

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1918.

USE THIS PORT.

Since the armistice was signed three transports carrying Canadian soldiers have reached Canada. One of these boats had a large number of men; the other two carried comparatively small numbers. On each of these occasions there was serious bawling in the disembarkation of the men, in their transfer to trains, and the continuation of their transportation to the districts to which they were assigned. More than this, there has been constant complaint all along the line from Moncton to the West with respect to the manner in which the military authorities have failed to give out information concerning the arrival of those troops. In Ottawa a few days ago three trainloads of soldiers arrived, only one of which was announced, and friends who had been expecting returning relatives were deeply disappointed at not having the opportunity of meeting them. In Montreal hundreds of people stood in the cold and slush for seven or eight hours waiting for a train which they understood from the railway officials would arrive at a certain time, and about which the military would give no information. In so far as Montreal is concerned, such sharp criticism was aroused that the military authorities have now established an information bureau in the depot, and will be in a position to give out such information as may be asked for in connection with these troop trains hereafter.

Possibly some of these transports arrived before the railway authorities expected them. The railway authorities should not have to do any expecting whatever. This is the job of the military in charge of demobilization and of returning troops. It is the duty of the railway to provide such cars as may be required for the transportation of men from the point of disembarkation to their destinations at such times as cars may be necessary. And it has been found that in certain respects the Canadian National Railway has been doing more than should have been expected. For instance, Halifax yards have for the past ten days been full of cars placed there on order of the military, waiting for a vessel which left the other side a couple of days ago, and which will be one in Halifax until the latter part of the present week. Because of this, serious delay was occasioned in the case of soldiers who arrived in Halifax on Saturday last, and for whom hospital cars had not been prepared and were not available. This state of affairs shows grave carelessness somewhere, and if such a condition can exist at a time when comparatively small groups of men are being returned from overseas, what will happen when demobilization commences in real earnest, and men are brought back at the rate of twenty or thirty thousand each month? It is imperative in the interests of all concerned, and particularly of the men themselves and of their friends, that more than one Atlantic port be utilized for their reception. There is no reason whatever why the Canadian National Railway, with its limited equipment should be required to care for all this heavy traffic, while St. John, with ample accommodation and with far superior railway facilities for the transfer of troops, remains idle. There is no question but that the Canadian Pacific Railway could handle from this port with greater despatch and with far more comfort to the men, larger numbers of returning soldiers than can be cared for at Halifax. And the difference in time being all to the advantage of St. John would prove a source of great satisfaction to the homecoming fighters and to their families.

NO DESERTERS.

During the period of enlistment, and later under the Military Service Act, our men entered the army for the duration of the war and for six months afterwards. The war still continues, although fighting has ceased, and it may be assumed that the original conditions are rigidly enforced, enlistment will mean as long a time within the six months period after peace has been signed, as is necessary for the completion of such works as may be required in closing the campaign. But, of course, the men will be discharged as soon as their services are no longer needed.

When Union Government was formed those who pledged their support to it did so for the duration of the war. They went into coalition with the avowed intention of helping Canada to carry out those works necessary towards our success. They should be prepared to abide by their original intention and remain faithful adherents of Union Government at least until peace is declared. And if they are loyal to their country as our soldiers overseas, they will be equally prepared to continue as honest supporters of that government for such time after the signing of peace as may be necessary to bring about the readjustment of conditions in Canada. No member of Parliament who, for the past year or more, has been a supporter of Union Government can find justification for adversely criticizing that

government at the present time, for seeking to re-establish partisan principles, or for endeavoring to break away from his colleagues in order to resume such political relations as existed before the formation of Union. The fighting is over, but the war is by no means over in so far as this country is concerned. Perhaps the most trying time is still to come, a time when the best thought of our legislators will be required towards the establishment of pre-war conditions in every phase of our national life. And the member or supporter who now endeavors to weaken the hands of the Government by permitting his partisan prejudices to run away with him, and by criticizing the administration of which he forms a part, is as much a deserter from national service as one who avoids his duty in the firing line is under the Military Service Act.

Until there is no further need for Union, until this country is back to the condition in which it was industrially, socially and otherwise before war was declared, until then Union Government is the government of this land by the wishes of the people.

NO SCARCITY OF FOOD.

