

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 42 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B. Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor. THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY Henry de Clerque, 111-113, Mallers Bldg., Chicago; Louis Klebahn, West 44th St., New York; Freeman & Co., 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1919.

THE VETERANS' REQUEST.

It required more than ordinary courage on the part of Premier Borden and members of his cabinet to refuse definitely the request of the Great War Veterans' Association for a commission to consider the advisability of extending additional financial aid to returned soldiers. It is difficult at any time to refuse requests of those who have served overseas, and for the very reason men who have served should exercise the greatest moderation in presenting claims for what they consider fair treatment. Apparently, however, the G. W. V. A. throughout Canada has not considered seriously what this latter request means. The plan was proposed by a group in Calgary, some of whom perhaps need the money for which they ask, and by means of an active campaign other associations scattered throughout Canada were induced to join in the movement, with the result that the proposition secured the endorsement of the national committee in Ottawa.

Approximately 450,000 men enlisted for overseas service, of whom 50,000 gave their lives, and 400,000 have returned or are on their way. These men have already received or are now receiving the war gratuity voted by the Dominion and amounting to not less than \$250,000,000. This gratuity has averaged more than \$600.00 per man. The request made by Premier Borden a few days ago for a commission looked to an additional payment to all returned men of \$2,000.00, which would involve an increase of Canada's national debt by not less than the stupendous sum of \$800,000,000. However grateful the people of this country may be, and their gratitude has been evidenced by the fact that Canada has acted with a far greater measure of generosity toward her soldiers than has been displayed by any other country on earth. It is financially impossible to even consider for a moment the expenditure of such a sum. Even were it advisable to saddle this country with such an additional load, the money could not be procured. We have the utmost difficulty as it is in financing the ordinary operating expenses of the nation and in securing pension schemes, and to provide for the repatriation and re-establishment of returned men on the general plan now being applied. Because of financial stress, necessary public works in all parts of the Dominion have been refused, extensions of our various departmental activities must wait, and in every locality progress is retarded by lack of available funds from the Dominion Treasury to carry on those works so necessary to our country's development.

Premier Borden's reply to the Veterans is definite. He will not authorize a commission to consider further gratuities, not because he and his government fail to appreciate the services of those who went overseas, but because of the state of world finances, and because he recognizes the fact that those who remained at home and performed their duty have a right to the fullest consideration. The war was not won altogether by the men in the firing line, great as their efforts doubtless were. Success was made possible only by the devotion of those who were unable to serve at the front and who kept things going while the boys were away. And amidst all of fact, the soldiers themselves had no real hope of success in this application so recently made. The majority of them looked upon it as something which might be tried, which would do no harm if it failed and which, if successful would mean a considerable amount of money for each of them. From the political standpoint the position of Union Government is distinctly strengthened by the refusal of Premier Borden to consider seriously this request. A government which could find courage to reject a proposal of this nature from men to whom the country owes so much, must be recognized as a government which is acting not in the interests of any one group or class, but for the good of the country as a whole, and Union, in carrying the policy outlined, has won the respect even of the men themselves.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

With the return of Dr. Bridges and the re-opening of the schools, vocational, or technical, education has again become a live subject after the summer recess. Dr. Bridges reports that, from information he was able to obtain in England during his recent visit, his opinion with respect to the introduction of vocational education in this province has been strengthened in that no such attempt can prove entirely successful until a properly equipped building is provided.

Neither the Superintendent nor the majority of the School Trustees are prepared to stand in the way of progress along this line. They will gladly go as far as their finances allow in providing such elementary branches of vocational training as may be considered desirable. But

they quite properly feel that if we are to do this thing at all, it must be well done, and from the experience of others it is made abundantly clear that until we are prepared to establish vocational training as a distinct branch of education with proper equipment and qualified teachers, it will be unwise to squander our limited resources on futile experiments. This does not necessarily mean that we are to harken ourselves with an extravagant plan, that we must launch out on the ambitious scale adopted in Nova Scotia. We can begin in a small way and expand as the demand increases, but for the present it will be much better to provide in the City of St. John accommodation for the children who desire to attend the public schools and who are now shut out by reason of lack of space. Additional quarters are needed in the High School. There is a pressing demand for at least two, and perhaps three, new buildings. Every school in the city is overcrowded, classes are so filled that the teachers are unable to do justice to their work and, by reason of this lack of accommodation, elementary education is soundly suffering. An' since it forms the foundation of all training, we will be well advised to look after the needs of the common schools before committing ourselves to a heavy expenditure on other branches.

