

The St. John Standard

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THE ITALIAN DEADLOCK.

President Wilson appears to have put his foot in it at last. After months of philosophic balderdash he has succeeded in making trouble between Italy and the other Allies leading to a serious breach in peace negotiations. One great difficulty in this whole matter is that neither Mr. Wilson nor any of his friends have a realization of the position in which the Allied nations found themselves a few years ago. These powers understood the strength of Germany and foresaw the danger threatening the world—in which world America was included. It was necessary that they should adopt every reasonable means in their power to draw from Germany's side such assistance as she might have anticipated and to strengthen their own forces by the addition of these neutral or other nations. No one, however, could foresee the total breakup of the enemy powers, and agreements now described as secret treaties which were entered into by the Allies for the purpose of securing the co-operation of these neutral nations were reasonable treaties, made under stress of circumstances and were as that time considered capable of fulfillment. It has transpired that, during the course of events, certain territories bordering on the Adriatic have been lost to Austria-Hungary and that from these territories or portions of them there has arisen a new state in which are found races of people hitherto abused by their former rulers and neglected by Italy, while in these same territories are also found many of Italian birth seeking a return of allegiance to their own country. Italy, in accordance with the terms of the agreement under which she deserted the Triple Alliance and took sides with the Allies against Germany, now demands, and very properly demands, the transfer of the territories promised to her and, although conditions on the Adriatic coast have very materially changed, the Allied powers who have carried on the war and have won the war, not with the help, but despite the help of the United States, are favorably inclined toward meeting the terms of that agreement. Mr. Wilson, however, who is nothing if not an advertiser, takes a different view, and as one of the Big Four emphatically refuses his consent to the completion of the agreement with Italy. Of course, in this matter, Mr. Wilson is right to a certain extent, in that Italy is now claiming more than was promised her under the Pact of London. Lloyd George and Clemenceau are favorably disposed towards carrying out this agreement, but are in accord with Mr. Wilson in refusing to comply with Italy's additional demands. They have not, however, gone so far as to deliver a definite pronouncement on the question as has been done by the President of the United States, whose country has no definite concern in the affairs of Southern Europe.

As Italy herself has no particular say in this small group and on this one point, it is clear that Mr. Wilson's attitude must result in serious complications. The intimation is that Italy will occupy by force of arms the territory she now claims, which territory was promised her and which France and Britain agree should be hers. Such an action would be nothing more or less than direct defiance of the still nebulous League of Nations. On the other hand, there is a very prevalent feeling that Italy, which has already obtained much, is holding out rather too strenuously for the bit of territory over which this dispute has arisen and that, in view of conditions now existing in the new Jugoslav state, a less selfish attitude would be more consistent with Italy's professed aims in entering the war. In this whole matter diplomats realize that a crisis has been reached between the new ideas of frank discussion of arrangements and the old method of secret treaties. The outcome will be awaited with intense interest, for on the solution of this problem will depend many others resulting from similar agreements with different nations.

HOW IT WAS DONE.

Let us keep the records straight. Four Opposition members, Messrs. Murray, Jones, Baxter and Smith, were censured by a vote of the provincial Legislature, which vote was based on a partisan report prepared for and signed by James McQueen of Shubenacadie. This man McQueen described his attitude towards his political opponents as follows:—"And now I ask you to watch things, for I am prepared from now on to dance politically as well as the daughter of Herodias ever danced before her kingly uncle, and if I do not succeed in capturing the head of some political John the Baptist it will only be for the reason that the music furnished me was deficient."

This character, selected by Premier Foster as a ready tool for the condemnation of political opponents is a person whose sole object, described by himself, is to destroy the reputation of those against whom he holds a grievance. These four Opposition members were not condemned by

evidence, were not convicted by any development in the potato inquiry, but were slandered and abused by a political tool who was paid for what he did and who followed throughout the whole inquiry a determination to be revenged on better men than himself. Mr. Foster realized this at the time, but felt compelled to make some play to the gallery and consequently introduced a motion of censure. That motion was put through on a straight party vote of twenty-two members of the Opposition—four Opposition members named in the resolution not voting.

