

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1922.

HYDRO.

The Government has already borrowed \$3,000,000 for the Musquash development, and interest at 6% is accruing on this all the while. This amounts to \$130,000 a year, and then there is the sinking fund to be provided for, and also replacement charges. This money has to be forthcoming from some source or other, and naturally the source to be looked to for it will be the users. Ten million k.w.h. at 1.5 will pay the interest alone, and the Government will hardly care to contract with the City for a smaller quantity than that named. If the City cannot meet all this quantity, it naturally follows that consumers must pay considerably more than 1.5 per k.w.h. The present sale to consumers is less than five millions, and according to Mr. Phillips the City may expect to capture 25 per cent. only of this amount the first year. The price therefore to consumers must be nearly 10 cents per k.w.h. in order to cover the cost of the ten millions bought, and this mind, does not include distribution charges.

Not until the whole ten millions is being sold to consumers can the price be as low as 1.5 cents, and assuming for argument's sake that the City could capture all the Power Company's present customers and sell as much as five million k.w.h. the price would be 2.4, plus another three or four cents for distribution costs. And that of course is only the average price for the whole output. This is practically the same figure as the Power Company offers to distribute the current at, with this advantage, that the City can get the Musquash current as soon as it is turned on, instead of having to wait a year or so while the civic distribution plant is being erected.

If the citizens on Monday by electing Mr. McEllan signify their desire to have no truck or trade with the Power Company, they can of course have their wishes carried out; but Mayor Schofield's plan of a tentative arrangement with the Company to see how the system works must commend itself to the great mass of electors, as a sane and safe proposition, instead of the alternative one of rushing headlong into something that no one can satisfactorily estimate the ultimate cost of.

THE GENOA CONFERENCE.

The latest reports from Genoa seem to indicate that notwithstanding the jolt which the announcement of the secret treaty between Germany and Russia gave the representatives of the various nations assembled, the Conference will continue its deliberations, though the German representatives are to be barred from taking any part in them so far as Russian affairs are concerned. The conclusion of a secret treaty between these two nations simply shows just how little either of them are to be trusted. The terms of the treaty as given out appear innocent enough, and amount to little more than an agreement to wipe the slate clean of obligations and claims against each other, and start anew. The disquieting element of the incident is that the two nations should come to any understanding without the knowledge and consent of the other powers. A Russo-German alliance has long been feared by the Allied nations. Against both nations the Allies have claims and both are disposed to resist these claims. The natural course would be for them to try to make resistance together. There is nothing in the treaty so far as made public to indicate that anything of that kind is contemplated or to show that it in any sense constitutes an alliance. But if Germany and Russia are getting together a new element of peril has been projected into the European situation, the possibilities of which are not pleasant to contemplate.

It is because of the fear of some such happening that France has refused to reduce her armistice. Certainly there will be no further talk of disarmament until the situation has been cleared.

FOR CANADIAN PORTS.

Mail and Empire:—One of the Maritime members of Parliament introduced a resolution recently to confine the British preference to goods coming into Canada through Canadian ports. That would, of course, hit at considerable New York and Portland traffic in goods shipped in bond in Canada, and boost Halifax, St. John, Quebec and Montreal. The Western Progressive who spoke on the resolution opposed it, as being a local advantage at the expense of the Dominion. Traffic by the cheapest route is their motto, as in "Buy in the United States whenever convenient offers." The resolution was not passed, but

it parallels American action somewhat. Congress passed the Jones Act about two years ago, and this provided for discrimination in railway rates in favor of American goods going out by American ships. The Act is not enforced, because there are conventions requiring equality of treatment of shipping. It might be possible to create some special inducement to increase the proportion of our Atlantic trade that patronizes Canadian ports. If the number of incoming ships were increased, cargo facilities outbound would also expand. Too much of our grain and other products goes out by American ports. The subject is a big one, involving the question of sufficient accommodation, the matter of time, rates, and general carrying efficiency; and a comparison showing the advantages or disadvantages of Canadian ports as against New York, Boston or Portland would be highly interesting. The development of more National traffic, and "Canada first" spirit in that sphere would be good for the country.

