

The St. John Standard

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H. V. MACKINNON,
Managing Editor.

ALFRED E. MCGINLEY,
Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 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.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COST OF LIVING.

Those opposition newspapers which have put forward the claim that the Borden Government has done nothing useful in connection with combating the exploitation of the necessities of life, have had less to say since W. P. O'Connor, K. C., the investigator appointed by the Federal Department of Labor, has gone to work. Mr. O'Connor was appointed under the Dominion Government order-in-council giving the government authority to investigate cases of food exploitation and price boosting, and already his appointment is being justified by his work in wide awake municipalities which have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Government to prosecute the food profiteers.

A striking example of this is found in the case of the City of Ottawa. In that city the council addressed questions to firms engaged in the sale of various articles of food, including milk, wholesale produce, butter, eggs, potatoes, groceries, prepared and cured meats, and the cold storage companies. These questions were carefully framed and asked for a return as to costs of food production, quantities of foods held in stock, costs of doing business and selling prices. A large proportion of replies were received but some were not satisfactory. The council, after consideration, turned such cases over to the Department of Labor with the request that an investigation be held. Mr. O'Connor, from the evidence submitted by the Ottawa council, has decided to probe the affairs of the following firms doing business in the Dominion capital:

Charlebois Bros., milk dealers; Ottawa Dairy Company, milk, butter and eggs; John Dever and M. Lethwick, wholesale produce merchants; J. Freedman and E. and G. Gougeon, wholesale merchants; S. J. Major, wholesale grocers; Matthews-Blackwell, Ltd., cold storage warehouse; Swift Canadian Company, pork packers.

These investigations will be commenced at once under the authority conferred by the Dominion Government and it is interesting to note that among the concerns whose affairs are to be probed are some of the largest firms in Ottawa, for the Government's regulation and the Government's investigator treat all alike.

Other cities and towns besides Ottawa have profited from the Government's machinery to prevent undue price boosting. In Sydney and Chatham, to deal only with the Maritime Provinces, a mere hint that governmental investigators might be called in was sufficient to remedy cases where it was felt the consumer was being unduly charged for articles of daily consumption. In fact every community where local authorities have shown sufficient courage to deal with the matter and refer cases of high prices to the Dominion investigator, has benefited, or will benefit by the action.

Mr. O'Connor does not aim to hold a pistol to the heads of business firms dealing fairly with the public, for he undertakes no investigation until first assured that there is ground for a belief that undue profit is being made, but he will use every effort to search out and deal with the man who taking advantage of the abnormal condition existing in the country, seeks to make unjust gains from the consumers. It is distinctly a fair and effective method of dealing with trouble some cases that, under war conditions, are bound to arise all over the country.

WHERE INCREASES ARE MERITED

The young women who are devoting their lives to the cause of education in the city schools met yesterday afternoon and decided to ask the Board of School Trustees to increase their salaries by \$100 a year. Undoubtedly the Board will view the request sympathetically but, unless special grants can be obtained for the purpose, may be unable to comply with it. The Board's estimates for the year have already been passed and they are up to the limit for which the city can assess for such purposes as salaries. Yet the teachers have a very strong case in their application for increased remuneration. No other public servants are so poorly re-

compensed for their labors and it is nothing but the absolute fact to say that, in this city at any rate, the average police officer or fire department employee is financially in a better position than the average school teacher.

The annual report of the schools of New Brunswick for 1914-15 shows that the average remuneration of the female teacher in the common schools of St. John was as follows: Class 1, \$565.63 per year; Class 2, \$445.25; Class 3, \$248.66. This slightly exceeds the average for the province, but it should be remembered that the cost of living in St. John is also considerably higher than in other parts of New Brunswick. Figuring that, in the present crowded condition of the St. John schools, each teacher has at least forty children under her care it can be seen that the remuneration paid averages from \$6 to \$14 per year per child—surely an inadequate sum.

Statistics can be secured to show that the cost of education in the city of St. John is less per capita than in any other city of equal size and importance in the Dominion. This is not creditable to those in authority. While, as stated, it will be necessary for the local board to make special provision before the salaries of the school teachers can be increased it is no more than fair to the teachers, and decidedly in the interest of the cause of education, that they shall receive the highest salaries it is possible to pay them. No branch of public service is of more importance, or makes heavier demands upon those engaged in it. The civic authorities, in considering the expenditures for the coming year have dealt fairly, and in some cases generously, with every other class of public employee. The school teacher merits equal consideration. Salary increases to the city teachers would be in the nature of wise and commendable expenditure.