The Standard special cable service from Europe via New York contains valuable information as to the food conditions existing in Germany as revealed to the Allied armies of occupation. This information bears out the statements which have been made all along that Germany has not been in need of food, but that her many pleading messages to Wilson and to others are simply a part of her propaganda to obtain world-wide sympathy. It is apparent from what appears in these despatches that Germany's food producing live stock is as numerous as at any time during the war, that her cereals are in abundance, although perhaps not of the finest quality, and that there is nowhere in the entire empire any real hardship. On the contrary it is pointed out that food can be purchased and has been purchased, at every point so far occupied by the Allied armies, at prices very much lower than prevail in France or in England. It can be clearly seen, too, from the appearance of the people that there has been no suffering from hunger. No doubt it is true that Germany, like all other countries, has been compelled to enforce during the past few years a system of rationing, but it is apparent that this was enforced for the purpose of checking waste, and not to reduce the diet of the people. This is seen in the appearance of men, women and children who, so far, without exception, have been found well fed and well clothed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Hon. F. B. Carvell seems to have the proper idea about public works expenditure at this particular time. It will be remembered that after Mr. Carvell took office he used the pruning knife very effectively on expenditures of the Public Works Department, cutting off absolutely every outlay not justified by immediate requirements. His policy of so restricting expenditures at that time was considered by some to be entirely too severe. But his plan appears to have been for the benefit of the country in the way of other and more important works. Those who criticized him at that time will be inclined to praise the policy which he now outlines, namely the expenditure of the money for public works of immediate importance, for certain works not of immediate importance but necessary in the near future, and for the carrying on of all those projects, even though the cost of construction at the present time may be greater than will be the case in a few years. Having saved while the money was urgently required for war work, Mr. Carvell proposes to help solve the labor problem at home by providing all possible employment in works of a public nature. And he intends sticking to the contract system. There have been suggestions that the Government itself should carry on many of these works, but he feels that men working for the government get that easy government feeling and that the costs of this method are much greater than under the contract system, whereby the desire to make good with the boss results in greater accomplishments.

WHAT THEY SAY

The Good Socialist.
Richmond Times-Dispatch — Victor Berger, selected, but probably not elected, to Congress by his patriotic compatriots of Milwaukee, was acclaimed at Chicago as "a good Socialist qualified by four indictments." This country is coming pretty fast to the conclusion that the only good Socialist is a Socialist in the penitentiary with a fat sentence ahead of him.

There Are Limits.
New York Sun — Marshal Foch, whom we only saw twice, at the beginning and at the end of the conference, is a stern, plain man. He did not speak a single word to us in the tone which formerly distinguished the chivalrous French nation — a member of the German aristocratic commission.

Perhaps even a chivalrous nation may resent the invasion of its soil, the barbaric destruction of its national monuments and the enslavement of its people.

These Long-Forgotten Days.

Indianapolis News — In a dim and happy past are the days when a quart bucketful of rich, creamy milk could be bought from the corner grocer for the consideration of 5 cents. In that medieval period neither the groceryman nor the milkman was far from his coming with a bell, whereupon the housewife went to his vehicle with a bucket or pail — would have scorned to sell a cent's worth of milk. No consumer now would care to make such a request for less than 5 cents worth of anything, no matter how minute the amount wanted.

Our Men in China.

The North China Star — Soldiers in all armies at all times have been drinking men. There was a time when soldiers in peace measured their prowess by drinking. Ordeal by liquor was a method of ascertaining a soldier's capacity for good fellowship. Hard drinking soldiers were, in those far off days, believed to be the best soldiers. The chocolate soldier is an innovation of our times. The soldier who, the wise ones laughed at the buffoonery. But the chocolate soldier seems to have come to stay and the "boozer" has been scrapped with other antiquities which have not stood the test of this war.

Distinctly Disappointing.

London Daily Chronicle — Economy in the saving of stationery by the use of envelopes two or more times in the post may sometimes be a little too far for the recipient's peace of mind. Yesterday morning there came to our breakfast table a foolscap packet addressed to the writer. There was a post mark on the flap and the name of the recipient's name was on the flap. The recipient's name was on the flap. The recipient's name was on the flap. The recipient's name was on the flap.

Who Bit Grante?

The Philadelphia Record — During the war it was a favorite pastime of William Hohenzollern that in seeking to defeat German President Wilson and the Allies generally were going "to bite granite," a presumably painful performance, and especially hard on the teeth of middle-aged persons. It would be interesting to know how big and little Willie passed through the ordeal when applied to themselves before taking refuge in Holland. Is there anything left of their grinders and incisors? Probably they are harmless now. But the Peace Conference should make sure of the matter by selecting another domicile for him. We want no returns from Eiba for these bloodthirsty maniacs.

Huns Must Take Second Place.

New York Tribune — Our food and our financial affairs should go first to the victims of Teuton brutality. We have Belgium, Serbia and Rumania to reconstruct. We owe a prior obligation to the Czechs-Slovaks, the South Slavs, the Albanians, the Armenians, the Ukrainians and the people of the Baltic provinces, all of whom have suffered from enemy frightfulness. We must supply their needs before we think of indulging in Quixotic philanthropy toward their oppressors. The Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians and Turks pay as a poor recompense by begging alms and crying "Kamerad" to our mercy. Do they think that we fought the war without knowing what we were doing and lack now the moral fibre to maintain a righteous balance between friends and enemies?

