

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1919.

GERMANY'S PROGRESS.

British correspondents who have been touring Germany during the past few months are very deeply impressed with the progress that country is making toward the restoration of her industries and commercial enterprises. Published opinion seems to be that before many months elapse Germany will not only have completed the re-education of her own home markets but will be in readiness to bid for foreign trade. It is quite true that sentiment is against her, but among the majority of nations sentiment does not long stand in the face of financial benefit, and already from many quarters are heard demands for goods of German manufacture which cannot be duplicated elsewhere at anything like equal prices. And monetary exchange is also an adverse element, one which, at the present rate, might seem actually discouraging. But to a nation so desperately in need of sustained effort on the part of every one of its inhabitants, this handicap, serious as it may appear, is not regarded as insurmountable. Everywhere is to be seen evidence of increasing production. Labor differences such as are now occupying the attention and retarding the progress of most other countries, are being overcome. Germany had her share of these difficulties during the first six months following the cessation of hostilities, but in her desperation she has forced settlement of labor disputes and since all classes of her people recognize the imperative need of united effort, these troubles have to a large extent disappeared. While in Allied countries steadily decreasing production is still a menace to readjustment, the defeated people of Germany, in a spirit of greater sanity than they have displayed in a generation, are combining toward the restoration of normal activities. And it is intimated that this progress so far made, under adverse circumstances, compares very favorably with the record of the Allied nations.

NATIONAL MAGAZINES.

The St. Catharines' Board of Trade is at the bottom of an agitation to impose upon United States magazines and other publications such an import tax as will practically prohibit their circulation in Canada. This step is taken at the instance of manufacturers who feel that they are placed at a very serious disadvantage because of the popularity of American-made goods. United States producers, because of the magnitude of their own market, operate on such an extensive scale that they are able to afford lavish expenditures for advertising purposes in magazines and newspapers having nation-wide circulations, and it is contended that because of the distribution of such magazines in Canada these United States products have been permitted to enjoy a very wide popularity. This situation is naturally detrimental to the interests of Canadian manufacturers who, operating on much smaller scale, are not able to advertise. Nor indeed could they enjoy the same publicity as is afforded to United States people, because of the fact that in Canada we have few publications of national character, and also because such advertising in United States magazines in an endeavor to reach the Canadian consumer would involve paying for a tremendous circulation in the United States which is of no value to the Canadian manufacturer.

There is a great deal of truth in what is thus contended, but surely the remedy can be found elsewhere than in the direction which the St. Catharines' board looks. United States publications are popular in Canada because we have no Canadian publications to compete with them, and we have no Canadian publications to compete because of the fact that our postal regulations are obsolete and are calculated to prevent the creation and growth of magazines of a truly national character. It is absurd to say that we have not in Canada the material for the production of high class publications of this nature. We have able writers, we have the material to hand everywhere, we have printing houses and we have methods of distribution. We have not developed an advertising patronage which such publications require, but this would naturally be developed in the creation of magazines just as it has been developed in the United States. So long as our postal regulations say that in order to enjoy second-class mailing privileges any publication must consist wholly or in great part of political news, and so long as we disregard all features devoted to the advancement of science, arts, literature, or to public education and entertainment, just so long must this country be deprived of really great Canadian magazines, as well as of men, and the mails, excepting at prohibitive rates, to our Canadian publications of nation-wide interest, although they may not be composed of political news, we in Canada are carrying every week, every month, thousands of tons of United States publications for which this country enjoys no revenue what-

ever. Under the Postal Union Regulations we are bound to do this, and the United States, of course, is bound to do the same for us, but unfortunately for Canada the load is bearing all one way and we are not only looking after the distribution of United States magazines but we are placing ourselves in a position of having nothing to distribute through their mails.

EDUCATION.

