

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1916.

"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.

## IMPERIAL RELATIONS.

It is intimated that parliamentary business at the coming session may be expedited to permit the attendance of Sir Robert Borden at the approaching Imperial Conference, for which the date has not yet been definitely fixed, but which will in all probability assemble during the latter part of February or early in March. What the programme at this conference may be has not yet been announced, but the meeting will in any event serve to further solidify the Empire, to bring the Overseas Dominions into closer touch with the Motherland, and certainly to impress upon British statesmen the views of those representing very important portions of His Majesty's domain.

Previous to the reorganization of the Home Government under Mr. Lloyd George, opponents of Mr. Asquith—and some of them persons of considerable influence—included in their demands upon the late government the creation of a war cabinet which would include at least one representative from each of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It was pointed out, and with a great deal of truth, that these dominions in common with others could not afford to be ignored on the vital issues of peace and war. "Surely," said one of these writers, "with the great armies they have placed in the field these Dominions have some stake in the Empire. It matters immeasurably to them whether we win or lose. They cannot afford to continue washing their hands of Imperial policy as in the past, opening their mouths and shutting their eyes for whatever is handed to them. Nor can the Mother Country afford to dispense with their robust common sense. The politicians at Westminster are in no sense of the term Imperial statesmen. They are hopelessly at sea as regards Colonial needs and aspirations. Mr. Asquith, for example—a most untravelled man—knows far less about Canada than Sir Robert Borden knows about England. Lord Lansdowne has never set eyes on Australia or New Zealand. Sir Edward Grey is a confirmed stay-at-home. But we never hear of the Borden, the Hughes and the Masses paying more than a casual visit to the cabinet, nor of being given an opportunity to do more than hand blank cheques to the Imperial Government to be used at the latter's own sweet will."

All this is interesting, coming as it does from one of the principal organs supporting the present Prime Minister, but there is still a reasonable doubt that the inclusion of representatives in the Imperial Cabinet is part of the Lloyd George programme. There has been no such intimation, yet the fact that many other lines of policy advocated in a more or less inspired tone, have been announced since the reorganization of the present government leads to a belief now finding expression in various quarters that the coming conference will be of the utmost Imperial importance. Certainly there are issues to be discussed, any one of which would under other circumstances justify such an assembly, but which brought to immediate importance by the war may readily lead in the near future to a much closer relationship between the units of the Empire than has existed in the past.

## NEWSPAPER COSTS.

It is stated on good authority that since the outbreak of war some seven hundred daily and weekly newspapers in the United States and Canada have been forced out of business. This result has been due to two primary causes: First the marked decrease in advertising patronage immediately following the commencement of hostilities, and latterly the greatly increasing cost of production. Scarcely a title entering the manufacturing newspaper has failed to reflect the same as apparent in practical commodity. Paper, to those fortunate as to be protected by long contracts, is a source of little worry, and while the market has not yet been fixed for this year, it is clear that

there will be a decided advance, perhaps sufficiently serious to cripple many of the smaller publications. As paper is, of course, the principle article consumed, an advance of more than fifty per cent. as is now demanded by the manufacturers will prove a matter of grave concern. The Canadian Press Association has interested the Federal Government in this question and the probabilities are that during the next few days there will be some definite action taken which will at least clear the situation though it may not bring any great degree of comfort to publishers. Other commodities, however, are not so subject to government control, but being in the enjoyment of more varied markets are in the fullest sense regulated in price by the natural law of supply and demand. Thus, inks, metal rollers, wrappers, twines and other supplies have advanced anywhere from fifty to three hundred per cent. in the past two years.

In most lines of mercantile business situations such as this are met in the ordinary way, that is by making the consumer pay the extra cost. If sugar advances to the wholesaler ten cents per hundred, the retail purchaser at once is required to hand over the ten. But in the newspaper game a very large percentage of the output, both in circulation and in advertising, is carried on yearly contracts. No subscriber who has paid for his paper in advance can be asked to pass over an additional dollar or two, though of course expiring subscriptions may in many cases be renewed at an advanced rate. And an advertiser naturally expects that the contract in his possession, which is good for the next eight or ten months, will be carried out to the letter. Thus publishers of daily newspapers are at a disadvantage as compared with the ordinary merchant or manufacturer who is in a position to immediately advance the price of his goods whenever cost conditions make such a course necessary.

