

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 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.

HIGHER TAXES.

Commissioner McLellan has filed his estimates for the police and fire departments for the ensuing year, and, as passed by the council, they total something like \$10,000 in excess of last year. It is understood that the appropriations in other departments of civic service will also be higher. The Board of School Trustees have practically decided that more money will be required for the city schools, and there will be, in addition, the assessment for the Patriotic Fund. Altogether it is very likely, when all the estimates are in and passed it will be found that the rate in the next assessment levy will be considerably higher than last year.

Undoubtedly the council will come in for some criticism if the assessment rate is much higher than last year, but the fault can scarcely be laid at the door of the men in City Hall. If St. John is to have up to date services the money must be secured to pay for them. A first class police department, fire department, ample money for school purposes and grants to the various organizations whose work is of value to the city cannot be obtained without increasing the amount taxpayers must pay into the civic treasury. If the desire is to reduce tax bills, less money must be expended for the services named and for others. The situation is one meriting the consideration of citizens, but there is no reasonable ground for condemnation of the council unless that body has been extravagant and wasteful, a charge that certainly cannot fairly be made.

A POINT FOR THE COUNCIL.

If the information received by The Standard yesterday is correct the members of the City Council now have cause to at once re-open the alleged investigation into the price of milk. From a most reliable source this newspaper has learned that some of the city milk dealers have notified the milk producers that they will not pay forty-eight cents per eight-quart can, which the producers recently decided they would ask, but will continue at the old rate of forty cents.

If the city milk dealers can secure milk from producers at five cents per quart there is no reason why they cannot sell it at retail in this city at eight cents per quart, despite their elaborate arguments to the contrary, for that it should cost as much to deliver milk as it does to produce it is a claim that will find little credence among business men.

When the question was last before the council there is no doubt the fact that the producers had increased their selling price had some weight in the minds of the commissioners as affording a measure of justification for the ten-cent rate. If that increase is not in effect—and it was not when the dealers in conference decided to charge ten cents—then there is no just reason for the advance. The members of the council have another opportunity to work in the interests of the purchasing public. Will they make better use of it than they did the last time?

LABOR MEN AND THE WAR.

The St. John Trades and Labor Council last evening acted wisely in endorsing the National Service plan and advising all members of affiliated labor unions to fill in their cards according to the dictates of their own conscience. In connection with the attitude of labor to the great war there is much of interest in the message recently sent to the New York Post by Ben Tillet, the British labor leader. Tillet says the labor men of Britain "are not sick of this war and never will be sick of it till we put down trickery, conspiracy and beastliness in Europe."

Before the war Ben Tillet was one of the fiercest of the many fierce batters at the doors of privilege to be found in the ranks of the British labor organizations. So fierce was he that, at times, he almost bordered on anarchy, and it is not at all strange that he should see in Prussianism the greatest obstacle the world has ever known against the emancipation of the masses of Europe, or that he

should throw all his admitted ability into the scale against Germany.

The labor men of Britain are heart and soul with the government in this war and as the labor men of Canada are not behind in their loyalty and devotion to the mother country, it is but natural that they should support National Service now that misconceptions concerning it have been swept away. The St. John Trades and Labor Council is decidedly in tune with other labor organizations throughout the Dominion.

THE SAILING SHIP COMES BACK.

The war has done many interesting things, one of which is to bring back the sailing ship for ocean service. This is of particular interest to St. John and other Maritime Province ports where at one time wooden ship-building was a great and prosperous industry. But not only in the Maritime Provinces but all over the world has the return of the sailing ship attracted attention. For some time poets have lamented the passing of sailing ships as it entailed the loss of much of the romance of the sea. The more efficient and swifter steamship was coming into general use, but now the United States government reports that on December 1st there were 116 vessels of more than 500 tons in building in various yards in the country, and fully half of them were intended for ocean service.

An exchange commenting on the situation says:

"What most of us know of sea and ocean travel from literature is associated with the bark and the brigantine. The sailors of Cooper, Marryat and Stevenson performed their deeds of valor or piracy in the intervals between hauling on the ropes below and aloft. The advent of the steamship did not serve to enrich the literature of the sea which, for its best expressions, demands the bulging sails, the open life, the close companionship with wind and wave which gave the breeziness and freshness to those tales the older novelists told. There is a certain stuffiness about the more recent sea stories, with their scenes laid amidst surroundings familiar to every landsman, that is foreign to the idea of the open waters. Even Kipling's 'McAndrew' is a landsman, reeking of oil and steam, compared with the rare old salts who drank and fought on the good ship 'Hispaniola'."

"The world will welcome back to life and, subsequently, to literature, the picturesque and romantic sailing ship. 'Sea Fever,' as we best understand it, is that of which John Massfield writes:

"I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;
And the white sails and the wind's song and the white sails shakin',
And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking."

I must down to the seas again to the vacant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over."

LABOR COUNCIL

ENDORSES PLAN OF NATIONAL SERVICE

The Trades and Labor Council held their annual meeting last evening with C. H. Stevens in the chair. The following officers were elected:

President, C. H. Stevens, Jr.; vice-president, J. E. Tighe; secretary-treasurer, A. P. Saunders; recording secretary, J. L. Sugrue; warden, C. E. Harrison; auditors, C. G. Langbein, Geo. Redmore and J. McFarland; legislative committee, J. L. Sugrue, J. E. Tighe and A. P. Saunders; municipal committee, J. L. Sugrue, C. E. Harrison and C. G. Langbein; press committee, C. H. Stevens, Jr. and J. L. Sugrue.

