsible for Successful Operation of Industries.

In his annual report, Factory Inspector Kenney pays the following tribute to the women workers of the province:

"We must not lose sight of the fact that a large amount of credit for the successful operation of several important industries during the year is largely due to the girls and women of the Province, who came to the rescue in the time of absolute necessity, ready and anxious to do everything possible to assist in keeping the wheels of industry turning, at least until such times as labor was restored to its former condition. These loyal and patriotic women were found at work in many places doing the labor which was performed by men in the past. They were engaged in large numbers in shell plants in different capacities, taking their places with the male employees and from information received they gave entire satisfaction to their employers, both in efficiency and point of service."

In this connection I am pleased to note that the employers in turn appreciated the service these loyal people were rendering to their country and spared neither pains or expense in fitting up and setting apart convenient and comfortable apartments, as well as up-to-date canteens, for the exclusive use of their female help. This thoughtfulness on the part of the employers is to be commended, and is a strong indication that the conditions under which people labor at the present time, vastly superior in every particular to the conditions existing several years ago."

The Provincial Factory Inspector proposes to prosecute a number of hotel proprietors who have not complied with the provisions of the accident prevention act.

## OBITUARY

Word was received Friday by friends in this city of the death of William Donovan, which occurred very suddenly in Boston on March 2. The sad news was a great shock to his many friends. He formerly belonged to Petersville, Queens Co., N. B. He leaves five sisters and four brothers: Mrs. Thomas Breen and James Donovan of St. John, John of Bangor, George of New York, Mrs. Fred Jenney and Miss Alice off Wentworth, Mass.; Mrs. Fred Kenney of New Jersey, Daniel of Virginia, and Mrs. John Mooney of Gaspeville.

Mrs. Frelve Lyman. After a lingering illness, the death of Mrs. Frelve Lyman occurred Saturday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Taylor, 174 Guilford street, West St. John, in the seventy-eighth year of her age. She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Joseph Taylor, Mrs. F. J. Miller and Mrs. William Belyea; also one brother, Charles Sweet, all of West St. John. The funeral will take place from her daughter's home.

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