

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1918.

"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.

FOSTERITE INCOMPETENCE EXPOSED.

The speech of Hon. J. A. Murray, in the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, delivered in the Legislature on Friday afternoon, is reported in The Standard this morning. The official report furnished to the morning newspapers at a late hour on Friday night did not do justice to the Opposition leader and The Standard preferred not to publish it until we could secure a better service. The speech as published this morning is taken from the Frederick Gleaner.

Mr. Murray's ability in debate is well known throughout New Brunswick but never has he appeared to better advantage than on Friday. Forceful, and possessing complete knowledge of provincial affairs, it was easy for him to draw attention to the many shortcomings of the Fosterites and their laxity in giving proper attention to problems that should hold the thought of all who are truly interested in our prosperity.

One of the most important questions facing the government of the day is that concerning the settlement on our lands of returned soldiers. This is a matter to which Mr. Murray, while leader of the Government, paid much attention and when his administration retired from office he had already worked out a practical plan that had been favorably received by British authorities. The advent of the Fosterites postponed the putting of Mr. Murray's policy into force, and although twelve months have elapsed since Hon. W. E. Foster became premier of the province his government has done nothing either to enforce the Murray plan or to formulate some other to take its place. There are more than 1,400 returned men in New Brunswick today, many of whom have expressed a desire to go on the land, but for all the assistance or encouragement they have received from Mr. Foster's government they might as well have gone elsewhere.

Naturally this situation is disappointing to Mr. Murray as it will be to the thousands of New Brunswickers who have the interests of our soldiers at heart. It is natural too that in his address on Friday the leader of the Opposition devoted considerable attention to this particular subject.

The government promises to bring in a new Highway Act. In this connection it may be said that Hon. B. F. Smith had a road policy which, if adopted by his successor in office, would have proven of great benefit to the public roads. In the present ministry however Hon. Mr. Veniot has been singularly inactive except in certain portions of his own constituency, where he is told the road are in good shape. This sort of administration will not do for New Brunswick. The making of good roads requires more than the passage of acts. Money must be spent and work must be done and it is not encouraging to find, as has been found too frequently in the past twelve months, that under the present Ministry of Public Works a road supervisor's fitness for his position is based more on his political affiliations than upon his practical experience in roadmaking. All over the province road officials have been dismissed to make way for political favorites and partisanship run mad is in a fair way to remove the last vestige of the good work done under former governments.

The Standard does not pretend that the roads of the province have ever been as good as they should be, but we do claim that when the Murray Government finished its road work for the season of 1916 the roads were in better condition than at any previous time in our history. We also claim that the road work of Mr. Veniot's department during the summer of 1917 was not well done, that the province did not receive adequate return for the money spent and that the commencement of the present winter found us with roads much poorer than a year ago. As Mr. Murray plainly pointed out our road management has fallen into imprudent and incompetent hands.

But the leader of the Opposition was able to put his finger upon other specific evidences of the government's failure to apply business methods to provincial affairs. There was, for instance, the last bond deal, by which New Brunswick bonds were offered with tender to a firm of brokers at 96 per cent. and promptly re-sold at 99.08. There is no apparent reason why the province should not have received at least 97.50 for its bond as it is understood other brokers were willing to pay that price if given an opportunity. If this figure had been obtained the province would have been richer by \$15,000 and the loss of that amount must be charged to the incompetence of the men who now occupy the treasury benches.

If this particular bond issue was allotted to any brokers because of their friendship for the government that fact cannot be given too much publicity and in calling attention to the peculiar circumstances surrounding the whole transaction Hon. Mr. Murray has done a public service.

But there are many other matters in Mr. Murray's speech which command the careful attention of all. It should be carefully read and compared with the speech of the premier. Only by such comparison can the people obtain an adequate idea of the loss the province has sustained and will sustain in the future as the result of the mismanagement that placed the government headed by Hon. W. E. Foster in control of provincial affairs. Hon. Mr. Murray, in his first speech of the session, has produced some of the evidence of the incapacity of the present government. There is more evidence to come and there will be abundant opportunity to bring it forward. The session has but opened.

A BUSINESS SESSION.

That the plans for the coming session of the House of Commons have been made with the one idea of getting Parliament down to business as speedily as possible, and eliminating all show and display usually associated with the formalities attendant upon the opening is a good indication of the capacity and purpose of the Union Government.

The indications are that the session will be comparatively brief and that no time will be wasted. Indeed, forecasts from correspondents in the capital are to the effect that the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne will be concluded within the first week—surely a new record for Ottawa.

