

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1916.

"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 MILK SITUATION.

The City Council yesterday officially ratified the action it took in committee on Monday in declaring that it believed the price of milk in this city to be higher than conditions warrant, and the next step will be to ask for sworn statements of costs from retailers. This will be done without delay and on the replies received will depend whether the Federal machinery provided in such cases shall be called into play. The council can safely be left to deal with the affair in the interests of all concerned and until they have decided whether the ten cent price is just or unjust there is little occasion for boycotts on the part of city people.

The women of Fairville, where the council's decision can have no effect, have decided to take matters into their own hands, and as a result a fair sized boycott is already under way there. Whether the Municipal Council will follow the lead of the city commissioners remains to be seen. The warden of that body has already stated that if conditions were such that the advanced rate could not be justified he would not delay in guarding the interests of the people. For the present, therefore, the matter rests with the civic authorities.

St. John is not alone in its agitation against the price of milk. In Winnipeg, where costs of all lines are much in excess of the east, the price is to be raised from ten to eleven cents per quart and the citizens of the Manitoba metropolis are up in arms. The Winnipeg Telegram sums up the situation exactly when it says that what the people want now is to know whether the price is fair or not and whether there is reason for the increase. That is the case in St. John as well. If the ten cent price is justified here the people will either have to pay it or reduce their consumption of milk and it may be said that already there is a movement in the latter direction on the part of a number of householders. Discussing the Winnipeg situation the Telegram says:

"Householders in Winnipeg are not prepared to accept quietly the advance in the cost of milk. There is a general impression that ten cents per quart is a sufficiently high price to give a fair margin of profit and that the addition of another cent is therefore unwarranted.

"The milk company, however, has explained its side of the matter by means of page advertisements in the city papers. The contention there set forth is that to sell milk at ten cents a quart to the consumer is to lose money, and that even at eleven cents the net profit is only a little over one quarter of a cent per quart. If these figures are correct, the company may be admitted to have made out a case, but the public wants to know.

"There has recently been appointed by the provincial government a commissioner to investigate the high cost of living. Why not have him begin his inquiry by looking into this milk problem? The company declares its willingness to place its books and records at his disposal. Let the offer be accepted and the facts ascertained and published without delay."

THE SITUATION IN BRITAIN.

While news of the resignation of Premier Asquith will be received as something of a shock all over the British Empire the first impression is certain to be succeeded by a feeling of confidence that while the political situation in the Motherland is now acute, no change that can be made will have any effect on the prosecution of the war except to introduce a more aggressive policy. This conflict is being fought by the people of the Empire and the people are always greater than any leader or set of leaders. The resignation of a premier while a subject of speculation and comment for a day is simply to be regarded as an incident of minor importance when compared with the real problem with which the Empire is confronted. And this is more particularly true of Great Britain today than ever before in her history.

Britain has been faced by many serious domestic problems in the past ten years, regarding which there has been widespread cleavage and diversity of opinion, but in the present case the mind of the Empire is set for one

end—there may be differences of view as to the methods to be employed in the attainment of that end but, in the decision that it must be attained, the Empire is unanimous.

The Asquith administration has been put to very severe tests and there is evidence that the people of Britain have become dissatisfied with its course on more than one matter of importance. Among these may be mentioned passiveness of the naval policy, failure to solve the submarine problem, the blockade of Germany, inadequate use of acknowledged British superiority in the air, backwardness in bringing out the man-power of the nation, the exclusion of Ireland from the compulsory service act, the toleration of enemy trade, and delay in winding up German banks in the United Kingdom. These and other matters have been the subject of sharp exchanges and it has been felt that Mr. Asquith might have pursued a more vigorous policy. Of course public impatience with the methods of conducting a war has always to be reckoned with in the case of a Democratic government, but it remained for David Lloyd George to bring this impatience to a head in such a manner as to produce the present situation.

