

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1920

LIBERALS AND FARMERS.

While Hon. Mackenzie King is telling awestruck audiences of the faithful that the Farmers' party stands for the same things as the Liberals do, it is not on record that he has told them it would make no difference whether they voted the Farmers' or Liberals ticket, though if his promise is accepted the conclusion follows as a matter of course. Strangely enough on the very day Mr. King made his speech at Newmarket, claiming that the Farmers' party was twin brother to the Liberal party, a convention of the supporters of the Liberal Leader of Ontario decided to oppose the new Farmer-Labor Government of the Province from the start. Mr. Dewar's Liberals decided that when the three ministers in Mr. Drury's Cabinet, who have yet to find seats, stood for election they would find Liberal candidates in the field against them. The official report of the proceedings of the Liberal gathering referred to the Farmers' Government in the following brotherly terms:

"The extraordinary spectacle of the appointment of the rulers of the Province of Ontario resting upon the decision of a committee largely composed of men who have not been elected by the people of the Province of Ontario is one without precedent in the constitutional history of any British dominion."

Mr. Dewar proposes to be the recognized leader of the Opposition when the Legislature convenes, and meantime is busy making ammunition against the Ministers. Already he appears to have frightened the Ministers over a proposed sale of timber lands in the north country.

Whether Mr. Dewar will be persuaded to change his attitude remains to be seen. At present he shows no inclination to accept the views of Mr. King or the other Liberal oracles, and attempt to establish brotherly relations with the Farmers.

Mr. Dewar does not even heed the Toronto Globe, a greater oracle of Liberalism than the new leader himself. The Globe sees no hope for the Liberal party unless it can form an alliance with the Farmers. It says: "Mr. King must be aware that the Liberal party, as a party, will not go back to Ottawa strong enough to form and sustain a Government opposed by the Farmer and Conservative groups. There must be, therefore, between official Liberalism and the great progressive forces of the West, which are fighting for Liberal principles, a rapprochement in politics, if not in organization, so that they may work together consistently." Then the Globe advises Mr. King that he is not really regarded as a prophet of progressive Liberalism. It thinks his views are colored by the character of his chief party support, which comes from Quebec and is not in accord with the progressive sentiments of the West, which is strong for direct taxation, public ownership of railways and water powers, and the co-operation of the provinces with the Dominion to make prohibition effective. In effect the Toronto Globe warns Mr. King that his obsolete attitude to the questions which interest the West has "impelled thousands of former Liberals, many of them not farmers at all, to join the farmers' political movement in the West."

CALLING THE LEAGUE.

The action of President Wilson in issuing a call for the first meeting of the Council of the League of Nations at Paris while the Senate withholds its assent to American participation in the League is an extraordinary procedure. The President says that he is "acting on behalf of those nations which have deposited their instruments of ratification in Paris as certified in a process verbal, drawn up by the French Government, dated January 10, 1920." Presumably he is issuing the call at the instance of or at any rate with the assent of the French Government, though his penchant for proceeding on his own motion appears to be his greatest fault in the eyes of his political fellow-citizens, and the fact that he "ventures to hope that the British Government will be in a position to send a representative" does not look as if Lloyd George had been consulted. There is something in the situation that suggests the sardonic attitude of Clemenceau to the League of Nations. President Wilson by this action places himself in a peculiar position towards his Senate, and towards the constitution of the United States. He has issued the call as President of the United States; that is to say he enters into foreign relations on his own motion and his own responsibility, though Article Two of the constitution, dealing with the powers and duties of the President, says: "He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur." There are those who claim that the President's great mistake all along has been his schoolmaster attitude to the Sen-

ate, to Congress, and, for that matter, to the whole nation. He did not recognize the co-ordinate powers of the Senate; he did not consult the Senate about the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations; he returned from Paris, and ordered the Senate to ratify the Treaty without the dotting of an i or the crossing of a t. This autocratic attitude naturally piqued the Senators; being human they asserted their prerogative and held up the Treaty.

The President's appeal to the people over the head of the Senators was no doubt a bold action, but it was scarcely tactful. His latest action in appealing to the nations of the world to get together and launch the League of Nations with regard to the Senate of the American constitution is also bold; but whether it is tactful at a time the Senators were showing signs that they were beginning to recognize that the importance of the League of Nations transcended their personal pique or political prerogatives is another matter. It may be supposed that the prospect of the League of Nations holding a meeting with the United States unrepresented will plunge the national pride of America, and that the President hopes that thus pressure will be brought to bear upon the Senate. Possibly the League of Nations would be able to function without President Wilson on deck, but it would be a come down for him and the American people if the United States does not qualify for charter membership.

EAGER FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

An enrollment of between 600 and 700 for the evening classes opened by the St. John Vocational Training Committee is ample evidence of a desire on the part of the young people of the city for instruction of a kind calculated to help them in the pursuit of a livelihood. When Halifax years ago started evening technical classes it had the advantage of a fine technical college erected by the Nova Scotia Government, an institution which offered much greater facilities for making the instruction interesting and practical than St. John possesses at the present time. Yet with this fine plant available the Halifax evening classes started with an attendance of a hundred or so, and it was several years before the enrollment reached 600.

