

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1920

## TRADE WITH THE TROPICS.

Canada imported \$108,000,000 worth of tropical produce last year, mostly from the United States. Our imports from the West Indies were placed at only \$22,000,000. In view of the exchange rate and the development of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine there has already been an increase in the direct trade with the West Indies, and the increase this year should be large. Government ships are now running to Brazil, and about ten are now engaged in the West Indian and Caribbean trade. Before next June the Government will have available for service about twenty new ships, and some may perhaps be used to advantage in opening new trade with American countries where the exchange rate is not against us.

One drawback at present is that there are no great amounts of manufactured goods available for trade with the West Indies, or tropical countries generally. However, there are two million people in the British West Indies, who might supply a large quantity of the commodities we now secure from the States, and who may become greater customers for cereals, flour, fish, dairy products, etc.

Some fear was expressed at a recent meeting of the St. John Board of Trade that the competition of the Government boats would interfere with the very good service to the British West Indies now operated by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company under subsidy. That is a consideration which should receive attention, but it does not affect the possible use of Government boats to develop trade with Mexico and Latin American countries. Canada already does a considerable trade with Brazil and Argentina, and trade with South America generally should be capable of expansion. The Latin American republics have a population of over 100,000,000 people, and their foreign commerce rose from \$3,000,000,000 in 1913 to nearly \$5,000,000,000 in 1919. These figures show a big and increasing market.

## IN THE WILD EAST.

Japan has been for some time in the throes of an agitation for manhood suffrage. Out of 20,000,000 males in that country, only 1,500,000 have the right to vote for candidates for the House of Representatives. Leading newspapers have joined in the demand for universal suffrage, "as a means of limiting to a minimum the evil effects of the general tendency of the disaffected classes to Lenin's gospel, and as a safety-valve for dangerous ideas." Prominent members of the ruling caste have also expressed themselves in favor of universal manhood suffrage, adding, as is the way of ruling castes, that the great reform must only be brought about in the due course of things. Labor organizations have been particularly active in the agitation, and it is probable that the reports that serious labor disturbances have broken out in the flower kingdom are connected with a crisis in this movement, though Japanese labor has since the war been growing restless under the pressure of the cost of living. In the past, labor disputes in Japan have been marked by a good deal of violence and bloodshed.

If there be truth in the reports that some Japanese troops in Siberia have gone over to Bolshevism, and that the Koreans have revolted and are driving the Japanese garrisons before them, Japan has other troubles at hand likely to cause her rulers to repent that they did not help the Allies in their efforts to stamp out Bolshevism some time ago. Press reports attribute the Korean uprising to Bolshevik influence, but conditions have reached a pitch in that country where an outbreak of the national spirit might be expected to arise more or less spontaneously. The Bolsheviks may have stimulated the uprising; in any case the Koreans probably secured arms from the Bolsheviks or the Chinese.

With a revolutionary movement in progress at home, the Mikado and his friends will probably be not averse to a foreign war as a means of uniting the nation and holding onto power. Korea may be the Serbia of the East.

## BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

Insinuations of the Hearst papers and pro-German propaganda have sought to create the impression that Great Britain was on the verge of bankruptcy, or at any rate needed a big loan from the United States to help her pull her European chestnuts out of the fire. The statement issued by the American Chamber of Commerce affirming the financial and commercial power of Britain, and declaring that London is still the monetary centre of Europe should have a good effect on real American opinion, though it may not disabuse the minds of Hearst readers.

Britain owes the United States a lot of money, about \$4,210,000,000. On the other hand, Britain loaned her allies \$2,700,000,000—loans absolutely necessary to the prosecution of the war, in which the United States had

large interest, and out of which her profiteers made great fortunes. Britain is frankly worried about the plight of Europe. She has expected and would welcome American assistance to help Europe to her feet, and it is not only a selfish concern for her loans to Europe that worries her. Britain is preparing to write off half the amount owed her by European countries as a dead loss, in order to give them a better chance for recovery. She is not asking America to forgive her any debt, though she doubtless does not want to repay her loans at the extravagant premium of the present exchange rate, which, as the American Chamber of Commerce points out, is due to conditions in Europe, not to any danger of the bankruptcy of Britain.

Britain is probably less concerned about her loans to Europe than the danger of Bolshevism overwhelming Western Europe. When prominent British financiers soberly discuss the advisability of cancelling all war loans, it shows they have a very lively apprehension regarding the situation in Europe, and are willing to make tremendous sacrifices to save what can be saved from the situation. Political conditions all over Europe are none too stable, and governments will need financial assistance or credits on a large scale. If Bolshevism overwhelms Western Europe, neither Britain nor the United States will stand much chance of collecting their loans.

