

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1918.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—M. M. The King.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

## "SAVE FOR VICTORY"

Friday last was "Press Day" at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, when the newspaper men of Ontario were the guests of the management of Canada's biggest fair. The guests at the annual luncheon tendered by the management heard two striking addresses, one by Sir James Loughheed, head of the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, and the other by W. J. Taylor of Woodstock, Ontario, president of the Canadian Press Association.

Sir James, in his remarks, dealt with the work of the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and expressed it as his conviction that Canadians will not be satisfied unless Germany is forced to "sweat blood for generations," as reparation for her criminal action in forcing the world into the greatest struggle in history. Mr. Taylor treated of the economic side of the war and sounded a note of warning to the Canadian people that it is necessary now to commence to "save for victory."

There is no question but that thrift should be more generally practised by Canadians. Largely owing to the success of the Victory Loan campaign, Canada today is enjoying unprecedented industrial prosperity and, as the president of the Canadian Press puts it, "there never was so much 'easy money' abroad in the history of our people. No one needs to be out of employment and earnings have reached their high-water mark." Mr. Taylor speaks truly; it is a golden period, but it is well to remember that at the close of hostilities this prosperity, largely a false prosperity due to war orders and expenditures, will be replaced by a corresponding depression that will endure until the country's industries have organized to meet new conditions.

It would appear that the obvious way to meet such a situation would be for the people to save a portion of their surplus in the days when depression is unknown. But very few of them are doing it. It probably is quite true to say that in St. John and New Brunswick as well as in every other city and province in Canada, a large proportion of the citizens, or all classes who have made more money since the outbreak of war than in any other period of their lives, and great masses of them are spending all they earn with no thought for the lean days which financial and business experts tell us, are sure to come.

War's financial burden must increase as long as war continues and next to men money will be the most vital factor in hastening the day of peace, for money will be required to feed, equip, transport and pay the army as well as to maintain the civilian at home and our overseas civilian brothers. The German have practiced rigid thrift for years and it is only because of that that they have been able to finance for almost forty-nine months the operations of the largest and most costly fighting machine ever assembled. Now that Germany's resources are depleted it is obvious that money in the hands of the Allies will be a more potent factor than ever before and it becomes a patriotic duty to help in the provision of this money when and where possible.

Canadians have been called upon to do much in the past but the demands are likely to increase with the necessity; therefore the preparation to meet those demands should also develop. It is time for a country-wide campaign for national thrift, the thrift which will induce the people to forego all luxuries and restrict expenditures to essentials. Thrift, properly applied, will release labor and material for war necessities, will build up a large national savings and will maintain Canada's war finance upon its present sound basis. Canadians will be well advised if they turn to a more simple mode of living and, without further delay, start to "save for victory."

## POWER COMPANY RATES.

The report that the New Brunswick Power Company has been given a temporary increase in rates as the result of a session of the investigating commission held in Boston on Saturday seems to demand some explanation from the gentlemen comprising that board. Whether the company merits the increase cannot enter into an intelligent discussion of the matter, for no layman is competent to pronounce upon it and although certain newspaper editors have indulged in considerable clamor and such phrases as robbery, extortion and other robust terms of denunciation to describe the company's request, yet, without a thorough understanding of the case and the technical knowledge necessary to form an expert opinion as to the need of the company, such criticism, at least, can be but shallow.

One point, however, which even a layman may question is why a session of the commission should have been held in Boston at all, if as Hon. Dr. Baxter and Dr. Wallace contend, the act appointing the commission specifies that all sessions shall be held in this province. If that session were but a conference of the commissioners for an interchange of views and an expression of opinion upon the case so far as it has been already presented to them, no objection could be taken to the Boston meeting, any more than there would be a right to contend that, after all the evidence has been submitted, the commissioners should remain continuously in this province until announcing their decision. But the Boston session of Saturday last must have been more than that for Hon. J. A. Sullivan, one of the city's representatives, thought it necessary to notify the Mayor of the intention to hold it, and Dr. Baxter and Dr. Wallace promptly protested that the proceeding was contrary to the act of appointment. It appears, however, that the commission went ahead, irrespective of the protest, and the result is said to be an increase in all the charges made for the company's services. If the session in Boston was illegal, the result of that session must also be illegal, apart altogether from the merits of the company's claim. That is the point upon which the city has the right to ask questions and upon which the people have the right to demand information.

## WAR COMMENT.

September opens well for the Allied cause. It had been stated that August was the most disastrous month the enemy had experienced since the commencement of hostilities, but if the rate of progress set in the first two days of September is maintained until the finish of the month, the August record will be far eclipsed.