Up to the present the newspapers of St. John have been able to carry on without asking such increases as are more than justified by war conditions. Yet this state of affairs cannot be expected to continue indefinitely, and the time must soon come when for their own salvation all these papers must require of customers a more substantial appreciation of the value of news and of advertising.

## ROUMANIA'S ASSISTANCE.

Russian troops in co-operation with the remnants of the Roumanian army are offering stout resistance to the advance of the German forces in those parts of Roumania still free from occupation by the Central Powers. But it can hardly be expected that continued success will attend these defensive efforts in view of the determined nature of the Austro-German attack. Roumania seems doomed to somewhat the same fate as fell to the lot of Serbia, though there remains the consolation that with growing Allied strength the invasion of this unfortunate country will be of briefer duration. Close students of the European situation have felt from the first that participation in this struggle would be no Sunday school picnic for Roumania which, with her extended frontiers and her unfavorable geographical position—practically inaccessible to Allied support except from one quarter—afforded the easiest possible opportunity for attack. Germany, angered at Roumania's decision, planned from the first a punitive expedition and in pursuance of these plans has assisted in the development of Allied strategy. The forces at Verdun were weakened, thus enabling the French to retake in a few days that ground which had fallen to the Hun only after months of terrible slaughter. Along the Russian front from which men and guns were diverted for the invasion of Roumania various operations which for a time threatened seriously were brought to a standstill in order that Falkenhayn's Transylvanian campaign might be aided. On the Italian front General Cadorna has been successful in scoring a series of victories, and in the whole strategy of the Allied campaign time

has been gained for added preparation for what is yet to come.

The intervention of Roumania has therefore been largely in the nature of a valuable diversion to the Allies, a diversion which has relieved the pressure on all fronts, which has made clear the maximum effort now possible on the part of Germany, and has brought on that country losses which she can ill afford to meet. There has been no failure on the part of the Allied nations to render all the assistance in their power. But this assistance, because of the geographical conditions already noted, has been lacking in effectiveness. Only in the case of Greece has there appeared any serious criticism, for it is felt by many that a more aggressive policy in the earlier stages of the war might have enabled that threat still hanging over the forces at Saloniki.

It is the custom of the German general staff to subordinate strategy to temper. They started out by hating Britain, Belgium interfered and they hated Belgium. Serbia opposed them and they over-ran Serbia. Italy broke away from her former connection and they endeavored without success to break Italy. Now Roumania, which has dared opposition, has fallen under their hate and must suffer. This will pass in time and the Germans will return to their original dearest enemy. When the present burst of fury has spent itself they will strafe England harder than ever. This, however, is poor consolation to Roumania.

## THE LATE FRED ST. J. BLISS.

The tragic death of Fred St. J. Bliss at Fredericton at an early hour this morning removes a worthy citizen of the capital. Mr. Bliss was a man of keen business instincts, for many years active in all matters appertaining to the advancement of the community. He was especially interested in municipal affairs and rendered the Municipality of York faithful services for a number of years. He possessed the capacity of inspiring confidence in his associates in the many affairs of life. While not practicing law to any extent in recent years he had a keen legal mind, which might have served to make him one of the big men of his profession. The deceased always commanded the respect of the community and his untimely end will be regretted by a large number of friends.

## STILL BUSY AT P. E. I.

### TERMINAL AT BORDEN PT.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 28.—It is not yet known whether the Prince Edward Island will run this winter at the Cape. The Roger Miller Co. have closed work at the terminals for the season, but the Dominion Bridge Co. is still busy at Borden Point putting in the apron or transfer bridge at the outer end of the pier. Given favorable weather the hope to have the work completed in 10 or 12 days. This "apron," which is built of steel, is raised or lowered by powerful machinery so as to be always on a level with the steamer's track deck. There are very heavy counter-weights at one end to assist in the lifting operations. The erection of the towers and hoisting machinery is in itself a work of no small magnitude. The piers are now completed, with the exception of about half the sea wall, and the track has been laid almost out to the outer end. Trains were run on it this week carrying materials for the transfer bridge. The station and the round-house have been completed. The railway wharf at Georgetown is now being put in shape in the event of the steamer running.

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there this winter. Work was started ten days ago in repairing the damage done at one corner by the ice, which carried away twenty-five piles. The berth is now all ready for the Prince Edward Island on the west side, the dredging having been completed last year.