OUR RAILWAYS.

One of the surprising features of the railway statement presented by Hon. W. O. Kennedy to the House of Commons the other day, was the poor showing of the Grand Trunk Railway. While the Canadian Northern was able to cut its loss for 1921 over 1920 by ten millions, the Intercolonial by two and a half millions, the Grand Trunk by three millions, and the Transcontinental by two and a half millions, the deficit on the old line jumped from \$6,577,243 in 1920 to \$15,672,299 in 1921, or an increase of \$9,145,055. The explanation given was that the increase was due principally "to variation in amount received under the guarantee of the United States Government following the return of the American units of the system to corporate control on March 1, 1920, and to an increase of \$5,219,346 in interest on funded debt." However, this explanation is not altogether satisfactory in view of the vastly improved showing of other lines, which do not tap the rich and populous country served by the Grand Trunk. Judging by the condition of some of the branch lines in various parts of the country, but little money is being spent on upkeep and improvements.

One thing about Mr. Herbert Phillips he's a cheerful optimist. He has the future of hydro under civic distribution "at cost" or less—all mapped out and everything looks lovely. There is only one drawback to his optimism—it is based on too many "ifs." But his figures, he declared, "were not guesses, they could safely be assumed." Here is what he expects: In the first year of civic operation, 25 p.c. of the Power Company's business could be taken from it. During the second year, "twenty five p.c. of the load now carried by the Company would have been acquired." In the third year, "all the Power Company's business would have been acquired." In the fourth year, as a result of price reduction, a large additional market would be built up; and in the fifth year, "he believed the City would be able to sell power at 50 p.c. of the present cost." It is a wonderful programme—on paper, and that is about all you can say for it.

Michael Collins's recent escape from assassination was fully as fortunate for the De Valera party as for the Irish Free State. Collins murdered would have been a Free State martyr, almost regardless of the original inspiration of the assault. The intensity of passion shown by the opposing Irish parties, if this attempt at assassination is a true indication of public feeling, should subside now that the gun fire on Collins has made everyone realize how near to ruin the Irish cause may be brought by homicidal fanaticism.

A prominent English business man who went to the United States and bought about \$225,000 worth of machinery, was called on to pay income tax because he did business in his three weeks' stay. That is a grand scheme for promoting the resuscitation of business surely!

The warnings to have personal income tax returns made by the end of April are many, but doubtless after the expiry of the time, there will be hundreds of thousands of people who have not heard the call.

A contemporary thinks that the world's supply of revolvers seems to be about equally divided among the large cities of the United States, and

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Turkey and the Straits.
(London Daily Chronicle)
We have in effect given away. The Greeks get Gallipoli, subject to an Allied control; but the Turks get free tenure of the Asiatic side. The obligation to keep it unfortified does not really limit Turkish control of the Straits; for, as 1915 showed, it is not permanent forts which can block them, but fire from moving batteries and field works. The Treaty of Sevres, however faulty in some respects, did at least ensure the Straits' freedom, as far as any human arrangement could. The new settlement, which has been forced on us by France, destroys this feature. We do not blame Lord Curzon, or the British Government whom he represented; a number of events had combined to tie their hands. We regret it deeply notwithstanding; as we think most people will, who have thought much on the course and the lessons of the war.

Statue to a Slave.

(St. Louis Globe-Democrat)
How these hideous evils of injustice, which reach their fashion in the hands of the white man, may soon become the objective of a national effort as earnest and devoted and inspiring as that called forth by some of our other problems of reproach. Workmen in this white design is attributed to this 8-foot statue to a former slave which rises from a half circle of masonry and which 100,000 negroes have erected as a noble memorial of their leader. May we not hope that its inscriptions frame a message for the guidance of the predicted movement for better things through racial peace at home as well as peace through good-will abroad? One of them is: "He lifted the veil of ignorance from his people and pointed the way to progress through education and industry. Education and industry are factors of such importance that no solution can be looked for without them. But there are other factors. 'I will let no man drag me down so low as to make me hate him.' What a factor of tremendous, paramount relation to the solution suggested by these sixteen simple words of from one to four letters!

