

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1919.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Despite the unimportant irregularity in the appointment of the committee to consider the project of vocational education in St. John, it is quite proper that members of the Board of School Trustees should desire time for further investigation. The proposal now before that Board involves a grant which may amount to ten thousand per year from the city and province together, which amount will be no more than a third enough to carry on vocational education as it should be established. While every one is in favor of vocational training it is useless to consider the introduction of that branch until such time as we are ready to do the thing properly. The time when this city is prepared to provide sufficient financial support for the school system now in operation is it inadvisable to consider adding any new branch such as this which would entail very great expense. The proposal as it now stands is entirely inadequate, and for the proper creation of such a course as St. John requires, a much larger sum of money will be needed. The opinion of the meeting held last evening, which included besides School Trustees the Citizens' Committee and representatives from City Hall was solidly in favor of technical training, but different views were expressed as to the methods to be adopted at the present time.

This branch of education is far too important to be entrusted to any but the most efficient, and in order that it may be properly carried on it is imperative that a modern and properly equipped building be provided, and the most competent teachers available be secured. This will involve a material outlay on capital account of three hundred thousand dollars, or certainly not very much less, and it will mean at the very least from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars additional per year for operation. It is quite true that we may have vocational training as a side line introduced into one of our public schools, but that would be nothing more nor less than a farce. If the thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well, and the only way to ascertain whether St. John desires the establishment of such a branch of education is by plebiscite following a proper publicity campaign by means of which the people may be made acquainted with all phases of the question. But even the suggestion of plebiscite is undesirable in view of the fact that our existing school system is today burdened with an indebtedness of nearly ninety thousand dollars, and that the city of St. John has agreed to an assessment of fifteen thousand dollars less than is actually required for running expenses as they are now, and that in addition to these running expenses more money must be paid out in increases of salaries to teachers and for other necessary purposes. Until such time as we are prepared to pay for the education which we now enjoy it is undesirable that we burden ourselves with anything further. Clean up the liability as existing, use the money for the proper conduct of our present schools and then, if we feel in the humor, let us have educational training or technical training, or whatever it may be called.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

When the big fellows who are really doing the work settle down to business there will be no need for any further attention to the vapors of petty politicians and second-handers who may or may not agree with the policies of their leaders. It is fairly well understood that those in direct control of the affairs of the Allied powers are working in harmony, and methods to be adopted at the approaching peace conference, and those individual nations have decided upon their own policies in respect to various matters of importance to be discussed. Such plans have already been made, irrespective of opinions expressed for political effect by those at home.

It is practically assured, according to cabled reports, that the defeated nations will not be parties to the conference. This conclusion was reached previous to knowledge of the result of the British elections, indicating that Lloyd George and his ministry were sufficient in touch with the feelings of the people to insist on a peace dictated by the victors and not a negotiated peace with the defeated enemy. That decision will be strengthened by the very warm support accorded the British ministry in its determination to impose upon Germany and Austria terms in accordance with the sentiments of the Allies. Lloyd George will also with equal firmness uphold those policies which are peculiar to the interests of Britain. Whatever may be the attitude of the United States and others with respect to the freedom of the seas, there can be no doubt that Britain intends to maintain her present supremacy along naval lines. And however President Wilson's theory of the league of nations may work out, it is clear that nothing therein involved will be permitted to affect adversely the position which Britain now enjoys.

Political advocates of naval con-

struction by other countries may talk for effect and may create some feelings detrimental to the interests of our Allies, but such speech-making will have no effect on the ultimate result. On broad lines, the outcome of the conference has already been settled, and the general discussion which begins almost at once will be devoted very largely to matters of detail.

POLICE MATTERS.