## ADVERTISING.

There is some talk on the need of propaganda on behalf of the port of St. John. Regarding the general value of propaganda for trade and other purposes, The Empire Mail of London, England, says:

"Until the great war came we were not only lamentably short of any properly organized scheme of national publicity, but it must be painfully admitted that those who argued for the establishment of such a scheme were treated with scant attention. The effects of war taught us all, from the government to the humblest citizen, that propaganda of the right kind is a weapon which no country can afford to neglect as a means of achieving its end, whether military or otherwise. Those who doubt the value of publicity may be recommended to read the memoirs of General Ludendorff, in whose hands the military destinies of Germany were placed during the most critical period of the great struggle. The plan is made again and again in his book that Germany was not beaten by the Allied armies but by the Allied propaganda, which, like the blockade, was slow but sure in its relentless effect."

A New York chef is quoted as saying that the day, or rather the night, of the lobster is done, for since prohibition threw its glamour over the United States the delicious crustaceans have not been served to any extent in hotels and restaurants. This authority is of opinion that the lobster will never assume its former importance as an attraction for chorus girls to late suppers. Nevertheless there will be those who will be grateful that nature in her wisdom did not extinguish the lobster before prohibition arrived on the scene.

St. John and Montreal are not the only cities having port troubles. The Quebec Telegraph says: "The public would like to know what pull is responsible for consistent discrimination against the Port of Quebec?" Ha Ha Bay, may be! St. John is too busy pulling the wool over its eyes to pull chestnuts out of the fire for itself.

If that committee appointed at a recent meeting of the business men of the town would bring in a report, it might assist the discussion. If the committee is not unanimous it is in order to bring in a minority report, too.

The Times: "How much longer will we fiddle at St. John when we ought to be beating that path to Ottawa?" If Premier Foster would only complete the Valley Railway the whole population might sell its Courtenay Hay lots and move to Ottawa.

## NOVA SCOTIA'S WAY.

The following letter has been published in the Halifax papers:

We regret to see comments in the press, originating in New Brunswick in reference to the up-to-date Myers History, which shows in its supplement how the "Americans" won the world war.

The School Book Bureau promptly received a parcel of the new edition at the opening of the school year in September, but the books were as promptly and quietly returned to the publishers.

(Signed) EDUCATION OFFICE.

## IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

To The Editor  
 St. John Standard.  
 Sir:—In a recent issue of the Daily Telegraph, in the course of an article on a political convention in Westminster, there was given a summary of the legislation introduced and placed on the statute books by the present local government since its coming into office. Amongst other things for which credit was given the administration, was an arrangement for an increase in teachers' salaries, the impression being given that the reference was to the teachers in the public schools. The writer is not in a position to vouch for the correctness of the remainder of the summary, but wishes to point out that in so far as public school teachers are concerned the statement belongs to the realm of fiction, or possibly prophecy. The fact is that the present government has taken no action which has resulted in increases for teachers in public schools. Moreover, the teachers of this province are well aware that the only direct move for increasing government grants to school teachers within the last three years, was in the form of a private bill, which, not receiving its due measure of support from the government benches was dropped.

Such increases in salaries as the members of a long underpaid profession have received, have been the result of energetic action on the part of the teachers themselves, and have been granted by the local school boards. The writer is not overlooking the fact that a commission has been appointed to look into the matter of teachers' salaries, but the report of this commission has not yet been made public, and whatever action the government is contemplating on the receipt of this report can scarcely be placed to its credit at present.

Thanking you for your valuable space, I am, Yours respectfully,  
 PAIR PLAY.

## WHAT THEY SAY

Pickwickian Reservations.  
 (Toronto Star.)

"No Americans, we think can fail to feel the force of the simple and straightforward statement of the position of Canada on the so-called 'voting power' reservation proposed in the Senate, as made by N. W. Rowell, the Canadian Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs," says the Fort Worth (Texas), Star-Telegram. The opinion it offers is that the reservation, if adopted, would never have practical effect, and it wishes Canada would regard it in that light. But why should Uncle Sam make Pickwickian reservations?

Have Their Chance.  
 (Toronto Star.)

If the Farmer-Labor Coalition fails it will be because of its own weaknesses; not because the people of the province did not insist that it be given a fair trial. Place-seeking politicians are learning that, and the report of the part of their followers they must dissemble their desire to embarrass the administration at every turn.

The Strike Trials.  
 (Toronto Globe.)

It is estimated that the aggregate cost of the Winnipeg strike trials will be \$1,000,000. This is a big amount for the State to lose because of lack of common-sense and a resort to arbitration.

## A BIT OF VERSE

THE BUSINESS GIRL.  
 (Lillian Lovelidge.)

