

# The St. John Standard

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M. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor.  
ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 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.

## THE MORALS OF OUR SOLDIERS.

There has been more than a little discussion in Canada as to the moral status of the Canadian army at the battlefront. Charges and counter charges have appeared in newspapers and have been uttered from the platform and pulpit. It has been said that the soldiers are drunken, and that they are; that they are immoral, and that they are; that the average morality among them is higher than among an equal number of civilians. We, at home, are in no position to learn for ourselves whether these charges are true or false; all we can do is to take the word of some one qualified by experience on the front to speak with authority on a question that has already received much publicity.

In the June number of the Canadian Magazine, Dr. J. D. Logan, late sergeant of Canadian infantry in France, has an interesting article on this question in which he takes the same ground that has been taken by army chaplains and other officers who have returned from the front, to the effect that, man for man, the Canadian soldiers in France and Flanders are no more immoral than Canadian civilians for sobriety and moral conduct.

As the result of his experience and careful observation under all sorts of conditions Dr. Logan draws three interesting conclusions. They are, first, that the Canadian army at the front is essentially a sober and continent army; second, that, in general, the moral health of our soldiers in the field is as excellent as their admirable and enviable physical health, and, third, that if any Canadian has a son who is "sowing his wild oats and refuses to be straightened up" by parental advice and warning and home influences, such a father will find in the army the very best of reformatories schools.

The health of the Canadian army is excellent, a condition that could not obtain if the men were given to drunkenness or immorality. Our soldiers display unshaken courage and nerve under all circumstances, another evidence that they have not permitted dissipation to ruin their systems. Also the conduct of Canadian soldiers in hospital, the manner in which wounded men put up a winning fight in the way of will power and psychological resistance against injuries that ordinarily would prove fatal, affords an unmistakable proof of clean living.

Dr. Logan also says that in most cases the men cannot get strong liquor in French restaurants or in the "wet canteens"; their liquid refreshment is confined to light beer, thin champagne and a white wine, all of which are practically harmless in their character. Military and police regulations limit the hours in which liquors can be sold in the cafes or tins found near soldiers' billets and, under such circumstances, it is practically an impossibility for soldiers to suffer from the effects of liquor even if they desired to drink to excess.

Dealing with the morality of the Canadian soldiers Dr. Logan says:

"In the field, even when our men are quartered in villages for a rest after being in the line, Canadian soldiers are immune from temptation and live thoroughly chaste lives. For there are no such temptations there, because the war has emptied the villages and towns of all females from fifteen years upwards, except old women. All the young men and young women, too, are gone somewhere to do their bit for the war, presumably in the munitions plants and other necessary industries, taking the place of their fathers, husbands and brothers. In the villages and towns one finds only old men, old women and young children."

In conclusion the writer assures the fathers, mothers and wives of Canadian soldiers that "the Canadian army at the front is a notably sober and chaste army. Any other view, opinion or belief is not logically tenable by those who look squarely at the facts. Myopic moralists may continue to publish startling charges against our soldiers at the front. These charges I shall stigmatize as pure buncombe and alarm."

## MAILS BY THE AIR ROUTE.

That the aeroplane will come into general commercial use after the war is already indicated by the experiment at an air mail service between New York, Philadelphia and Washington in the United States, and Montreal and Toronto in Canada. It is natural that the Montreal-Toronto route should be selected first for a trial of the plan for aerial mail service. The distance between the two cities is 330 miles, which is ideal for a test such as has just been made, and which has proven successful.

By reason of its long distance

Canada should be an ideal field for aerial mail service, particularly as mails can be delivered in such a way more quickly than if forwarded by the usual method. Quite recently a couple of young men from one of the Canadian aviation camps made a flying visit to Montreal and Ottawa, negotiating the trip in faster time than could be made by any train. Last week a celebrated French "ace," who has seen much service in the air over the battle fields of France and Flanders, flew from Montreal to Toronto and Buffalo, negotiating the trip without incident or accident.