A GENERAL ELECTION?

Canadians would awaken to pained surprise were they to learn in their newspaper some time within the next three or four weeks that the country had been precipitated into a general election. Yet circumstances are such that an election is quite within the range of possibilities. But a few days ago Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, speaking in Quebec, announced that he would not vote for an extension of the term of the present Parliament.

Liberalism finds itself in real difficulties. The party leader upon whom all hopes of preferment before the Canadian electorate are based is an old man, and growing rapidly older. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is seventy-five, and his strength has to be husbanded with extreme care. Time is inexorable and every year counts. For the Liberal party to lose Sir Wilfrid would be to face the next election without a leader, virtually. It would mean the loss of Quebec support. In a word, hope would depart with the departure of the picturesque French-Canadian.

The Borden administration meanwhile is adding strength to strength. The effect of the grossly magnified "scandals" is passing, or has already passed. The charges of incompetence to deal with the war situation have been dispelled in the light of a proved and existing situation. The Government members have engaged, in addition to their heavy labors, in special recruiting and thrift campaigns. The prime minister has travelled from coast to coast, exhorting the people to rally to the flag of liberty and of Empire. The war in Europe has been placed under the direction of David Lloyd-George, with whom the Canadian Government is in active accord, and who may be counted upon to produce an allied success. Things are coming the way of Canada and of her war Government. The prestige of the Borden administration promises to increase as the war progresses.

Liberalism suffers from more troubles than an aged leader and an opponent in a popular and vigorous war Government. Its sins of commission and of omission follow after and cannot be shaken off. The Opposition attitude toward naval aid for Britain, the obstacles placed in the way of the Government in the institution of its war measures, such as the effort to defeat the first budget and the attempt to throw the country into a racial and religious ferment over the

biannual issue—these things are remembered. Thus the case for the opposition threatens to grow worse, not better. In the circumstances an election is not desirable. But if these circumstances threaten to become still more serious, obviously there is anxiety in the party councils and we find Mr. Lemieux careful to say he is speaking for himself only, the meaning of which is that the party is far from being a unit in the matter. In fact, if a general election is forced upon the country by the Liberal party at this time there may be revolt among even Liberal members of the Commons.

THE NEW SPEAKER.

The selection of E. N. Rhodes, M. P. for Cumberland, as speaker of the Canadian House of Commons is likely to prove a wise choice. The new speaker, who is very well known in the Maritime Provinces, is a member of a family which has long been prominent in the industrial and social life of Canada. He is a man of calm judicial temperament, kindly disposition and high culture, well qualified to discharge the important duties of the honorable office to which he has been called and to uphold its ancient dignities, privileges and traditions. He follows a long line of distinguished men who have held the office since confederation and who have subsequently risen to even higher positions in the service of the state. Mr. Rhodes has made an acceptable deputy speaker and the experience gained there will stand him in good stead in the more important office.

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE CO.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 17.—More than \$291,000,000 of paid-for life insurance was issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in 1916, and at the lowest expense-rate in Prudential history, according to the forty-first annual figures of the company, read yesterday by President Forrest P. Dryden at the opening session of an international business conference of Prudential field representatives, held here. This issue, Mr. Dryden explained, represents a gain in insurance in force of over \$283,000,000.

President Dryden also stated that The Prudential now has 15,000,000 policies representing a total of over \$5,000,000,000 insurance in force, containing The Prudential although one of the youngest, as the second company in the world in this respect. Since its organization in 1876, Mr. Dryden stated The Prudential, recently mutualized, has paid a total of over \$428,000,000 to its policyholders, not including more than \$38,750,000 not called for by the policy contracts. These payments in 1916 alone totaled \$47,278,000, covering an average of 550 claims every working-day of the year.

Although The Prudential writes insurance only in the United States and Canada, it has paid 1,184 war claims, for a total of \$364,000.

It is the first time in thirteen years that The Prudential has called its men in from all over the United States and Canada for a general conference with Home Office executives, and it is believed the gathering, which will last three days, will result in much good to the agency force.

The Conference will be almost a continual session at the Home Office here, and will be broken by a dinner tomorrow night at the Hotel Biltmore, in New York. At the dinner New Jersey's newly elected Governor, Walter E. Edge, and Jesse R. Phillips, Insurance Commissioner of New York, George M. LaMonte, Insurance Commissioner of New Jersey, Richard V. Lindabury, General Counsel for the company, and Austen Colgate, trustee for Prudential policyholders, will be the speakers.

