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ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1921.

MORE INSINCERITY

Four years ago, the Government launched a shipbuilding programme, because it was urgently called for by the maritime war. The Opposition at that time gave the proposition hearty support. The Liberal party which in 1913 had fought so hard to have shipbuilding established in Canada, (Mr. Forsey urged it even though it might cost a financial loss) saw in the programme not only an attempt to foil Von Tirpitz, but also a vindication of their stand; and leaders of the party, like Mr. Lemieux and Mr. Fielding, lauded the proposal to the skies. When last year the Government asked for a vote to complete the programme, there was no protest. The Opposition, in fact, was anxious to share the credit for the building up of a merchant marine, and still regarded it as a justification of their stand in the naval debate of 1913. This year, however, there was a change. Everywhere in the world shipping suffered; ocean rates declined, there was a surplus of ships, scarcity of cargoes, and consequent loss; and the Opposition turned their sails to suit the new wind. Thus, when the Government a few days ago asked for a vote of eight millions to complete contracts to which the whole House, Liberals included, had been a party, the Opposition led by Mr. Duff, fought tooth and nail. Their position was well described by Mr. McGeigh, who said: "You supported our programme, and you were a party to these contracts. You joined with us in ordering ships, but you refuse to join with us in paying for them." The Opposition attitude in fact, was an utterly unsupported one. The money asked for was either spent or contracted for, and a refusal to vote it would simply have meant that some of our own people would have been defrauded of money which they had earned; and so the Government suppressed the Opposition's obstructionist tactics by application of closure. The course pursued by Mr. King and his party is merely further evidence that they are just about as insincere and dishonest as they well can be.

In the words of the Prime Minister: "The position of the Opposition, if I am able to put it into words, seems to be this: They are entirely with us in authorizing expenditure at a time when it is popular, where the work is being done, but after the work is nearly done and it is time to pay, then they are altogether against us. They quite agree that the country should enter into solemn engagements, but they are entirely opposed to the country carrying them out."

HOURS AND WAGES

A publication issued by The Department of Labor at Ottawa reviews wages and hours of work from 1901 to 1920. There is a great deal of interesting matter in this publication. Just at this moment the newspapers and printers in St. John are concerned with the negotiation of renewal contracts with the Typographical and Pressmen's Unions in the City. This booklet which gives what is supposed to be accurate figures for hand compositors on the day shift shows that in St. John in 1901 the minimum weekly wage was ten dollars and that the working week consisted of fifty-four hours. This scale remained in effect until 1905 when there was an advance ranging as high as fourteen dollars for the fifty-four hour week, while remaining at ten dollars for the forty-eight hour week. That year was one of transition, but in 1904 the forty-eight hour week was generally accepted and has remained in effect ever since. In 1906 the minimum wage was fixed at twelve dollars and in 1909 the minimum became general at fourteen dollars although this amount had been paid by some firms for several years previous. No other change took place until 1913 when an advance to sixteen dollars was made, which remained effective until 1914 when another dollar was added bringing the minimum to seventeen dollars. During the war years, while the Union scale remained low, additional pay was granted by all printing houses in the form of bonuses, but in the first few weeks of 1920 on the adoption of a new scale, that bonus was eliminated and the minimum rate for hand compositors on day work was fixed at thirty dollars. Of course it must be remembered in all this that other classes of work in printing establishments received higher pay. Machine composition commands a considerable advance over the minimum scale, and for the night shift there is an advance of several dollars weekly. Apart from this it is seen that in twenty years the scale of printing has not only remained in amount but that the working time has been reduced from fifty-four hours to forty-eight hours. Consequently the same scale applies to

pressmen who at the present time are also seeking an amended contract. The request which the various Unions—printers and pressmen—in St. John are making today is for the adoption of a forty-four hour week with no change in the scale of pay, for the promise of full pay on all statutory holidays whether work is performed or not, and for several minor concessions of a more or less technical nature. It is indicated that the adoption of the forty-four hour week is compulsory because it has been decreed by the International Union, yet upwards of five thousand printing houses in the United States have so far refused to comply with this request and in the majority of instances appear to be successfully operating in spite of this refusal. The compulsory part of this request applies only to sub-printing establishments and not to newspapers, though it is of course the desire of the members of the Unions to make the reduced time general.

In St. John it is found that carpenters, electrical workers, painters, plumbers, blacksmiths, molders and street railway workers have profited equally with the printers in wage advances, but it is not noted that in any single trade there such a thing as a forty-four hour week recognized. Indeed, the working hours in the majority of instances range from fifty-four to sixty hours per week.

THAT LIQUOR SUPPLY

Continuing the outburst of yesterday, which by some unaccountable mistake was made to read that each thirsty individual in New Brunswick would have thirty-three bottles of booze per month instead of per year, it is of interest to glance at the financial end of this proposition. Indeed, the working hours in the majority of instances range from fifty-four to sixty hours per week.

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ANOTHER LOAN?