There is no doubt that another administration, to be headed either by Mr. Bonar Law or Mr. Lloyd George, will effect some changes, but they will all be in the direction of speeding up war work and war prosecution. In any event the situation is not sufficiently serious to create alarm. No matter who may be selected to succeed Mr. Asquith he will be a man of outstanding ability and will surround himself with men well able to handle the troublesome problems requiring solution.

A particularly commendable feature of the situation is that the British people desire no war-time election. In that they take the same view as Sir Robert Borden that a political contest would distract public attention from the duty of the hour—the redemption of the world from the thralldom of Prussianism.

DR. PRICE FOR WESTMORLAND.

Commenting upon the nomination of Dr. O. B. Price, M.L.A., of Moncton, as the Federal candidate of the Conservative party in the county of Westmorland, the Moncton Times of yesterday says:

"As one of the most largely attended conventions ever held in Westmorland, Dr. O. B. Price of Moncton was on Monday chosen at Dorchester as the standard-bearer of the Liberal Conservative party at the next Federal election. It is hoped, of course, that a political contest will be avoided until after the war, but as the Government would not undertake to further prolong the life of Parliament without the consent of the opposition leaders, and as Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his associates have been rather belligerent of late, it is no doubt the part of wisdom to be ready. The convention at Dorchester was highly representative; in fact, there were less than half a dozen absentees, and what is rather unusual in political conventions in Westmorland, no less than four gentlemen well known throughout the county allowed their names to be put in nomination. The selection of Dr. Price on the first ballot is therefore significant of the feeling of the delegates and must be gratifying to that gentleman and his friends. Before the vote all the aspirants present pledged themselves to support the choice of the convention and when the result was made known they again pledged themselves to give Dr. Price their united and hearty support. Dr. Price has for four years represented the city of Moncton in the Provincial Legislature and no doubt owes his popularity largely to the untiring energy he has displayed in that capacity. It was doubtless also felt that as the representation of the county has been held largely in the past by men from the Eastern Provinces, this one had a fair claim to consideration. Dr. Price stands well with labor and other organizations; he has given careful attention to legislation at Fredericton and will take, there is every reason to believe, a large majority out of the city of Moncton. With thorough organization, which the party has lacked since the beginning of the war especially, and the united front presented at the Dorchester convention there can be little doubt of the result of the contest at the polls, whether it takes place during or just after the war."

THE BOARD OF TRADE AND MILK QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Standard: Sir,—Permit me to draw the public's attention to the Board of Trade's "extraordinary" resolution passed at last Monday evening's meeting re "High Cost of Living." The resolution in brief states: "Resolved that the board is of the opinion that the high cost of living which is now disturbing the people of Canada is not properly chargeable against business or farming interests of the country, but that it is due largely to the uncontrollable causes arising from the present great war. That we—the public—must learn to bear with patience whatever sacrifice it entails."

Then a further preamble: "That where it can be established that combines have been formed to extort excessive prices then in such cases the full penalty of the law be enforced." With one blast of its official trumpet it proclaims to the people of this province that the war and the conditions arising therefrom is to blame for high prices—in the second blast it proclaims "If combines do exist and some is responsible for same, give them all that is legally coming to them." Extraordinary, is it not? The Dominion government and the people of this country are of the opinion that excessive prices do exist. The government of the day, realizing this fact, has provided legal machinery for finding out what causes high prices. The machinery is just being put in motion—the municipalities are about to act. In the meantime, one presumes because they had nothing else to do—the St. John Board of Trade passes a resolution which in effect dated from the year no one is to blame. Not guilty. But if guilty, what then? With all due respect to the St. John Board of Trade, permit the writer to suggest that no more verdicts be rendered until the evidence is heard.

Yours,
AN ABSENT MEMBER.

MONTHLY MEETING OF N. H. SOCIETY

The monthly meeting of the Natural History Society was held last night with a large attendance, with President James A. Estey in the chair. Mr. Wm. Melnichuk gave an interesting talk on "New Brunswick Rivers," illustrating his subject with a number of slides.

