

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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 KAISER'S CHANGED OPINIONS

It is interesting to note the change in the state of mind of the Emperor of Germany as manifested by his public utterances. When this war broke out he declared that Germany was fighting for "a place in the sun" and indulged in more or less bombastic predictions of the "glorious successes" to be won by "the sword of the Fatherland." This was his mind until after the battle of the Marne when he changed his view and flooded the press of Germany with references to the "malted fist" and "the shining armour" of the "superman of Prussia," who would drive their enemies into the sea and win for Germany an empire greater than had been dreamed of.

But the Kaiser is climbing down. He talks no longer of German prowess but now adopts the tone of an injured innocent and prates of the awful war that was "forced upon us" by "enemies envious of our progress." In an address delivered at Essen, the seat of the great Krupp industry, he intimates that Germany is willing for peace but that the Allies persist in wishing to continue the struggle.

Wilhelm, seemingly, cannot understand why his desires should not be granted. He forgets that he willed the war which for more than four years has drenched the world with blood and set back the progress of civilization for half a century. It suits him not to remember the massacres of innocent non-combatants, the atrocities committed in the name of Kultur at Louvain, the sinking of the Lusitania or the murder of Edith Cavell, all the work of his wearers of "the shining armour."

## GERMANY'S HARVEST PROSPECTS.

For the first time in the history of the war not even the German official reports venture to give hopes of a good harvest. All the crops have been greatly retarded at a time when an early harvest was a matter of vital importance, and this, no doubt, has in itself greatly upset the arrangements of the Food Administration. Thanks to the weather, which has been everything the Allies would have wished it to be, the damage sustained by the early potatoes and vegetables has been considerable and has only been surpassed by the damage to the fruit. Although it is as yet too early to speak of the cereal crops, there is little doubt that the yield of corn will be comparatively low at a time when every additional ton tells. One can sum up the matter by saying that little or no relief to the food situation can be looked for in Germany during the coming harvest year so far as her home resources are concerned, and the prospects of help from outside are correspondingly gloomy.

Germany counted on making good any deficits in her supplies from certain countries over which she had acquired an influence. Now, even the German newspapers have been forced to admit that the long drought has reduced to a considerable extent this year's harvests in those very countries in Eastern Europe upon which the German authorities had pinned their hopes. In Poland rye and wheat are described as under the average. In Rumania the wheat yield is under average, and the maize behindhand. Bulgaria, at the best, can only hope for a medium harvest, and in the Northern Dobruja the harvest is below the average.

In the Ukraine the long drought has seriously retarded the development of the cereal crops, and there have been other reasons, too, for German dissatisfaction. There is every indication that the rising of the peasants is steadily spreading, and there is excellent authority for saying that not only has a great deal of the harvest

been deliberately destroyed, but plans have been worked out for destruction in other areas. The Germans have made themselves so utterly hated in the Ukraine that the peasants would sooner starve to death than grow food which might be seized by German troops, and as matters are at present, coercion is, of course, out of the question.

As regards Rumania it appears, from trustworthy official reports, that the drought, both in Rumania and Bessarabia, has been exceptional, and the total production of corn, maize, sugar beet, oil seeds, etc., in all probability will not exceed 50 per cent. of the amount required for local consumption. This fact, however, will not weigh very heavily with the Germans who are quite ready to carry off what there is, leaving the unfortunate inhabitants to starve. In fact the Germans have already requisitioned everything of value and have levied huge contributions of corn, both from the occupied parts of Wallachia and from Moldavia and Bessarabia, under threat of seizing everything and leaving the population to starve. It is evident that such tactics will go far from encouraging production, and it is even likely that the history of the Ukraine may repeat itself in Rumania.

## THE "GASOLINE DRIVE."

It is gratifying to learn that the movement to stop the Sunday operation of automobiles and motorcycles except in cases of necessity, which was accepted by the Canadian Fuel Controller as part of a general campaign to conserve gasoline, gives every indication of becoming completely successful. Canadians will take to this restriction the more willingly because other warring nations have already adopted it. In the United States a similar appeal has been made and in the great majority of cases cheerfully met, but to provide authority to enforce obedience where voluntary compliance has not developed the request has been supported by regulation. It is to be taken as a standard of judgment it will not be necessary to compel compliance in Canada and it is well that this is the case.