The session will open one week from today and Parliament will convene in the morning for the election of a Speaker. For this office Hon. Edgar Rhodes is the certain choice, while a French-Canadian, selected from the opposition side of the House, will be elevated to the position of deputy Speaker. The selection of a deputy from the opposition will also mark a new departure, but the situation is a peculiar one. There is but one French-Canadian among the supporters of the Government, Dr. Chabot, of Ottawa, and while he could have the position if he desired it, it is understood that he has already refused the offer.

The coming session is likely to shatter precedent in many other ways. The Government will permit no wasting of time in useless debate. The measures to be introduced will all be war measures, with the possible exception of legislation which it is expected will develop from the present railway situation and the necessity of the Government taking action to solve what is daily becoming a more troublesome problem. A Civil Service reform bill will also be introduced which is likely to bring the civil service of the country still more into conformity with the methods of modern business.

In short all indications point to a passing of the old political days in the capital and the institution of an administration that will govern the country with absolutely no regard to political conventionalities but will conduct public affairs with an eye single to economy and business management. The people will readily respond to that treatment.

WOMEN'S WIDENING SPHERE.

A silent revolution is proceeding in the business life of Canada which involves the emergence of women into a much wider sphere than that formerly occupied by them. How great its effect must be was indicated recently at Ottawa, when Mr. Justice Duff, the Central Appeal Court Judge under the Military Service Act, decided that some two thousand young bank clerks who are in Category A must report for service. The first batch will be called up next week, and the remainder at intervals up till September 15th, when all will be in uniform. The places of many of the men called up must be filled by women, although a few male clerks may be obtained from among under-age lads and returning soldiers mustered out as no longer fit.

There were 11,872 male employees in Canadian banks on January 25, 1918, and 6,775 female employees. Of the males 2,390 were medically fit for the front line. Since the war began several thousand women have been added to the staffs of the banks of Canada to take the place of part of the 7,482 men who have enlisted.

The woman bank clerk has come to stay. She is a striking example of woman's widening sphere.

ONE SESSION IN SCHOOLS POPULAR

To the Editor of The Standard,

Sir:—During the first part of the month of February the local school board decided that during the cold weather they could effect a saving in coal by having but one session in the city schools each day, instead of two. The plan has been well tried out and has proved most successful from every standpoint. The janitors from the various school buildings report a saving of fuel ranging from twenty-five to fifty per cent. This will mean a saving, in the city school for the present year, of about three hundred tons of coal. At the present market price this would cost more than four thousand dollars. Had the plan been inaugurated early in November probably double the amount could have been saved.

Many parents are warmly commending the school board for their action in this matter. It is to be hoped that the single session per day will be continued until the approach of warm weather, and that it will be resumed as early next fall as may be deemed expedient.

The general opinion amongst the teachers is that practically the same amount of school work can be accomplished. On account of the fact that the school day is shortened by thirty minutes in the lower grades, and by one hour in the higher, both pupils and teachers, realizing the importance of fuel conservation, willingly work a little harder and consequently accomplish a little more in the given time than they did when they were required to work for the longer daily period. Then, again, the pupils, eager to assist in this worthy cause of fuel saving, are willing to do a little more home work than formerly; by these means the regular school work is kept up to the standard, even although the length of the school day is slightly shortened.

Detention after school hours is now a thing of the past. As a substitute, various forms of home work are assigned. This has proved very satisfactory.

Many parents with large families, who are partially supported by the few dollars their children are able to earn by working before and after school, are delighted with the change, as they find that their children can now double their earnings outside of school hours, and still receive the full benefit of the school course. These ratepayers, and there are many in this class, strongly favor the one-session plan.

From the standpoint of health of the children, much might be said. Being free from their school duties they can now spend their afternoons in the open and have free access to the fresh air and sunlight which all enjoy to the full. It is generally conceded that if children be given a few hours' recreation in the sunlight each day that the doctor's bill will be practically an unknown quantity.

Coal and more coal must be conserved, and now that St. John has led the way in this fuel saving device, it is to be hoped that Fredericton, Moncton and other large centres will fall in line. If Dr. Carter, chief superintendent of education, would induce the board of education to order that, for the duration of the war, the two thousand schools in this province must adopt the one-session plan, during the cold weather, hundreds of tons of coal, and hundreds of cords of wood might be conserved and diverted into other channels where this fuel would serve as an important factor in helping to win the war. All public-spirited, loyal citizens and New Brunswickers would strongly endorse an action on the part of the educational authorities.

TEACHER.

St. John, N. B.,
March 11, 1918.

A BIT OF VERSE

"A PRAYER."

Lord let me live like a regular man,
With regular friends and true;
Let me play the game on a regular plan
And play it that way all through;
Let me win or lose with a regular smile
And never be known to whine;
For that is a "regular fellow's" style
And I want to make it mine.

