

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 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.

## IS THIS THE "OVERT ACT"?

The American people must have read with something of a shock the announcement that an American steamer, the Algonquin, had been torpedoed by the Germans. This, coming after President Wilson's plain statement of America's intentions, cannot be construed in any other light than as the required "overt act" for which our American cousins have promised to be waiting before really engaging in war with Germany.

The despatches bring the news that the Algonquin was torpedoed without warning and that her crew escaped. The latter fact is due either to the alacrity of her sailors or the quality of her preparation for just such a contingency. Certainly it was no part of the German design that the Americans on the Algonquin should live to tell the story. That, to the Hun mind, was a detail of no importance.

It cannot be said that in sinking the Algonquin Germany acted without notice to Washington—even if she did not advise the captain or crew of the ill-fated craft. When Berlin replied to the American note regarding unrestricted submarine warfare she plainly stated that she had established a war zone and would sink any ships—American or otherwise—that came within it. No notice was to be given to merchant vessels but, if caught within the limits of the war zone they were to be sunk on sight and their passengers or crew left to shift for themselves.

This condition was made abundantly plain to President Wilson and his colleagues. The position of the United States on submarine warfare was most emphatic. As long ago as May, 1915, Washington said to Berlin:

"Manifestly, submarines cannot be used against merchantmen, as the last few weeks have shown, without an inevitable violation of many sacred principles of justice and humanity."

Almost a year later, on April 18, 1916, the United States president directed these words to the attention of Germany:

"It has become painfully evident to it (the United States Government) that the position it took at the very outset is inevitable, namely, the use of submarines for the destruction of an enemy's commerce is, of necessity, because of the very character of the vessels employed, and the very methods of attack which their employment involves, utterly incompatible with the principles of humanity, the long-established and incontestable rights of neutrals and the sacred immunities of non-combatants."

These warnings were without effect and as the result of unquestionable evidence of Germany's sinister designs against the United States the President a few weeks ago gave the order for the arming of American merchant vessels and announced that all necessary steps would be taken for the protection of American citizens and American interests no matter what such a decision might lead to. Now, in the face of that, the Germans have carried out their threat, and have sent to the bottom another vessel under the American flag. Will President Wilson accept the challenge so insolently given or, like the small boy faced by a more powerful adversary, will he "hunt for another ship?"

The next few days should see interesting developments in the situation both at Washington and Berlin.

## GENERAL F. B. BLACK.

The promotion of Col. F. B. Black, of Sackville, to command in the new 5th Division, C. B. F., comes as well deserved recognition of meritorious military service. Col. Black will be the first Maritime Province officer to command an overseas brigade with the rank of Brigadier General. The Moncton Times of yesterday publishes the following sketch of his career:

Colonel Black was born at Sackville on February 28th, 1869. He is a graduate of Mount Allison University, and joined the Canadian Militia in 1891. He volunteered for service in South Africa in 1899, and when the present war broke out in 1914, was serving as a Major in the 8th Princess Louise Hussars. He volunteered for service overseas on August 6th, 1914, two days after the war commenced, and in December, 1914, was appointed Brigade Major to the 2nd Brigade, Canadian Mounted Rifles. He went overseas with this Brigade in the spring of 1915, and was placed in command of the brigade at the front by General Seely in November, 1915. He was mentioned in despatches of the commander in chief on the first of December, 1915, and four days later, on the 4th December, was wounded by a shell before Messines. He returned to England,

and on May 10th, 1916, was appointed commander of the 5th Canadian Training Brigade, with promotion to the rank of full Colonel. On account of the death of his brother, Major J. W. S. Black, he was granted leave of absence on January 18th, 1917, to return to Canada upon urgent family affairs. In addition to his military duties General Black was also a member of the Legislative Assembly of the province during the past four years.

## MAKE EVERY ACRE PRODUCE.

The campaign to increase the production of foodstuffs in Canada which is being conducted by the Dominion Department of Agriculture should meet with a hearty response. Great Britain looks largely to this country for food supplies, not only for her civilian population but for her armies in the field. Not only is it a patriotic duty to strain every effort to meet that requirement but one of the ways to combat the increased cost of living is to add to the available supplies of food. In this connection many suggestions have been made and in some of the larger Canadian cities campaigns to encourage vegetable gardening in vacant lots are being vigorously waged. In such campaigns the promoters have secured the co-operation and assistance of many citizens who can well afford to pay any price for table vegetables but who, this summer, will grow their own as an encouragement to those of more moderate means.

