

## The St. John Standard

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### SHIPBUILDING.

While considerable opposition to the programme of the Dominion government respecting the development of a Canadian merchant marine has developed during the present session of Parliament, Hon. Mr. Balfour appears to be standing by his guns, and strong support is coming from the Navy League and other quarters. Whether or not the original programme will be adhered to in its entirety may depend on circumstances not yet foreseen, but it is highly probable that the government will be persuaded to abandon the shipbuilding side of its programme in the immediate future.

Under the stimulus of war needs, fortified by the promise of the government to make contracts for the construction of 200,000 tons of shipbuilding per year for a considerable period, shipbuilding in Canada has grown into an important industry. The amount of capital which has been invested in the industry is variously estimated at anywhere from \$25,000,000 to \$50,000,000, and 25,000 workers are said to be dependent upon shipbuilding or the allied marine equipment industries. Only about a dozen yards are capable of the construction of large steel ships, but it is estimated that there are nearly 350 small yards, mostly engaged on the construction of wooden ships.

An Ottawa paper advances the argument that the government should abandon its shipbuilding programme, because it says that ships of a class which cost over \$200 to build in Canada could have been built in Great Britain before the war for \$25 per ton. This is probably misleading in more ways than one. No such ships were ever built in Great Britain for \$25 per ton. It is stated that Canadian shipyards are offering to take contracts at from \$155 to \$190 per ton, which is from five to ten per cent. higher than offers by British yards, where under war conditions wages have in some cases increased beyond Canadian rates. Ship construction costs in Canada have been on the average much lower than in the United States. Naturally under the emergency conditions Canadian shipbuilders sought to recuperate themselves for the large outlays on plant which they had to make in a hurry, a charge which would not arise for the great majority of British yards where plant development has been a growth of years. They can doubtless afford to largely reduce their contract prices in future, especially when the new plate mills get in operation and raw materials of all sorts are less difficult to obtain.

Moreover, it is per ton, which Canada should be able to build ships as cheaply as Great Britain in order to have a merchant marine, flying the Canadian flag. Most of the great fortunes in Great Britain are founded on shipbuilding or ship-owning, and Canadian companies have operated Canadian-built ships of inferior types and managed to leave bankruptcy a long way under their lee. Between the great profits made by British ships and a reasonable profit on Canadian ships there is plenty of room.

Ship-owning and shipbuilding are two of the most profitable industries in the world today, and in view of the determination of other nations from Switzerland to China to develop their own merchant marine, opposition to the programme of the Canadian government is not in the best interests of the country. The government will hardly yield to it, because it has entered into a contract with the Dominion Steel Company to purchase a large quantity of steel plates over a term of at least five years, and it cannot profitably utilize such plates except in shipbuilding.

### THE NEW CONGRESS.

The United States Congress assembled on Monday last in an extraordinary session, for the first time in the history of the Republic with its President on foreign soil. This Congress will of course deal with the peace treaty, with the league of nations plan and with the many important problems arising out of the war. After a break of eight years the Republican party controls the House, and after six years the Senate. Its majority in the House is thirty-nine and in the Senate only two, a narrow margin in the latter body which it is believed will do away with the possibility of arbitrary partisan control. Even among new-

papers of a distinctly Republican flavor there is found the admission that the sentiment of the country has now swung to the support of that party not because of any distinctive merits on the part of its leaders but rather in opposition to the make-up and policy of the Democratic administration which now passes out of existence. Dissatisfaction with the old regime rather than a desire for Republican control has thus been largely responsible for the turnover. In the brief sessions which have already marked this Congress there has been ample evidence of unyielding opposition to the policies of President Wilson and it is really amazing to learn to what this opposition prevails throughout the entire country. The Republican majority appears fixed in its resolve to have nothing to say in favor of a peace treaty in which Mr. Wilson has played a leading part, but that it will accept such a treaty only with amendments in accordance with its now already announced views, or a league of nations covenant in which the ideals of the President are not recognized as the foundation.