Oh, give me a regular chance in life,
The same as I pray,
And give me a regular girl to a wife,
To help me along the way;
Let us know the lot of humanity,
Its regular woes and joys,
And raise a regular family
Of regular girls and boys!

Let me live to a regular good old age,
With regular snow-white hair,
Having done my labor and earned my wage,
And played my game for fair;
And so at last when the people scan
My face on its peaceful brow,
They'll say, "Well, he was a regular man!"
And drop a regular tear.

J. W. R.

A BIT OF FUN

ALL IN THE SAME BOAT.

A man named Dodgin had recently been appointed foreman in a brick yard but his name was not known to all the employees. One day while on his round he came across two men sitting in a corner smoking, and stopped near them.

"Who are you?" asked one of them.

"I'm Dodgin, the new foreman," he replied.

"So are we," replied the other workers. "Sit down and have a smoke."

"SOME" ATHLETE.

Two Irishmen, who had been boys together in the same village, did not see each other for several years.

"You remember my brother Michael?" said Pat. "He's turned out a fine athlete and has just won a gold medal for a hundred yard sprint."

"Good for him," replied Dennis, "but do you mind my uncle Maguire at ballbally?"

Pat was not quite sure that he had ever heard of him.

"Well," resumed Dennis, "he's got gold medals for half a mile, five miles, and ten miles; three silver

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I was late for school yesterday, and Miss Kitty told me I would either have to bring a excuse note from home or stay a hour after school today, and last night after supper pop was sitting in the sitting room smoking and looking pretty agreeable, and I sed, Pop, can I ask you a favor?

Why yes, if it will make you feel any better, sed pop.

Will you rite me a excuse note for being late yesterday so I wunt haff to stay a hour after school, I sed.

Do you feel better now? sed pop.

Aw G, pop, will you, wunt you? I sed.

Well, have you a good excuse? sed pop.

Yes, sir, I sed.

Lets have it, sed pop, tell me a good excuse and ill rite you a good excuse note.

Yes, sir, I sed, me and Puds Simkins and Sid Hunt was standing around the lam post wondering if it was time to start for school yet, and Puds sed, Lets ask sumbody wat time it is. And we started to wait for sumbody to come past so we cood ask them, and nobody came past, and after a while Puds sed, G, it must be getting late, Im going to start. And he started, and me and Sid Hunt stayed waiting for sumbody to go past so we cood ask them wat time it was, and nobody kepp on going past, and pritty soon Sid sed, G, I bet its pritty near late, Im going to start. And I sed, Well sumbody awt to go past eny minit now, Im going to wait a little while longer. And Puds started and I waited, and after a while a man came past.

Thank hevin, sed pop.

But he didnt have a watch, I sed.

Sutch is life, sed pop, and I sed, And then I thawt I better start, and I started, and by that time I was late.

And is that the excuse, sed pop, and I sed, Yes sir, and pop sed, Well, its all very absorbing, but Im afraid youll haff to stay the hour after school.

Wich I did.

cups for swimming, a marble clock for writing, two silver bells for boxing, and a heap of prizes for cycling."

"Sure, he's the champion athlete, indeed," said Pat, with enthusiasm. "Not at all, not at all!" exclaimed Dennis. "He keeps the local pawnshop."

RUSSIAN CAPITAL A CITY OF HORRORS

Drunken Soldiers Swarm the Streets, Murder Common, Laws Made on the Spot.

After five years in Petrograd and Riga, Russia, Walter A. Baldwin of North Easton, Mass., has returned to his home with a handsome Russian girl as his bride. They escaped from the country after great difficulties and were 38 days on the way through Siberia, Japan and across the North American continent from San Francisco.

Tales of atrocities, murder, robbery and rape are told by Mr. Baldwin, who was manager of the Walk-Over shoe store of the George E. Keith Company during the past three years.

When he reached Petrograd, Miss Baldwin, a member of a well known Russian family, was a clerk in the store. He married her a few months before they left Petrograd on New Year's day, 1918. Mrs. Baldwin is a remarkable Russian type, being a beauty with dark hair and large black eyes.

Laws Made on Spot.

Riots are as common as street cars in Russia, according to Mr. Baldwin, who tells of murder and debauchery on every hand in the Russian capital. Drunkenness is probably the worst. There are no laws, the laws being made on the spot by the soldiers who hold the reins and decide the fate of the victims at once.

"Soldiers break into wine cellars every chance they get," said Mr. Baldwin today. "Carousals follow and more Bolshevik soldiers are sent to drive away the first gang. Instead the second crowd always joins the first and the drunkards are reinforced. Usually several detachments of soldiers are sent and they never return, remaining with the others and getting drunk."

