

The St. John Standard.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JULY 19, 1920.

BRITAIN PAYING UP.

The last budget in Britain was an object of great admiration throughout the world. The taxation imposed by Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain was estimated to bring in a revenue of £1,415,300,000, or more than seven billion dollars, and the expenditure was estimated at £1,184,000,000, or not much under six billion dollars. The difference of £231,300,000 is to be paid to the United States. But to obtain nearly seven billion dollars is a distinctly peace year. The Chancellor had to impose a 60 per cent. tax on excess profits, bringing \$500,000,000 additional to the Treasury. The Chancellor did this in the face of furious opposition, which has never let up, and culminated a few days ago in a straight attack.

The courage of the Chancellor's resolve to begin forthwith a policy of debt reduction is worthy of all praise. The great mercantile interests have made a combined campaign against the finance. But, in truth, as the Mail and Empire points out, the condition of British Treasury finance makes a policy of heavy taxation unavoidable. It has five billion dollars of floating debt to account for. Even the £234,000,000 which the Chancellor counted on as a surplus must go for sinking funds, sundry redemptions and maturing external debt, leaving little for reduction of the floating debt. Britain is paying in full her share of the Anglo-French loan maturing in the United States in October, while France frankly admits she is unable to make any payment. Britain is paying off war obligations to the Argentine, Uruguay, and the Dominions. The process of getting square with minor creditors is now under way, and by the time the main debt of several billion dollars to the United States comes up, the London treasury will have smaller accounts fairly well squared. It requires not only an immense courage by the Chancellor to set himself against all the influences calling for moderately easy taxation, but also a nation of great self-restraint. Of all the nations put into debt by the war, Britain is far ahead in beginning to clean up accounts. British taxation per head is from twice to ten times what other Allies impose.

When British mercantile interests find themselves facing difficulties in rebuilding output, finding capital, and creating markets abroad, oppressive taxation at home is looked upon as handicapping recovery of the economic status of the nation. The manufacturers want a freer hand in costs, in order to build up export trade, and thus reduce British liabilities. But the Treasury also has pressing needs, as every year large debt obligations come due and there is no question that its stern policy of getting in the money while paying is easy has restored British financial prestige more than any one other factor.

THE END OF THE ROAD.

A Trades Union Congress sitting in London has voted by a considerable majority in favor of a general strike as a means of compelling the Government of the United Kingdom to withdraw British troops from Ireland. The proposition, says the Montreal Gazette, was made in the name of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, one of the strongest and most advanced of the labor organizations, and whose leaders in their spheres have practically the same ideas as the Soviet chiefs of Russia. The "direct action" plan has been coming to the fore for some time. It is based on the idea that organized labor has become all powerful, and that what it demands under penalty of enforcing a suspension of trade the country over must be conceded to it. In connection with last year's agitation for the nationalization of the coal mines it was first threatened, then debated at a labor congress and finally rejected by a fairly large majority. The intervening months have apparently strengthened the hands of the extremists. They have undertaken to dictate government action in a matter affecting the highest policy, in which the issue is the maintenance or disruption of the United Kingdom and the determining of the policy of the country in its relations with other European states. What the leaders in the new development of the labor movement aim at is a revolution that will give them control over all affairs of the State, and make Parliament and other established institutions secondary and useless parts of the administrative machinery. A sectionalist commonwealth, a disrupted Empire and a debilitated England would be at the end of the road the least Trades Union Congress has sought to start upon. Loyalty to the nation, in the old sense has been discarded; the supposed in-

terests of a class have been substituted therefor.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE RATES.

The recent decision of the Post Office Department, whereby the rates of postage upon newspapers was increased, has not unnaturally called forth considerable criticism on the part of the press, one of whom, the Ottawa Journal, thinks that it is a change that should not be extended without more careful thought as to the possible outcome.