According to this policy it is a comparatively easy matter for any government holding the majority of the Legislature to censure and condemn any member of the opposition's side of the House. But Mr. Foster, having taken this discreditable action, went no further. It was his clear duty to supplement his vote of censure by expulsion of the four members from whom he demanded resignations. Yet he did not dare take this action. Mr. Foster knew he was wrong in introducing the motion referred to, in that neither his own party nor the country as a whole would tolerate such a course as it implied, and he realized that the political bluff which he was trying to pull over could not be carried too far. He appreciated the fact that none of those named in the resolution had swerved from the path of honesty in discharge of their duties and that none of them had profited to the extent of one dollar from public funds. And he knew at the same time the danger threatening himself and his party if the probe of public opinion were driven into the conduct of the present administration. Mr. Foster failed to supplement his vote of censure by expulsion of those members. He will continue to fail in this respect for he knows better than any one else that no such action or any other action against these men will be permitted for a moment by the people of New Brunswick, and he realizes that even under the cloak of purity, political trickery has its limitations.

STREET PAVING.

At Thursday's meeting of the City Council Commissioner Fisher presented a new scheme for street paving. The council took no action. This is getting to be a fixed habit. Seldom is a meeting held at which Mr. Fisher fails to present a new scheme, and with equal frequency the council takes no action. Is it that Mr. Fisher's schemes are no good or that the rest of the council are determined not to support anything he suggests? At the present time he is discussing paving, a subject which has been discussed by himself and his predecessors ever since commission government came into effect. Unfortunately discussion is practically the only thing that has been accomplished in connection with paving. With the exception of a few odd patches, some of which have been paid for by the City and some by the City and property owners combined, nothing has been done since Mr. Agar's time. Mr. Agar lost his job by pursuing a definite policy. Had he been permitted to remain in office we might now have had a few more miles of good streets, but evidently the electors objected to a progressive policy and got rid of the only man we have ever had in that particular department. Now the situation is just as it was ten years ago. The improvement act under which the council was supposed to operate has been found to be an utter failure in that property owners in every street upon which paving is suggested oppose the application of the act and refuse payment of their portion of the costs, while those owners who have already contributed for work of this nature are demanding their money back. It is apparent today, as it has been right along, that we will get nowhere under the present system. And indeed that act is not a fair one, for it loads on property owners too great a share of the cost of construction of pavements used by the city as a whole. If we were to undertake a comprehensive scheme whereby the whole City would be paved in a year or two, conditions would be different, but so long as only a few blocks are put down each season, just so long will property owners continue to protest. The solution of the present difficulty is paving from general revenue supplemented by new issues of debentures. It would pay St. John to let some of the less frequented thoroughfares remain neglected for the next few years, and to spend on permanent construction the amount so saved.

MANY CELEBRATIONS.

According to intimations, we are due to have a number of big days in this part of the country during the next few months. Already committees are busily engaged in planning welcomes to the 26th Battalion and the 4th and 5th Siege Batteries, each of which will no doubt prove of very great interest. In addition to this, the Citizens' Reception Committee has very wisely decided to arrange

for a general reception of all New Brunswick soldiers who have returned, this to take place on a day later to be fixed. Besides these local celebrations, plans are being made elsewhere—and in this respect St. John will also break loose—for the celebration of the signing of peace terms by Germany, which will be approximately May 10th, as well as for a tremendous celebration to come sixty days later when peace is formally declared throughout the world. We are in need of something of the kind right here in St. John for, while there is now a relaxation of the nervous strain under which everyone has been laboring for the past four or five years, we have only had one little day of cheerfulness—when the armistice was signed—to break the monotony of depression. In private life everyone has been enjoying the relief from constant war work and social events have, during the past few months, been almost innumerable, but publicly we deserve something more and no matter how extensive the programme may be everyone will be pleased to participate.

TOO LONG HOURS.

Yesterday was a one session day in the public schools. The children from six years of age upwards who had been given their breakfasts between half past seven and half past eight in the morning were kept in school until two o'clock, which is altogether too long a time for boys and girls to go without food. When they were released at the end of a long session it was to go home to dinners that had become cold. If the School Board in its wisdom still believes that the public schools should remain on standard time, it might reasonably dismiss the pupils at one o'clock daylight time on days when only one session is held.

