

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1917.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

FOOD CONTROL.

The regulation of food prices is a troublesome question, not to be settled by open-air mass meetings or newspaper demands for "leadership." The necessity for some sort of public control of prices of food in Canada has been recognized by the Government, and legislation has been provided for the punishment of those who usually exploit prices. The initiative, in such a case, has rested with the municipalities and they have not always used it as aggressively as circumstances seemed to warrant, as witness the situation in St. John a few months ago when the milk dealers decided to advance their prices.

If it is advisable to take further steps in the direction of setting a maximum figure at which articles of food shall be sold the Government can be depended upon to effect the required action, but sane men, not carried away by political partisanship, or the desire to get just a little bit better treatment than their fellows, will realize at once that the problem is a difficult one, and can scarcely be arbitrarily settled without working an injustice somewhere.

Consideration of the price of flour brings more or less wild talk concerning the forcing up of wheat prices by speculators in the west. Those who make such allegations forget that the chief advance in the price of wheat was due to the purchases of the Allied grain-buying commission which bought hundreds of thousands of bushels of grain in Canada and the United States, not for the use of speculators, or that the grain-growers might benefit, but that the Allied armies might be fed. This increase in price was directly traceable to the war and could not be prevented by the Government unless by forbidding the commission to purchase at a figure higher than a certain limit. The fact of the matter is, as is generally recognized throughout the west,—despite the allegations of the promoters of a recent open-air meeting and the fiery declarations of our morning contemporary,—that the price offered for wheat by the Allied Commission was so attractive that many brokers "sold short" and when called upon to deliver found they could not do so without paying a much higher price. Thus the broker lost, the grain merchant got the extra price and the Allied Commission got the wheat.

It must also be remembered that the grain crop of last year, in Canada and in the United States, was hundreds of millions of bushels short. The shortage naturally tended to increase prices. The Government could not regulate that, or provide for a larger crop.

What is true of grain holds good in almost every item of foodstuffs. The raising of beef cattle was going behind in Canada for years before the war, the farmers devoting their attention to lines of agriculture and husbandry which brought larger returns. When the war caused an increased demand for meats the cattle were not there in sufficient quantity to supply that demand and at the same time to care for the needs of the people. Consequently, all meat prices advanced.

About the same time labor felt that with higher prices for food it was being insufficiently remunerated and rates of wages commenced to increase. Since the outbreak of war wages have increased in Canada at last twenty per cent, while the cost of living has experienced a sixty per cent. advance.

The increase in prices is responsible, therefore, for at least one-third of the total increase in living expenses, yet if the Government were to step in any way in order to bring down the price of flour and bread, millers and bakers must work for so much less wages; or, to bring down the price of meat, butchers and drovers must be satisfied with smaller remuneration; to bring down the price of coal, miners must be content to sell their labor more cheaply, and, to reduce the cost of freights,—an important factor in all estimates of prices,—railway men must accept a twenty per cent. cut, what an outcry would go up from all those affected.

There is no doubt that the cost of living is a serious problem. There is also no doubt that the authorities will not stand for exploitation in 1917, but it must not be imagined that the high cost of food is due only to any one act or condition. Scores of factors contribute their little to make up the whole.

Regulation of food prices may be necessary, but those who demand it should carefully consider all the attendant causes for the present situation before condemning the Government, which, after all, is not to blame. But, of course, it is easier to blame the Government, or the capitalists, or

LIBERALS AND CONSCRIPTION.

During the past few days the newspapers opposed to the Borden Government have had a great deal to say about "the need for leadership" and a great deal less to say about the evidence that in the Premier this country has a strong leader, as manifested by his courageous stand on the most vexing question of compulsory military service. Liberal newspapers are absolutely silent on the failure of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to embrace the opportunity to announce at once that, in a matter of this sort, there should be no opposition, but that the whole country should stand unitedly behind the Government.

When the conscription resolution was announced in the House of Commons the Liberal leader made a speech more remarkable for what it did not contain than for what he actually said. It was phrased with all the Laurier craft, but it very carefully evaded any whole-hearted support of the policy. Instead, Sir Wilfrid pleaded for delay, for consideration, and at the same time rushed his chief whip post-haste to Ontario to learn how the plan would be regarded by the Liberals of that province. Presumably one of his French lieutenants, possibly, his "Dear Lucien," will undertake a similar mission in Quebec.

The conscription proposal is now receiving the attention of the Government and will be introduced in the House of Commons on Friday of this week. It will either pass without much discussion or it will be "talked to death" until the Government is forced to rely on its majority to put it through. The attitude of the Liberal party will be determined by the reports its leader receives from his scouts. If he learns that the people of English Canada are strongly in favor of any action the Government may deem it wise to take in the interest of the Empire, the Liberals, with the exception of the irreconcilable Quebec minority, will probably "come through" and support the plan, while newspapers like the Telegraph and its imitators will attempt to convey that the party was in favor of it all the time.