Oxford and Cambridge.

(London Morning Post)
Fortunately the spirit and tradition of our great Universities are too deeply settled now to be anything but inviolable. They defy change even while they accept it—like the sea, "all things coming and all things going." It is stern necessity, undoubtedly, that compels these once wealthy foundations to apply for state help; but the alternative is reason of financial embarrassment in the discharge of tasks which are vital alike to the national culture and the national character.

Too Old at Thirty.
(London Daily News)
If Mr. L. C. Docker, the president of the Yorkshire Cricket Club, had his way there would clearly be no man playing in first-class above the age of thirty. That some athletes are in their decline at thirty, and that others manage to retain at that age the resilience and energy of youth is a familiar fact. Less than a week ago Adrian Stoop reappeared as an athlete of the past in a first-class Ray football match at Twickenham, and played like a master of the game. The next day he celebrated his 39th birthday.

Foreigners in New York.
(Brooklyn Eagle)
There are now more Russians in New York than in Moscow, more Italians than in Naples, and more foreigners of all sorts than the combined populations of Chicago, Boston and Detroit. Not only that, but there are more Russians and Irish at the periods of the largest numbers of those races. In 1900 there were 190,000 Germans in the city, but in 1910, 748,000, and in 1920, 928,000. In 1900 there were 236,000 Russians, in 1910, 764,000, and in 1920, 994,000. That is, there are now 200,000 more Russians here than there ever were Germans.

Trench Slang Dying.
(New York Times)
The list of war slang collected by the British War Museum found that the language of the trench had become obsolete for the piping times of peace. Civilians turned into soldiers almost overnight, and the slang of the trench, by circumstances so strange and novel that nothing but a new language could express their reactions. Once the circumstances passed the language faded into being passed with them. So complete has been the going of that vivid vocabulary that almost its only legacy to the speech of today is one word—'trench'—which, we fancy, will fade the flowers of speech now being transplanted to the banks of the Nile from Australia, the United States and Canada.

More Revenue Needed.
(Mail and Empire)
When Finance Minister Fielding presents his budget statement, he will have to disclose some plan of raising more revenue. The estimates call for an expenditure, in the coming year of \$467,000,000. In the year just closed, revenue amounted to \$371,000,000. Customs revenue was down to \$104,000,000, and while this may increase somewhat, there is no single source of revenue in sight that can yield another \$100,000,000 to make Treasury clear \$70,000,000 was added to the net debt of the Dominion. That amount does not look large, compared with the grand total of \$2,900,000,000, but it is much too large to be continued. The Dominion must get back to a pay-as-you-go basis. The Opposition leaders in the last campaign are now controllers of Government policy. Premier King and Mr. Fielding were loud-spoken in their demands for more economy, and promised to effect astonishing reforms if entrusted with the opportunity. They have now to make good. But Mr. Fielding will find the placing of new taxes on this already heavily taxed nation no easy matter. The income tax this year will be down, because it is based on the reduced returns of 1921. Corporation and sales taxes are likely to be down. The railway deficit has lessened somewhat, but there is still about \$70,000,000 that will have to be provided for. Sir Mitchell Gore

