

# The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Ltd. 52 Prince William Street.  
St. John, N. B., Canada.  
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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1918.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—M. M. The King.  
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

## THE WAR SITUATION.

The British and Canadian forces had their opportunity yesterday to share in the honors of the great Allied offensive on the western front and despatches received last night indicated that they took full advantage of it. Up to midnight it was reported that the British had advanced their line six to eight miles on a front of fifteen miles, had captured at least 7,000 prisoners, more than one hundred guns and had broken several important towns and had a score of villages that had been in possession of the enemy. Latest reports indicated that the Germans could not stop the onslaught but that the crack troops of the Kaiser's armies, Prussian and Bavarian Guards, were trying for their lives, hotly pursued by the intrepid sons of the Empire.

Yesterday's offensive was aimed at the tip of the huge salient in Picardy and initial success was gained in less than two hours of fighting. We are told that the movement started at dawn, when, after but a few minutes of artillery preparation, British infantry moved out to engage the enemy east of Amiens. The effort was at once successful and the day was one of continued progress. Last night it was announced that the Canadians had entered the general action—a statement that promises further successes. German losses are reported to be very heavy but the official British statement from Field Marshal Haig is, as usual, most conservative in tone and merely states the attack is progressing well and that all objectives have been realized. But behind the terse wording of officialdom can be read many a story of heroism comparable with the brightest deeds of the war.

Coincident with the British attack the French and American troops thrust forward on the Aisne-Ypres front and their success equalled that scored by Haig's troops. The effect of the whole operation is impossible to forecast with accuracy but it is the opinion of military critics that the German lines in Picardy have been badly shattered, and this before the enemy has recovered from the crushing blows sustained a few days earlier on the Marne. Altogether the situation on the western front is decidedly favorable to the Allies.

Word from Russia that the Soviet government has declared a state of war existing between Britain and Russia should remove the last vestige of objection to active Japanese action against that portion of the Russian nation owing allegiance to the rule of Trotsky and Lenin. Aside from this the Russian action will be of little effect. It is reported that Soviet leaders have come to an arrangement with Germany that there shall be no further advance of Hun troops in Russia and that Trotsky's forces can be moved eastward to meet the Czechs and Slovaks who have mobilized in strength. A civil war on a larger scale than anything that has occurred since the overthrow of the Romanoff dynasty seems to be the most probable development of the Russian situation.

The action of the Trotsky party will not be of assistance to Germany as the battles that must seal the fate of the Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs will be fought on the western and Italian fronts. In both of those areas Allied superiority is now so marked that nothing that may happen in the east can change the situation. Complete victory is but a question of time. Allied forces everywhere are gaining in strength, one statement going so far as to claim that in a few weeks the American army alone will be greater than all Germany's available force. The Kaiser's sun is rapidly approaching total eclipse.

## WHERE MEN ARE NEEDED.

Judging from reports from various sections of this province the farmers of New Brunswick will find it difficult to secure help to harvest the crops and in some cases fear is expressed that unless relief is speedily obtained valuable food stuffs will rot in the fields. The situation in New Brunswick is duplicated elsewhere except that this province is in a worse way than the great grain producing areas of the west where higher wages serve to attract harvesters from all parts of Canada.

A suggestion that has been heard is that the military authorities might release for the period of the harvest all men who are willing to assist on the farms; another suggestion that might prove feasible is that German prisoners in Canada should be put to work harvesting in this or other provinces. Canadian soldiers, released from German prison camps, tell stories of being forced to work on the farms and in the mines, but, so far as known, there administration.

has as yet been no comprehensive effort to utilize in useful employment the Germans interned in Canada who are being fed and maintained at the public expense. It is possible that the difficulty and cost of guarding and housing prisoners would render impracticable any proposition to employ them at crop gathering, but whether the problem is solved in this way or some other the fact remains that men are sadly needed on the farms today and if they are not secured the food output will be considerably reduced. Insofar as New Brunswick is concerned the matter is one to which the provincial government and the military authorities may well give attention.

## FREIGHT RATES ON SUGAR.

Statements submitted to the council of the Board of Trade reveal that the Atlantic Sugar Refineries Ltd., operating the plant at South End, will be seriously involved as the result of the changed freight rates on refined sugar. The new schedule will have the effect of increasing the rate from 50 to 104 per cent. on sugar shipped from the local refinery to Upper Canada. A comparison of present and proposed rates will show the extent to which the refinery will be handicapped if the change is permitted to go into effect. That comparison is as follows, the rate being given in cents per cwt.:

From St. John to:	Present Rate.	New Rate.
Montreal	20 1/2	42 1/2
Toronto	20	50 1/2
Ottawa	26 1/2	44 1/2
London, Ont.	33 1/2	57 1/2
Kingston, Ont.	27 1/2	46 1/2
Hamilton, Ont.	31	52

The Maritime Provinces cannot absorb the output of the refineries at St. John and Halifax. Those refineries, as at present operated at about one-third their full capacity, have an annual output estimated at 200,000,000 lbs., while the annual consumption of sugar in the Maritime Provinces is eighty pounds per capita, or 80,000,000 lbs. for an estimated population of 1,000,000, which estimate is somewhat in excess of actual present figures. Therefore, it is necessary for the refineries to find an outside market for 120,000,000 lbs. of their product and at the proposed new freight rates this will be impossible.