There is said to be a possibility that the Dominion of Canada will issue a \$100,000,000 loan during the present year. Several months ago Sir Henry Drexton told the bond dealers in Toronto that the Government did not need any more money, that the new taxes had yielded results sufficient to warrant the Government buying in Victory bonds rather than issuing new securities, but the minister's financial problems are acute and it may be necessary to make a further Dominion loan.

The Government, according to an item in a financial contemporary, has already paid off \$25,000,000 of its outstanding obligations this year by meeting the five-year loan arranged in New York in 1916 and in August \$15,000,000 of two-year notes will have to be met in New York. Together with the nearly \$80,000,000 of Victory loan bonds bought in by the Government under market control during the regime of the Special Victory Loan Market Committee, the Government will by that time have reduced its debt by about \$120,000,000. Whether the Government has the money available to this amount is a question that can only be answered when Sir Henry brings his Budget down.

If the bonds are issued it is almost certain that they will be subject to income tax. According to the same contemporary, the Victory Loan bonds bought in by the Government were all tax-free issues. They were 1920 and 1921 issues and were bought at 99½ and 99¾ respectively. An additional \$19,719,250 of the taxable 1924's that had been accumulated by the committee have since been placed on the market by the Government.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Why Not Know the Worst?
 Why don't the Allies stop side-stepping and screw up their courage to ask Germany pointblank how much they owe her?—New York Evening Post.

Too Discriminative.
 Why should single men among the unemployed refuse to accept work on farms? Those of them who do refuse such work ought not to expect any city to provide them with relief employment.—Hamilton Herald.

What He Knows About Us.
 Archbishop Mannix asserts there is more religious hate between Catholics and Protestants in Canada than that which prevails in Ireland. He seems to have discerned more in a brief survey than those who have spent all their lives here.—Hamilton Spectator.

Lloyd George and the Coal Strike.
 That the British Government has the strongest motives for desiring a speedy settlement of the strike is obvious except to those glib through-millions who think they see a diabolic plot by Lloyd George to force an early general election, with the cry, "Labor, there is the enemy!" If the Government wishes to avoid the burden of a subsidy, it also must want to put an end as quickly as possible to the waste and expense of the coal strike. The British fiscal year ended on March 31 with a highly satisfactory balance sheet. The total revenue, \$7,250,000,000, had exceeded the estimates by \$35,000,000. Expenditures had been cut down to the extent of more than \$2,000,000,000. There was a surplus, applicable to the reduction of the public debt, of upward of \$1,000,000,000. With industry going on smoothly, this would mean a British financial outlook most flattering. So that the Government would be insane if it were not sincere in its efforts to bring about a fair adjustment of the coal dispute and get rid of the chief obstacle to national prosperity.—New York Times.

A BIT OF VERSE

TOMORROW

The word falls softly on our ears
 From musing from it can we borrow
 Uttered in smiles, expressed in tears,
 Hopeful and cheering word—Tomorrow.

In happy childhood's days we hear
 The word oft used, nor tinged with sorrow
 How confident and void of fear
 They breathe that big, big word—Tomorrow.

So take the best of the past
 Oh memory,
 Love-light and smiles that will last
 And melody.
 Happy sighs, laughing eyes,
 All these from life we will borrow
 And let us elope with an angel of hope
 And make a bright tomorrow.

One scene the memory will retain
 Though other scenes be lost in sorrow
 The where the lovers meet, they twain
 Breathe forth the whispered word—Tomorrow.

In stress of life we seek to find
 Some source from which our strength
 To borrow,
 Something to give us peace of mind
 Amid the threatenings of Tomorrow.
 —Leonard Fox, Rothesay.

THE LAUGH LINE

A great many orators mix the oil of eloquence with the water of weak arguments.

Mistaken.
 A farmer's daughter started to practise singing in private. One day her father came in from the fields unexpectedly. What a extraordinary noise? "he inquired."

"That, dear," replied his wife, proudly, "is Jane cultivating her voice."

"Cultivating? Huh!" ejaculated the farmer. "That ain't cultivating—that's hawrowing!"

A Poet.
 "Father! What is it?"
 "It says here, 'A man is known by the company he keeps.' Is that so, father?"

"Yes, yes, yes!"
 "Well, father, if a good man keeps company with a bad man, is the good man bad because he keeps company with the bad man, or is the bad man good because he keeps company with the good man?"

Real Daylight Saving.
 "Is your boy in favor of daylight saving?"
 "I reckon he is," replied Farmer Cornshead. "If he does on saving 'o' nights, pretty soon he won't be using 'any daylight at all.'—Washington Star.

Those Who See Not.
 Blind Beggar (who has been advised to go to work)—And what would you have me work at—me being blind from birth?
 Old Gentleman—Why, my friend, many of your colleagues have succeeded splendidly as diplomats.

