

The St. John Standard

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BRITISH FINANCE.

In his review of the financial position of Great Britain Hon. Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the House of Commons that a general levy on capital was out of the question, and was not needed anyway, but his reference to the agitation that has been going on in England for a levy on war profits, indicates that while the Government considers that the difficulties of undertaking such a scheme of taxation would outweigh its advantages there will be no objection to Parliament exploring its possibilities. During the war and for some months after the British Government imposed a tax of 50 per cent. on all excess profits—that is profits above the average for three years preceding the war—but there have been recently some extraordinary revelations, showing that huge war fortunes have been accumulated in forms unaffected by the operation of this tax. And the fact that the London Daily Express, a paper supposed to be controlled by Bonar Law and Lord Beaverbrook, initiated the agitation to make a new levy on war profits may not be without a special significance. As Chancellor of the Exchequer during the war Bonar Law may be supposed to know in what way the excess profits tax failed to achieve the purposes intended. The agitation of the Express has been endorsed by Sir Donald MacLean, House Leader of the Liberals, and has met with support in unexpected quarters, even in financial circles, though perhaps this may be due to the feeling, industriously fostered by some of Lord Northcliffe's organs that the Government's financial position was desperate, and that heroic remedies were required. Hon. Mr. Chamberlain's view of the financial position is not, however, but it may be sufficiently reassuring to modify the support this agitation for a levy on war profits appears to be receiving.

There is another aspect of the agitation, however, which even some financial journals regard as deserving consideration. As the Liverpool Post points out it is notorious that many British firms have made huge fortunes as a consequence of the war, and that this fact is largely responsible for the widespread discontent which exists today, and which is a menace to the existing order of society. Many of these fortunes, it is claimed, were made out of Government orders or through conditions created by the Government's necessities, and that, therefore, the war profits might reasonably be required to help reduce the debt which largely represents war profiteering.

Dr. Stamp, of the Inland Revenue Department, has estimated the net addition to private capital in Great Britain during the war to be \$5,000,000,000, and there is little question that a large percentage of this represents swollen profits arising from war conditions. Some other authorities estimate the total of war profits at a considerably higher figure than this; but it is largely a matter of conjecture. However, a comparison with the new capital subscribed before the war gives a fair indication of the huge total of war profits. The annual savings of the British nation before 1914 was estimated at from 400 to 500 million pounds, about one-half of which was invested in new issues of public companies or municipal and government loans at home or abroad, and the remainder permanently absorbed in private business undertakings. The subscriptions of new capital in recent years have been on the following scale:

1913	2,196,537,000
1914	512,622,600
1915	685,241,700
1916	585,436,400
1917	1,318,696,000
1918	1,393,381,400

In addition there are the large sums borrowed by the Government in the form of Treasury Bills. Sooner or later, of course, the war-made fortunes will make a big contribution to the national treasury in the form of death duties, but in the meantime it would appear that the Government has not occasion to worry over the possibility of financial embarrassment when it may make a levy on such a huge total of war profits, if necessary.

AN EXPLANATION WANTED.

If the Military Authorities at Ottawa send an officer from another part of Canada to fill the post of G. S. O. (I) in this district the people of this province will want an explanation. For some reason, or no reason, the Military Administration at Ottawa have consistently ignored the rights of New Brunswick during the war and since. This province raised as large a number of men for military service in proportion to its population as any other province in the Dominion, but it was only permitted to be represented at the front by one lone battalion. All the other battalions raised here were broken up, and their officers and men fought to

add to the renown of battalions representing other provinces. This was not fair to the people of this province, and it was unfair to the officers and men from this province who being attached to outside battalions naturally had poorer opportunities of promotion than if they had gone to the front as New Brunswick battalions. New Brunswick came out of the war with a very inadequate representation on the list of senior officers as compared with the other provinces, and since the armistice there have been complaints that this province has been ignored in the matter of some desirable military appointments. More than that, it seems to be true that returned soldiers in New Brunswick have not had their share of the appointments made to the civil service positions at Ottawa since the war. Lieut.-Col. Sparling, who is said to be slated for the position of G. S. O. (I) here, may have the best of qualifications for the post, but his coming here will hardly be in the interests of efficiency and discipline, for it is hardly to be expected that he will be able to discharge his duties with a maximum of satisfaction to himself or anyone else in an atmosphere of hostility due to the conviction among local military men that their right to local appointments receives scant consideration by the military administration at Ottawa. And in the ex-commander of the Fighting 26th, a distinguished soldier, who was identified with New Brunswick's lone battalion from its inception, and who did much to make it the effective fighting organization which brought renown to the Province, New Brunswick has a man who has every qualification for the post.

ELECTION MACHINERY.