At the last session of Parliament the postal rate for newspapers was increased from 14 cents per pound to 24 cents per pound, commencing January 1, 1921, and to 1 1/2 cents per pound commencing January 1, 1922. Speaking to the measure in Parliament, the Postmaster General enunciated the principle that second-class postal rates must be increased gradually to the point at which they will cover the cost of the postal service given and estimated that the present cost is 5c. or 6c. per pound. He said in part:

"The department at present is not so much after the money of the newspaper people for this year or for next year as it is concerned with the principle. I think the important thing in this Bill is not so much the \$200,000 or \$400,000 of increase that I shall set for next year, as the principle, which is now recognized by Parliament, that newspapers or any other mail matter, whatever it is, that may be carried through His Majesty's mails must pay the cost of transportation and that we must do away with the existing privileges. As Postmaster General I would be glad if the House of Commons and the Senate would see their way to fix the rate at five or six cents at once; but this would mean that under present circumstances you would cut off business immediately. I put all those papers of Canada find, after long discussion and after giving thought with my officers, the best of my thought to this matter, that there is only one way out of the difficulty: it is to admit the principle that the newspapers must be notified that in future they will have to pay and shall be made to pay what they cost to my department. The only way is to make a gradual annual increase as is proposed by this Bill. This year the increase is to be one cent; next year it will be to 1 1/2 cents. I hope that by that time the conditions will have become more nearly normal and that Parliament will be in a better position to determine what is the exact amount that ought to be charged the newspapers in order that they may pay the cost of transportation."

One of the points to be remembered is that this increased postal rate will not come out of the pockets of the newspaper publishers, but out of those of the people to whom the newspapers are sent. The "privileges" to which Hon. Mr. Blomfield referred have hitherto all been passed on to the subscriber, who has had his newspaper delivered through the mails at a comparatively low rate.

These privileges were granted because of the educational feature connected with the reading of newspapers. An increase in the postal rate to any such figure as that mentioned by the Postmaster General, coupled with the very high price of newspapers, would probably result in many people doing without newspapers. The situation thus created would affect the general well-being just as much, and perhaps more, than it would affect the newspapers, for, as we have shown, there is little if any profit to the publisher in "circulation." If, for instance, it is worth while spending hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in the preparation and printing of a Hansard report of the speeches in Parliament which only a very few people receive and fewer still ever read, there should be some value attached to the distribution in the small towns and rural districts of city newspapers containing well-written summaries of the proceedings of Parliament which are received in practically every home and very widely read. During the war, there was a very practical demonstration of the value of the papers as a medium through which the governmental authorities could reach the people. That value is continuous in peace times, though it may not be so self-evident.

THE GREAT IMPERSONATION.

Startling and prophetic as Oppenheim's previous novels have been, in this, his latest book, he has surpassed himself. "The Great Impersonation" is a happy blending of romance, mystery and intrigue so splendidly done that

whoever reads it cannot help but be convinced that it is the best Oppenheim ever wrote. It is indeed a triumph of construction and treatment that grips the reader's interest from the start and does not release that hold until the very last chapter of the book.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

See Canada First.
(Vancouver Province.)
Possibly on account of its being election year Uncle Sam has raised the amusement tax on foreigners wishing to visit his domain. Passports now cost \$10 instead of \$2. See Canada first.

One Possibility.
(Columbia, N. C. Record.)
A few years more of shilly-shallying, and Germany will demand an indemnity from the Allied and Associated Powers.

Nor With Any Country.
(Washington Post.)
Chancellor Muller says "Germany is through with the war," but the war is not through with Germany.

Reactions.
(Philadelphia Inquirer.)
In Russia the brotherhood of man seems to be working out in about the same way it does in every family where there are four boys who all want the silver Sunday night.

Principle in Politics.
(Wall Street Journal.)
A P. O. L. condemns military training in schools on the ground that it "kills initiative," and in the next breath favors government ownership of railroads, which, of course, would cultivate it.

THE LAUGH LINE

Careful Married.
They hadn't been married very long and, strange to relate, both their birthdays fell on the same day. But already he had learnt a thing or two about the shopping propensities of the fair sex. So he tackled the subject of presents manfully.

"Darling," he said lovingly, "we mustn't have any secrets from each other, now, must we?"
"No, sweetheart," she cooed gladly. "Well, duckie," he went on, "if you will tell me exactly how much you intend to spend on a present for me, I shall be able to work out how much I shall have left to buy one for you."