The fact that trips such as these could be successfully taken, and that the plan of aerial transport for mails between the two largest cities in Canada has already proven its feasibility, is a certain indication that after the war more attention will be given to aerial navigation. We may even live to see the aeroplane as popular as the automobile now is for the purpose of business or pleasure.

Referring to the experimental trip between Montreal and Toronto and possibilities of the future the Ottawa Journal says:

"The initial experiment with aerial mail service in Canada came off successfully. The machine carrying mail from Montreal to Toronto made the flight in six hours. Captain Bryan Peck, the aviator, landed at Leaside, and from there the mail was transferred by automobile to the Toronto General Post Office in a little over an hour. The whole time between the start from Montreal and the delivery of the mail at the Post Office in Toronto was very much less than that required for service by train."

"This is not the inauguration of aeroplane mail service in Canada, but that is bound to come, and soon. Such service is practicable, beyond question. One of the principal difficulties to be overcome is that of landing. Although it seems rather remarkable, landing presents more of a problem in air work than almost anything else. An interesting suggestion for the solution of the problem but one that is not considered very practicable was made in New York the other day. It was that a turntable be installed on the roof of the New York Post Office, this table to revolve at a speed corresponding to that of an approaching aviator desiring to land, the aviator to alight on the table and its revolutions to take up the momentum of his machine until he brought it to a stop."

"A trans-Atlantic flight is now proposed for this summer. The suggested course is from Newfoundland to Ireland by way of the Azores. Airmen believe not only that the flight can be accomplished successfully but that it will be followed by the delivery in Europe of American aeroplanes for war purposes making the trans-Atlantic passage under their own power."

It is of interest in connection with this proposed flight to note that the engine which, according to present plans, has been selected to carry the first aeroplane from America to Europe is an English product, the Rolls-Royce. It has been found that this engine is the most dependable of all those in use.

"When the war began Britain was supposed to be behind other countries in such modern matters as flying. The war had not been in progress long, however, before she showed that she had a few tricks up her sleeve. The war has produced no better aviators than the British and no better flying machines than those of British production."

## THE AMERICAN ARMY.

Every effort is being made in Germany to delude the people as to the size and importance of the American army, writes an Associated Press correspondent from Amsterdam. German papers, he says, are doing their part in a regular propaganda to make light of American assistance to the Allies and illustrates his statement by publishing a joke printed in "Jugend," a comic weekly in Munich. This is entitled "Homeopathic Doses," and consists of the following bit of dialogue at a French port:

General Pershing: "Well, another fleet of American troop transports has just arrived."

La Belle France: "Superb, shall I arrange for billets?"

General Pershing: "Sure, two rooms and three beds."

When it is considered that already more than 900,000 Americans have crossed the seas and that the estimate of the United States government is that by August there will be 1,450,000 American soldiers in France the German effort to make light of our neighbor is rather ridiculous.

As for the quality of our most recent allies an item coming over the wires last night told of a party of American soldiers who, cut off by the Germans, refused to surrender, but fought until all were killed but two, who were wounded and taken prisoners.

Germany has already felt the weight of Uncle Sam's power. She will feel it

more heavily as time goes on. The United States army is growing more rapidly than was promised and is bound to be a most important factor in bringing about the downfall of the Hun.

## THE EDITOR'S MAIL.

RETAIL FISH PRICES IN ST. JOHN.  
Fredericton, N. B.,  
June 26, 1918.

To the Editor of The Standard: Dear Sir—Several complaints have recently come to me regarding the scarcity and high prices of fish in different sections of this province, including the city of St. John. Permit me, in this letter, to deal with retail prices in your city, and at a later date I may ask to consider the retailing of fish in other parts of the province.

