

## The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 52 Prince William Street,  
St. John, N. B., Canada.

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YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS: By Carrier \$5.00, By Mail 3.00, Semi-Weekly, by mail 1.00, Advertising rates on application.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1915.

"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 PASSING OF THE WHITE PLUME.

Representatives of the Liberal party will meet in Ottawa today to consider, amongst other things, measures that will lighten the burdens of leadership which have been borne by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. At least, that is the polite phraseology in which advance notices are couched, but, as a matter of fact, the real purpose of the conference will be to see if another cannot be found to replace the wearer of "the white plume."

In many ways Sir Wilfrid has shown that he is losing his grip on his party and his grasp of the trend of public sentiment. Away back in 1904 he made his first serious mistake when he permitted the National Transcontinental project to be entered upon without first thoroughly familiarizing himself with all its details. On that occasion Fielding was a bigger man than Laurier and it was the Fielding influence which was primarily responsible for the routing of the road through a country where it could not be profitably run and where the tendency was to divert Canadian trade away from its natural channels.

Four years later, when the construction of the road was underway Sir Wilfrid lacked the strength of purpose to take the grip with the heels and crafters in his party who were shamelessly fattening at the public trough, and the result was one of the most sickening scandals in the history of this country.

The next question of country-wide importance to attract attention was the reciprocity agreement, and there again Laurier failed. That failure cost him the reins of power but he did not profit from his lesson as, on the very next occasion on which he had opportunity to declare himself, he made what will stand in history as an even more colossal blunder—he opposed the Borden Naval Aid policy and after carrying his opposition to a point where the business of the country was disgracefully obstructed, ordered his Senatorial puppets to strangle the Premier's proposal and thus place Canada in a false position in the eyes of the world.

This being the Laurier record it is not surprising that his followers should cast about for a new Moses to lead them out of the wilderness of opposition. Where is he to be found? Students of history will recall in the days of the old Liberalism that party was thrown into a sorry plight when Mackenzie retired, even though the party at that time numbered such intelligent giants as Edward Blake. Today, the outlook is much more desperate. There is a Graham, a Lemieux, a Clarke and a Pugsley, but none of these are of the timber of which national leaders are made, and not one would count on the party support. Indeed it is safe to say that each would be regarded with suspicion, possibly relished but none the less existent.

The suggested plan is that the party policies shall be framed by a committee of which Sir Wilfrid and his lieutenants will be members but this cannot commend itself for long. The personally ambitious ones in the party will chafe at the restraint such a committee would involve and it will not be long before the intrigues will be at work and the knives will flash.

In all truth the passing of Laurier will mean the passing of the Liberal party for years to come and Liberals the country over may well look with forboding to the decision of that gathering in the capital.

In direct contrast to this unhappy plight is the eminently satisfactory condition of the Conservative party. Under the strong and able leadership of Sir Robert Laird Borden, the premier who has safely guided the destinies of the country for the past four years, the party is united in its determination to administer the affairs of Canada in the best interests of the Canadian people and of the Empire. The certainty is that they will continue to enjoy the absolute confidence of the electorate for many years to come.

### WAR COMMENT

A significant contrast is afforded by the despatches telling of conditions in Great Britain and Germany. In Britain Lord Derby and other leaders have publicly declared that the re-

sponses to the appeal for recruits has been entirely satisfactory, that there is no discomfort or distress in any quarter of the Kingdom, but that the great heart of the British Empire is beating in complete accord with the policy of continuing the conflict until Germany has been whipped to the dust. Sir John French, in his valedictory to the British troops in France, assured them that the glorious ending to their efforts was not far distant, while Lord Derby, in England, predicted a victory for the Entente Allies "at an earlier date than many persons expected."

What is the condition in Germany? It is reported that food riots are of daily occurrence in Berlin, that the "stop the war" party is growing in power and that the military authorities, recognizing that the German people know they can never win, are casting about for some last desperate venture that may bring a change in popular opinion. Invasions of Egypt and of England are mentioned as the latest schemes of the German scatterbrains, plans foredoomed to failure.

From the nature of the country a successful invasion of Egypt could hardly be undertaken; the attempt made by the Turks early in the war was speedily defeated and so long as Britain retains control of the seas and can send forces to Egypt without hindrance, any action Germany contemplates along this line could not be successful. As for an invasion of England the idea is ridiculous. It must be remembered that before one man could be landed on English soil it would be necessary for Germany to meet and overcome the British navy—the greatest and grandest fighting force the world has ever known, and this for Germany would be impossible. Consequently both plans may be dismissed as not practicable.