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

My cousin Artie stayed at my house all night last night, and we layed in bed waiting to go to sleep and talking about different things such as who was the tuffest fello in the neighborhood and who was the prettiest girl and what things we would do together if we had our choice of any 3, and I started to go to sleep and in another minute I would of bin, and Artie sed, Hay Benny, Hay Benny?
And he kept on saying it till I sed, Heh? Wata you want. I was asleep then, wata you want?
Ware was Moses wen the lite went out? sed Artie.
And he started to haff as if he thart it was funny as anything. Him being the only one thart so, and jest wen I was almost asleep agen he sed, Hay Benny, Benny?
Me not saying anything, and Artie kept on saying, Hay Benny for 5 minits and I sed, Aw shut up, cant you leave a fello stay asleep wen he's almost asleep, wata a matter, wata you want?
Down the cellar eating sour krant, sed Artie laffing even harder than wat he did the first time. Me thinking, All rite for you, you wait till I have my revenge. And I waited till Artie stunk his nose down in his pillow, proving he was asleep, and I sed, Artie, hay Artie?
Artie not saying anything on account of him being one of the tightest sleepers there is, and I started to shake him hard as anything, saying, Hay Artie, hay, hay, Artie. Wich after about the 10th shake Artie took his nose out of the pillow saying, Heh? Wat, wat? and I sed, I jest wanted to know if you was asleep, was you? Wich the 3rd time I wook him up to ask him he got so mad he grabbed me by my hair and I grabbed him by his and we was making a feare noise telling each other to leave go wen pop came in with a rolled up newspaper and gave us each a crack some place with it saying, Now let that suffice.
Wich it did, and the next thing I knew we was both waking up this morning.

ment ably acquitted itself of the gigantic tasks of the post-war period, and solved financial problems beside which those of the present Government are simple. Mr. Fielding has the advantage of a recuperative tendency in business, but the new taxes he proposes must not interfere with that tendency.

THE LAUGH LINE

Can't Be Done in 1922.
A minister opened his Sunday school class with the well known hymn, "Little drops of water, little grains of sand." In the middle of the first verse he stopped the singing and complained strongly of the half-hearted manner in which it was rendered. He makes a fresh start.

"Now, then," he shouted, "Little drops of water, and for goodness sake, put some spirit into it!"
But Oh, What They Think.
"I dined at my fiancée's home yesterday."

"I suppose they regard you as one of the family by now, don't they?"
"Not exactly. They haven't reached the point where they bowl me out if I make a spot on the tablecloth!"
Boston Transcript.

A Dilemma.
"Ever since Matlie inherited a million dollars from her uncle she has been afraid that some one will want to marry her for her money."

"Why doesn't she give it away, then?"
"She's afraid, if she did that, nobody would want to marry her at all!"
Judge.

Why She Chose George.
Mable—Why did you make up your mind to marry George instead of John?
Netta—Because I went out with each on a dull day. John said: "It looks like rain, but we'll take a chance!"
George said: "It looks like rain, so we'll take a taxi!"—London Mail.

Not News to Her.
The Visitor—My good woman, do you live in this village?
Resident—Ay, sir.
The Visitor—And I suppose you know every one here?
Resident—Ay, indeed.

The Visitor—Well, you can just tell them my name is Frederick Smith, and that I come from London, where I am a solicitor. That lady there is my wife and there are my two children, Thomas and Elizabeth. We are having a holiday and intend staying here a week. We have hired the caravan. Last week we stayed at Invercauld.

Resident—Ay, sir, I kent' at that frae my daughter, who lives in Invercauld, but she was disappointed because she couldn't tell me what my wife's name was afore she was married.—Punch.

Just Long Enough.
"How long did you have to wait to get that interview with Mr. Wadleigh?"
"Just long enough," said the impatient citizen bitterly, "for all the courage I had stored up in my system to ooze out!"—Birmingham Age-Her.

The Mystery.
We shake our heads and sigh and say: "How forward children are today!" Yet we remember years ago Our grandfathers criticized us so. And used to wonder, as we do, Just what the age was coming to. It seems upon life's fleeting stage, Youth is the mystery of age.

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SAULT STE. MARIE, April 19.—An unidentified steamer went around near Whitefish Point late today, according to a radio message here from the Whitefish Point station. The vessel was described as a three-masted freighter. A north-west gale swept the lake throughout the afternoon and marine men believed any small vessel would experience great difficulty of the treacherous shore.

Heavy Demand For Prussian Consols

Quotations on Berlin Bourse Went Up on Account of Shortage of Offers.

Berlin, April 18.—Heavy demand for Prussian consols featured today's trading on the Berlin Bourse, the shortage of offers driving up quotations. The rise was said to be based on expected international action in the direction of stabilizing the value of the mark. Most of the buying was said to have been on Italian orders.

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