

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1920.

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association opened in Vancouver yesterday, and the address of the President, Mr. T. P. Howard, of Montreal, a report of which will be published in tomorrow's issue, will be found on personal to be an interesting account of the conditions confronting the industrial life of the country at the present time, and of the problems that have to be faced. Not the least interesting feature of it is that dealing with the growth of the manufacturing industries during the last few years, and some idea may be gained therefrom of the enormous possibilities for expansion that may be expected in the future.

It was but fitting that a tribute should be paid to the citizen army that went forth from this country to assist in upholding the honor of the Empire on the blood-stained fields of France and Belgium, and it is gratifying to learn that so large a proportion of the returned men have resumed their work in the factories of the country; which they left to take up arms when the call came; and there will be little doubt that to quarrel with the President's view that every consideration must be shown by the country for those who came back permanently disabled, and for the relatives of those who did not come back at all.

That some attention should be devoted to labor matters was only natural, for without an adequate supply of skilled labor, it is impossible for industry to exist. Mr. Howard seems inclined to treat the "feeling of unrest" that is said to be so apparent all over the country somewhat lightly, believing that such feeling is neither so pronounced nor so general as many people have been led to think it is; and he feels that good results would accrue from greater co-operation between the different classes of workers and the citizens as a whole. Scales of wages and the number of hours to constitute a workday are dwelt on interestingly, and conditions in this country contrasted with those met with in some of the countries of Europe.

The high cost of living naturally comes in for some consideration, and while the President is unable to indicate any royal road to any amelioration of conditions, he strongly advocates the putting forth of greater efforts to increase production as the readiest method of bringing down prices. He notes that the trade of the country continues satisfactory, although the imports for the past year are in excess of the two previous years, while the exports, on the other hand, have decreased in the same period. The latter condition of affairs is of course only natural, bearing in mind the large proportion of war material included in the exports for the preceding year or two.

The question of tariffs is naturally one in which the industrial life of the country is vastly interested, in fact its very existence depends upon its getting an adequate degree of protection. Mr. Howard comes out strongly in favor of a permanent tariff board of experts, to act in an advisory capacity to the Government. He further makes a strong plea for preferential trade within the Empire, a policy which all patriotic Canadians will readily endorse, as one method of strengthening the ties which binds the various people of the Empire together.

Other matters dealt with include transportation, public ownership, agriculture and immigration, with each of which Mr. Howard has much of interest to say. The Convention, which opened yesterday, will continue over most of the present week, and promises to be replete with information of great value to the class represented there, as well as with pleasant enjoyment.

ENGLAND'S REMARKABLE RECOVERY.

"Those who point to England's remarkable position at the present moment as a justification of the closed shop and limited output are talking vain nonsense," says The Outlook. Had it not been for the extraordinary far-sightedness and courage of British business men, aided by the British Government, Britain at this hour would be a hopeless bankrupt and her population on the point of starvation. No thanks are due to British trades-unionism that the grand old land of heroes is emerging into clear air. Quite the contrary. The members of the trades-unions at this hour are doing their best to strangle her. The only dark cloud on the horizon is labor. Ever since the war ended—yes, and during the war—in its darkest nadir—there has been nothing but labor troubles, violence, threats of revolution, and all the rest of it, in Great Britain. The pernicious doctrine of limitation of output, limitation of the number of apprentices allowed to be employed in any given trade, limitation of hours of labor, has been carried to a mad extreme. But the other day, at Bristol, Earl Haig delivered a scathing stricture on the mean policy of discrimination being practiced by the unions