It was expected that Peronne would fall as the steady advance of the British indicated that the Kaiser's troops would not be able to make a stand against them. Peronne was taken on Sunday and with it a number of nearby villages. Nearer Bapaume the British succeeded in taking Le Transloy. The net result of the operations of the past few days is that the Germans are now well cleared out of the Somme and Picardy and have evacuated a large portion of the Lys salient. The British have also made important advances in Flanders, capturing Eschairs and Steenwerck. The Canadians have played a large part in the successes of the Allies having turned the German line in one sector thus contributing greatly to the cause.

The effect upon the German and Austrian troops of the steady advance of the Allies cannot be overestimated. It has already been stated that the morale of the Austrian army is so low that German troops are stationed behind them with orders to shoot them attempting to desert. This condition must soon become generally known in Austria and cannot help to improve the already strained relations existing between the two partners in the Teutonic alliance.

Spain has taken action indicative of a determination to suffer no more indignities from Berlin. German shipping in Spanish ports has been taken in reprisal for the sinking of Spanish vessels by German U-boats and it is expected that the situation will further develop.

## A BIT OF VERSE

### NO MATTER.

No matter what they say of it,  
 Its sinners' and forgiven,  
 This world of ours,  
 With thorns and flowers,  
 Good folks, is where we're livin';  
 Its stormy skies,  
 Its weeping eyes,  
 Its bitter sorrow as its sign,  
 Its love that lives when sorrow dies,  
 Good folks, is where we're livin'.

No matter what they say of it,  
 For all its sin as sign,  
 Life on this star  
 Is greater far,  
 Good people, all, than livin';  
 There's lots of light  
 By day and night—  
 Enough to kiss the darkness white;  
 We're drifting to a mornin' bright,  
 An' life to life's rightin'.

—Atlantic Constitution

## A BIT OF FUN

On the Lookout.  
 "Are you going away for the summer?"  
 "No," replied Mr. Cunniff. "Somebody's got to stay home. A load of coal I ordered three months ago might

drive up to the house any day,"  
 Washington Star.

Very Reading.  
 A coaled collar makes a warm house.  
 It's a short line that bears no gossip.  
 Second thoughts are best, but not second-hand thoughts.  
 The proverb about the pen being mightier than the sword is temporarily cancelled.

An Important Item.  
 "I have arranged things for our watermelon festival. Mr. Flubdub will make a speech. Mr. Fudge will sing. Mr. Wombat has consented to give us a chalk talk."  
 "What are the chances for getting somebody to contribute a few watermelons?"

Pericle.  
 The endmost hog is hard to jog.  
 He holds his seat.  
 You're at a loss to get across  
 His heavy feet.  
 You have a time to make a climb.  
 No easy stunt.  
 And if you fret you only get  
 A curly grunt.  
 —Kansas City Journal.

## FOOD SHOULD BE SENT TO PRISONERS

Men in German Prison Camps Ill-Fed and Under-Fed As Well.

PARCELS FROM HOME ARE NECESSITY

Escaped Corporal Tells How Poorly the Boys Are Treated.

(By Wilbur Forrest).

Special cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.

With the American Army in the Field, Aug. 31—"Well, American mothers and fathers not to forget for one moment the extreme urgency of sending food parcels regularly and often to the boys unfortunate enough to be in German prison camps."  
 This was the message of a young French corporal given to the Tribune today for America. This corporal was captured during the battle of the Marne and has been forced to work on sixty different German farms where he was badly treated and badly fed. Then he was transferred to a German prison camp. He is a really sergeant and he was transferred to the Mersburg camp in higher rank. A sergeant and men of higher rank are not forced to work in Germany. At Mersburg he met James J. Bach of New York City, an architect, who joined the French Foreign Legion at the beginning of the war, and later was transferred to the French aviation section as sergeant. Bach was the first American citizen captured by the enemy in the European war. He had been confined in a cell at Mersburg for thirty-five months.

The corporal has just escaped from Mersburg after two years of the closest comradeship with Bach. "You are looking fairly good after four years of Germany," I suggested to the corporal, whose boyish face was beginning to redden and again take a healthy glow. "You were answered," "Bach has shared his parcels for many months with me, and others who got none. He's a fine boy, that Jimmy Bach. His father and mother are living in Paris and send him parcels often, and we've done rather well."

Get Poor Food.

"Tell me the absolute truth, what are the Germans feeding you now?" "Nothing," or almost nothing. No real man could live on it long—a little piece of the vilest black soggy bread and soup, if you could call it soup, best tops bottled in water. Tell them in America not to forget boys in Germany. It's important and it is important too for those who have nobody to send parcels, some of our Frenchmen get parcels but not everybody. Bach was a prince with his."