Contempt.
"Did you tell her that smoking isn't allowed?" "Yes." "Did you point out the notices?" "Yes." "Well, what did she do?" "Lift her cigarette out of it."

Mutual Surprise.
"I was surprised to hear you were kissing my girl in the dark the other night."
"No more surprised than I was when I saw her in daylight."

A Cool Retort.
She (just kissed by him): "How dare you! Father said he would kill the first man who kissed me!"
He: "How interesting! And did he do it?"

The Great Difference.
"Now, boy, tell me the difference between a lake and an ocean?"
"Please, sir, lakes are not so nasty to swallow when you fall in!"

That Explains It.
Doris: "She believes every word he tells her."
Lillian: "How long have they been married?"
Doris: "They're not married. They're going to be."

The Dempsey And Brennan Fight

New York, July 16.—K. O. Bill Brennan, who was matched to box Jack Dempsey for the world's heavy-weight championship, inside of two months before the club offering the best inducements, after a long and painful, the Frenchman, deliberately ran out on his word to swap punches with the conqueror of Jess Willard, arrived here for a conference with his manager, Leo P. Flynn. The Knock-out King will train at a nearby resort for the combat.

Ever since the arrival of Jack Kearns, manager of the champion, Flynn has been on his trail. Kearns promised Flynn first crack in case Carpenter admitted he wanted nothing to do with his man. True to prediction, Carpenter would be in a contract with Cochran, of London, which forbade his engaging in an encounter with Dempsey, unless the champion went abroad and had it out with him there. Kearns rightly declared that it was the champion's business to do the dictating, and all hands in conference at the Hotel Belmont could not reach an agreement.

Flynn cornered Kearns in his room at the hotel after Carpenter's bloodless affair ended. "Are you in a receptive mood? How about Brennan? Are you going to give him a chance and keep your promise?" Flynn asked. Kearns smiled as he lifted a number of telegrams from his inside coat pocket, which revealed the startling news that several promoters wanted a Dempsey-Brennan fight in preference to all others.

"By the tone of the telegrams," answered Kearns, "I should imagine Brennan should get the first chance. Here's one from Dominick Tortorich, from way out New Orleans, who says we can have a bundle of dough for the fight, and here's a telegram from Murray, in Buffalo, who states he has a ball park all ready up for a scrap, and I could read on indefinitely the many offers."

"That's all very well, Jack, but do I get the fight?" persisted Flynn. There were several newspaper men in the room.

"You're on, Leo!" exclaimed Kearns. "Where is your fighter? Wire him to get in shape, the match is on. You know my word is my bond. We'll sign in a couple of days. I just want to get a breathing spell."

Flynn rushed out of the hotel to wire Brennan at Chicago to come to New York and begin light training. When news was flashed that a French-

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.
Weather: Cooler in the shade in case there is any.
Financial Notes: Puds Simkinses habit of saving money died down last Saturday and he tried to open his iron bank with a hammer, the result being he only put dents in instead of getting money out, and he is afraid to ask his father for the key to it, and the only pleasure he can get out of his 33 cents is to hear it rattle.

POEM BY SKINNY MARTIN.
Act Thankful.
Never feel sad because you are dumb
And your brains works slow in its movement.
The others are smart as they ever will get
Just think of your room for improvement!

Art Notes: Sid Hunt spent all last Saturday afternoon with washing his cellar, being a good job in spots.
Sports: Leroy Shooster is thinking about raising pigeons but his father and mother consider it is one of the worst ideas he ever had, so all he is doing is thinking about it.

Do you feel muscle? Why not learn to play the violin? Lew Davis has had 9 lessons from an expert and will teach you for 5 cents a lesson. (Advertisement.)
Lost and Found: Nothing.

man-Dempsey match had been clinched, Flynn's office, which is located in his home, was the scene of hurrying and scurrying messengers with telegrams containing offers for the scrap. Flynn's telephone rang incessantly with long distance calls.

Brennan's manager had another long talk with Kearns, completing arrangements for the battle. The site is still undecided, but the largest bidder will get it. So far it lies between Orleans and Benton Harbor, the latter place, which is just outside of Chicago, recently held the Benny Leonard-Charley White lightweight championship fight.