against returned soldiers—the very men who saved Britain from disaster and extinction! These misguided, selfish and narrow-minded doctrinaires have at times shaken the world's faith in the stability and integrity of the British people. The terrific advance of the price of coal, due to the selfishness of the Welsh miners, has retarded the recovery of Britain, and it persisted in, will, when real competition again starts, throw her behind in the race. At present she can stand the awful pace and make money because—this is the point of the argument—she has a monopoly of raw materials. She owes this to the foresight, the courage, the audacity even, of her superb and untravelling bankers, merchants, manufacturers and great shipping magnates, aided by the Department of Reconstruction. The working men had nothing whatever to do with it. So far as they would, the trades unions retarded her at every step, and are retarding her. Two years before the signing of the Armistice the Committee on Reconstruction started in and secured the entire sea for wool, fax, jute, leather (including kid), cereals of all kinds, and, through the Dutch Shell Oil Co., oil. Practically nothing was left neglected; and the curious phenomenon is being presented of raw sugar going to New York, being refined there (in bond) and then shipped to England; and of raw cotton from England being sold in New York. At present, England, so far as commodities are concerned, is virtually the master of the world. It is amazing. But labor had nothing to do with this. It is all owing to the fact that the British business men think far in advance, and think internationally. And yet they say, "England is so slow!"

Britain, wise with the wisdom of time, knows that a plethora of gold is a curse, and that the nation that has commodities can command the gold of the world. All the gold that Britain is exporting will eventually go back to London, and is going back in roundabout hidden ways, to the alarm of financial experts in the United States. The world must have what she has got, and must pay for it.

DANIELS AND SIMS.

That there is no love lost between the Hon. Josephus Daniels, the United States Secretary to the Navy, and Admiral Sims has been apparent for a considerable time. The former has let slip no opportunity to try and make the Admiral appear blameworthy in regard to his country's failure to make as good a showing at it might have done in the naval operations during the war, but few people would, we imagine, suspect him of carrying his vindictiveness to such childish lengths as it now appears he did. It seems that as long ago as last November the Navy Department decided to issue a little booklet designed to popularize the sea service and encourage enlistment. One of the first paragraphs in the introduction read as follows: "The glorious record of the men who have worn the uniform of the United States Navy runs unbroken from Paul Jones to Sims. . . . That apparently was Mr. Daniels' opinion in November last. Since then, however, many things have happened, amongst others Admiral Sims has been called to give a considerable amount of testimony before the Senate Committee, which puts the record of the men who have worn the uniform of the Navy in a rather unpleasant light. Now, what is the result? Up to the 29th May last one hundred thousand copies of the pamphlet mentioned had been printed and twenty-five thousand of them distributed to recruiting stations and other places throughout the country. But on that date orders were received at Washington, at the point where the book is being published and distributed, to destroy all remaining copies of it. Those already sent out, it was imperatively directed, were to be recalled by telegraph.

The printers received further instructions that the page containing the sentence above quoted regarding Paul Jones and Sims was to be altered, in new editions to be struck off, to read that "the glorious record . . . of the United States Navy runs unbroken from Paul Jones to Dewey."

Such is Mr. Daniels' method of getting back at the Admiral, but unless certain indications that have since been in evidence at Washington fail to materialize, the episode is likely to achieve, and speedily, far more fame than is lavished on an ordinary government printing waste affair. It looks as if somebody on Capitol Hill will be inquisitive enough to want to know from Josephus Daniels why glory that was good enough to give to Admiral Sims seven months ago should be withdrawn from him now.

It has been Admiral Sims' desire, by means of the criticisms he has made, to call attention to the shortcomings of the Naval Department's administration of affairs, in the hope that some improvements might thereby be effected. And of all the Admiral's faults, and he has a good many according to Mr. Daniels, none is more dangerous than his deliberate attempt to "pusillanize" the Navy Department. Obvi-

ously any man who questions the competence of Josephus Daniels is a menace to society, but Admiral Sims has gone further than that. He and his associates have had the audacity to contemplate reducing the Secretary to the status of a rubber stamp. Just how they propose to effect this line-setting transformation the Secretary has not disclosed. His suspects, however, that Sims cherishes a deep-seated determination to organize a general staff, and once that noxious policy is approved by Congress, the civilian Secretary will inevitably be relegated to the side lines, with the most dire consequences to the State.