The One That Interested Him.
 Teacher—Now, children, what hymn shall we sing this morning?
 Six-year-old—The one where the boy punches the old fellow's watch.
 Pause, further questions. "Quid turns over pages of hymn-book and triumphantly points half way through the second verse of 'Hushed Was the Evening Hymn.'"
 The old man, quick and mild,
 The priest of Israel slept;
 His watch the Temple kept;
 The little Lovie, kept.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAGE
 Last Sunday I came in late for dinner again, ma saying, So at last you condescended to come home, did you, well now that you're here you can stay in the house all the rest of the afternoon.
 Aw G ma, I ain't so late, you're nowhere near up to dinner yet, I said.
 You heard what your mother told you, and if I hear much more out of you I'll make you stay in this evening too, I'm tired of seeing you wander in here for meals like the last rose of summer, and pop.
 Me thinking, Aw heck, G. And I started to eat my noodle soup trying to skip the noodles to see how many I could skip, and after a while I said, All right, you know what happened the last Sunday I had to stay in.
 Which nobody said anything, and I said, The fellows came around, different fellows at different times and rang the bell to find out if I could come out, and pop went down about 5 times to answer the bell and he couldn't hardly read the Sunday paper, could you pop?
 Are those miserable kids going to ruin another Sunday for me? said pop, and I said, Well gosh, G. pop, how are they going to know I ain't allowed out if they don't ring the bell to find out?
 You can sit on the doorstep and tell them yourself, but don't dare stir away from the door, said pop.
 Yes sir, I will. And I kept on eating dinner, and pretty soon I said, The last Sunday I wasn't allowed to go off the front steps the fellows all stayed there to keep me company and they got the steps so dirty with their feet it looked fierce for Sunday, didn't it, ma?
 O goodness, it certainly did, it was a disgrace, well I tell you what you can do, you can stay in the backyard but don't dare leave the neighborhood, said ma.
 Which I didn't, going around to Pads Sinkins yard with the rest of the fellows to see us rabbits and not even feeling like leaving the neighborhood, making it easy.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

April 21st, 1921.
 To the Editor of The Standard,
 Sir—Miss, the murderer of Miss Minnie Stevens has been brought to justice?
 I have failed to note in any of the papers where anyone has been tried for the murder of Miss Minnie Stevens except St. Pierre, and that a jury composed of French citizens have returned a verdict that St. Pierre was not guilty. Then the guilty person must be at large and should be brought to justice, and that as possible.

I note by your issue of April 2nd that one of the jury shortly after the trial was over was overheard to make the remark that "if the girl had been French he'd (St. Pierre) have been convicted in no time."

Could it be possible that a jurymen would make such a remark jokingly, or anyone else, especially where the evidence, as far as we can glean from our papers, pointed towards St. Pierre as the guilty person.

But the jury found him not guilty; therefore such remarks coming from a jurymen jokingly is very much out of place.

There is also a rumor current that some of the jurors could not speak English. If this is so, why couldn't a jury have been empaneled that could understand the evidence as it was being submitted by the witnesses?

In your issue of April 17th, I noted that Drew was sentenced to life imprisonment, and Nearn to four years in the penitentiary. I believe they deserved their sentences; but if the murderer of Miss Stevens is not to be brought to justice, why bring others?

Then in your issue of April 18th, I see that a prisoner charged with threatening to take the life of a citizen remarked in court, that "he thanked God he was not a Canadian." Also the magistrate said, "There were nine millions of us, who thanked God for that privilege and pride ourselves on a country where 'law protects the life of every citizen.'"

Did the law protect the life of Miss Stevens? If so she's not living today and her murderer has not been brought to justice. Why?

That's what we Canadians want to know. And why has her murderer not been brought to justice?

Hope that the Attorney General will employ the very best detectives what the country possesses, and that the murderer will soon be brought to justice, I remain,
 Yours for justice,
 OBSERVER.

DIES OF BROKEN BACK

Thillenburg, April 20.—Dr. J. R. Lancaster, who was struck by a M. C. R. train about a month ago, died here as the result of the injuries he received.

Dr. Lancaster approached the railway crossing and, it is thought, was watching a passenger train, and when this passed started forward in his motor car, only to be hit by a freight train coming in the opposite direction. The doctor's back was broken.

PEACE BEFORE DISARMAMENT
 Washington, April 20.—President Harding contemplates no steps toward an international disarmament agreement until a technical state of peace has been established, according to members of the Women's Committee for World Disarmament, who discussed the subject with him today.

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BIRD OF A SHOT!

Rossmore, Va., April 20.—Robert F. Stone, University of Virginia student, became a claimant for the 1921 freak golf shot yesterday when he made a literal "birdie" with a drive shot and brought down a dove flying high in the air.

The ball broke the bird's wing, but was hardly slowed by the impact. Stone made a par on the hole.

GOT CAT AND ALIMONY.

San Francisco, April 20.—Mrs. Helen La Haye received a divorce decree here yesterday, which granted her \$1,000 alimony and custody of a cat nine years old.

Under the decree, La Haye is permitted to visit the cat, which must be kept in California.

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