Rev. Dr. Hutchinson recited a poem "Sweet Maiden of Quoddy," which pleased the audience. The following donations were received: The crutches used by Major Guthrie after he was wounded in the battle of Festubert, May 25th, 1915, presented by Lt. Col. Guthrie; fine collection of butterflies from the island of Trinidad, collected by Mr. Morton; tropical shells from the Pacific Ocean and the West Indies, donated by Judge Forbes; three stone adzes, three pieces of pottery, fourteen flaked blades and scrapers, one broken polished slate spear head, by W. Clairmont Dykeman; fine old silver watch, by W. Raymond; mounted specimen of alligator, by Miss Lou McDiarmid; Mosses box, bought in Kermandash, Persia by Capt. White, by Mrs. W. H. Barnaby; one hundred and fifty-seven sea shells from Patagonia and the West Indies, and a bat from the West Indies by Master Flood. The following members were elected:

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Little Benny's Note Book

Puds Simkinses sissy cuzin Persey was setting on his front steps yesterday, wich jest as I came up he stopped eating sumthing, and I sed, Hello, Persey, what you eating? Nuthin, sed Persey. I know you aint, now, but wat was you eatin? I sed, Wat do you care? sed Persey. I know wat you was eating, I sed, you was eating peenuts, dont I see the shells around, lend me some, will you, Persey? I only have 6 left, sed Persey, I havent got enuff left to give any away. Whose asking you to give them any, I sed, I jest asked you to lend me some, dont you know the diffrnts between giving and lending? Not with peenuts? I dont, sed Persey. Well then you must be pritty ignorant, I sed. If I had about 30 or so it mite be diffrnt, but I only have 7, sed Persey. You jest sed you had 6, I sed. Well if I have 7 I must have 6, sed Persey. Being true, and I sed, Are you going to lend me some or aint you? I aint, sed Persey. All rite, then, I sed, heer comes Reddy Merty, if you dont give me 2 peenuts Ill tell Reddy youve got them, and then youll soon see weather youll give any away or not. Wich Persey looked gnd saw Reddy Merty coming and he quick gave me 2 peenuts and I quick put them in my pocket, and Reddy came up, saying, wats you 2 doing? Nuthin, sed Persey. Nuthin, I sed. And Reddy kepp on wakin, and me and Persey started to eat peenuts, me eating them slow on account of only having 2 to eat.

ed: Dr. J. S. Bentley, J. J. Stothart, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Trueman, Misses Florence Raffley, Ethel Chitwick, Emma Co'well, Sylvia Ferguson, Hazel Flewelling, Boesie Forbes, Marion Gault, Hilda Gifford, Marjorie Johnston, Evelyn Nicholson, Marion Paterson, Mac-jorie Robertson, Joan Shand, Blanche Tapley, Mary Wilcox.

A CHILD DOESN'T LAUGH AND PLAY IF CONSTIPATED

If peevish, feverish and sick, give "California Syrup of Figs."

Mother! Your child isn't naturally cross and peevish. See if tongue is coated; this is a sure sign its little stomach, liver and bowels need a cleansing at once. When listless, pale, feverish, full of cold, breath bad, throat sore, doesn't eat, sleep or act naturally, has stomach-ache, diarrhoea, remember, a gentle liver and bowel cleansing should always be the first treatment given. Nothing equals "California Syrup of Figs" for children's ills; give a teaspoonful, and in a few hours all the foul waste, sour bile and fermenting food which is clogged in the bowels passes out of the system, and you have a well and playful child again. All children love this harmless, delicious "fruit laxative," and it never fails to effect a good "inside" cleansing. Directions for babies, children of all ages and grown-ups are plainly on the bottle. Keep it handy in your home. A little given today saves a sick child tomorrow, but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," then look and see that it is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company."

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