The reply of Sir Thomas White to a question in Canada's Parliament does not apply to the United States. Sir Thomas, when asked what would be the outcome if Parliament refused to sanction the terms of the peace treaty to which Premier Borden and his ministers had given their assent, replied that he could not by any possibility conceive of such a situation. In the United States a very different view is taken, for there, under the Constitution, the President and his counselors have not the right to expect from an adverse Congress the support accorded a Canadian administration in a Parliament which that party controls. And Mr. Wilson will be faced with very bitter opposition before he succeeds in securing the endorsement of the House and Senate to the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations Covenant to which he has pledged his support. Yet it is felt that any display of partisanship in opposition to those measures of importance must inevitably wreck the prestige of the Republican control in creating dissatisfaction with a party which plays politics instead of dealing moderately with matters of great moment.

### MAJOR KEEFFE GOES.

Yesterday morning Military Headquarters received official instructions from Ottawa to the effect that Lieutenant-Colonel Snow was to immediately take over the duties of Organizer and Inspector of Cadet Corps for this military district. Major Keefe, who has held the position since November, 1918, is thus dismissed from that office, to be offered a clerical job in one of the departments, and Lieutenant-Colonel Snow takes office.

The cadet movement in Canada is under the control of the military authorities, although it is only a semi-military organization. The intention of this movement is to train boys attending schools and colleges in the preliminary branches of military knowledge. Those eligible for membership in the various corps must be between the ages of twelve and eighteen years. Corps are organized in all public schools in which, in the opinion of the inspector, there is sufficient encouragement to justify the expectation of success and, as a rule, a minimum of thirty members is required before a corps is established. This being done, rifles, any kind that may be in stock, are furnished free of charge to the members of the corps for drill purposes, together with sufficient ammunition for target practice. Uniforms are also supplied, these being all of one style, but members of the corps are required to alter them to fit, while other corps which desire to adopt uniforms different from the regulation issue are permitted to do at their own expense.

There are in New Brunswick today twenty-five or thirty cadet corps. Rothesay College perhaps holds the record for efficiency, and there are, in addition, such units as Fredericton, Moncton, St. Stephen, Woodstock, Sussex, Sunnybrae, Newcastle, Chatham, Milltown, Hampton, Dorchester, Sackville, Dalhousie and St. John, this city having ten such corps with a membership aggregating possibly five hundred. The movement was originated back in 1911, but during the past two or three years has not advanced very rapidly in this province, due to the difficulty of obtaining instructors, this being caused by the absence of so many men of military ability overseas and the increasing scarcity of male teachers in the public schools, who might otherwise be available for cadet training. There was something of renewed interest of late and the prospects have seemed bright for the advancement of this movement in New Brunswick.

Lieut.-Colonel Snow, who has now been appointed Inspector for this district, feels very badly over the matter, as he has not sought the appointment, realizing that by being placed in this position he is the unwilling cause of the dismissal of a local officer who served overseas, who was severely wounded and who was acceptably filled the position of Cadet Inspector for some time. The Great War Vol-

unteers, too, are up-in arms about this affair, which they regard as only another indication of the contempt in which New Brunswick officers are held by the authorities at Ottawa. While no official action has been yet taken, it is reasonable to suppose that the incident will be given attention at the regular meeting of the association to be held early next week.

### WHAT THEY SAY

#### Boston's Quiet Influence.

New York World—While there was no disorder in connection with the great New England telephone strike, a lesser strike of telephone operators in an Indiana town accentuates the calling out of the militia. Is it to Boston, after all, that the difference is due?

#### Join the Home Club.

Berkshire Eagle—It hasn't occurred to some of those who are working day and night trying to think up a "substitute for the saloon" that it is possible to make a fairly decent club out of the average home. Too many people encourage the theory that home is a good place from which to stay away except at meal and bedtime—a sort of place to go when every other place is closed. Why not a back to the home movement?

#### Comfort of Tight Skirt Wearers.

New York Globe—Women who feel that the tight skirt dictated by the fashion of the day is an irksome restriction on the constitutional right of free stride should consider its obvious advantages over the various skirts of yesterday. In the matter of beauty alone the tight skirt seems to have the advantage. Compared with the flaring skirt of Queen Elizabeth's time, for instance, or the hoop skirt that was worn in the early part of the last century, the tight skirt seems like a trim and close-fitting slipper. It is so useful in a crowd that one might suspect it had been invented by the fashion expert of the Intarborough to permit of increased standing room on subway and elevated.

#### Education in Canada.

Montreal Herald—It is not to be supposed for a moment that Dr. Edwards of Frontenac, imagined that a resolution moved in the House of Commons by a private member would lead to an amendment of the British North America Act, "so as to secure the establishment of a non-sectarian school system throughout the Dominion of Canada." In moving such a resolution on Wednesday Dr. Edwards might be likened to the man who beats the big drum on the twelfth of July. He made the atmosphere noisy. If Dr. Edwards imagines that the Protestants of Quebec province have a grievance which needs his championship he is mistaken.