Kearns, in giving his word to Flynn, realized that sooner or later he would have to give in to him, because Brennan is the only man who stood off the champion 7 rounds in Milwaukee in 1917. Brennan was giving Dempsey a hard time, the latter not knowing that he was boxing a cripple. Brennan fought with a broken ankle, but the pain finally got the best of him.

Since the Dempsey fight Brennan has gone along knocking out contenders. Since 1914 he has amassed the wonderful record of 31 knockouts, and he has beaten among others (Batting Levisky, Bob Roper, Willis Meehan, Billy Miske, and so on down the line). He is accounted to be one of the hardest punchers in the game, and he is the type of a fighter who gives the public a run for their money.

So sure was he of getting Dempsey that Flynn cancelled six fights in San Francisco for Brennan and three on the way out. Only yesterday Flynn wired back "no" to a \$5,000 offer to

box Bob Martin in Kansas City. "I am glad of another opportunity for the world's title, and you can bet I'll be in there whaling the champion every second of the going," said Brennan today. "I am in pretty fair shape right now, but I am going to be at my best when I face the champion. I will have no excuse to offer in case I am beaten. This fight means a great deal to me, and I'm going to go in there to do and die."

It was reported today that David Mackay, of the Newark Sportsman's Club, was ready to lay before the managers a flattering offer. Tex Rickard, matchmaker of the International Sporting Club, has asked to be given time to send in a bid.

If men could only live to hear their own funeral sermons and read their own epitaphs there would be no getting along on earth with them.

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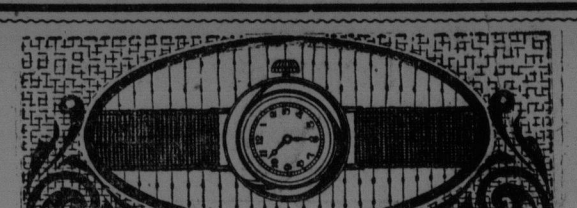
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Fancy Tea Aprons, made of Fine Lawn, Marquisettes and Muslins.
July Sales, 30c. to \$1.00
Maid's Aprons, with bibs.
July Sales 50c. to 85c.
Long Aprons, with bibs, embroidery trimmed, "Sister Dora" style.
July Sales 50c. to \$1.60
Aprons without bibs, trimmed with tucks and insertions.
July Sales, 70c. to \$1.60
(Whitewear Section, Second Floor.)

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Odd Curtains, one, two and three pairs of a kind Great Bargains while they last.
(Germain St. Entrance.)

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TWO PRICES FOR THIS SALE.
When these are needed in the Fall they will undoubtedly be much higher in price. Get what you need now at
\$12.00 and \$17.50 each.
Extra Heavy Blankets
Equal in weight to two ordinary blankets. These were bought when blankets were much lower and are decided bargains at
\$7.50 and \$10.00 pair.
(Housefurnishings Section, Second Floor.)

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VISITORS TO OUR ART DEPARTMENT WILL BE GENUINELY PRIZED AT THE QUALITIES AND VALUES.
Mahogany Table Lamps, with beautiful silk shades, in rose, brown or blue. An assortment of sizes to choose from.
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This provides a wonderful chance to replenish your table at prices seldom seen.
Tea Spoons, \$3.00 doz.; Desert Forks, \$5.50 doz.; \$6.25 doz.; Tea Forks, \$6.75 doz.; Cold Meat Forks, 8 Shells, 55c. ea.; Butter Knives, 65c. ea.; Desert Spoon, \$3.00 doz.; Sugar Tongs, \$1.25 ea.; Gravy Butters, \$2.25 up; Bon Bon Dishes, \$2.75 up; Scallops, \$5.90 up; Marmalade Jars, \$2.25 up; Sugar \$7.90 up; Cake Baskets, \$5.50 up; Pie Plates, \$5.50 up.
(Sale is in Art Section, Germain St. Entrance.)

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35 in. Long Cloth, extra value. July Sales, 5 yards for \$1.75.
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Remnants of Bleached Sheet at Reduced Prices.
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