TELEPHONE CHARGES.

Contrary to statements made some months ago, it now appears that the New Brunswick Telephone Company is planning a request through the Public Utilities Commission for increased rates. Although no announcement has yet been made by the company it is estimated that this increase is desired for the purpose of making such extensions as will take care of increased business and also to provide for additional expenditure in wages, etc. No reasonable request of a public utility should be opposed with out good cause, and whether such requests are to be regarded as reasonable or otherwise will depend on the information which the company presents for public consideration. If costs of material and operation have advanced at such a rate that the N. B. Telephone Company is not now able to pay the moderate return on its investment which its charter permits and at the same time to set aside for depreciation the amount regarded as a fair allowance, then the company will be entitled to every consideration. But if it appears that this corporation, finding a very heavy increase in business, both long distance and local, deems it imperative to provide extensions of its equipment in all directions, then surely this might well be done through additional capital. General revenue from tolls and rentals account nor, on the other hand, should the public suffer through the incapacity of the existing system to care for the business offered. In any event the New Brunswick Telephone Company will find public sentiment governed to a very large extent by the willingness with which it presents for consideration all phases of its affairs. The fullest possible information should be produced when the proper time arrives.

PROTESTANT ORPHANS.

The decision of the trustees of the Protestant Orphan Asylum to make use of the Martello Hotel in West St. John as temporary quarters will be very generally commended. That building will not do, of course, as a permanent home, but pending such time as funds are available for the purchase or erection of a more suitable plant it will suit very nicely for the accommodation of the overflow from the building now in use. The Martello Hotel has been very greatly improved in recent years, having been practically remodelled for military hospital purposes. It is said that the heating plant is thoroughly satisfactory and that the building readily lends itself to the purpose for which it now to be used. In addition to this, the location is in every way favorable. The grounds are spacious and there is the added advantage of an outlook on Queen Square, which square affords practically unlimited play space for the children. Away from the smoke of the city, with lots of grass and trees in summer, and opportunities for coasting and other winter sports, the unfortunate children who will for a time at least find a home on the West Side, should derive from life a great deal more joy than has been possible in the cramped quarters they at present occupy. The idea of a Provincial Orphanage is an excellent one, and in the movement to establish such a central home for the Protestant children of all New Brunswick, every Protestant church and other organization should unite. Beyond doubt St. John will gladly do more than its share in making such provision. For the immediate present the trustees are in need of financial assistance to make such changes as may be necessary in the Martello property and to carry on the administration of this

WHAT THEY SAY

In the circumstances, Hamilton Herald: "Our look is towards the future, not the past," says W. L. M. King. "Not only is this real wisdom; it is good tactics on the part of the Liberal leader."

Some Fisherman. Mayor De Haven, who cleaned up the Bohemian of Seattle, resigns suddenly with the Simon Peter-like explanation: "I go a-fishing." What sort of fry, and in what waters, and with what "bait," will this super-duper of blue gill for?

Too Hasty, Maybe. Cincinnati Enquirer: Japan is going to keep on irritating China until four or five million Celestials go over and sit down on the chest of that little forty-five million-population bantam while they take off its spurs and clip its comb.

Long Step Forward. New York World: On the whole, the Cummins plan must be regarded as a long step forward in meeting the crisis which has been created by the present railroad situation. In the general principles that it enunciates it is the most hopeful legislative programme that has come out of any agency of Congress in many a day.

Reason Why. New York Times: A correspondent wants to know why it is that the ranking officer in the American army takes precedence of the ranking active officer in the British army. The explanation is simple: We had a regular army before a regular army, whereas England, to illustrate, had her navy before she established a regular army.

Single Authority Better. New York Tribune: If there is to be public control of railroad rates and expenditures it would seem wise to centre authority in one body. If there are two bodies, divergent policies are likely to develop. The tendency of the Transportation Board would naturally be to yield to demands on all, allowing the Interstate Commerce Commission to struggle to meet the bill. Should the Interstate Commission raise rates to give the railroad owners something on the investment, the temptation of the Transportation Board to grab the money for its employes would be strong.