THE POLICE COURT.

In the Police Court yesterday George Mahoney, charged with illegally taking his two children from the custody of the Children's Aid Society, was given his liberty with the understanding that he leave the city and the children be looked after by the society. George M. Mahoney appeared in the interests of the defendant.

Allowed To Go.

William Pressel was before Magistrate Ritchie yesterday afternoon, charged with following and annoying girls. The fellow fairly denied the charge and as he had an honorable discharge from the American army and as there was nothing against him on the police court records he was allowed to go.

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Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.

Pop and ma and my sister Gladie was in the setting room, pop smoking and ma trying to close an envelope without being able to make it stick, and Gladie just setting there, and I sed, Wat do you think, pop, wat do you think, ma, wat do you think, Gladie?

Wat do you think yourself? sed pop. That boy is forever wanting to know wat people think, sed Gladie. There was a poor blind beggar standing on the pavement with his hat in his hand and nothing on his head, and I put a cent in his hat, I sed.

Well I am glad to hear it, and I take this occasion to demonstrate that even in this mawty wend a worthy action be rewarded wants in a wile, sed pop.

And he took a sent out of his pants pocket and gave it to me, and ma sed, Benny, that was a very noble thing to do, Im going to give you a sent, to.

And she got her pocketbook off of the table and got a sent out of it and gave it to me, and Gladie sed, It really was nice of you, Benny, theres my pocketbook up on the mantel, hand it to me.

Wich I did, and she gave me a sent, to, and I sed, The lady sed it would be a good lesson in charity for me.

Wat lady? sed pop and ma and Gladie.

Wy, the lady that gave me the sent to put in his hat, I sed.

Can you beat that, sed pop.

Well of all things, sed ma.

Ill be switched, sed Gladie. Ony none of them asked me to give them their sent's back, so I didnt.

OUTLOOK IS BRIGHT FOR EASTERN LINES

The work of reorganizing the Eastern Steamship Corporation, whose entire property was recently sold under foreclosure proceedings for more than \$3,000,000 is proceeding very satisfactorily, according to information received in this city. The shares of the new organization, to be known as the Eastern Steamship Lines, will be listed on the Boston stock exchange within the next two months.

The old corporation, under the management of Calvin Austin, receiver, earned a final surplus of \$468,000 during five months up to December 1, an increase of \$14,000 over the corresponding period of 1916.

In connection with the reorganization the New Haven Railroad has agreed to accept in exchange for its 15,000 shares of preferred stock in the Eastern 18,750 shares of preferred stock of the reorganized company and to exchange the \$1,500,000 first mortgage bonds which it holds for a like amount of income bonds. The road has paid an assessment of \$375,000 on its preferred stock holdings, and has recently been offered and has received 52 1/2¢ per share for them.

DIED.

FERGUSON—At the home of her mother, Mrs. Samuel Ferguson, Lorneville, on the 16th inst. Eleanor May Ferguson, aged seventeen years, leaving a mother and four sisters to mourn.

THOMPSON—In this city, on January 17th, Ada E., beloved wife of Alexander Thompson, assistant post office inspector, in the 54th year of her age, leaving husband, three sons and one daughter to mourn their loss.

Funeral Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from her late residence, 105 Leinster street.

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Principal

QUIT MEAT WHEN KIDNEYS BOTHER

Take a glass of Salts before breakfast if your Back hurts or Bladder is troubling you.

No man or woman who eats meat regularly can make a mistake by flushing the kidneys occasionally, says a well-known authority. Meat forms uric acid which excites the kidneys, they become overworked from the strain, get sluggish and fail to filter the waste and poisons from the blood, then we get sick. Nearly all rheumatism, headaches, liver trouble, nervousness, dizziness, sleeplessness and urinary disorders come from sluggish kidneys.

The moment you feel a dull ache in the kidneys or your back hurts or if the urine is cloudy, offensive, full of sediment, irregular of passage or attended by a sensation of scalding, stop eating meat and get about four ounces of Jad Salts from any pharmacy; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast and in a few days your kidneys will act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate the kidneys, also to neutralize the acids in urine so it no longer causes irritation, thus ending bladder weakness.

Jad Salts is inexpensive and cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink which everyone should take now and then to keep the kidneys clean and active and the blood pure, thereby avoiding serious kidney complications.

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