"Forego the flowers and plant vegetables" is a catch-phrase used by one association of amateur gardeners in Ottawa and already they are at work with the result that available supplies of vegetables in that city are likely to be increased before the growing season passes. Gardening has long been recommended as one of the most healthful of recreations. Now it takes on a new importance. It is not only conducive to health but also profitable.

It is not to amateur gardeners however that the appeal of the Dominion Department of Agriculture is addressed. Cultivation of the vacant land adjoining one's dwelling may result in the production of sufficient vegetables for one's table use but what can be done in this way will not tend to relieve the food situation to any appreciable extent. It is the professional farmers who till their acres scientifically who can solve the food problem. Every new acre under cultivation means an addition to the national wealth and in this time it is absolutely necessary that Canada's agricultural resources shall be worked to the limit. In specifically directing attention to this the Dominion Government is doing a service of real national worth. It remains for the agriculturists of the country to make that service of the greatest value to themselves, to Canada and to the Empire. The 1917 slogan for Canada should be "Make Every Acre Produce."

## CONNAUGHT—LABORI.

Thousands of Canadians will read with real sorrow this morning of the death in England yesterday of the Duchess of Connaught who up to a few months ago ruled at Rideau Hall as the co-worker of Canada's most popular Governor General. The Duchess of Connaught had been in poor health for some weeks. While engaged in visiting London hospitals she contracted a severe cold which later developed into pneumonia and caused her death.

As the First Lady in the Land, the Duchess of Connaught won hundreds of admirers in Canada. Democratic, tactful, a charming hostess and an earnest worker in all movements for the welfare of Canada and Canadians she proved in every truth a helpmate to her beloved husband and the outstanding success of the Duke of Connaught's regime as Governor General was due in no small degree to the gentle lady who shared his duties and responsibilities.

Death claimed another figure of world-wide importance yesterday in Maitre Fernand Labori, for many years recognized as the foremost advocate in France. Maitre Labori first won fame in the Zola case. Later he defended Captain Alfred Dreyfus, the hero of "Devil's Island," and his work in that trial and in others arising out of it gained for him a position in the world's front rank. He was also leading counsel in the Humbert case whose revelations created such a furore of

Interest several years ago.

Maitre Labori was the author of many works recognized as the most authoritative utterances on French law. Since the outbreak of war he had devoted much time to assisting in patriotic and charitable objects. He was a valued counsellor whose advice was treasured by his country. In his death France loses one of her greatest minds.

The Telegraph and Times are still nervous. Now they are speculating when the government will resign and how much time must elapse before Mr. Leader Foster and the choice spirits with whom he has surrounded himself will occupy seats in the legislature and have access to the treasury benches. After being out of power for nine years it can readily be imagined that our friends of Canterbury street are hungry, but—patience, little ones. Before Mr. Foster and his colleagues can proceed to administer the affairs of this province they must be ratified by the people and that may be more than a mere formality.

And while the Federal Government is attempting to stimulate production of foodstuffs why not start a class in kitchen-gardening in New Brunswick with Mr. Dark Lantern Brigadier Carvell as instructor? Mr. Carvell, from his experience with "Kitchens" should be eminently qualified.

China has seized German ships in Shanghai harbor. The United States is still engaged in "watchful waiting."

## THE ARMY IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Basrah, Mesopotamia, Feb. 10.—(British eye-witness)—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—An army in Mesopotamia may be immobilized in the rainy season by the mud, in the spring floods, in the summer and early autumn by heat. With the exception of October and November there is no month in which an army may move with any certainty of a clear road's unimpeded progress.

For the last ten days the mud has been holding up carts and pack animals. It has not been safe for a camel to start on a day's journey lest he split and die. Nevertheless, the army transport, taxed to its limit before, has risen to the new demand. By lighting loads, a more sort of mobility has been effected under conditions in which the elements conspire to clog all movement. Early regulation, save the unwritten one to use one's common sense, is at hand for the exigencies of the hour.

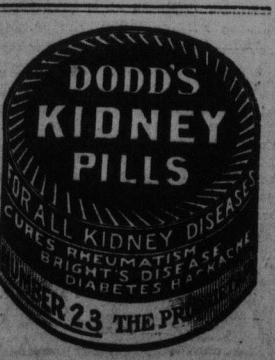
But even while the transport department is combating one difficulty it is fighting another of a different kind. While everything is sodden and mud-logged, it must look ahead to the season of floods and to the burning months of May, June, July, August and September. Last year, things went better during the hot season this year. The climate of Mesopotamia is no worse than that of the Punjab, and troops would be as fit on the Tigris as on the Indus if they had the same protection from the heat and a fair proportion of the comforts available in India. Last summer, on account of the inadequate river transport, these compensations were not to be had, but now with increased facilities the position is changed.