The University of New Brunswick has the largest freshman class in its history. The Registrar of St. Joseph's publicly advertises that because of the great rush of new students no additional applications will be considered. St. Francis Xavier is crowded to the doors. Mount Allison has never in its long experience welcomed so many young men and young women to its classrooms. Acadia, which suffered not the least among our provincial colleges, is again crowded, and Dalhousie, the recognized leader in Nova Scotia, proudly assumes her old position. This condition is repeated in the public schools of every town in the Maritime Provinces and is found to exist in an equal degree among the higher institutions of learning elsewhere. In St. John City every school building is filled to overflowing. New classrooms are being provided wherever accommodation can be secured and a urgent demand is heard for more buildings. The experience of St. John is representative of that of other towns and cities, and apparently there is sweeping over the people a great wave of sentiment in favor of more general and more thorough education. Hundreds of thousands of men, returned from overseas, are applying to civil life the lessons which they have learned in the army. They have come to realize through service that the man with education holds an inestimable advantage over his equally brave and physically fit companion who is lacking in formerly discredited book knowledge. He has seen among all classes of civilian population and among all ranks in the army the superiority which education bestows, and he has come back to Canada determined to secure for himself when possible such advantages in this respect as may yet be available, or if too late for himself, then for his children or his friends. And the children of soldiers, who for the past few years have been inclined to neglect school, are being sent to their studies because of this realization by their parents of the opportunities so rapidly passing by. Our men are determined that their children shall enjoy the education which they themselves put aside or were unable to secure, and this is their accounts in a very large measure for the great rush of new pupils to our schools and of new students to our provincial colleges. There is an educational awakening all over the country, a consciousness that even those who labor with their hands may attain to better things through the possession of those intellectual gifts which study alone can bestow and an appreciation of the fact that mental ability is by no means confined to the descendants of generations of scholars, but that the sons and daughters of the mechanic, the artisan, the laborer may just as readily attain high honors in the world of letters as can those who by inheritance possess the faculty of close application.

CANADA'S OPPORTUNITY.

On October fifth the opportunity now afforded the women of St. John, to enter their names on the voters' lists, will have passed. Only a few days remain for the accomplishment of this important duty—for it is a duty. The extension of the franchise to women is a privilege which should be exercised by all, and which imposes no obligation whatever. A feeling seem to prevail in some quarters that placing one's name on the voters' list makes the voter subject to taxation. This is not the case, for the revisors' lists have nothing whatever to do with civic assessment. These voters' lists are the province of New Brunswick, and an opportunity of registering is offered only once each year. Those who fail to enroll themselves before October fifth will not be able to vote on any plebiscite or in any political contest which may occur during the next year, nor in any federal polling which may take place. And while it is not imperative that those who register shall vote, still it is a duty to do so, for men and women alike are under an obligation to govern the country well just as they were to win the war. The privilege of expressing one's personal opinion in matters of public interest is in reality a responsibility which is today thrown upon the shoulders of women as well as of men, and this extension of the franchise is an obligation which the women of New Brunswick should cheerfully accept. The procedure is very simple. Application is made by means of a card prepared for the purpose and presented to one of the various offices open in this country enjoys no revenue what-

plaint is attended before a justice of the peace who is at hand to receive such statements. Having once registered, the name of the prospective elector remains on the list permanently unless removed by death, transfer of residence or some other cause. Up to the present but a very small proportion of the women in St. John have made application for registration, but for their own interest as well as for the interest of the province as a whole, they should do so without further delay.

WHAT THEY SAY

Quite a Good Many.
 London Free Press.—An agitation to increase the stipulation of \$2,500 to \$4,000 per year was begun at Ottawa this year, and it is just possible that the government's answer was found in the secret session. The consequence, anyway, is that each commoner and senator draws \$5,000 for his services, and the members who are a good many of the members who at this figure have not earned their money.

The Wasteful Strike.
 Buffalo News.—It is to be hoped that in the evolution of industrial relations, which is proceeding, conditions will be made such that all need of strikes will be eliminated. Complete establishment and permanent maintenance of social justice and the spirit of equity and democracy in industry should eradicate the strike as something altogether unnecessary. Toward this goal all elements of society should strive. For it is in the interest of all concerned—labor, capital and the public.

Rebels or Patriots? Too Locomotive.
 New York World.—James Hamilton Lewis, formerly Senator from Illinois, makes many startling discoveries, his latest being a purpose on the part of President Wilson to announce the doctrine of socializing coal, oil and national highways of rail and water. One reason why Mr. Lewis is not now a member of the United States Senate may be found in the fact that his locumotive has an unfortunate habit of running away with his imagination.

The Real Issue.
 New York Tribune.—The President's chief argument against modification is that of inconvenience. He says he hesitates to submit reservations to the other signatories of the real issue between him and the Senate. He says, therefore, to this: Is it better to suffer the inconvenience of resubmission, or to get into the record, for acceptance by our associates, a hard-and-fast interpretation of American obligations under the treaty?

Strike Motives.
 New York Times.—We should have supposed that the threat of a strike or the order for a strike would have been preceded by a very full statement of the reasons for the strike. That is one of the many reasons that have led a large part of the public to conclude that this is not a strike to improve conditions of labor, but to extend the power of the American Federation over the Steel Corporation. It is a strike not for the good of the workers, but for the aggrandizement of the leaders.