If, on the other hand, Laurier is advised that Canada contains enough slackers to make compulsory service unpopular, he is likely to put up his talking machines to debate the measure and thus kill precious time while the Canadian armies in France and Flanders are in need of reinforcements.

The attitude of the Liberals on conscription as on all questions of aid to the Empire will be dictated by political expediency rather than patriotism. If they can make capital for themselves by opposing it they will do so; if their organizers and whips advise them that the people are in no mood to be trifled with, they not only will support it but will also seek to steal the credit for first introducing the legislation. And the Telegraph and other journalistic party hacks will feebly follow in the train.

The esteemed Times is inclined to be skeptical over the statement that Canadian statesmen, recently returned from England, accomplished anything of value by their visit. It sneers at the thought that Canada is to stand in a new relation to the Empire after the war and in a clumsy attempt at satire intimates that, if such is the case, the admission was "wrong" from British statesmen by the Canadian visitors. The whole purpose of the Times' paragraph is to take a side-swipe at the Standard, but our friend is in error. The statement that Canadian representatives at the Imperial Council and war conference had done a great work was the opinion of Dr. George R. Parkin, Imperial Rhodes' Scholarship Commissioner for the Empire. And most sane people will prefer to take Dr. Parkin's opinion on any question under the sun in preference to that of the editor of the Times.

A party of American newspaper men has invaded New Brunswick on a fish-killing expedition and the Fredericton Gleaner naively informs its readers that they are fully supplied with "all necessary" equipment. Let's see, isn't there something about fishing trip "equipment" that is not supposed to be in evidence, in a prohibition province?

And now that Sir Robert Borden has announced that he will introduce a measure providing for compulsory military service the Liberal newspapers which have been shouting for

some "evidence of leadership" suddenly discover that it isn't conscription they want after all. It will be the same way with any other step the Borden Government takes.

Senator Choquette has announced that he is opposed to conscription. Those who recall the former utterances of this doughty member of the Upper Chamber will not be surprised at the information. Senator Roche of Halifax has yet to be heard from.

Coal goes up another dollar a ton. Well, there is some satisfaction in the thought that it soon won't be necessary to burn any for at least a month. That month of summer weather which we sometimes get is certainly a great boon to St. John.

Ontario undertakers are considering the advisability of increasing the cost of funerals. If that movement ever strikes New Brunswick the high cost of living will be rivalled by the high cost of dying.

The production campaign is now going well—except for the sweet unreasonableness of the weather man.

HOW IT IS PRONOUNCED.

"Hurrah!" hear them yell,
"Hurrah for Mon. Joe!"
They're sure as can be his name rhymes with "offer."
And once in a while some poor muddled old,
Inspired in French, shouts a "Vive la Chofel!"
But still there are others, a million miles off,
Who call the Marne hero "The great Marshal Joff."
And one I heard say—a husky, big chauffeur—
"I wuz'n Firth avenue an' I seen Gen'l Joefer!"
While the table d'hôte Gallies, o'er their frimage and coffee,
With great "savor faire" call him "Dear Papa Jot-fal."
This is freedom's own country;
One may do as he wishes,
But "sacre bleu" and "ye gods and small fishes!"
When you speak of the Marne, make it easy and pliant,
Like this, "Vive, Ghoff," with the "g" as in "giant."
Forget the "re," sound the "o" as in "snow,"
Practice the sound of it and then let her go.

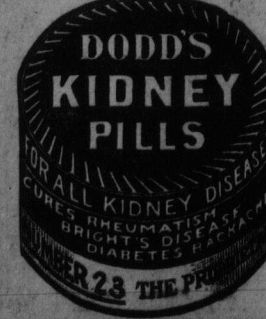
BELGIUM REDUCED TO THE LAST CRUST.

How many days can life be sustained on a loaf of bread? Bread alone, with no meat, no vegetables, no soup, neither tea nor coffee with which to wash it down.
Hundreds and thousands of women and children in Belgium have lived for months on plain bread and water. And a single loaf can be made to keep one poor body alive for two and a half days. You would think that their stomachs would sicken of bread, bread, nothing but bread, that their appetites would weary of it. No. They are always too hungry, and they never get enough. When one is famished one's body full of bread, nothing but bread, becomes a delicious repast. One only regrets the Relief Commission cannot provide a larger slice. But then, there are millions to feed, and they must be thought of too.