## Improvement in Tentage.

This year there will be a great improvement in tentage, with the substitution of the large European pattern, 18 feet by 16 feet, for the small single bay expedition tents of last year. Preparations are in hand for the provision of ice-plants at all the big stations on the lines of communication, soda-water factories calculated to turn out so much per head per day, frozen meat storehouses and barges, vegetable gardens of 3,000 acres each, grass farms to save transport, chicken farms, dairy farms, provision of sterilized milk, a more systematized arrangement for the purchase of fresh meat and local produce, and various labor and transport saving apparatus. More but shelters with mait roof- ing will be provided. All these things should help in maintaining the health and comfort of the troops, although of course no possible transport arrangements can bring in material to eliminate the toll of the sun, or to make the men as comfortable here as in cantonments. The shade of trees and strong shelter of walls and roofs to keep out heat must always be wanting in a country which produced neither wood nor stone, and has no building material except sun-dried bricks, and that in unsatisfactory quantities and qualities. Through all the cycles of its civilizations the country can never have possessed a paved road.

The British army now holds over three hundred miles of this inhospitable country. This army is dependent mainly on river transport. The number of steamers available has been increased, but the difficulties are still great. The vessel which can be adapted to all the varieties of the Tigris is hard to find. Different types of craft are serviceable at different seasons and in different sections of the river. From the end of March to the beginning of July there is flood water, and a steamer has to make head against a five-knot current. In the autumn the channel is only a few feet deep, and no craft drawing more than four feet six inches is of use. The channel is constantly changing, and its sharp twists and turns complicate navigation.

At first, the use of the Tigris as a



## Little Benny's Hote Book

By LEE PAPE.

Miss Kitty made the class rite a competition on Spring for home-work last night, this being mine Spring.

When the leaves begin to hide the trees and the grass starts to look like last summer, then you know it's Spring. In case you can't tell that way, you have to look at the calendar.

There is 4 seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Therefore, if it wasn't for Spring there couldn't be any Summer on account of the distance from Winter.

Sum people say they wish it was Spring all the year around, but the summer people say they wish it was Summer all the year around, and the autumn people say they wish it was Autumn all the year around, and the winter people say they wish it was Winter all the year around.

The following is a poem about Spring  
When the birds come back from the South and sing,  
And bid their nest in somebody's tree,  
It's either a sign that they know it's Spring  
Or it's not its going to be.

Other signs of Spring is when the fellows play marbles, and get up in the morning without being called more than about 3 times, and hate to go to school more than ever.

If vacation came in Spring it would be one of the best seasons there is.

line of communication was limited to the use of vessels which could be got through the Narrows, also for forty miles there is no way of vessels passing each other in the low water season. The congestion here has been removed by the completion of the railway.

## "A BOLT FROM THE BLUE."

March 14th, 1917.

Editor of The Standard:  
Sir—The following should interest temperance people seriously:

La Monteur Acadien, on the other hand, intimates that the liberal canvassers dragged in race appeals, held up the scores of the Narrows, also unjustly accusing Hon. Dr. Landry, in Kent, of being opposed to the French tongue, and with having prevented Mr. Dugal from speaking French in the legislature. It appears, also, that prohibition was not a stranger to the result. While the prohibitionists voted according to their conscience, the liquor dealers ranged themselves against the government.

At a meeting of Temperance folk in Centenary church last evening it is reported:

"We should strike our greatest blow as soon as prohibition goes into effect, exactly seven weeks from today," said Michael Kelley, speaking from the floor. Upwards of fifty people voiced their approval.

The Prohibitory Law passed by the Government makes any such blow possible. Many temperance voters withheld their support on February 24th in order to show that they were not in the hands of the liquor trade. Your honor is at stake Mr. Temperance Man—Think it over.

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from \$7.50 to \$22.00 at Wilcox's. Don't fail to see them when you purchase yours. It pays to shop where you can get the most for your money—that is Wilcox's, corner Charlotte and Union.

## A "CALL"

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"One pair," replied the chauffeur, beckoning to the eloping couple to come forward.



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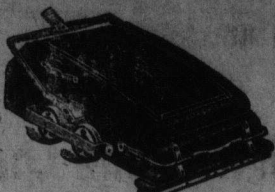
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