The Canada Food Board, in its endeavor to increase the consumption of fish as a meat substitute, is vitally interested in securing for our people a plentiful supply of fresh fish at reasonable prices. This may be difficult to obtain in small inland towns, but not in St. John, which is so near to the Atlantic supplies, and is large enough to have a fairly constant and considerable demand. Yet we are in St. John with those in other parts of the province who are offering a pound in Ontario, retail for nearly double this amount in the city market.

Mr. W. W. Leonard, chairman of our provincial fish committee, and myself called a conference of the local dealers in order to ascertain whether the alleged grievance was an actual one or not, and, if so, to take steps to remedy it. We soon discovered that a superficial comparison of retail prices in St. John with those in other places may be quite misleading. Through the active co-operation of the Canada Food Board dealers in Toronto and other cities of Ontario are offering our cod and haddock for 10c, and 12c, a pound, and our mackerel from 12c to 13c a pound. Their demand is sufficient to buy and ship in large orders, and since the government pays a considerable portion of their express charges, fish should be sold in Montreal and Toronto at about the same prices as in St. John. But Ontario dealers sell fish at gross weight, uncleaned, and on the "cash and carry" basis. These are the facts in regard to prices in Ontario.

Now what are the retail prices in St. John? Smith's Fish Market on Sydney street caters to the best of us by giving excellent service, and supplies a fine quality of fish, and he concedes that his prices are a shade higher than those of several other dealers. Today Mr. Smith is charging 15c a pound for cod, and 15c for haddock. But this price is not net weight but gross weight, including the scales and bones. A pound of cod, cleaned and delivered to the consumer, would cost 12c to 13c. Ontario dealers, on the other hand, are selling their fish by gross weight for 7c and 8c, a pound, and are cleaning and delivering these figures.

Pollock and flounders could be sold at lower prices if the people would use them. Gaspey and cleaned and delivered at 3c and 4c each, or 35c to 40c, a dozen, according to the size, but citizens near the shore may then find a better deal. Undoubtedly the retail profit on low priced fish is considerable since cleaning and delivery is the same for fish of all prices. The price of fish is a high priced article. There are certain periods of the year when the trade is confined to cheap fish, and then the present market there is scarcely sufficient profit to meet running expenses.

Smith sells mackerel from 25c to 40c, each, or about 12c a pound, gross weight, including charge for cleaning and delivery; the big departmental stores in Toronto get 12c a pound, cleaned and delivered to the consumer, sells from 35c to 40c, according to size, or about 18c a pound, and salmon from 24c to 35c, according to the cut and cleaned in each case cleaning and delivery.

It would seem from these facts that prices in St. John are, if anything, lower than in Ontario. If any dealer in Ontario is in the opinion that an attempt to sell uncleaned fish would meet with disapproval and discontinue this practice, he is not only demanded and must be paid for, but also insisted that present prices could not be lowered without decreasing expenses, but they are unwilling to adopt a union delivery. Today about one-half of the trade is cash, and perhaps, the same per centum is carried away by the fisherman. Undoubtedly the largest fish dealers are the two Smiths, and both these men are seriously considering the adoption of the "cash and carry" system, at least, to the extent of giving a lower price to the person who pays cash and delivers his own order. It is to be hoped that St. John soon have a store where the customer who pays cash, carries home his own order, and is willing to clean his own fish will not be compelled to pay part of the charges for the services rendered to others. There are times in this province when fish are produced at very low prices, and dealers should take advantage of these opportunities and share them with consumers. There are often times when there is too large a difference between the price received by the fishermen and that paid by the consumer. It is not the retailer who is a graffer, but, perhaps, there is not the most efficient co-ordination between producer and retailer. For example, even in recent years when cod have been retailed for 5c each, and quite often the wholesale price is as low as this for a limited period. But St. John is securing fish at reasonable prices, and the consumption of fish today is far more economical than it was of late.