### A BIT OF VERSE

#### WINE, LOVE, WEALTH AND WRATH.

Translation of Chinese Poem.  
O wine and love and wealth and wrath  
Are often wicked things!  
Behold the sorrows each of them  
On human beings brings.

The alcohol bewitches man.  
His thoughts are not his own;  
And love is like a knife of steel  
Which cuts him to the bone.  
And wealth's a mighty tiger wild  
That leads a selfish life;  
And wrath makes man with man to fight  
And bothers them with strife.

But see the same four wicked things  
With an impartial soul;  
See both sides are you quit them quite,  
For both sides make the whole.

If man should never take a glass,  
How entertain a friend?  
If man should never think of love,  
The human race would end!  
And every comfort would be lost  
If wealth were ended quite;  
And if men never rose in wrath  
The rogues would then be right.

So wine and love and wealth and wrath  
The man will use that's wise;  
But wary watch to cut his cloth  
According to his size.



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## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I was getting dressed and yawning this morning, feeling more like yawning than what I did like getting dressed, thinking, G. I wish I didn't have to go to school today, I wish I could go back to bed and stay there indefinitely.

Wich just then I had a deer, and I went in my sister Gladie's room with one stocking on and one off, and Gladie was still asleep looking at it she was glad of it, and I snuck over to her bed and put some powder on my face and kept on rubbing it in till I just looked pale without looking like powder, and then I went back to my room and layed down again, and just as I was almost asleep ma came in, saying, Well for goodness sake, do you realize what time it is?

Meaning it was late, and I said, I don't think I better go to school today, ma, I feel pale.

My goodness, your wife as a sheet, wats the matter? sed ma.

I feel pale, I sed.

Well you certainly look it—Hurry and get you some spirits of ammonia, sed ma. Me thinking, Spirits of ammonia, G. And I sed, No ma, ma, I don't think I need spirits of ammonia, I think I need a rest, that's all I think I need.

You need a good stiff dose of spirits of ammonia, I know wat you need sed ma. And she quick went out and came back with it in a glass, me thinking, G. waz, spirits of ammonia, holy smoke, spirits of ammonia.

Drink it down fast and you won't notice it, sed ma, and I sed, Why be all I need is a little more circulation, ma, maybe if I rub my face a while it'll be all right. And I quick took one end of my blanket and rubbed my face hard as anything, ma saying, Well, I declare, you do look better—For mercy sake, wats on the blanket? Meaning the powder that had come off of my face, and she looked at it close, saying, Well, upon my word, natch a boy.

Meaning me, and she made me drink the spirits of ammonia anyway and then get dressed and go to school just as if nothing was the matter with me, with nothing was.

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### A BIT OF FUN

Cheering Him Up.  
Bevis—"I've got a beastly cold in my head."  
Miss Whitty—"Never mind Bevis. Don't grumble. Even if it's only a cold, it's something."

A Self-Entertainer.  
The Hostess—"I am going to ask you to take Mrs. Salston down to dinner."  
Featherstone—"What shall I talk to her about?"  
The Hostess—"It won't be necessary."

Better for Her.  
"How's your husband getting along, Mrs. Fogarty?"  
"Well, sometimes he's better and sometimes he's worse, but from the way he grows an' takes on when he's better, O! think he's better when he's worse."

Another Mess.  
Proprietor (just demobilized)—"Yes, I've been through it—officers' cook two years—wounded twice."  
Tommy (tasting the soup)—"You're lucky, mate. It's a wonder they didn't kill yer."

Knew The Signs.  
"That young fellow looks furtive. Isn't he apt to try to pinch something?"  
"Naw," said the experienced jeweler. "He wants to buy an engagement ring."

Such Is Luck.  
Clerk—"We can't pay you the twenty-five dollars on this money order until you are identified."  
Man—"That's tough! There's only one man in town who can identify me and I owe him twenty."

## An Announcement

We have taken over and amalgamated with our Art Glass Department the good will and business of W. C. Bauer, known as the Maritime Art Glass Works, including their manager and all their workmen, and with the increased facilities, we are in a better position than ever to take care of such business as we are favored with.

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