With steady, pausative pace she hastes  
 Along the crowded street,  
 That echoes, moans and moans and eves  
 The clangor and the beat  
 Of grinding wheels and vendors cries,  
 And tramp of hurrying feet.

Her eyes are bright, her step alert.  
 Her spirit joys to know  
 Herself a wave of this life-tide  
 That surges to and fro;  
 Her own allotted task a work  
 No hand but hers may do.

The flaunting shows of wealth and pride  
 Are passed unheeded by;  
 No art is there to avert her steps  
 Or win one envious sigh.  
 But lo! a window full of flowers  
 Has caught her ardent eye.

Today wild asters of the wood  
 The place of honor hold,  
 They bring a glimpse of heaven's own  
 blue  
 And sunlight's peerless gold;  
 And memories of far-off things  
 Their petals fair unfold.

Of wind-swept hills and perfumes wafted  
 Where dreaming sunbeams lie  
 Upon a myriad swaying blooms  
 That almost seem to vie  
 In color and in loveliness  
 With yon low-bending sky.

Of forest stillness that enfolds  
 In warm and close embrace  
 A thousand little loves that know  
 The smile on Nature's face,  
 And find within her sheltering arms  
 A bliss abiding place.

The business girl amid the toil,  
 The hurry and the din,  
 Feels that the wild has opened wide  
 Its arms to take her in;  
 She knows that all true things and sweet  
 Are still her own to win.

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## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Yesterday afternoon my nose itched like anything and I had to keep on twisting it around to make it stop as if I was making fierce faces at somebody, and I was sitting on the floor in my room looking over my stamp album and asking me different questions about different things, and suddenly all of a sudden she sed. For graysakes, Benny, if you can speak to me without making those dreadful faces at me, why you don't need to speak to me at all.

They ain't faces, ma, my nose is itchy, I sed.  
 I don't care whether it is or not, they're faces, sed ma.  
 Well G, ma, there's nothing personall about them, I sed, and ma sed, Well I'd rather not have them pointed at me, I have a slight headache today and they make it worse—there, you've just made another one, for mersey sakes cant you think of some way else to go for a little while?

Can I go down and ask Nora for a cruller, I smell her frying them, I sed, Yes, by all means, by all means, yes, Meaning I could, and I went down and stuck my head in the kitchen door, saying, Nora, ma sed I could ask you for a cruller.

And did she say you could make a monkey face at me too? sed Nora.

Aw G, gosh, Nora, my nose itches, I sed.  
 And if I get a couple of good cracks at you you'll itch in some more places, believe me, sed Nora.

Wich jest then my nose gave a fierce itch and I twisted my hole face and Nora ran and made a grab for me and I escaped by ducking under the dining room table and out the dining room door, saying, Aw G, don't you know a itchy nose wen you see one, aint you got any education?

And I put on my hat and coat and went out with the fellows, none of them thinking I was making faces at them on account of having itchy noses themselves sumtimes.

## Daily Fashion Hint



FOR SOUTHERN WEAR.  
 An exquisite frock in bordered voile, the tunic falling over a straight foundation with deep hem. The embroidery on the tunic is repeated in the decoration of the waist, which has added decoration in the form of a hemstitched vest, collar and cuffs. The belt is of Chinese blue satin ribbon. Medium size requires 4 yards 36-inch bordered and 1 1/2 yards 36-inch plain voile, with 2 yards 10-inch ribbon.

Pictorial Review Patterns are sold in St. John by F. W. Daniel & Co., Ltd.

Planissimo Persuasion.

First Enthusiasm—I say, Muriel, have you ever tried listening to music with your eyes shut?  
 Second Ditto—And you, sir—have you ever tried listening to music with your mouth shut?—Passing Show (London.)

Stomach Disorder

Only Six Months To Live.

Read What B. B. B. Did For Him.

Mr. Hans Kehli, Magnolia, Alta., writes:—"Some years ago I became very sick from stomach disorder, which the doctor told me had started from drinking bad water. I tried local doctors, but, finding I got worse from day to day I went to a doctor in Edmonton. He told me that I must have an operation, and that if I didn't I couldn't live any longer than six months. I told him I had better die after six months than be cut to pieces. I did not have the operation, but returned home. No one was there to meet me at the station, because they did not know I was coming. I felt so bad I couldn't walk farther than 10 yards without resting. It took me 6 hours to walk 2 miles; the distance from the station to my home.

Some weeks later I read an advertisement about your Burdock Blood Bitters. After I had used one bottle I felt much better, and after I had used three bottles I was completely cured; therefore you see your B. B. B. has saved my life, and I cannot praise it too highly."

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