A BIT OF VERSE

L'ENVOI.

(With Apologies to Rudyard Kipling.) When earth's last kettle is spotted, and the invader's cloths are twisted and dried; When the oldest grease-spot has faded and the youngest dust, or care for her housewife's fame, We shall rest, and faith we shall need; With never a shrill alarm or two to set us to work anew.

And those who were neat shall be happy; the small spit on a cushioned chair. Each weary and separate Martha, so cumbered about with care. They shall have real leisure to draw from, with never a storeman's call. And feet shall have done with aching, and never be tired at all.

A BIT OF FUN

Dangerous Symptoms.

Junior—So you didn't propose to her, after all? "No. And I'm not going to. When I got to her house I found her chasing a mouse with a broom."

Or Three.

"Have you got a price-list?" "Not a recent one, madam; but I can give you an old one, and all you have to do is to multiply everything by two."

A Wagfish Tale.

Your friend may vow that he's true-blue. And, when you need him, fall; But when Towser asserts his love for you His is no idle tale.

Not Cheap.

"I hope," she remarked, as she toyed with the new diamond ring he had just placed on her finger, "this isn't a cheap imitation." "No," he answered, frankly, "it's the most expensive imitation I could find."

Effect of Occupation.

"Mrs. Jibb's temper can't be of the best. She complains that her husband is continually putting her out." "What else can she expect in marrying a freeman?"

Versus Farmer.

Country Boarder—You wrote that you were never bothered by mosquitoes here, and they have almost eaten me alive. Farmer—I didn't say anything about me, but when they first arrived I gave 'em a good thrashing; and they don't; I'm used to 'em.

Unfeeling Father.

"Have the Biberbergs named their new twins yet?" "Yes, but they were not given the names applied to them by Mr. Biberbergs when they first arrived: 'Trouble' and 'More of It.'"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PARR. The Park Ave. News. Weather, Partly different. Enter! Grate coincidental! Last Wednesday Leroy Shooter dressed later he was falling down a hole without any bottom at either end and when he woke up he was almost on the floor on account of 4 aials having fell down. Sisisty, Mr. Charles (Puda) Shukins is getting on so good with his piano lessons that he can play his scales with one hand and read a book with the other while he is practicing. Poms by Skinny Martin. Leaving the Stam. A cherry sat on a cherry tree, Waiting for the sun to rise it, And it mite of bin setting there even yet If a hard hadent blow down to swipe it. Intristing Packs about Intristing People. Sam Crosses favorite animal is the horse, but he would rather have a auto. (Advertisement) Call up Big Hunts Information bewro and he will tell you anything you want to know. All he has to do is look in his new book intitled 5000 Packs, containing wates and measures, difrent kinds of money of difrent countries and wat they are worth in each other, how much it costs to send letters to any part of the world in case you want to, etc, etc, etc, etc, etc, etc.

TORONTO HOUSING COM. CONSTRUCT 236 HOUSES

There Have Only Been About One Hundred Bona Fide Applications for Same.

Toronto, Sept. 9.—Manager Swaine, of the Toronto Housing Committee, stated today that while 236 houses are under construction, several almost completed, the bona fide applications number only one hundred. "I am absolutely positive," said Mr. Swaine, "that if we were to commence building now, we could not duplicate the houses we have under construction at present without an added expenditure of \$30,000. Carpenters wages have gone up twice since our work began."

JAP OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT RE ADM. KOLCHAK

The Fallacy of the Report is Pointed Out in That Kolchak is Not in Position to Make Binding Pledge.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 9.—Counselor Debusch, charge of the Japanese Embassy, today authorized a categorical denial of a statement, attributed to Bolshevik sources in Moscow, that Admiral Kolchak had applied to Japan for help, offering in return the northern portion of the island of Seghelin and the Ussuri Valley on the mainland of Siberia. Mr. Debusch points out that Admiral Kolchak could not make a binding pledge relating to Russian territory, and that Japan, all along has been giving all aid possible. There is no intention of continuing the extension of aid, said, Counselor Debusch, who reiterated that Japan had no thought of territorial compensation.