Following the Leader.

Indianapolis News — In the old childhood game of "follow the leader," the boy in front had everything his own way. It was not the business of those who came after him to reason why. It was their duty to keep on going, and trust to the boy ahead. That is the attitude of many voters in both of the leading political parties. They do not think for themselves. Many a man puts his property in his wife's name and then decries his political convictions to some politician. He lets the children do his thinking and depends upon their neighbors to take care of the affairs of the community. Such men are slackers. There are duties to be performed in this country if the country is to remain free and if the political leaders are to interpret the best thought of the nation.

A BIT OF VERSE

Life's Message to the Weary.
Fold not, worn hands; life still the task inspires.
Though gladly you would creep on quiet breast;
The weaker ones of earth might go astray —
Wait for your rest; now feet another day
With busy fingers.
Close not, dim eyes; life yet your view requires.
Though swiftly you would seek a higher quest;
Through you the blind shall find their groping way
To faith's bright crest, so most another day
With hope's sure harbingers.
Fall not, tired voice; life now your song desires.
Though softly you your music would arrest
Are gay —
Leave not the nest, make sweet another day;
Love needs the singers.
Rest well, dear heart; life still for you aspires.
For bravely you endured at His request;
Beyond the veil He waits to guide the way;
A welcome guest, you greet another day
With joy that lingers.
—Marie Chastie.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.
The Kaiser and the Dum Germin.
The Kaiser is a middle size short man with his mustache turned straight up at both ends to make him look higher. With white fat dum Germin he would never fool any of us Allies.
The Kaiser thinks that just because he was born on a throne he can do whatever he wants. With he on a throne in Germany, on account of the dum Germin not knowing that all men are equal except those that don't know it, such as the dum Germin.
If there was a hunk of paper laying on the pavement and the Kaiser went up to a Germin and said, I command you to pick up that hunk of paper, the Germin would pick it up without saying beans, but if the Kaiser went up to a Ally, such as an American or a Englishman or a Frenchman, and said that, the Ally would look hawty and say, Pick it up yourself, you're the one wants it; picked up, ain't you? Proving it ain't so hard to tawk back to a kin g, especially somebody else's king. And whenever the commin people find out it ain't so hard to even tawk back to this rown king, they keep o' doing it till somebody starts a revolution.
When the dum Germin get tired of starving to death on account of the war, they mite try to tawk back to the Kaiser jest to see if anything will happen, and when they find out nothing does, they will see that all men are equal and educate their children not to be so dum.

The Home-Fire.

Patting drops drip
In sane, on wild;
Trickling from spout's lip,
Coasting through mould,
Gust-omit the pause whirring —
Bright his threshold.
Nocks the hickory-log,
Pickers the fare;
On her kind face,
Blinks at his glare,
Or listens, ear agog,
"Is his step there?"
Caverns in coals invite
Child-fancies gay,
Questing in magic light
One far away,
His heart's eyes, in ware night
Picture their play.
Roay the freight falls
Angel of dear home's walls,
On her kind face,
His heart's solace;
Trust of seneschals
In her Knight's place.
—Georgina C. Counsell.
Grimsby, Ont.

A BIT OF FUN

Haw! Haw! Major!
"So this is your famous Beacon street," said Major X, as he strolled with his friend along past the State House. "Frankly, I'm surprised. I had always heard that it was a very exclusive street, you know."
"Well so it is," said the other man.
"Oh! old chap, how can you say so? Why, it positively verges on the Common."
Easily Solved.
Teacher — Now, Johnny, suppose you wanted to build a \$1,000 house and had only \$700, what would you do?
Johnny — Marry a girl with \$300.
In Boston, At Any Rate.
The game last night was won by the best team," remarks an exchange. No; it is generally won by the better team.
Trying it Out.
Hobbs — The plastering the city with posters saying "Lend" must have a strong psychological effect.
Dobbs — Do you really think so? Lend me \$10, will you?
Doing Her Bit.
Mrs. Kewler — My dear, you will pardon me, but why do you allow the castor oil on your furniture to seep so?
Mrs. Youngblood — I'm doing my bit, dear. You see I stand the squeak of the castor oil rather than use one drop of castor oil that is so badly needed for our airplanes.
Our Unguarded Moments.
Young Minister (receiving gift of fountain pen) — Thank you. I hope I shall now be able to write better sermons.
The Lady — I hope so.
Warned.
"I'm going to get a divorce. My wife hasn't spoken to me for six months."
"Better be careful. You'll never get another wife like that."
An eastern clergyman says kissing is a relic of the dark ages. However that may be, much of it is still done in the dark.
Still speaking of old-fashioned things, what's become of the old-fashioned men who used to wear sleeve garters and carried a memorandum book?
Also, They're so Common.
"The trouble with being a hero."

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