

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

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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 to say time to refuse requests of those who have served overseas, and for this very reason men who have so 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 to 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 funds to pay outstanding bills, to carry on the reparation 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 as a matter 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 infinitely 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 burden ourselves with an extravagant plant, 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 found to suffer. An' since it is 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 intimated 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 the 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 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 is 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

extension of their work. When their appeal is made let the response be generous.

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 Fishermen.
 Mayor Ole Hanson, who cleaned up the Bolsheviks 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 "lines," and with what sort of "bait" will this super-duper of men angle 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 Tribune: 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 American navy, whereas the contrary is the case in the British services. The explanation is simple: We have a regular army before a regular navy, 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 it, allowing the Interstate Commerce Commission to struggle to meet the bill. Should the Interstate Commission raise rates to give the railroad owners something on their investment, the tendency of the Transportation Board to grab the money for its employees would be strong.

A BIT OF VERSE

L'ENVOI.

(With Apologies to Rudyard Kipling.)
 When earth's last kettle is spotted,
 And never a shrill alarm is blown,
 And dried;
 When the oldest grease-spot has faded
 And the youngest dust
 We shall rest, and faith we shall need it;
 Then down for an aeon or two
 With never a shrill alarm or clock
 To set us to work anew.

And those who were neat shall be happy
 They shall sit on a cushioned chair,
 Each weary and separate Martha,
 Cumbed about with care.
 They shall have real leisure to draw
 From never a storeman's call
 And feet shall have done with aching,
 And never be tired at all.

With never a caller to gossip and
 never a neighbor to blame,
 And no one need scrimp on pennies,
 or care for her housewife's fame,
 But each for ever and ever, in a separate
 state alone,
 Shall do the things she has longed to,
 in Time that is all her own.
 —Adapted by Martha Haskell Clark

A BIT OF FUN

Dangerous Symptoms.

Junior—So you didn't propose to her, after all?
 Yess—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 Wagtail Tale.

Your friend may vow that he's true-blue,
 And, when you need him, fail;
 But when Tower 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?"

Versatile 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 'em botherin' you, did I? I said they never bother me, an' they don't; I'm used to 'em.

Unfeeling Father.

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

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

The Park Ave. News.

Weather. Partly different.
 Later! Grate coincident! Last Wednesday Leroy Shooter dreamed 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.

Sisley. Mr. Charles (Pads) Shinkins 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.

Fame by Skinny Martin.

Leaving the Stom.

A cherry sat on a cherry tree,
 Waiting for the sun to rise it,
 And it mite of his setting there even yet
 If a hard hand had down to swipe it
 Intriguing Facks about Intriguing 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 Facks, containing wates and measures, different kinds of money of different 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 Commission, 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 DeBuehl, 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. DeBuehl points out that Admiral Kolchak could not make a binding statement to Russia, territory, and that Japan, all along has been giving all possible. There is no intention of continuing the extension of aid, said, Counselor DeBuehl, 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, Willard, of Patton, Me., and Bernard of Marysville, and three daughters, Mrs. Bert Manser, of North Devon, Misses Mattie and Stella at home.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock tomorrow at the home.

Burial will be in the cemetery.

Interment will be in the cemetery.

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ABE MARTIN

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