

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1917.

"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.

### SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION.

The Military Service Bill passed the Senate on its second reading early yesterday morning with a majority larger than was hoped for. It is worthy of note that all the Acadia Senators in the Maritime Provinces voted for the measure, thus taking rank with Mr. F. J. Robitoux of Kent, who gave it his unqualified approval in the House of Commons. Following the success in the Senate it may now be taken for granted that the bill will become law practically in the form in which it left the lower House.

It may truthfully be said that the bill is a national service as much as a military measure as it aims to secure for the state the services of every man in the branch of work in which he can be of greatest value. No more equitable legislation could have been put on the Canadian statute books, and it will do away with the imperfections and injustices which prevailed under the voluntary system of recruiting.

Under that system every man who volunteered and passed the necessary tests was put into khaki regardless of whether his services would be of more value to the state in other lines. Thus it happened that complaints were frequently made that the farms of the country had been denuded of capable help to increase the army of the country while in urban centers young men continued to fill positions which could well be handled by girls or men beyond military age.

The only reply that could be made to such complaints was that in a free country a man could make his own choice whether that choice was or was not in the interests of the state. Under selective draft there is a remedy at hand. The man who is more valuable to any essential industry in Canada than he could be as a soldier will not be taken. He will remain where his efforts will produce the best results. That is the great advantage of the selective draft. It means that in future the Canadian armies will be raised on a business basis with the element of chance completely removed. It is efficient, necessary and patriotic and the Government is deserving of the highest commendation for possessing the courage to put it into effect. We believe that when its provisions are thoroughly explained to the people much of the present opposition to the measure will be removed and the opinion of the great majority will be that the Government has grappled with an exceedingly complex situation in the very best way.

### SIR RICHARD MCBRIDE.

Death claimed one of Canada's most brilliant sons yesterday when Sir Richard McBride, High Commissioner for British Columbia and former Premier of the Pacific province, passed away in London after a lengthy illness. Sir Richard's health had not been robust for some time and rumors of his retirement were frequently circulated.

Sir Richard McBride, though a native son of British Columbia, was educated in the East, graduating in law from Dalhousie College in Halifax, where he made a record as a student. Returning to the Pacific Coast he soon became identified with public life and before he had reached the age of thirty-three years was at the head of the Government of his native province, a government which, when at its zenith, was easily the strongest and most capable British Columbia has known. For twelve years the young premier maintained his control of provincial affairs, but in 1915 factional disputes in his own party, coupled with allegations against his administration led him to relinquish the reins of power and he retired to the comparative calm of the British Columbia office in London, after nominating Hon. W. J. Bowser, a native of New Brunswick, as his successor in the leadership of the Government. Mr. Bowser's term was short and in the general elections his ministry was defeated and Hon. Mr. Brewster, another New Brunswicker, ascended the political throne.

Sir Richard McBride's career was like the story of the west. He practically grew up in political life over night. Possessing the gift of oratory to a degree shared by few Canadians, his eloquence, combined with his very considerable administrative talents, speedily won recognition for him and his path to success was smooth and easy. He will be remembered as one of Canada's most brilliant public men, with a rare personal magnetism, a silver tongue and more than ordinary skill in statecraft. Under different circumstances he might have loomed large upon the federal horizon at Ottawa. As it is he will be remembered as British Columbia's most famous premier.

### RETURNED SOLDIERS AND THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

As the war proceeds and more soldiers return to Canada after having "done their bit" on the Empire's battle lines, the problem of how to sufficiently reimburse these men for the heroic part they have played in defence of their country will become far reaching and more difficult of solution. It is readily admitted that the returned soldier should have first claim on any position in the public service he is qualified to fill. This principle The Standard has consistently upheld and that it is in line with the often declared policy of the Dominion Government has been demonstrated by the number of soldiers who have already been appointed to positions in that service and in which they are doing satisfactory work.

It is, however, too much to expect that the entire Canadian civil service can be upset at once to solve this question. Men who have spent years in public employ and who have given satisfaction should not be displaced to make room for returned men. Whenever a vacancy occurs it is proper that a soldier should be given first opportunity to fill it, but the impossibility of creating vacancies for that purpose alone will be readily apparent.

While those who have the awarding of public positions have a duty to the returned soldier, a duty concerning which they have not been remiss, the soldier also has a duty to his country. That it is not possible to find government positions for all the men as rapidly as they apply is a self-evident fact and the soldier who refuses private employment because he thinks he is entitled to a position in the public service is hardly fair to himself, to those dependent upon him, or to those who have such positions to bestow, and who generally are as keenly interested in the soldiers' welfare as the soldiers themselves.