Perishing's Wisdom.
 Springfield Republican.—Gen. Pershing's motive in postponing indefinitely a western trip can only be surmised. It is obvious, however, that a triumphal journey such as he would have at this time might develop into a kind of rivalry with President Wilson's tour and would surely be interpreted by many politicians as a trip of the general's popularity with a view to a presidential nomination next year. The general's prompt decision to stay in Washington, close up his work as commander-in-chief of the American expeditionary forces and answer the questions of congressional investigating committees, will win approval because of his wisdom.

A BIT OF VERSE

FACING THE SHADOWS.
 (By Private Wm. I. Grundisch.)
 When I behold the tense and tragic night,
 Shrouding the earth in vague symbolic gloom,
 And when I think that my fancy's flight
 Has reached the portals of the Inner Room,
 Where knightly ghosts guard the secret stair,
 Of brave romance through me shall sing again
 Death may insult me in eternal dark.
 Yet I have no regret nor poignant pain.

Better in one ecstatic, epic day
 To strike a blow for glory and for Truth,
 With ardent, singing heart to toast
 In Freedom's holy cause my eager youth,
 Than bear, as weary years pass one
 The knowledge of a sacred task undone.

The foregoing verses were taken from the pocket of Lieut. James Bertram Scarr (son of James H. Scarr, in charge of the New York office of the United States Weather Bureau), killed by a high explosive shell at Mont-de-Bonnell, France, the morning of June 6, 1918. It has been taken from a copy of the Paris edition of the Herald, date unknown.
 —J. H. S., in New York Herald.

A BIT OF FUN

So Considerate.
 Cholly (to his tailor)—Can't you knock a bit off this bill, old chap? I hate to beat you out of so much.

Overhead.
 "Isn't Brown an aimless sort of chap?"
 "Aimless? That guy spends half his time wondering what he's going to do with the other half."

Plucky!
 "Well," said Uncle Si, after a solo by a fashionable church-choir tenor,

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I was wawking to shoo yesterday wishing I was wawking sunwares elts, and I started to wonder how far I could wawk with my eyes closed without bumping into something.
 Wich I closed them and started to try, and I didnt bump into anything till I had wawked a pritty long ways, and wen I opened my eyes to see wat I had bumped into, wat was it but a tree, and you deliberty turned and bumped into me. I got a good mind to run you in for that, you fresh kid.
 And I put on my hat agen on account of having bumped it off and started to try it agen with my eyes shut jest as lite and maybe titer, and pritty soon I bumped into sunbathing elts, and I opened my eyes and wat was it but a fat lady carrying 3 big packages, saying, Wat on erth ales you, cant you see ware you're going?
 No mam, I had my eyes closed, I sed.
 Well havent you eny more sents than to wawk with your eyes closed?
 sed the fat lady.
 No mam, I sed.
 And I kepp on going and so did the fat old lady, tawking to herself, pritty about me, and pritty soon I shut my eyes and started to try it agen to see if I could go all the rest of the ways without bumping into anything elts, wich I didnt, bumping into sunbathing elts almost rite away, and wat was it but Platfoot the cop, saying, Now dont try to tell me you didnt do that on account of trike to get out of your way and you deliberty turned and bumped into me. I got a good mind to run you in for that, you fresh kid.
 And he started to grab a hold of me and I ran like the dickins insted of waiting to explaine, and after that I didnt try it agen on account of thinking 3 times was enuff, especially the 3rd time.

ABE MARTIN

"If that ain't the rudest thing I ever saw. Just as soon as that young man began to sing, every other member of the choir stopped. But he went through with it. By Jove, I must say I admire his spunk!"
 It Paid Him to Stay.
 The candidate was rather surprised, when he faced the "audience," to find it consisted of one solitary person. Realizing, however, that an election may be won by one, so to speak, he braced himself up and delivered his address as to a "packed house."
 After an hour and a half of pledges and promises, he wound up with: "And now, my dear sir, I will not encroach upon your valuable time any longer."
 "Oh, it's all right, gov'nor," interrupted the "audience." "Fire away! Don't mind me; there's no hurry, I'm only your taxi-driver."

"Mr. Brown was the recipient of a Handsome Gold Watch"

We were reading the other day the account of a meeting at which the feature of the evening was the presentation of a gold watch to a "workman" of some 25 summers.

The watch was one of our own best makes and was "Guaranteed, of course," and with ordinary care would last that lad for the rest of his life and probably be handed down to his children.

The thought struck us as we read of a "workman" "shop talk"—a watch after all, about as permanent a form of presentation as you can find, and, moreover, it is put into such constant use that the appreciation in which it is held is forever accumulating. We do not over-estimate when we tell you that our own stock of High Grade Pocket Watches is 18-kt. gold, gold and platinum and platinum and the finest the Dominion affords.

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