"Time after time the fire department is called and floods the cellars, driving out the soldiers, the helpless being drowned like rats in a trap."

Soldiers "Eat" Wine.

"I have seen wine and water pumped out of cellars in the snow during the evening and the next morning have witnessed soldiers and civilians, eating and drinking, which is tinted with red, in order to get the dirty wine."

Quick punishment, not always just, is given robbers when discovered, says Mr. Baldwin.

"I was riding on a car one day," he said, "when a woman suddenly screamed and pointed at a man near, saying he had taken her pocketbook. He denied the charge, but soldiers held her and a meeting to decide his fate, and voted to kill him. A hole was cut in the ice over a rapidly flowing river, and he was pushed through and disappeared."

Then the woman suddenly discovered her wallet. Right there the soldiers held another meeting to deal with her case. As the man had been killed for nothing, they decided to kill her also. She was dragged to the hole in the ice and thrust through. Then the soldiers took the wallet.

Clubb'd to Death.

Mr. Baldwin saw two men and two women clubbed to death in a small village. The four were robbing the peasants and were at the station ready to leave. The peasants were afraid of them, and were allowing the robbers to go. The women were dressed in men's clothing. The train came in filled with soldiers.

"The peasants yelled to the soldiers, said Mr. Baldwin. Another meeting. It was short.

"Clubs were secured and the four were beaten to death by the troops. Two didn't die soon enough and their throats were cut."

Everybody carries arms in the streets, firing them whenever they please at whomever they please. Boys under 16 almost always carry rifles, de-

clares Mr. Baldwin, and he has seen them shoot recklessly as they walk along the streets.

Blind Through Drink.

"Two things are cheap in Russia," he says. "Life is cheap and money is cheap. When the government cut off the vodka supply the death rate increased and people drank cologne, varnish and wood alcohol in great quantities. Many became blind as a result of these excesses—if they lived."

"There is absolutely no respect for life. No police are on the job and everything is decided at once, generally by the soldiers and the Red Guard. Drunken sailors are the worst and they murder and rob wherever they go. "Prisoners have been sent from the jails and the small Petrograd papers carry accounts of 400 to 500 robberies every day. In the house I lived in, there being 20 people, we took turns in guarding the place day and night."

"There is no chance to reason with the Red Guard. Our train meeting one of theirs was always held up and a meeting held to decide which should go first, ours or theirs. Generally these meetings lasted several hours—several are killed and the troop train goes on first."

Hung by Cossacks.

"Soldiers jumped onto trains at will, hold up trains, entered compartments, slept in every empty space and when the first armistice with Germany was started the soldiers, thinking the war was over took charge of everything."

Mr. Baldwin was on the same train with the former Russian secretary of navy, who was hung by cossacks, witnessing the killing, which followed a terrific riot.

The marine minister entered the train with a revolver in one hand and a knife in the other," says Mr. Baldwin. "He was intoxicated and drove us all out of the car. He raged up and down the aisles, raving and cursing, declaring he had killed 14 officers in the last revolution and was ready for more blood. And this man was the secretary of the Russian navy."

"He threatened to shoot the engineer, station master and several passengers, but his end was short. After a rampage he was captured by Cossacks, who held a meeting and decided to hang him, which they did. His secretary and assistants were whipped with leather thongs, loaded with lead shot. On the body of the secretary of the navy was found an immense sum of money."

"On our train at Moscow 300 soldiers jumped aboard and smashed windows and took the locomotive for their own train."

Food Cards Everywhere.

The price of food in Russia is prohibitive. Everything is sold by cards. "Each person is allowed one egg a week," declares Mr. Baldwin. "There were four in our family and we got four eggs a week, one good and three bad."

Here are a few prevailing food prices when Mr. Baldwin left Petrograd: Shoes, \$35 a pair. Has seen 17,000 people in line to buy shoe tickets. Takes eight months to make a pair in Russia.

Sugar, \$1 a pound.

Butter, \$1.40 a pound.

He says the American railroad commission would not be recognized by the Bolsheviks and that when he left Japan they were waiting there until the situation cleared.

Kaiser Admires

THE HAND OF GOD

Amsterdam, Mar. 7.—To a message of congratulation from the vice-president of the Reichstag over the signing of the Russian peace, says a Berlin telegram, Emperor William replied: "The complete victory fills me with gratitude. It permits us to live again one of those great moments in which we can reverently admire God's hand in history."

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FUNER

The remains of Mr. of Enoch Thompson Carleton, were taken to the train Saturday morning at 8.30 o'clock at the home of the late Mrs. Thompson, from the teachers of a cross from the church, and a wreath and a wreath Carleton Union Lodge. The funeral of Read was held from 162 Market Place, yesterday afternoon at

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