It, on the other hand, the predictions of Sir John French and Lord Derby are well founded, Germany may speedily be called upon to meet the most vigorous offensive the Allies have yet undertaken. The British army is stronger now than at any time since the commencement of the war and although weather conditions in the areas of fighting are such as to lead to the opinion that a continuance of trench warfare may be the programme for the winter there is little doubt that if a general advance should be decided upon the Allies possess the men and gun power to make it effective.

Sir Douglas Haig, who has succeeded Sir John French as commander-in-chief of the British forces is an aggressive soldier who has already won brilliant successes and it must also be remembered that he takes command under conditions vastly different from those confronting the hero of Mons and the Marne. Sir John French had an insufficient force, lacking in guns and ammunition. The new commander is backed by the weight of Kitchener's army and the product of England's two thousand munition factories. Had Sir John French been similarly supported the story of his campaign would have been very different from the virtual stalemate that has prevailed. The fact that the Allies have progressed as well as they have in that area, is proof positive that the direction was not wrong.

More than all, the British people have never lost confidence in their ability to win. They may be discomfited by failures in the Dardanelles and adverse reports from the Balkans, but they know that on the west front the enemy has been held, and he always will be held. Meanwhile throughout the length and breadth of the Empire there has been erected a tower of hope and security in the great army being created through the masterfulness of the hero of Khar-toum. Great Britain prior to this war was not a military power, but placed her trust in the navy, yet in sixteen months she has produced an army estimated to be upwards of six million men. Minor events cannot shake British confidence with an achievement such as that to fall back upon.

### THE "BORDEN NAVY."

The Times recently refers to the complete failure of the Liberals to grapple with the problem of naval defence and sarcastically asks: "The Standard for information as to the whereabouts of 'the Borden navy'."

Unfortunately this newspaper cannot give the information desired, but we can tell the Times where Sir Robert Borden's fighting ships would have been if the Laurier Senators had not blocked the proposal to build or buy—where the battleship New Zealand has already distinguished herself—under the Empire banner in the North Sea.

While Conservatives regret they are not there, the followers of Sir Robert at least have the satisfaction of knowing that their leader did all mortal man could do to give to Britain three of the largest and finest ships of war that science could build or money supply, and that it was due solely to the unwise and unpatriotic action of the Liberals under Laurier that the plan was frustrated. This being the case it is small wonder that the naval question is about the last matter to which sane Liberals desire to refer.

### THE HONOR ROLE

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—Two casualty lists were issued tonight by the Militia Department. Only two New Brunswick men appear in the list: N. Fraser, of 132 Steadman street, Moncton, is reported killed in action, and Frank P. Murphy, St. John, a member of the 55th Battalion is reported seriously ill.

Fifty-Fifth Battalion. Seriously ill—Frank Patrick Murphy, St. John, N. B. Princess Pats. Died—Corporal William Watson, Nelson, Vancouver, B. C. First Canadian Mounted Rifles. Wounded—William Thomas Ortt, Pithulda, Sask. Third Canadian Mounted Rifles. Severely wounded—Wm. McLaren, Redcliffe, Alta. Wounded—John Joseph Hall, Wilkie, Sask. Suffering from shock—Frank Needham Chapman, England. Railway Construction Corps. Seriously ill—Sapper Elsiear Labelle, Montreal.

MIDNIGHT LIST. Third Battalion. Killed in action—Wm. Rainor, Toronto. Fifth Battalion. Slightly wounded—Lieut. Kenneth C. Campbell, Ottawa. Dangerously wounded—Lieut. Thomas D. Leonard, Toronto. Ninth Battalion. Seriously ill—G. McKellow, England; Sergt. Wm. Townend, England. Thirtieth Battalion. Wounded—Ormond R. Reid, Ottawa. Twenty-Second Battalion. Wounded—Arthur Gervais, Joliette, Que.; Jos. A. Naud, Deschambault, Que.

Twenty-Fifth Battalion. Killed in action—Alfred Carriere, Montreal. Wounded—Corporal Albert Manley, 29 Bloomfield street, Halifax, N. S. Twenty-Eighth Battalion. Accidentally wounded—Lieut. John S. Williams, England. Killed in action—N. Fraser, 132 Steadman street, Moncton, N. B. Lord Strathcona's Horse. Wounded—John Jameson, England; John R. Lindsay, Scotland; John Windsor, South Wales; James W. McDonald, MacLeod, Alb.; John Toohey, Almont, Man.; John H. Boulter, Toronto.