DEATH RESULTS FROM INJURY CAUSED BY FALLING

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Sept. 9.—Moses W. Pond, of Marysville, who was injured on Friday last when he fell from a load of wood, died at Victoria Hospital this morning, aged 71 years.

Mr. Pond was so severely injured when he fell last Friday that he was taken to Victoria Hospital, and yesterday an operation was performed to remove a fragment of the backbone, which was pressing on the spinal column, in the hope that his life might be prolonged, but to no avail, and he passed away at 11 o'clock. For the past seven years he had resided in Marysville and was employed with the Canada Cottons, Ltd. Besides his widow he is survived by two sons, William, of Patton, Me., and Bernard of Marysville, and three daughters, Mrs. Bert Manser, of North Devon, Misses Mattie and Stella at home.

PLACE on your table, bread made of "REGAL FLOUR" and see how your family will like it. The test of the table is the supreme test.

The St. Lawrence Flour Mills Co. Limited MONTREAL

Safety Razors

All the Latest and Best models, such as

- Autostrop
- Gillette
- Sextoblade
- Gem

Stoppers and extra Blades.

Phone M 2640 **McAVITY'S** 11-17 King St.

DIAMONDS

A Diamond Is Its Own Bargain Today

There are really no bargains in diamonds—in the way of price cutting, because no one cuts the price on goods that have "intrinsic value" and that are advancing in value all the time.

In the last ten years Diamonds have advanced over 100 per cent, and are still going up. That is the reason why "a Diamond investment is its own bargain"—and furthermore Diamonds cannot depreciate in value, at least until new Diamond fields are discovered. "As a gift—or for a personal investment"—you cannot go wrong if you make a purchase of one of our Diamonds.

Ferguson & Page

Diamond Importers and Jewelers
King Street St. John, N. B.

LEATHER and BALATA BELTING BELT FASTENERS

—ALSO—

D. K. McLAREN, LIMITED

Manufacturers
Main 1121 — 90 Germain Street, St. John, N. B. — Box 702

Ready-Made Wood Hub Wheels Ready-Ironed Neck Yokes Automobile Tires Grease, Oils, etc.

M. E. AGAR

Phone 818. Union Street, St. John, N. B.

Prompt Repairs

Our complete lens grinding plant enables you to have a broken lens replaced with great promptness. If your order is received early in the day the new lens will be ready before the close of business. If your prescription is on file here, you can save time by telephoning the order. The new ones will then be ready when you bring in the frames, and can be put in place in a few minutes. The charge is always a fair and reasonable one.

L. L. Sharpe & Son

Jewelers and Opticians.
Two Stores— 21 King St. — 100 Union St.

FOR DINING ROOM FLOORS

Use Clear Birch Flooring. It will give you years of service. Cheaper than carpets and does not soil. Beaver Brand Birch Flooring 10c. a foot. Send for price list.

The Christie Wood-working Co., Ltd.

186 Erin Street

A Good Variety of ALL KINDS OF FISH

including Harbor Salmon.

SMITH'S FISH MARKET

25 Sydney Street
Phone M 1704.

The Powerful Katrinka

If Th...

1000 MANITO

We solicit C. H. PET...

Painless Extractions Only 25c.

Boston Dental Parlors
Main Office 827 Main Street. Branch Office 45 Charlotte Street.
Phone 683. Phone 179. J. D. MAHER, Proprietor.
Open 9 a. m. Until 9 p. m.

An Increase in Tuition Rates

is to be made to take effect our New Catalogue is issued. Students may enter at any and those entering before issue will be entitled to preferential rates. No summer vacation.

THE SEABOARD S. KER...
S. KER...

ESTABLISHED 1894. OPTICAL SERVICE

Unexcelled is What We Offer. We grind our own lenses, using your service that is PROMPT and ACCURATE. Send your next repair to us.

D. BOYANER,
111 Charlotte Street

Not too Late to Build

Even now you can start your house, close it in, have it ready for occupancy before spring.

GET BUSY AT ONCE. Don't wait for prices to advance—as they surely will—but start now.

FOR PRICES
Phone Main 3000

MURRAY & GREGOR LIMITED