Previous to the difference of opinion between Commissioner McLellan and the St. John police force, that force was a reasonably well organized body. Of late it has been rather upset, but during the past two years or so the force has been brought into fairly creditable shape in so far as discipline goes. It has also been able to accomplish entirely satisfactory work in the matter of traffic organization and other incidental duties. But it has not developed that efficiency in the detection of crime which many would desire. Possibly this is because the qualifications of those joining the force do not include the ability to detect crime, or to follow a clue leading to the apprehension of criminals. While it is true that in many instances arrests have been made and convictions secured against persons who later have been discharged from court without punishment, and while this procedure has no doubt a discouraging effect on the work of the force, it is equally true that much crime in and about the city has been perpetrated without any notable success on the part of the police force in bringing these criminals to justice. We have had two murders in the not distant past, neither one of which appeared to be hounded in mystery, yet in neither one of these cases have the police been able to secure such evidence as would lead to conviction. And never in the history of St. John has there been such an epidemic of petty burglaries and other thievery as has been in this city during the past year. While certain arrests have been made, and a few culprits convicted and punished, and others convicted and let go, yet in the great majority of cases nothing has been accomplished and the waves of crime, juvenile and other, seem to be increasing.

The Commissioner of Safety, whoever he may chance to be, cannot be expected to provide police brains for the entire department. It is not his duty to ferret out crimes or to bring offenders to justice. That is the task of those who are employed by the department. It is, however, his duty to give thought to the purpose for which the various branches of his department are organized, and with the assistance of his colleagues in the commission to make selection of such employees as may be most capable of performing the particular duties assigned to them.

The office of Chief of Police is now vacant. There are a number of St. John men who might be closer to the mark, irrespective of personal friendship or influence. The new commissioner of safety can do a big thing right at the start if he will secure for that important office the very best man available either here or elsewhere, to whom may be entrusted with confidence the task of stamping out such crime as is now apparent in the city, and of preventing a similar epidemic in the future.

WHAT THEY SAY

It Beats Kultur. Springfield Republican: The latest news about the German "intellectuals," or professors, is that they are too bewildered to know where they are at. This revelation was never forecast in any card catalogue; it simply beggars all reservoirs of knowledge.

Valuable Results of the War. Detroit Free Press: Women's work in the war has taught the strength of united effort and the worth of community service, the beauty and the duty of labor for the public weal. The valuable lessons in food conservation, in the avoidance of waste, in general economy ought to bear fruit in a less profligate use of material, money and time. The business lessons of war to women are incalculable, if used in the new values of activity which open before them in the present.

Substitutes That Will Stay. Minneapolis News: Some of the so-called "substitutes" developed by the emergency of the last 19 months are going to stay with us. But they will no longer be substitutes; they will be alternates. The oils and syrups extracted from corn were little appreciated prior to 1917. In fact, the former were almost wasted in the form of oil or germ cake used for stock food. Conservation requirements have brought a new revelation.

The Punishment Fit the Crime. London Daily Express: The Kaiser stands before the world not as a pathetic royalty whose schemes have gone astray, but as an arch-enemy. He is responsible for the loss of millions of lives. He has brought anxiety and sorrow into half the hearts in Europe. There is no doubt about his triple guilt, but it is doubtful if there is a penalty severe enough to meet his case. A common murderer would be hanged, but there is a widespread feeling that any killing of the Kaiser would be too easy a fate for him. It would be far better to let him live and make certain that he suffered. The Kaiser is a vain man and has been used to command. Uter

humiliation and permanent discomfort might hurt him worse than any theatrical death penalty.

Time for Self-Restraint.

New News Times-Heymans: The open method has its embarrassments. No doubt it would be more pleasant to repose in the supposition that the statements made in the past are correct. Learning that they are not; that Premier Clemenceau has not fully abandoned the old notion of the "balance of power" and that President Wilson replies frankly and publicly that the United States "would join no combination of power which is not a combination of all of us," it is a public responsibility to bid our time, exercise self-control, and not leap to the conclusion that the Entente is hopelessly divided.

The Great Air Fight.

London Daily Telegraph: The New Brunswick airman, Major Barker, who was the hero of the wonderful fight against sixty machines shortly before hostilities ended, is the little group of much-decorated aviators today, his V. C. being his sixth British honor. Colonel Bishop, the other Canadian, has only received five distinctions from the King, though he has various Allied rewards. McCudden had won half a dozen before his tragic death, but Captain Hall had only five of our star decorations when he was killed.