One of the newspapers supporting the Foster Government complains that Mr. Foster has never been able to find a man who could go out among the lumbermen with a note book and pencil, and add one hundred thousand dollars to party funds. All of which officers further prove of the incapacity of the Foster administration. It should not be a difficult matter to secure such a man or to raise such a fund in view of the fact that members of Mr. Foster's own party provided the bulk of the original one hundred thousand dollars to which reference is no doubt made. Even among the members of the Legislature there is Mr. Burchill, who gladly handed over a few thousands at that time, believing it good business, and Mr. Burchill has a great many friends in his own political party who did the same thing and who probably would be willing to do it again if asked.

After all, it is not too much to expect that Mr. Foster might resign his resolution of censure. Of course he will not do so, but such an action would meet with the approval of a goodly proportion of his legislative followers. One of the Premier's leading supporters apologized to the Opposition members named in that resolution for his action in supporting the vote of censure, while another confessed that he had stayed awake all night worrying over what he had done. The Premier himself is in reality ashamed of his conduct, and has admitted this by his failure to follow up that vote of censure with expulsion of the Opposition members condemned. On the other hand he has not had the manliness to openly confess his hypocrisy. He has left that to be understood.

WHAT THEY SAY

Able to Lick Somebody.
Vancouver Province: After going through the war without beating anybody, the former Crown Prince is now charged with whipping his wife.

A Shattered Dream.
Richard's progress: Life is just one ham thing after another. When the



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BY LEE PAPE.

SLEEP.

When a person is asleep, he doesn't know it, while when he is awake he knows it, unless he's too sleepy.

It is possible to sleep anywhere, but bed is the best place, because if people see you sleeping there they will know you're doing it on purpose and won't wake you up. It is fashionable to take your clothes off before you go to sleep, not being abnormally necessary but being more of a change.

The easiest way to go to sleep is just close your eyes and wait, and after a while if you're still waiting you know you ain't asleep yet. It is more pleasant to wake up than wait for it to get up. Unconscious sounds made while you are asleep is known as snoring. Snoring affects the ones that hear them more than the ones that snore them. Some snoring sounds almost impossible, and if people could hear themselves making them they would probably wake up to listen. This proves that more things are wasted than we have any idea of. Berds sleep with their heads stuck under their wings as if they didn't have any, and horses can sleep standing up, which so could we if we had a leg on every corner.

price of beans took a tumble and we could see visions of pork and beans. We went the hog market and our dream was shattered.

Getting Close Together.

Sydney Record: All over the world there is a tendency for employers and employees to get closer together. A clearer realization of the essentiality of the cooperation of all groups connected with great industrial undertakings. Nova Scotia is fortunate that this tendency is manifesting itself among the men of the mining industry.

A BIT OF VERSE

I SHALL BE PROUD.

(By Florence T. Osmun, in New York Herald.)
When John comes home with pomp of banners proud,
And marches up the street to thrilling drum,
As I stand by, all eager in the crowd,
And realize the truth that he has come,
If on his brow the laurel laurel rest,
And men shall know and speak his chivalry,
If service stripes his bravery attest,
Ah! thrilled shall be the very heart of me!

But if just John, plain John, comes back to me,
The soldier lad, my only boy so dear
(Whom I knew brave wherever he might be),
And once again I have him with me here,
The world to me would then seem just as fair
Just knowing he is HOME—and did his share.

A BIT OF FUN

Suggestiveness.

Eh!—I'm afraid that bell means another caller.
Fred (impudently)—You know, there is such a thing as your not being at home.

And once again I have him with me here,
The world to me would then seem just as fair
Just knowing he is HOME—and did his share.

No Wonder.
"No one understands me."
"That is not to be wondered at, girl. Your mother was a telephone girl before she married, and your father was a train announcer."

Real Inducement.
He—How about getting married?
She—Getting married—if it's the right girl—should double the life of your tires and cut your gasoline bill in two.

Envious.
"What are you going to the doctor about?"
"Loss of appetite."
"Great Scott! Can't you play up a bit of luck when it comes to you?"
—Kansas City Journal.

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

THAT CREAM.

To the Editor of The Standard:
Referring to F. W. Holt's inquiry in your paper of April 24, let me say that the farmer does not do (before pleasure, or as a basis for argument. True, nature sends you milk mixed, and I grant you, city folk want it mixed. Why does the farmer waste an hour separating it? The farmers I had reference to do not send you "milk." They send you Cream. Real Cream! You do not get one drop of

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