I hope that the Housewives' League will undertake a campaign to encourage a larger use of cheap fish and the cheap cuts of meat. In a few weeks the shad, mackerel and salmon will be gone, and the cheap fish will have a practical monopoly of our table. If at this time an aggressive campaign were carried on for an increased consumption of these nutritious fish I am satisfied our merchants would co-operate by offering a favorable price.

Permit me to say, Mr. Editor, that it is unwise to indulge in mere criticism without offering any constructive

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

My cousin Artie was around at my house yesterday, and I said, G. Artie, go home and ask your mother if you can come back here and stay for supper.  
No, III stay and ask her afterwards, said Artie.  
Which he did, and just before supper we made up a game to play, being election bets, the idea being that me and him had both each lost a election bet and wasn't allowed to say anything except, Enny meeny miny mo, catch a nigger by the toe, no matter what anybody asked, said me.  
Well wat if your father gets mad on account of not knowing we are only paying a election bet? said Artie.  
III rite it down on a piece of paper all redly to show him, I said.  
Which I did, and we went in the diningroom and I started to eat supper, being lamb and spinnitch and things, all rite but nothing ester, me and Artie eating without saying anything, on account of nobody having asked us anything yet, and after a while pop sed, Well, boys, you're strangely quiet tonight, as the fat lady remarked to the living skellington after she had sat on his lap for a while.  
Enny meeny miny mo, I sed.  
Catch a nigger by the toe, sed Artie.  
Wats that meeny? Nothing personal, I trust, sed pop.  
Enny meeny miny mo, I sed.  
Catch a nigger by the toe, sed Artie.  
Too much is an ample sufficiency, sed pop. Meaning he didnt like it much, and Artie looked at me warfully, and took the piece of paper out of my pocket and handed it to pop, saying on it, we haf to do this on account of paying a election bet, Benny and Artie.  
O, thats diffrent, but not much and too much is still an ample sufficiency, sed pop, meaning he still didnt like it much, and I sed, Benny meeny miny mo.  
Catch a nigger by the toe, sed Artie.  
Are these boys perfectly crazy? sed ma.  
I dont know, but they'll be perfectly mible if a sartin thing happens agen, election bets to the contrary, sed pop.  
With it didnt.

thinking or effort in the solution of a difficulty; and it is not to be expected that the Canada Food Board will relieve municipalities of their duties, or responsibility. By an order-in-council passed in November, 1916 a municipality is invested with authority to deal with excessive prices for a food necessity, so that if citizens have a grievance they should place it before their own council. Or a municipality may open up its own fish or food market and furnish a fresh supply at cost prices. Several Canadian cities have done this, and thereby reduced the price of fish; and a very large number of municipalities are today distributors and retailers of food. Such a constructive effort on the part of the citizens would bring with it a realization of civic responsibility, a clearer insight into the difficulties and expenses of such an enterprise, a wiser and more enlightened judgment in the use of public funds, and a fair and unfair criticism. Without doubt fish should retail in St. John at as low prices as in other Canadian cities, and at lower prices than in most places in Canada. If this is not the case today it can be made so by the same energy and organizing ability on the part of citizens that has obtained such good results in Vancouver and elsewhere.

But inasmuch as present dealers are giving a fairly adequate service at moderate prices, perhaps a better condition can be more easily obtained through a co-operation with them. An effort might be made to increase the demand for cheap fish, and to concentrate it upon certain days of the week, and then to insist upon a "cash and carry" principle on the part of the dealers. Consumption of a great deal since the beginning of the war, the delivery of several other dealers in turn, encourage better facilities for handling, and lower prices to the consumer.

Sincerely yours,  
W. E. KEIRSTEAD.

## A BIT OF VERSE

THE KINDLY KAISER.  
(From The Passing Show, London.)  
The Kaiser, Kaiser, Kaiser, Kaiser, in Herr Karl Rosner, who now recalls to the German public all the wise and humane utterances which the All-Highest has been making of late, in the course of his tour round the battlefields of Flanders. . . and how he idyllically busies himself with picking fresh violets in order to send them as a present to the Kaiserin—(Dally News).