In some cities of Belgium, the poor people, lined up to draw their meagre allowance of bread, are turned away hungry. "Come in three" days, perhaps they are told, "by then we pray we may be able to feed you." In such places they are eating cats and dogs, mice, anything that holds starvation back a little longer.
There are some people who, though they are told, "by then we pray we may be able to feed you," in such places they are eating cats and dogs, mice, anything that holds starvation back a little longer.

There are some people who, though they are told, "by then we pray we may be able to feed you," in such places they are eating cats and dogs, mice, anything that holds starvation back a little longer.
Send a contribution today to the nearest relief committee, or direct to the Belgian Relief Fund, 55 St. Peter street, Montreal.

City Garden Lots.
A large number of applications have been received for garden lots by Commissioner Russell, and it is expected that in three days the land will be ready to allot, as the city engineer is busy now laying off the land and is only waiting for stakes to mark the boundaries. Each lot will be 50 by 100 feet and applications should be sent in to the city engineer at once by those who wish to take advantage of the opportunity to grow vegetables. In this connection Commissioner Russell stated to the Standard yesterday that any person wishing to plant a garden need not hesitate to apply for a lot because of inability to procure seed potatoes, as he had a quantity which would be prepared to either sell or under certain conditions supply free.



Little Benny's Note Book.

The Fall of Rome.
A Play.

Scene, Rome.
First sithen. I wish I saw a place to have my shoes shined at.
2nd sithen. Hay, look at that! Darn it, heer dont come another serkus perrade. Thats the 10th this morning.
3rd sithen. Aint it ferse? This city will fall soon.
First sithen. Do you see any place to get shoes shined at?
2nd sithen. Lissen to all the ladies chewing chewing gum out loud.
3rd sithen. I can hear them without lissenin. This city will fall soon, all rife.
First sithen. If I dont get my shoes shined soon I dont care if it falls or not.
2nd sithen. Is that a cigarett that baby is smoking?
3rd sithen. No, are you blind? Thats a segar. If this city dont fall before next week Ill be surprized.
First sithen. Hay, boy, I want to get my shoes shined.
Boy. Well, am I stopping you?
2nd sithen. Sutah a tuff boy.
First sithen. Do you know were I can get them shined at?
Boy. Yes, no ware. Nobody works any more. Everybodys to blazy going to serkuses and things. Thats ware Im going now.
3rd sithen. I woudent be surprized if it fell to nite.
(Wich it did).
The end.

THREE ST. JOHN SOLDIERS FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN THE CASUALTY LIST

Pte. P. R. Allaby Killed in Action — Pte. R. B. Chesley Seriously Ill — G. R. Climo Also Reported Ill.

G. R. Climo.

H. Climo received another telegram yesterday morning informing him that his son, Driver Gilbert Robertson Climo, is officially reported seriously ill in a hospital in Huddersfield. Recently he sustained a gunshot wound in the back. The news of today will be heard with regret by many friends.

Private R. B. Chesley.

A few days ago Mrs. Charles Berryman of 6 Canon street, was advised from Ottawa that her nephew, Private Roger Bert Chesley had been wounded in the ear. Yesterday morning she was advised that he was seriously ill, and had been admitted to Christ Church Hospital, England, on May 18. Private Chesley is twenty-one years old.

Private Percy R. Allaby.

Mrs. A. E. Allaby, of Victoria street wife of Rev. A. E. Allaby, now acting pastor of Port Elliot and Bayville Baptist churches, received word yesterday morning that her son, Pte. Percy Richard had been killed in action on May 10. Pte. Percy was one of three sons who donned the uniform. He went overseas with the first contingent as a member of a well known New Brunswick unit. He is the first of the three sons to receive injury.

Hard Coal Prices.

The Board of Trade recently wrote to the department of Trade and Commerce in connection with the price of anthracite coal, and yesterday the secretary received a communication from Sir George Foster stating that the department had the matter under consideration and would do every-

PIMPLES and BOILS ALL OVER FACE AND BODY

When the blood becomes impure you will find that pimples and boils will break out all over the body, and although they are not dangerous trouble they make you appear unsightly both to your friends and yourself.

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Miss Sylvia Swanson, Theodore, Sask., writes: "I am letting you know what great value B.B.B. has been to me. A year ago I started to grow pale and weak, the cause being bad blood. I got so many pimples and boils all over my face and body that I would not let strangers see me, and I used to avoid company. I tried many remedies but all seemed a failure. I read about how good your B.B.B. had been to thousands of people so I got a bottle and after I had finished the second one my pimples and boils had all disappeared. People thought it a miracle how well I looked."

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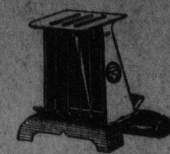
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