It was voted that a communication be sent to the city council asking that a bill be prepared for the forthcoming session of the legislature making it compulsory for all citizens taking boarders to keep a register of names and addresses of boarders, and that

the powers of the license collector be extended.

A communication was read concerning such good flour I can hardly leave a piece of it alone. It is thanks to you that I can eat at all, and I pray the Giver of All Good that He will bless you."

So writes a little Belgian girl, 12 years of age, and hundreds of similar letters are handed to the Belgian Relief workers in Belgium by children kept from starvation by good Canadian flour.

Another child, Julia Soevenens, ten years old, writes: "I often saw mother weep when we came down stairs in the morning, because she could not give us the bread we asked for, because there was no flour. But you have dried her tears with the good flour you have sent."

"Drying tears with flour" may sound amusing, but Julia Soevenens was expressing a very serious feeling. "I am still small," another little girl declares. "My words cannot tell you very well how I want to thank you, but you must feel my heart. I pray every day that He will bless your lives and that He will spare you from hunger and all other horrors. Take, then, loving and noble gentlemen, with my deepest feelings, the thanksgiving of my elder brothers and sisters, Gertrude Van der Voort."

A little boy of ten writes: "How glad I am that I can thank you with my whole heart for all the things you eat, and the warm clothing that you sent us, for without it we should have certainly died of hunger and cold."

Today the situation in Belgium is alarming, and many of these children, who write so gratefully, will yet go starving unless further supplies are sent at once. At first, only a part of Belgium's population had to be fed by the relief commission. But now the entire nation of 7,000,000 people are dependent on outside relief. Help to speed from Montreal to Rotterdam another cargo of much-needed supplies. Send your contribution to the nearest relief committee, or direct to the Belgian Relief Fund, 59 St. Peter street, Montreal.

RIGORS OF FAR NORTH.

It has been said and is still believed by some that the religion based on the Boy Scout movement is true, it is that the association does not ally itself with any particular faith or denomination, but it has and has had since its inception a very clear and definite religious aim underlying its whole programme.

A Scout promises to do his duty to God at the very outset and Sir Robert Baden-Powell in his "Scouting For Boys," says: "The study of God's work is a fit subject for Sunday instruction. Scoutmasters must have a full appreciation of the religious and moral aim underlying the practical instruction all through the scheme of Scouting." The religious policy of the movement states: "It is expected that every Scout shall belong to some religious denomination and attend its services."

Many successful troops of Boy Scouts are connected with churches and religious institutions. Surely then the Boy Scouts Association is a religious organization with a programme broad enough to embrace all denominations of the Christian faith.

Charles Stelzle, in his "Boys of the Streets and How to Win Them," says: "Sometimes we are so much concerned about the scheme of religion in our plans for the boy that we forget to leave enough room in the plans."

The rigors of the frozen north have no terrors for Boy Scouts. As far north as Dawson City, Yukon Territory, the Scout is almost as familiar

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a figure as he is in the east and west. Adorned in the regulation Scout uniform, with his broad rimmed hat, his shorts, khaki shirt, etc., he goes about the streets of Dawson City wearing the same broad smile, doing the same kind acts, "doing his duty to God and King," just as his fellow Scouts are doing in the cities, towns and villages of the east, the west and the south. His daily programme is the same as that of Scouts throughout the Dominion. In Dawson City there is a well-trained troop of twenty-five boys and a scoutmaster. Considering the locality and the fact that Dawson City only boasts a population of about eight thousand people, the strength of the troop is no mean total. In a recent letter the honorary secretary writes as follows:

"You will, I feel sure, be interested in knowing that our troop here is in a flourishing condition. It consists of twenty-five members, all keen on their work. They have passed their tenderfoot tests and will soon be able to pass as Second Class Scouts. They are fully uniformed in the regulation Scout uniform. We have had two summer camps and are now preparing for our third camp under canvas."

Recently we heard murmurs from the east to the effect that the war was making great inroads into the supply of Scoutmasters. Now the cry is taken up in the west. The commissioner for Alberta, Mr. Justice W. L. Walsh, writing to the Honorary Dominion Secretary, says:—

"We are doing what we can to further the movement in this province, but the war has made such demands upon the young men available for the position of Scoutmaster that we are finding it very difficult to keep the troops alive in the smaller places. The secretary placed before us yesterday a list of nearly a dozen villages in which there are good troops, but positively not a man in the place to take charge of them. A considerable number of new troops have been formed, however, throughout the province and considering every thing we have no reason to be dissatisfied with the progress which we are making."

In some parts of Canada there are so few Scoutmasters that three and four troops are being run by the one Scoutmaster. This applies pretty much to almost every part of the Dominion.

President of Library for the Blind

Mrs. Thomas P. Gore wife of United States Senator Gore of Oklahoma, was recently elected president of the National Library for the Blind, an institution in which are interested many eminent women in official circles in the capital, and which during the current year sent out 14,600 books in circulation and 500 letters to blind people written in the Braille system.

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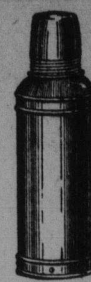
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