When asleep are you and I, sir,  
Up and doing is the Kaiser—  
He is still an early riser  
Over there.  
On his knees at six you'll find him,  
With his spurs tucked well behind him  
Least of war should remind him,  
Deep is prayer.

Breakfast over, he's addressing  
Journalists on this distressing  
Carnage, then calls down a blessing  
On his troops;  
Then he calls the Royal cook up,  
Asking him to bring his best soup.  
Or it may have been November—  
Tasty soups.

Having chosen one, he pretties  
To his generals of battle,  
And his orders to them rattles  
Off so pat.  
That they leave him, on reflection,  
With the faintest recollection  
As to what the—(interjection!)  
He is at!

From the Kaiserin long parted  
Wilhelm (always tender-hearted)  
On the day the war first started  
Made a vow  
That, despite the Allied Powers,  
He would daily gather flowers  
In the after half-hour hours  
For his Frau.

Evening sees him pleading, pleading,  
For the Peace that all are needing,  
And his manly heart is bleeding  
For the slain;  
Tis the same heart, you'll remember,  
That bled two years last December—  
Or it may have been November—  
For Louvain.

This is surely no humane man,  
No conciliatory, vain man,  
But a pious and humane man  
That I sketch.  
To dub such a saint Quixotic  
Or to call him a despotist,  
Bloody wretch!

For his Frau.

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## A BIT OF FUN

His First Performance.

"Who's dead?" asked the stranger, viewing the elaborate funeral procession. He was talking to a white soldier about it. "The bloke what's inside the coffin," answered an irreverent small boy. "But who is it?" the stranger pursued. "It's the Mayor," was the reply. "So the Mayor is dead, is he?" mused the stranger. "Well, I guess," said the small boy, witheringly. "I've seen he's having a rehearsal!"—Milestones.

## A Satisfied Soldier.

The negroes at Camp Dodge drafted into the National Army from Alabama were overjoyed at the amount of equipment they were given. One of them was talking to a white soldier about it. "Say, boss," he asked, "do you give us all these clothes for nuthin' without payin' for dem? An' all these coats, all dem blankets?" He was told that Uncle Sam gives them all these things. "Well, den, why in de Sam Hill didn't de wah stahst soonah?"—The Argonaut.

## The Selfish Farmer Again.

A Senator, apropos of the farmer's attempt to raise the price of wheat, said the other day: "He farmers are actuated by selfish motives in this business. It's like the story of the duel. "Two gentlemen with their seconds retired to a farmer's meadow to fight a duel. The various preliminaries were arranged, and the duel was just about to begin when the gaunt figure of the farmer was seen racing across the grass toward the scene of conflict. "The farmer seemed in great distress of mind. "A humane chap," the principals and seconds thought; "he wants to prevent bloodshed," and they welcomed him kindly. "Excuse me, gents," the farmer said, gulping with emotion, "but is this here going to be a sword or a pistol duel?" "Sword duel," said a second. "Why?" "Well, you see," said the farmer, "if it was a pistol duel I'd want to take my cows in first."—Washington Star.

## BURNS WANTS WILLARD.

Vancouver, June 28.—Private Tommy Burns, 1st Depot Battalion, Canadian Overseas Force, and formerly world's heavyweight champion, has wired Jess Willard, inviting him to participate in a four-round exhibition match in Vancouver early in July at a military tournament in aid of the Red Cross.

## BOXING IN PALESTINE.

London Sportsman: Several well-known boxers took part in a tournament held "somewhere in Palestine" early in the month, among them being Alf. Wye, the ex-amateur bantamweight champion. He met KIM Rowse in a fifteen-round contest, but proved so much the better man that he administered the "K. O." in the sixth round.

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Each	\$3.05	\$3.80	\$4.40	\$5.30	\$6.75
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