The question of creating a naval staff has received considerable attention in the American press, and concerning it the New York Sun says: "Apparently it never occurs to Mr. Daniels that a general staff might be of inestimable value in co-ordinating the work of the Department and in initiating a permanent naval policy. He is convinced that no benefits could possibly compensate for the loss of prestige he would suffer. He feels it his duty to bear witness before the Naval Investigating Committee to the Machiavellian tactics of all those naval officers who have sought to deprive him of his authority. Sims is not the only one. Rear-Admiral Fluke and Pulliam, his own aids, have been equally guilty of offering suggestions that might be construed as a criticism of his methods. In his latest testimony before the Senate Committee Mr. Daniels has proved to his own complete satisfaction that the Navy Department must be untrammelled by any ideas other than those emanating from the civilian Secretary. As for a general staff, the very name smacks of European militarism. With our genius for improvisation, what do we need with such fastidious claptrap? It was Daniels who pulled us through the last crisis, and if the occasion ever arises it must be Daniels, and Daniels alone, who pulls us through again."

To the looker-on, it would appear that Mr. Daniels' method of attempting to damage Admiral Sims' reputation is likely to prove somewhat of a boomerang.

The ruling from Ottawa that merchants cannot pay the luxury tax themselves may be hard on those who would promote business by absorbing the burden and eliminating the unpleasant effect of the tax on the consumer, but it is unavoidable if dishonesty is to be prevented. If merchants made a practice of paying the tax themselves, and did not give slips to the consumer, what record would there be of sales and taxes? The Department wants sales slips duplicated as verification for returns, and can get these only by insisting that the buyers formally pay the tax.



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Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Manners would be a great thing to judge people by if some of the worst people didn't have the best manners.

It is manners for a man to give a lady his seat in a trolley car in case she is standing right in front of him looking as if she wished he would. Some men only give their seat to old ladies, on account of considering young ladies less as just as good as wait their turn, but most of the time they just keep on setting there themselves on account of it being so hard to tell if a lady is really as old as she looks and not being manners to ask her.

If you are on a ship and it starts to sink for any reason it is manners to leave the women and children off first, so the least the women and children can do to show they appreciate it is to hurry as much as possible. The captain is supposed to be the last one off, unless he's a lady captain.

Some of the most important manners in table manners. If you are out to dinner and your fingers get greasy, it is a good thing to wipe them on your pants first, especially if your pants are a dark color so it won't show on them. If you spill some soup, it is best to just say, "Well, well, well, I've spilled some soup, it's showing up the table cloth, the best thing is to just ask in low voice for another cup, thus changing the subject."

If you don't know a person very well, it is not manners to contradict them by saying, "Aw, yats you talking about. Always say, I beg your pardon, but you're all wrong."

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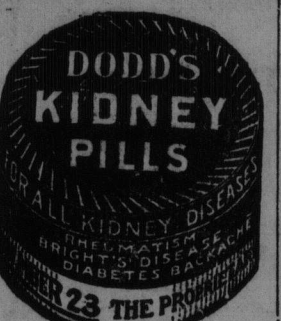
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County Council Finance Committee

Met Yesterday to Consider Matters in Connection With Issue of Bonds to Pay for Nurses' Home.

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the County Council was held yesterday afternoon to consider matters in connection with an issue of bonds to pay for the Nurses' Home. The Council authorized the issue of \$300,000, but it was decided yesterday to issue \$100,000. Part of the issue will be 4 per cent. bonds for ten years, the same to be redeemable at the expiration of the ten-year period at the rate of interest then prevailing for a further period of thirty years. The balance of the issue will be for thirty years at 6 per cent. The bonds will be in denominations of \$200, \$500 and \$1,000. The reception given this issue will probably determine whether or not an issue for the other \$200,000 required will be made in the near future. Tenders will be called for shortly.

A "true-blue" is a thoroughly reliable good fellow, blue being regarded as the color or emblem of constancy, but whether in reference to the blue of sky or sea, or the fastness of some dye, is unknown.



What's New

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