The Northumberland is still running between Summerside and Point du Chene.

## HONOR FOR A.D. THOMAS, P.G.M.

Graham Lodge, L. O. L., have honored Past Grand Master A. Duncan Thomas of Fredericton by electing him an honorary member and they have presented him with a handsome engraved certificate and address. The address was as follows:

To Brother A. Duncan Thomas:  
It is of the greatest pleasure to us, to be able, at this time, in the history of our Orange Association, to recognize in you, and to present to you, as a token of our brotherly and fraternal esteem, an honorary certificate, in recognition of your long years of faithful service and bountiful work among us and especially L. O. L. No. 20.

It has fallen to your lot, to have occupied the highest positions, throughout the various Orange associations, of this your native province, and each and every one you have filled with honor to yourself and credit to the association.  
Through your many years of service, we are proud to say, that you have never stooped to use your position or your popularity for the furtherance of your private position or your personal emolument. The welfare of your association has always been your guide, being first and foremost in your mind and heart, and every act and deed has been for the furtherance of its righteous cause. Your views have all been of broadmindedness and of good fellowship to your brother man. You have always responded nobly to the call of your association, often times at the expense of your health, and of great personal sacrifice to yourself.

It is, therefore, with profound respect, brotherly and fraternal love, in presenting to you this small token, in some way to show the regard in which you are held by your brother Orange men, and we further wish and pray that God may yet deem it best to bestow on you many more years of the sweetness of life.

We, also, wish to extend to you wife and family, our sincerest wishes for the future.  
Yours very fraternally,  
Graham L. O. L. No. 20.  
(Sgd.) E. C. Atkinson.

## PREMIER HEARST APPEALS FOR SERBIAN RELIEF.

Letter from Mr. W. H. Hearst Advocates Support of Committee's Work.

"As the war presses more heavily its burdens and responsibilities upon the people of this country we are prone to forget the smaller nations for whose virtue and independence we are as surely striving as for our own. Because Serbia and Belgium suffered first in this war and have suffered longest, I am glad of this opportunity to commend the work of the Serbian Relief Committee to the kind hearts and generous impulses of the people of Ontario."

Through its government and by its citizens Ontario has made the sick, the wounded, the suffering and the needy its special care. Our sympathies and ministrations extended at home have also followed our boys right into the battle line. We were able as well to think of Belgium and Poland. The Serbian army has fought manfully and suffered uncomplainingly. The Serbian people have been stricken by disaster. The land is desolate. And this is the requital of almost forty years of struggle to stand apart and achieve her own destiny. Serbia has suffered and is in want. And we whom Providence has spared from the grosser horrors of war owe it to those who have lost all that life and land hold dear to minister to them out of our abundance.

"Serbia must live. She must be restored as a nation and possess again her free, simple life. Our sons and brothers across the seas are nobly contributing to that end. Let us who are so favorably placed in life and land give freely and gratefully to those who deserve so well."  
(Signed) "W. H. HEARST."

## Canadian Empire League.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the Canadian Empire League was held last night in the European War Veterans' Association rooms on Charlotte street. The membership now numbers nearly one hundred and measured by the interest which attends their meetings it will soon reach the two hundred mark. The constitution and by-laws were ordered to be printed in book form, and to be distributed among the members. It was also decided to hold a public meeting on the third Thursday in January, at which several prominent speakers will deliver addresses. The matter of distinguishing the members of the association was taken up and after several recommendations and suggestions it was unanimously decided that the association procure badges to be worn by the members. A substantial contribution to the European War Veterans' Association for the purpose of entertaining the children of the members at a concert tonight, also received the unanimous vote of the members. The chair was occupied by Dr. Manning.

## Carlton Curling Club.

The pre-season meeting held by the members of the Carlton Curling Club last night at their rink augurs well for the winter of 1916-17. There were a large number of members present and each member took a deep and personal interest in the business brought up. H. Lingley made a capable chairman. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and recorded the matter of making arrangements for the season's work was discussed. The club proposes to have several outside games as well as the city matches. Financially the club is in a splendid condition, and with the new members joining this year, promises to be one of the most progressive curling clubs in the province.

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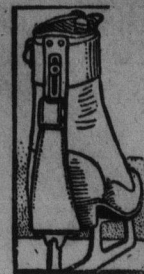
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