One effect of this war will be to teach the people of Canada that they can do without many things they have formerly been accustomed to regard as necessities. Canadians have been living in a period of easy money and resultant thoughtless expenditure. The need for thrift was not apparent in the days when every man had a dollar in his pocket and knew where more was to be obtained when that dollar was spent. Nor did it easily occur to the average citizen that the habit of free spending, while the country and the Empire faced a serious crisis, was, to say the least, in questionable form if not a more grave offence. That lesson had to be learned.

By Government rule many of our habits of former days have been regulated. No longer can we buy as we like or to the limit of our ability. No longer is it good form to make a display of wealth. The consumption of certain articles more necessary to the men overseas than to ourselves has been curtailed and we have suffered no ill effects. Simplicity in dress and in mode of living is the generally accepted standard and the request to abstain from Sunday joy-riding, and thus save gasoline merely comes as a natural development in a campaign of conservation and thrift.

## GE-BUSTED

Lieber Himmel! It is grotesque! Don't you see? Let those who the Fatherland truly love keep this schrecklich and never to be believed news of the burdened and with misfortune depressed hearts of the home-dwellers. And it was those pig-dogs of Canadians and their verdant tanks that did it! Canadians—who should, in this wondrous opportunity provided for them by the farseeing and superior German mind, be now engaged freeing themselves from the unbearable shackles of England's money-lust!

It is to the high-intelligence and cultured German mind a nap penning most unthinkable. It was never, in the plans of the All Highest's supreme command, intended that this should have occurred.

When before the advance of the all-conquering and invincible German army the miserable and degenerate French troops abandoned the northern and most valuable coal fields, it was the intent of the guides of the Fatherland's glorious destinies that hereafter they should be German! That here it was for this, to the cultured Teutonic mind wholly understandable reason, that the Wotan line was for the defence of the coal fields, of most unshakable strength, carefully guarded. The valuable property of the Fatherland should above all things most carefully protected be!

Und now, without conscience and with the most foolhardy recklessness of their own life, as well as indifference to the unalterable decrees of the All Highest, those verdant Canadians have in one inconsiderate blow nearly six miles of the Fatherland's defences destroyed and vorboten territory invaded.

It is schrecklich! —Buffalo Courier.

## A BIT OF VERSE

### "TO BRING THEM HOME"

The war must be won . . . not alone by our armies . . . but by the personal sacrifice of every man, woman and child of the nation.  
 —President Wilson.

Over in France, where the death shells scream,  
 The boys are fighting as in a dream—  
 A glorious dream of blood and hell—  
 While I stay home and prosper well.

Over in France they are dying now,  
 Like red earth turning by a giant plow;  
 They are going across, with a snail,  
 For me—  
 While I stay home in security.

Over in France the gas clouds roll,  
 And the shower of steel is taking its toll;  
 The flag drives on, but the boys lie still—  
 While I live on, and eat my fill.

Dear God in Heaven, in Whom we trust,  
 Turn the food in my throat to dust  
 If I miss one chance which may come to me  
 To bring them home with the victory  
 Kenneth Groesbeck.

## A BIT OF FUN

Taken at His Word.  
 "So you've given up drinking, have you, Rastus?" asked the old fellow. "I ain't teched a drop in 'fo' weeks."  
 "Well, you deserve credit for that." "Yes, sah; dat's jes' what I think. Mistah Rastus, I was jus' gwine ter ax 'yo' if 'yo' cud trus' me to some groceries."—Boston Transcript.

Not Even Cracked.  
 Clare was perched upon the garden wall, swinging her chubby legs and singing at the top of her shrill little lungs.  
 "Be careful, Clare," said her mother, who passed by; "you might fall and break your bones. I'm afraid you'll get hurt."  
 "Oh, don't be afraid," she answered reassuringly. "I was jus' gwine ter ax 'yo' if 'yo' cud trus' me to some groceries."—Boston Transcript.