Sir George Foster made an announcement a while ago that it is proposed to call a Speaker's conference to consider the question of proportional representation, and various anomalies in representation produced by recent elections has called attention to this election method, which hitherto has only attracted an academic interest. The system of small constituencies worked well enough while there were only two parties of any importance to be considered, but with the farmers and laborers entering the political arena as independent groups, the results of elections in small constituencies are likely to lead to an overhauling of our election machinery. In the Ontario legislature some of the new members represent a minority of the voters of their constituency. For instance, the successful candidate in West Ottawa only polled 8,332, while his three opponents together polled 16,684. The member for this constituency represents only about a third of the voters. Anomalies of this character, which will now become more frequent, will awaken interest in the system of proportional representation, which would group three or more of the existing constituencies, and provide for preferential voting. Under this plan there might be six or more candidates in the field; if there were three candidates to be elected, the voter would make marks opposite three names indicating that they were his first choice and would be able to designate other candidates as his second or third choice. That is one method, but there are several ways of arriving at proportional representation already used by trade unions in their election of officers.

One way to determine the attitude of the United Farmers to the Liberals would be for Premier Foster to have the writs issued for the long delayed bye-election in Carleton County. United States exports are falling off—perhaps to some extent on account of the exchange situation. In September the exports were \$592,000,000, a drop of \$83,000,000 from August. At the same time imports increased by \$128,000,000, being \$435,000,000 for September, or \$92,000,000 over any previous record.

With the prospect of a miners' strike in the United States, and miners in Nova Scotia talking of striking for a five-day week, the commissioners may have to cut over the city timber lands for fire-wood. And Premier Foster may have to arrange to bring some more oil-shales to St. John.

The National Dairy Council are making plans for an advertising campaign to encourage the increased use of milk and milk products. Plans to reduce the price might accomplish something in this direction. Few cities have an economical system of distributing milk.

Canadian paper makers are being bombarded with telegrams from the States asking for newsprint. Some companies say that they had double the output they could dispose of it all.

In other provinces many pulp and paper companies are enlarging their plants.

"Concrete work easy in winter; expert gives results of experience in extreme Canadian climate, and points out desirability of rushing construction this winter owing to the building shortage." This is the heading of an article in a technical journal; but the St. John County Housing Commission was persuaded to defer its plans until next spring because somebody told it that frost might arrive before concrete foundations could be prepared.

WHAT THEY SAY

Not Before They Are Needed.
 Portland Oregonian: If the glandular theory develops into practicability, other lines may open and man may yet get brains via the packing house route.

Age and Youth.
 Washington Star: The doctors who say old men can be made young are in a way to collect any fee they may suggest to credulous patients. Their charges, whatever they may be, will be extremely moderate compared to those extracted from Faust by Mephisto.

Brotherly Criticism.
 Springfield Republican: When Gabriele d'Annunzio is obliged to bar so influential a newspaper as the Milan Corriere della Sera from Fiume because of its criticism of his course, Italians need not imagine that adverse opinion in other countries is inspired by hostility to Italy or antagonism to its just claims.

Watch the League Grow.
 Providence Journal: The Old Clothes League is already established in England also. Its members are expected to regard patches on trousers, shiny coat sleeves and worn-up spats in boots and shoes as badges of honor. Now here is the germ of a great idea. If shabbiness is to be fashionable, what a relief all round! There will be now a star in the direction of sartorial perfection, but of successful repair and renovation of antique wear.

The Whole Works.
 Detroit News: While public tasks grow in perplexity and size, demanding a rare administrative skill, the bulk of the citizens of the country, immersed in rather specialized pursuits of their own, look to the President as leader in political action, and this does not lessen their burden upon him. He finds that if any large constructive policies are to be undertaken, they are not likely to get started unless he starts them. Even questions that ought to be decided by cabinet members often wait for the decision of the executive.

The Voices of the People Drowned.
 Boston Globe: All of us are heart weary of endless wanderings in the maze of politics, where mild reservations about the wide issue today of starting out in opposite directions, now suddenly wind up together at the end of a tramp around a circle. This has been with almost every great issue that has arisen: States Rights and slavery, gold and silver, the tariff, political snarl after snarl, in which the devil is beaten around the stump, public opinion becomes helplessly tangled, and the politicians get their way for a time. Meantime, where do the people stand on this monstrous world-wide issue today? Who knows? If the people themselves know, how can they make themselves heard?

A BIT OF VERSE

THE DRAWBACK.

This is the story of Timothy Wise. Timothy Wise who is known everywhere. There isn't a city or village of size but what this remarkable brother has been. He never has risen to glory or fame. His fortune a school boy could readily count. But still there's no prize that this man couldn't claim. No ladder that he couldn't really mount.

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But before giving up hope and deciding you are a chronic dyspeptic just try the effect of a little blauded magnesia—the not ordinary commercial carbonate, citrate, oxide or milk, but the pure blauded magnesia which you can obtain from practically any druggist in either powdered or tablet form.