The Lure of the Traveller.

London Daily Chronicle: Travel will have a new meaning for us in the future, and its significance will be felt by the poor of the world as also by the rich, for by far to set off on some romantic adventure than join a carefully conducted party. But even the conducted party should have its place, for it will give to many the knowledge of Europe, and of the places where great battles were fought and lost, and where the world's history matters whether you reach Olympus by way of tramp steamer or airplane or Cook's trip so long as you get there. For no conducted trip can impart or impress the soul, and in all travel many endure the love of adventure, the ending of it in the queer of the world.

A BIT OF VERSE

AVE AVIATOR. I had this vision on a starlit night; Standing alone upon the mountain top; When from the valley where camp-fires blazed, An aviator rose, birdlike and graceful, Drooping beneath the cumbering clay of earth.

And over him the radiance of the heavens; Then from the cliffs roared an outpouring Of shot and shrapnel, glowing in the gloom; In brilliant lighting of the upper air, Through which the wind warrior Like Shihab's roe, replying to the foe, High he flew, his higher follow'd the shrapnel; Until it found him, darkening his flight. The wreck of plane and engine fell but not the aviator, for to him The golden path to glory opened wide, Paved with the tender sheen of moon beams. Over which he strode deathless, immortal, Into the company of all the heroes.

A BIT OF FUN

Fine teeth usually make broad grins. When a man wants a cigar he never wants it hid. It's an easy matter to gauge a man's wisdom. Draw him into a discussion and if he agrees with you he is sensible. Three little girls each had received a silver spoon as a Christmas gift. "Mine has 'From your papa' on the handle," said Georgia. "And mine," said Mabel, proudly, "says, 'Hotel Auditorium.'" "Puck."

Nothing So Menial.

Mabelle—Here you're running an elevator. Gray (haughtily)—What lowdown pulled that? I'll have you know I'm conducting a lift! The fellow who first advised us not to cry over spilled milk had no idea how the price was going to soar. —Philadelphia Record.

A Pleasing Novelty.

"Why do you drop so many pennies in that slot machine?" "Oh, I like to patronize a proposition that hasn't raised its price."—Kansas City Journal.

Prompt Information.

A teacher was questioning a Sunday School class, and chanced to ask one tiny girl: "Do you know what an epistle is?" "Yes, sir," replied the tot without hesitation. "An epistle is the wife of an apostle."

Wholesale Rates.

Doctor—You are suffering from a complication of diseases, sir—at least six. Patient—I suppose you'll allow me a discount on the half-dozen, doctor? Sometimes it is. "Henry," said Mrs. Peck, reading a magazine article on marriage customs in remote lands, "what does 'monogamy' mean?" "Er," without looking up from the first page news. "Er, oh, sure! Why, er, it comes from the Greek, 'mono,' meaning 'one,' and the Latin 'gamos,' meaning 'marriage'—therefore, 'one marriage.'"

"Oh, yes, thank you, Henry," breathlessly Mrs. Peck doubtfully, as she turned to the dictionary. Pure and Simple. Percy (after the proposal)—Have

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

I wanted a nickel to go to the movies, and I looked for pop and him was taking a nap on the setting room sofa, me thinking, G, if I wake up just to ask him that, he probably wouldn't do it anyhow because I woke him up. Which he probably wouldn't do and I stood there a while thinking he mite wake up by himself, which he probably would if he stood there long enough, or then it would be too late, and I thawt, maybe if he wook up by accident it would be all rite. And I started to try to think of a good exsident, and all I could think of was leaving something fall on the floor, and I took the chair, a chair would be a good thing, only its too delicate. So I took the shoe blackening box out of the bathroom and dumped all the things out of it and carried it up to the top of the 3rd story and pushed it down, banging against the banisters and making such a fearsome noise wen it landed you wouldn't of thawt jest one blackening box could of did it, the coping of the hinges and hitting the bathroom door another fearsome crack and pep coming running out of the setting room as awake as anything, saying, Wat the doose, who the devil, Benny, are you here? No, sir, I sed at the top of the stairs. Wich jest then pop saw the blackening box in 2 pieces and the big mark on the bathroom door, and I quick sed, I wook up how balancing it on the edge, pop, and it went down by axident. Not telling him about me pushing it to make the exsident, and pop sed, Come down heer, I need you to take an important part in another axident, and youre not going to be the innocent bystander, either. Yes, sir, I sed. And I went down slow, this being a good place to stop.