Practical-Minded.  
 "Why did Cinderella have to leave the ball promptly at twelve?" asked the teacher.  
 "A bright little maid chirped up: 'So she could catch the last car.'"

Full Value Received.  
 Nevada Paper.—The beautiful rendition of several numbers by Mr. Ingalls, of Nevada, was well worth the admission fee, which was purposely made small.

Not Is He?  
 Bloomington Times.—"The son reported born to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Foster recently is a girl."

## CRUCIFIED KITTEN AS MAN-TRAP BAIT

British Soldier Killed When He Released Animal Nailed Up By Boche.

London, Sep. 6.—The Morning Post says the authenticity of the following incident is taken as unquestionable. During the recent operations of the Allies, it fell to the 4th British Army to re-occupy a town when the Germans retreated from it. As they were making their way through the war-scarred street of the town, a group of men were arrested by a sight that startled and shocked even men inured to the horrors of war.

On a door of one of the houses a kitten was hanging by its forepaws, which had been nailed to the wood. The wretched creature, which might have been where it was found at least an hour or two, was moving pitifully in agony and struggling desperately with its hind legs to release itself.

With the natural instinct of pity for a suffering dumb animal, one of the British soldiers rushed forward to release the kitten. He pulled out the nails which pierced its paws, but the moment he did so, there was a flash and a roar and his mutilated and dismembered body was flung across the street. A hidden explosive charge had been set off by the withdrawal of the nails.

The retreating Boche had laid his trap and baited it with a kitten nailed to a door. He calculated such an appeal to British humanity would be irresistible, and he was right.

## RUSSIAN DELEGATES TO LABOR CONFERENCE.

London, Tuesday, Sept. 10.—Pastors have been granted to the Russian social revolutionary delegates to the International Labor conference which will begin its sessions in London next Tuesday. The delegates have been at Stockholm for some time and are expected to proceed to England where they are expected next week.

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Friday nite we had tried fish for supper, me not liking any kind of fish, especially fried, on account of the bones and the time, and I sed to ma, Aw, G, ma, I don't want any fish.

Its not wat you want, its wat you're going to get, sed ma. There's a lot of things in this world that we don't want, but we haf to take them just the same.

Short sayings of famous wimmin, sed pop. And ma started to put a peice of fish on my plate, me saying, All rite, you can put it on, but I aint going to eat it, theres some cold corn beet in the ice box, you cant I have that, ma?

Because you have no bizness knowing wats in the ice box, sed ma. And she handed me my plate with the peice of fish on it, saying, The very idee, meny a poor beggar would be glad to get that fish.

Well, maybe I would, too, if I was a poor beggar, I sed. "G, wiaz, ma, theres some sourdeens in the ice box, if I ate them id be eating fish, wouldnt it? Wy cant I have them, ma?"

For the same reason you cant have the corn beet, sed ma. All rite, then, Ill jest leave it heer. I aint going to eat this, I sed. Meaning the fish. And I ate everything that was around it, being mash potatoes and pees, and then I thawt, O wall, I gess Ill eat a little hunk off one corner of, just for luck. Which I did, tastin, all rite for fish, I kepp on eating little hunks off the corners till there wasent anything left but about 13 bones, and ma sed, Wy, Benny, wat on earth becoms of the fish you wat going to eat? and pop sed, I wonder who in the world could of taken it.

Me jest changing the subjeck by asking for more pees but they probably suspected I ate it just the same.

## BRITAIN FACES KHAKI ELECTION

Great Britain's second khaki election will be held this Fall at the order of the man who was the bitterest assailant of the first khaki election in 1900. Following the occupation of Pretoria, Lord Roberts sent home a despatch in which he announced that the South African war was over, and though hostilities dragged on for many months afterwards, the Roberts despatch gave Mr. Balfour an opportunity to hold an election while patriotic enthusiasm was at its height. In this campaign Lloyd George was among the most active as he was certainly the most virile of the opponents of the Government. He saw as all other experienced politicians saw that the Government had a tremendous advantage over the Liberals led by Campbell Bannerman. The Balfour Government was returned by a narrow margin in office until the landslide of 1906, which resulted in Lloyd George taking his first office under Liberalism, that of President of the Board of Trade. It is now Premier Lloyd George who is bringing on a war-time election, actually, probably, by the same motives that possessed Mr. Balfour in 1900.