The St. John Vocational Committee are evidently not able at present to give instruction in as many lines as they would like to do, or to satisfy in a comprehensive manner the demand for technical instruction which exists here. To accommodate all who wish to take advantage of the opportunities offered, day classes will apparently have to be organized, as the enrollment has evidently been much greater than was expected. This is a healthy sign, and indicates that the public authorities have been slow in meeting a public requirement. In other cities manufacturers and employers generally attach great importance to technical education, and give prizes to encourage the students, believing that technical knowledge and industrial training have an important bearing upon the success of local industries. St. John has doubtless suffered to some extent from the fact that ambitious young people have not been able to acquire at home the training they felt to be essential for their advancement. At one time it used to be a complaint that local manufacturers looked for foremen and men of special technical skill outside the city, a procedure that had a tendency to discourage their employees, and was no doubt largely responsible for the exodus of young people, especially those who had passed through the High School, and realized the value of opportunities for further education.

While with the facilities at their disposal the St. John Vocational Committee cannot be expected to obtain any notable results this winter, it is to be hoped the interest shown in their classes will awaken the public authorities to the need of establishing an up-to-date system of technical instruction in this Province.

ASSISTING RETURNED MEN.

The announcement that the Government will open one of the largest schools for the technical education of returned soldiers in Eastern Canada at St. John under the direction of a local man, Lieut. J. Royden Foley, has been received with interest, especially in view of the announcement of Mr. Peacock that the evening classes opened by the St. John Vocational Training Board will be overcrowded. The Government has been carrying on a system of technical instruction for disabled men, which has produced excellent results, and has attracted the attention of other nations concerned in re-establishing their wounded in civil life. The new school to be opened at St. John will offer technical instruction and vocational training to all returned men.

The need of such schools has been recognized by the employment agencies established by the Government,

and doubtless their representations have had much to do with the decision to make provision for the training of returned soldiers other than those disabled in the war. Men who were serving their country for three or four years naturally lost their aptitude for their trades, and without some special training could not be expected to resume their occupations where they left off. Besides there have been changes in industrial processes during the time they were away, to which they have to adjust themselves. Then there were a large number of young men who joined up before they had learned much of any trade or employment. When they returned as grown men they naturally expected a man's wages, though in most cases they had no technical proficiency which entitled them to demand a man's wages. At the best they were only fitted for unskilled labor, and had no prospects. To the employment agencies the young soldier has presented a serious problem. Naturally he did not wish to begin at a boy's job and with a boy's wages.

The extension of technical educational opportunities to all soldiers will be a big help in enabling the soldiers to find their place in civil life.

A BIT OF VERSE

THY MERCY ON THY PEOPLE.

O-d of our fathers, known of old—
 Lord of our far-flung battle line—
 Beneath whose awful hand we hold
 Dominion over palm and pine—
 Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
 Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies—
 The Captains and the Kings depart—
 Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
 A humble and a contrite heart.
 Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
 Lest we forget—lest we forget!

Far-called, our navies melt away—
 On dune and headland sinks the fire—
 Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
 Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
 Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
 Lest we forget—lest we forget!

If drunk with sight of power, we lose
 Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe—
 Such boasting as the Gentiles use,
 Or lesser breeds without the Law—
 Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
 Lest we forget—lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
 In reeking tube and iron shard—
 All valiant dust that builds on dust,
 And guarding calls not Thee to guard—
 For frantic boast and foolish word,
 Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord!

—Rudyard Kipling.

A BIT OF FUN

Why Not?
 An Englishman is trying to introduce a new word, as in this sentence: "At the end of the dinner, the gentleman rejoined their respective spouse." He says it mice is the plural of mouse, why not make spice the plural of spouse.

A Job Not Wanted.
 Of course it is possible we may do many more foolish things before we die, but running for constable in Ireland won't be one of them.—Dallas News.

Knowledge That Counts.
 "I never met a more ignorant man than Nurich. What he doesn't know would fill a good many books."
 "Yes, but what he does know seems to have filled one pocketbook, at least."

A Waggle Witness.
 "Did he let straight at you when he said that to you?"
 "No your honor; he bent his gaze on me."

No Grip.
 Solicitor—You don't think my job a real one. Why, I'm a travelling salesman. I sell brains, not muscle.
 Solicitor—Well, I must say, you're the first travelling salesman I ever saw that doesn't carry a sample with him.—Yale Record.

Polite.
 "Is he polite?"
 "Very. He even says thank you to a street car conductor."

INTER-CHURCH MOVEMENT AT FREDERICTON

Bishop Richardson Presides at Large Gathering of Workers—St. John Clergy Give Addresses.

Special to The Standard.
 Fredericton, Jan. 14.—The Inter-Church Forward Movement conference opened here this afternoon in the Brunswick street United Baptist

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE BRANE.

The brane is the part of the body you think with, and the bigger your brane is the more you think, and the smaller it is the more you think you think. The easiest way to tell if a person has a big brane is to look how high their forehead is, men with bald heads not counting.

There are many expressions about branes meaning a person hasn't got much sense, some of them being as follows:

1. Haven't you any branes? Meaning, Haven't you many branes?
 2. Hay, your branes must be in your feet. Meaning there don't seem to be any in your head.
 3. You haven't got the branes you were born with. Meaning when you were born you had more branes than what you got now.

Some branes are better at some things than what they are at others. A person might be the best oye in the class at arithmetic, but if you asked him the bounary of Asia he mite not even answer. This proves it takes all sorts of people to make a world. Boys think they have more branes than girls, and vice versa. Boys says girls have long hair insted of having more branes, but girls say they have long hair besides having more branes. Both may be rite in some cases.

Animals have branes but they don't know the reason. Animals think because they can't help it and not because they want to and know its a fine thing to do. Horses and dogs have the most branes of all the animals, and cats and insects have the leest.

A poor man can have as much branes as a rich man, being a little consolation but not enuff.

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