Fortunately the very large majority of the soldiers who return are reasonable men, but there are a few who fancy they have a grievance against the Dominion Government, the provincial government or the civic or municipal authorities because they have not received public positions. One such wrote to The Standard yesterday, bitterly complaining of alleged governmental and civic indifference to the claims of the soldier. This newspaper has not published the letter because, from evidence at hand in his own particular case, we do not believe the statements it contains are warranted by the facts.

This soldier was given a position in the public service shortly after his return to Canada. The salary attached thereto was \$125 per month, a sum which, this paper is informed, was much in excess of his earnings prior to donning the khaki. He lost that position by reason of his own conduct, and, for the same reason, was unable to obtain one or two private positions for which he was recommended. He was then offered a post which necessitated his removal from the city. This he refused. And now an effort is still being made to place him in another public position for which he is qualified. This appointment, there is reason to believe, will soon be made.

Yet that soldier is loud in his allegations that the returned men are not receiving fair treatment, while he has no evidence in his own case to support such claims. This may be, and The Standard believes it is, an isolated case, but it is typical of complaints made not only here but elsewhere, and also of the fact that investigation usually reveals little or no real ground for such complaints.

The Standard reiterates what we have already said: The returned soldier has the first claim on any position in the public service that he is qualified to fill, but surely no government can be expected to keep on finding position after position for the one man. Such a policy would be decidedly unfair to other men who may not have had an opportunity to enter the public service in any capacity.

It is the desire of federal, provincial and civic authorities to extend to the returned soldier every consideration and even every advantage, but there is a limit to the positions at the disposal of public men as there is a limit to the amount of work private employers can offer. The returned soldier problem will be a sufficiently perplexing one under the most favorable conditions, but the men themselves can make it a whole lot easier by the exercise of patience. It is to the credit of the great majority of them that they are patient and reasonable. The few who are not are merely the exception to prove the rule.

## WOMEN TO HELP WIN THE WAR

Mrs. Philip Warren, an English Lady Residing in St. John, Delivers Notable Lecture at Newcastle.

Newcastle, August 2.—"Women's Responsibilities of Today" were most ably dealt with in a lecture in the Town Hall last night by Mrs. Philip Warren, an English lady who is at present residing in St. John. Rev. S. Gray presided, and introduced the speaker of the evening with a few well-chosen remarks.

Mrs. Warren who is one of the four lecturers chosen to address the 32 Women's Institute of N. B. during the present summer vacation, gave a most pleasingly eloquent appeal for women's help to win the war. She said in part as follows:—

"There are people in the world today who have not realized their responsibilities. She was afraid this war was going to be a very long one. Nothing else than the necessary home duties should matter now besides winning the war. Do we realize that the women of France have no vacation? No sitting in the rocker crocheting for them. All pleasures should be put aside and nothing that is not of use should be done. Knitting should be done. Red Cross supplies kept up. In Canada we are still leaning towards pleasure and things are too easy for us. When we see people just enjoying themselves we are difficult to believe that a war is going on."

So many girls in this country are unemployed! There is something for them to do. Very soon they will be called upon to take the places of men, unless we are willing to see our Canadian army through casualties not replaced by new recruits. I dwindle to the vanishing point. The wastage is now much greater than the addition by recruiting. If our army is allowed to die out, what will history say of us? In that case our women will have to go to fight, as the women of Russia and also, it appears the women of Germany are doing. We cannot look upon these things too strongly. How glad we are to read in today's papers of the glorious advance in Flanders! But it means greatly that we get to work. Those wounded men feel when they read also in today's papers of the pitifully small number of recruits enlisted that a war is going on."

We hear of conscription coming. It may come. If it comes, don't let us criticize it. Try to get in line with the big thing. Let us send our men cheerfully. "If you had seen women as I have seen them," said the lecturer, "bidding their husbands goodbye with a smile, and then going off to war until the train has gone out and the men are out of sight."

There is something in men that makes them feel they are going to fight, but the women just have to wait.

Concerning Russia.

Russia. Thoughts of it gave her a most extraordinary feeling. She was there a few years ago. One felt she was always watched. One had in each town to give the police a history and one was always under the closest surveillance. The peasantry all seemed hopeless, being kept under. Into beautiful Moscow came the peace and the women heavily burdened, while the men walked leisurely by their side. Beautiful were the churches, and great their treasures, but there for of oppression was over all. Frequently passed the train or the boat with barred windows, crowded with exiles on their way to Siberia, sent there for their oppressor's opinions not agreeable to the government. Now, these people have all been liberated and sent home, and many don't know how to use their freedom. But Russia will come right in time. The lecturer's brother, who had been in Russia for some time and left just before the outbreak of the revolution, was of the same opinion as herself. Russia, whose armies have sustained between 6,000,000 and 7,000,000 casualties will not now leave the fight for freedom. At the beginning of the war many Russian were sent to the war unarmed, and as one man fell nine or ten pushed forward to take up his rifle. This was before the allies supplied them with arms and ammunition. Let us try to understand the course of events today so that we shall know what to do after the war.