you ever loved before? Edith—No, Percy, I have often admired men for their strength, courage, beauty, intelligence or something like that, you know; but with you, Percy, it is love—nothing else.—Dallas News. Hyker—"Why did you give up smoking?" Percy—"In order to marry a rich widow." Hyker—"I fail to see the connection." Percy—"She refused to give up her weeds unless I would give up mine." Almost Over. Tardy Arrive!—What are they playing now? Percy—"The Ninth Symphony." Tardy Arrive!—Dear me! Am I as late as that? Quite Likely. "I see the ex-king of Bulgaria is now posing as a much abused man." That guy has nerve enough to come home here after the war and try to bust into vaudeville!—Louisville Courier-Journal.

ANDOVER. Andover, Jan. 6.—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Servin are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stevens at Bridgetown, N.S. Miss Payne Armstrong, who has had charge of the Lower Perth school, left last Saturday for Moose Jaw, Sask., where she will engage in teaching. Sapper Ivan Wilson arrived home from overseas on Tuesday and is welcomed by all. On Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Rivers went to Chifordale to spend a few days with Mr. Rivers' parents. On Tuesday evening Mrs. S. P. Waite entertained at a small dinner party in honor of Mrs. Mary Wiley, Harry Libbis, Mrs. William Curry, Mrs. Allen Parley, Miss Emma Miller and Donald Wiley.

Mrs. Nelson Hanson and son, Percy, went to Grand Falls on Wednesday. When they returned they were met by Misses Fraser for a few days. On Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Wiley, Mrs. Libbis, Mrs. S. P. Waite, and Mrs. James Miller and Jennie Watson were entertained at tea by Mrs. William Curry. On Wednesday evening the Masons held their annual "At Home," music for dancing was furnished by Knowles' orchestra of Port Fairfield. Norval McPhail, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. James McPhail, who has spent the past three years overseas, arrived home on Wednesday, and is receiving a warm welcome by all. Lieut. Ernest Masters and Mrs. Masters went to Fredericton on Wednesday for a few days. Miss Annie Stewart went to St. John on Tuesday to be present at the Lander concert. Mr. Hartley Ward, of Newport, R.I., who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Bedell, left for his home on Thursday. Mrs. Mary Wiley returned to Houlton on Thursday after a pleasant but short visit here. Miss Minnie Everett spent part of the week in Charlotte Co. Miss Alma Harkins returned from Chamcooke on Friday. Miss Bernice McNaughton has returned from spending her vacation at her home in Moncton. Mr. Heenan James has gone to St. Leonard for a few weeks. Miss Mary Grant has returned from her home in Southampton, where she spent her vacation.

Medicine Hat, Al. Jan. 7.—At the opening session of the Albert Federation of Labor here today a resolution was adopted unanimously demanding that the Dominion government release immediately Thos. Shannon, a minor of Diamond City, Alta., who was convicted last Friday of having in his possession a copy of a banned seditious publication, "I.W.W. 55 literature was also found in his possession.

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CITY FISHERIES SOLD YESTERDAY

Sale Brings Total of \$1,600 Less Than Last Year—Receipts Are \$11,044.10—List of Lot Purchases. There was some keen bidding at the fisheries lots at the court house yesterday morning. The sale brought a total of \$1,600 less than last year, drop in the Courtenay Bay lots being responsible. The result of the sale, with last year's receipts for purposes of comparison follows:

Table with columns for lot number, name, and price. Includes lots like 4-A Lameroux, 10-11-R. E. Wilson, etc.

Table with columns for lot number, name, and price. Includes lots like 1-Oscar Ring, 1912-Courtenay Bay, etc.

Table with columns for lot number, name, and price. Includes lots like 1858, 1859, 1860, etc.

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