The corporal told the story for the first time when he was captured. A New Yorker volunteered for a perilous mission to land with a passenger behind the German lines at night, drop a passenger, restart the aeroplane and try to restart his motor. The motor sputtered violently and with much noise. Bach tried repeatedly though vainly, and the noise attracted German soldiers who took him prisoner. He was tried before a military court-martial, and sentenced to six years' solitary confinement. He pleaded his own case after he was sentenced, and succeeded in gaining a new trial. The second verdict reversed the first, and he was sent to Mersburg, where for nearly three years, behind a highly electrified barbed wire enclosure the only diversion he and his companions had was teaching language to one another.

Bach also read hundreds of books in many languages, some furnished by Germans when paid for, and many sent to Bach by his parents. Bach now speaks seven languages.

"Jimmy tried to escape in March this year," the corporal said. "He and a British sergeant succeeded in getting civilian clothes from outside. A few of us knew the plan and decided to follow them back. They got outside the gate, disguised as civilian laborers, when the sentry smelled a rat and notified them. They both got ten days' solitary confinement in dark cells."

The Corporal's Escape.

"I made my getaway in another form," "The secret of the corporal's escape

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I wasn't allowed to go out last night on account of not having his extra good, and I was sitting in the setting room watching pop adding up numbers at his desk, and all of a sudden I cawed away down in my throat like a person starting to caw and say getting half way.  
 And I did it about 5 more times, and pop kept on adding up numbers with his forked all rinkled as if he wasn't having a very good time doing it, and I did it about 5 more times, and pop looked up and uninked his forked and rinkled it again, saying: For the love of Pete and his brother Mike, if you're going to caw, caw.  
 I ain't going to caw, pop, I said.  
 Well then why all the rehearsal and pop. And he started to add up numbers again, and after a while I made about 3 more little noises in my throat and pretty soon I made about 33 more, and pretty soon I made about 3 more.

This is more than flesh and blood can stand, said pop, you either caw and relieve the sleepers or else clear out till bed time.  
 But you said I couldn't go out, pop, I said.  
 You can tell a great man by the ease with which he changes his mind, said pop. Meaning I cawed out. With I did, and Puds Simkins and Leroy Shooter was setting on Puds' front steps, an I sat there with them and Puds took a little piece of chewing gum out of his pocket not big enough for one to chew on and broke it into 3 pieces and we all chewed on it.

should not be known publicly, in order that others, including Americans now in that starvation camp at Mersburg, may profit by the corporal's success. Many of them know how it was done.

"We are all in a bad way for tobacco," the corporal continued, "and if they realize in America how important tobacco is to the poor devil there they'll speak first then the Red Cross in Switzerland. But food is the crying need until the war ends. The Germans are waiting none to speak of their prisoners are going to live to live they are going to live on stuff from home folks. Tell them that and you can't make it too strong."  
 This message spoken with the emphasis and conviction in the boyish corporal's voice, pleading for unfortunates he left there in Germany is the one I am trying to relay for him to all America. "How are the newly arrived American prisoners treated?" I asked the corporal.

"Rotten," was the quick response. "The Germans hate the Americans worse than poison and they get no privileges. Privates are forced to work hard from sunrise to sunset and officers have a solitary time when they are not forced to endure the enervating of the guards and German camp officers. Some of the American non-commissioned officers, because the commissioned officers are not sent to Mersburg. A few had armed just before the last of the captivity is hard for active Americans to bear."

"Some of them are getting no packages yet but are doing the best possible on other fellows' parcels. They need food, then books, papers, and need food from home. Don't forget to tell them that in America and make it strong."

## FLYING RAPIDLY BECOMING SAFER

Proportion of Casualties During Training in Air Force No Higher Than in Any Other Branch of Combatant Services.

An American Aerodrome in England, Aug. 29.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—Flying in the air is becoming rapidly more safe, veterans instructors at the British-American aerodromes in England tell their pupils. The proportion of casualties during training in the Air Force is now no higher, they say, than in any other branch of combatant service.

"During three years' flying experience I have seen upwards of fifty crashes, but I have not yet seen any man receive more than skin-deep injuries as the result of these crashes," declared Lieut. L. Wainman of the Royal Air Force, in a talk with American airmen recently.

"Probably my experience has been unusually fortunate, statistics show that the proportion of fatalities to



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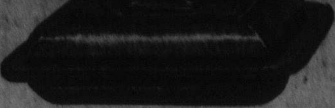
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