One of the current American women's magazines (all of them are specially good) asks: When our men come home how shall they find we have kept what they went out to defend? What the boys come home they may not want to talk of what they have seen. Don't urge them, then, but have everything homelike to welcome them. Many men who saw very little of religion at home, have found God in the trenches.

Food Conservation. We hear so much about food conservation, yet, perhaps, we do not realize how important it is. Have we thought of the difficulty in the way of the Food Controller? Let us do it cheerfully all he asks us to do, although we may not always agree with him. Practically all the food the allied armies need must come from this side. Food conservation is necessary to win the war. Every citizen must realize that Britain, France, Italy and the other western allies are wholly unable to supply their armies in the field and on the way. Their men are at war, and their countries partly overrun by the enemy. Australia and Argentina, since ships are so scarce, too far away to supply much food. It must come from Canada and the United States.

We must have national self-denial. All possible must be produced, the perishable food eaten first, waste prevented and aid volunteered to the Food Controller. Each family should reduce its consumption of wheat, pork and beef by at least one-third. There will be a tremendous waste in our hotels and restaurants. There should be not more than two or three courses at a meal. The United States garbage cans get \$700,000,000 of food each year. War demands efficiency; waste is inefficiency.

Let women step out for reform. Don't be afraid of your neighbor. Speak right out and act at once.

## Little Benny's Note Book.

My cousin Artie stayed at my house all night last night, and we was laying in bed in the dark talking about the first thing we wood do if we had a million dollars, me saying I wood buy a big candy store and keep on helping myself, and Artie saying he wood go around giving beggars thousand dollar bills and watching them look surprised, and all of a sudden I sed, Lets pretend we are sponges on the bottom of the ocean.

G, all rite, Ill bett you to the ocean, sponges, sed Artie. And he rolled out of bed and layed on the floor all curled up with his bed between his nees, and so did I, Artie saying, Wat kind of a sponge are you, sponges?

Im a baby sponge to rub off slates with, wat kind of a sponge are you, sponges? I sed.

Im a old bathtub sponge? sed Artie. And we stayed there talking sponge tawk and pritty soon we herd pop wawking along the hall, and I wispered, Shh, sponges, heer comes a sponge-eating shark, shh.

Shh, wispered the other sponges, pop came in, saying to himself, I dont suppose it cood be in heer, but Ive tried everywhere else. Wich us sponges cood heer him feeling around in the dark and all of a sudden he tripped over me and almost fell down, saying, For the love of Post, Wich jest then he tripped over Artie and bumped into a chair and nook-ed his ankle and sed a farnse aware ward and grabbed both the sponges jest as they was trying to get back into bed to pretend they hadent bin out of it.

Now tell me the meaning of this, sed pop.

We was pretending we was sponges, I sed. Well then Im pretending Im a nite airplane raid, sed pop. And he put us back in bed, and gave us each 3 farnse kracks with his hand sumware, and then he went out agen, saying to himself, Wat the mischief was I looking for? And us 2 sponges kepp on laying there, Artie saying, Do you want to try it agen, sponges? and me saying, No, sponges, and Artie saying, Neither do I. And pritty soon after that we was both asleep.

Bring these questions up in your churches, institutes and other organizations and make every woman express herself.

In St. John 400 girls had banded together in a Patriotic Association, to take the place of men at such work as ushering in theatres, etc., etc., running over all their wares for patriotic purposes. These girls can talk some also in any meeting! Canada has got to wake up and change its mode of life.

The institutes should try to get, not only high school girls, but all girls in the canning clubs, girls parading round town in nice, white clothing should be at work. In England women and girls get up at 5 o'clock, milk cows, make butter, make the hay.

So can Canadian women and they should. What an example if the news should go out tomorrow that 250 Newcastle girls were going out to work on the farms! The boys in the trenches are looking to them at home to back them up. If we fall history will fix the responsibility upon us, as it will also upon the men who can go and don't. In New Brunswick there are still 27,000 unmarried men under 45 and 35. Surely they are not all physically unfit? It may be all right in times of peace for young men to be riding around in autos on pleasure, but it is not the proper thing now. Imagine the sufferings of the men at the front.

France must be helped this present year. The peasants in the lands being vacated by the Germans have nothing left—farms, fruit trees, nor houses. Send everything you can for French relief to French Wounded Emergency Fund, 44 Lowndes Square, London, S. W.

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