Take a teaspoonful of the powder or two compressed tablets with a little water after your next meal, and see what a difference this makes. It will instantly neutralize the dangerous, harmful acid in your food to ferment and sour, making gas, wind, flatulence, heartburn and the bloated or heavy, lumpy feeling that seems to follow most everything you eat.

You will find that provided you take a little blauded magnesia immediately after a meal, you can eat almost anything and enjoy it without any danger of pain or discomfort to follow, and moreover, the continued use of the blauded magnesia cannot injure the stomach in any way so long as there are any symptoms of acid indigestion.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Last Sunday afternoon me and Mary Watkins was wawking along taking a wawk with each other, her having a red coat on with about 20 buttons, looking grate, and we started to pass a yard with a iron railing around it and a lot of different culler crisanthamums growing in it. Mary Watkins saying, O, look at the perfectly bewtifful adorable crisanthamums.

Alas! It funny sutch big flowers should have sutch big names? I sed, I wish I had one, sed Mary Watkins.

If they was mine you could have all you wanted, I sed, and she sed, I bet if I told Leroy Shooter I wished I had one I bet he would climb over and get one for me.

So would I, I sed, and she sed, Then wy dont you, and I sed, Because that would be stealing and I dont want to steel, especially on Sundays.

O, it wouldn't be stealin, enything of the kind, sed Mary Watkins, and I sed, Wy wouldn't it, they dont blong to me, do they? and she sed, No, but jest taking one wouldn't be stealing if you took a hole bunch it mite be stealing, but jest taking one would any be taking a sample.

Well, if it was eny day but Sunday, I sed, and she sed, O all rite then, dont if you dont want to, dont if yous afraid.

Whose afraid, wat dy I care? I hed. And I climbed over the iron railing, being a hard one to climb over on account of having pointy parts to it, and I was jest starting to braks off a wile crisanthamum wen sushdy quick opened a window on the 2nd floor and a lady stuck her head out mad, saying, Boy, wat are you doing there?

I climbed over to smell this crisanthamum, I sed, and she sed, Well, hurry up and smell it and get out of my yard.

Wich I did, and me and Mary Watkins started to keep on wawking, her saying, Benny, im perfectly ashamed of you, you told that lady a lie.

Well, a lie sht as bad as stealing, I sed, and Mary Watkins sed, Benny Potts, how dare you accuse me of stealing? And she turned around and started to wawk rite back, and wouldnt hardly jawk to me agem all the way.

He ought to be famous and wealthy today. He can write, so he tells us, in prose or in rhyme; He could paint a great picture or model in clay.

But somehow or other he never gets time. There's never a book that he reads, but he knows That he could write one that would sell a million.

He could pen a great play, but you know how it goes— The chores of the day must be done all the while.

If he could stop working and just settle down To using the talents he claims to possess.

There's nothing could keep him from fame and renown. Without a doubt he would be a success.

He could teach men in Wall street the ways of finance. Or outspread the preachers in language sublime;

Against him there's no one who'd stand any chance. If somehow or other he just had the time.

Cou men who have given your lives to your toll, You men who have labored professions to learn Have struggled and studied and burned midnight oil.

Your feeble successes and glories to earn. Beware of the menace which hovers and lives Low over your heads as you prosper today;

For the thought may occur to this Timothy Wise To jump in and take all your honors.

He'll write all the books and he'll write all the plays, He'll pass you all by when he starts in to climb.

He'll make all the money and claim all the praise. If ever the day comes when he has the time.

A BIT OF FUN

Brief.
 Manager:—When was your play produced for the last time?
 Playwright:—The first time.

She Fixed It.
 Mother:—How on earth did this book ever get in such a terrible condition?
 Boosie:—I heard papa say it was too dry for him so I watered it.

Their Privilege.
 Frank:—Women are so very illogical. Frances:—How so?
 Frank:—They can always remember their birthdays but never their age.

Precious Indeed.
 Gladys:—Was the bracelet George gave you set with precious stones?
 Irene:—Yes. Precious few stones.

No Time to Lose.
 Neighbor:—Hey, what's come over you Mike. You seem to be painting the house for a wage?
 Mike:—Get out of my way an' con, stop me! I'm trying to get through before my paint gives out.

Broken Promises.
 Hubby:—You promised to obey me for the rest of your natural life. Do you ever do it?
 Wifey:—You promised to endow me with your worldly goods. Do I get them?

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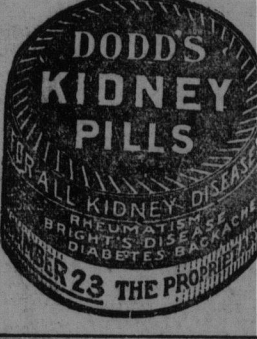
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