### The Party Truce.

In some respects the forthcoming election will be the most remarkable in modern political history. The war will be the issue, or rather the handling of the war by the Premier and his colleagues. Yet there is practically no anti-war party in 1918, while there was a formidable group of so-called pro-Boers in 1900. There are a few members of Parliament, Labor leaders who have never labored except with their vocal organs, and pacifists, who are nominally Liberal. These members are very likely to be defeated, and it is a foregone conclusion that no party will emerge from the election which will give any comfort to the Kaiser. It is supposed that the truce between official Conservatives and official Liberals will hold, and that the parties will make no effort to wrest seats from each other which are held by loyal supporters of the war. The Labor party, however, will not recognize the truce, and Labor will put up candidates, it is said, in 290 constituencies, most of them now represented by Liberals or Conservatives.

### Good Night, Mr. Dillon.

Another interesting feature is likely to be the practical disappearance of Mr. Dillon, as the political factor of the Nationalist party which at the last election numbered about 100 members of the British House of Commons. At present the Nationalists hold 74 seats, but it is not expected that they will be able to defend more than a dozen of them from the Sinn Feiners, and as the Sinn Feiners have been elected, although they will contest the seats, they will not go to Parliament, the Nationalists are doomed to vanish, and the Irish representation will be cancelled with the exception of those constituencies that return Unionists. This will make all the more formidable the Labor representation which will probably be much larger in the next Parliament than it is at the moment, but the Labor party itself is not unlikely to be split into a group adhering to Henderson if not indeed to such leaders as Ramsay MacDonald and the more virile Laborites who will look rather to men like Havelock Wilson as their proper spokesmen. It is extremely unlikely that the

events of the election will disturb Lloyd George's grip upon the Premiership, which, as was not gained as the result of an election, will not be destroyed thereby. The political situation makes it impossible for Asquith to take the field against him, and the party truce would hold leaders like Bonar Law and Sir Edward Carson loyal to the coalition. We hear often that Lloyd George is bitterly denounced at all the London clubs, and is attacked by both the Tory and the Radical press, but whatever discontent there is with his administration in the absence of a formal opposition all over the country it will remain impotent. This more than atones for the fact that Lloyd George is the leader of no party, and has control of no party machinery. The key to the Liberal machine is in the hands of Mr. Asquith, and that of the other is in Mr. Law's possession, although there are some who contend that the real leader of what is called Toryism today is not Mr. Bonar Law, but Sir Edward Carson. Only some new plunge toward the coercion of Ulster could drive Sir Edward Carson into open opposition to his former ally, and later colleague, Lloyd George.

### Tariff Reform.

It seems likely that apart from the question as to whether the present Government has carried on the war in accordance with the desires of the masses of the British people the question of tariff reform will be most to the front. Already we hear Free Traders declaring that it would be an insult to our brave allies that the British Empire should adopt some preferential tariff system, and the preposterous claim has been put forward that a tariff would destroy the ideal of a league of nations to preserve the peace of the world. Premier Hughes, of Australia has fired several shots against Free Trade, and it is hinted that if there should be an approval of his policy voiced at the polls he may remain in England and take a cabinet position. The election will give Mr. Lloyd George a further lease of power of six years, by the end of which time he may be able to construct a party of his own, or cast in his lot with the Unionists, or even become a leader of the Laborites. Subject to the willingness of his colleagues, he will have six years in which to make his final choice and to determine what are likely to be the winning policies in English public life for a long time to come.

### DEPOT BATTALION.

Twenty-seven men of No. 1 Depot Battalion passed through the city yesterday, en route to Sussex, from Ottawa, where they took a course in physical culture and bayonet practice. While away the men were held up in quarantine, in consequence of an epidemic of smallpox. Many men out on harvest leave are also returning to camp. Others have been notified to report, and in the course of a few days all the men will be back before the battalion moves to St. John for the winter.

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