Number Eight Company Divisional Train. Dangerously ill—Staff Sergt. John Smith, England. First Battalion. Suffering from shock—P. Stewart Knox (formerly 3rd Battalion) Auburn, Ont. Second Battalion. Wounded, returned to duty—E. Tapp, Fox River, Que. Wounded—Jos. Shirrit, Osgoode, Ont.; Wm. Cushman, Kingston, Ont. Ninth Battalion. Died of pleurisy, Dec. 15—J. White (formerly 10th Battalion) Oil Springs, Ont. Tenth Battalion. Dangerously ill—Howard Thomas Weller, Regina, Sask. Fifteenth Battalion. Suffering from shock—C. C. Barker, England. Sixteenth Battalion. Wounded—Robert Sanford Graham, Beachburg, Ont. Eighteenth Battalion. Wounded—Edward Lucas, Kingsville, Ont. Nineteenth Battalion. Died of wounds—Vernon Smith, Hamilton, Ont. Twenty-ninth Battalion. Previously reported missing, now reported killed in action—Thomas William Brown, England. Thirty-first Battalion. Wounded—Fred Toyne, England. Thirty-sixth Battalion. Seriously ill—Thomas William Byatt, Wilmet, Ont. Forty-eighth Battalion. Seriously ill—Kingsley Alan Evans, Buolash, Man.

## HUNS INCITE MUSSELMANS TO MASSACRE

London, Dec. 19.—The following official Serbian statement has been received from Belgrade: "During the retreat of the Serbian

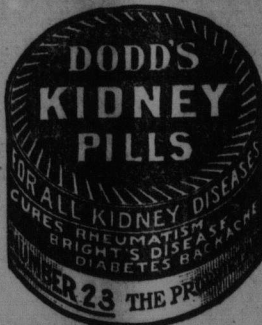
### Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and Puds Simkins was stawking alawing this afternoon and we came to a littel kid setting awn sun frunt steps crying with his mouth wide open, being a littel kid with glasses awn his face and derty wite stockings awn his legs.

Wats the matter, kid, I sed.  
Wats the matter, kid, sed Puds Simkins.  
Im lost, sed the kid without closing his mouth all the way, and he started to cry louder than ever.  
G, hes lost, the poor kids lost, I sed.  
He dont no wate he lives, sed Puds, say, kid, do you no wate you live.  
No, Im lost, Im lost, sed the kid keeping awn crying, and I sed, Wats your name, wats your name, kid.  
Waltir, sed the kid.  
Wats your last name, sed Puds.  
Waltir, sed the kid.  
G, both his names is Waltir, sed Puds, and I sed, No they aint, be ony nos his first name, kids that size dont no share last names.  
Im lost, yelled the kid.  
G, hes lost all right, be ony nos his first name and hes lost, sed Puds. Dont you no wat street you live awn, even, I sed to the kid, and the kid sed, Im lost, I dont no nothing.  
He dont no mutch, thais a stinsh, sed Puds, and I sed, Hes a pritty dum kid, awl ris, how did you get lost kid, do you no that.  
I dont no nothing, sed the kid. Wicks jest thmen the frunt door opened and a lady stuck her hed out, saying, Waltir, stop that crying immeditly and come in the house.  
G, lady, does he live thare, I sed, and she sed, Serteny he lives heer, and me and Puds sed, Aw, heck, and kepp awn wawking.

army the Austrians and Bulgarians armed Musselmans in new Serbia and incited them against the peaceful populations. Numerous massacres ensued and unprecedented cruelties and crimes were committed."



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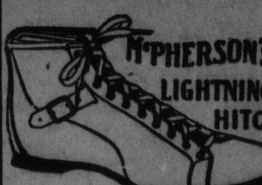


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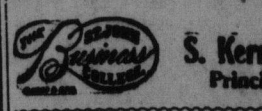
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are always sensible remembrances, especially for the Lads in Khaki for whom our Boston Safety is particularly well adapted, as it can be carried in the pocket, in any position, and POSITIVELY WILL NOT LEAK. We also show a full line of Waterman Ideal Fountain Pens, which are too well and favorably known to need further comment here.

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