In the case of the local refinery it may be remembered that when Mr. Durant, the original promoter of that industry, was in St. John he stated that the cost of truckage of raw sugar from the shipside to any available refinery site in Montreal would equal the freight on the finished product from St. John to Montreal. This was the chief circumstance that led to the establishment of the industry in this city. If, with the freight rate existing at that time the refinery was on an equality with Montreal refineries in competing for business it can easily be seen that an increase such as proposed will be a sufficiently serious handicap to force the local industry out of business or cause it to reduce its operation to the production of sufficient sugar to meet local requirements, a basis upon which it would be impossible to profitably continue.

The Atlantic Sugar Refinery employs on an average of three hundred men with an annual payroll approximating \$300,000. This does not take into consideration the money paid to ship laborers and allied trades finding employment as the result of the operation of the plant. At the present time St. John cannot afford to lose any industries, particularly a manufacturing plant that distributes as much money every year as the sum quoted.

In endeavoring to secure a more favorable arrangement of the proposed freight rates, the council of the Board of Trade is working in the interest of the city and port. The City Council, the provincial government and federal representatives from this province will be warranted in giving serious consideration to the situation. St. John must not lose the Atlantic Sugar Refinery if any reasonable effort will serve to keep it in operation.

It is confidently believed that when the facts are placed before the Dominion Government an arrangement will be made that will give the Maritime refineries a fair competing chance with their Upper Canadian rivals. To urge this is the plain duty of those having influence.

From Fredericton comes the rumor that the Foster government is preparing to take the plunge and may appeal to the people this autumn. That report, if true, should be almost as welcome to the people of New Brunswick as tidings of Allied success in France for it will mark the first step in the direction of removing the incompetent who now control the provincial administration.

It is now said that the Turkish army no longer exists and that wholesale desertions are reported from all units. Turkey has lost her stomach for fighting, particularly as she well knows that her Berlin backers are in no position to aid her. They have their attention occupied elsewhere.

Hon. L. A. Dugal was in attendance at this week's meeting of the Foster government in Fredericton. Wonder how Leader Veniot managed to "fix" things?

## THE EDITOR'S MAIL

To the Editor of The Standard, Sir:—Will you permit me space in your paper to make mention of a small town through Kings County, via Millstream valley and thence to Havelock, which to my mind is one of the most picturesque of any farming districts in our province.

First, we found the roads fairly good with the exception of a number of cross-ways through Studholm and Havelock. By inquiry and observation we found that Kings County has a very large acreage of crop, such as roots and especially oats, wheat and buckwheat. All are looking exceptionally well and at present oats promised an abundant crop. But in many places the farmers face a hard task in the harvesting of their crops; for the harvest is great and the laborers few. Found on different farms nothing but old men and women to do the work. I would suggest that our Military Department send a number of boys to the farms until the harvest is saved.

One of the things that pleased me much was to see many wheat fields all through Studholm and Havelock and Sussex, and all at present promising a good harvest. We called at different points and talked to many farmers and find that they all report a prospect of a good crop in general.

We were pleased to see a wheat mill being rebuilt in Studholm by J. E. McAuley & Co. Mr. McAuley informed us he had William Harding, a practical millwright, to install the plant. They are putting in a Burr Mill, which his millwright claims will do good work and owing to climatic conditions will suit the local farmers. The Company also has a good buckwheat mill, also under repairs. We found that a number of farmers of Studholm had grown and threshed their own clover seed last year. We saw a plot of clover seeded by native seed, and it was marvelous. We hope the farmers will take advantage of the opportunity to raise their own seed, as present prices for clover and timothy seed are practically prohibitive.

Mr. McAuley he said had 480 pounds of clover threshed last season. He estimated he had cut about four tons of his hay-mow and took what he supposed to be one ton and threshed 73 pounds of clover from one load. At 50 cents per pound that would be \$36.50. He had his hay very little worse for sheep feed. In this way we found many of the farmers improving their condition.

The Kennebecasis valley from Hamlet to Millstream to Havelock is a thriving dairy section; many dairy herds we found ranged from 12 to 30 cows, with a big demand for their production. In the very near future the section of the country may become a successful farm and dairy centre. Passing along up the Millstream valley we found the scenery most beautiful, and we learned that the big game is quite plentiful. As we proceeded to Cosman Settlement, and on into Havelock we saw magnificent fields clothed with grain of all kinds, and all above the average for quality of straw.

On our return we came by way of Newton and Smith Creek, and the scenery along the fertile valley was splendid. The farmers all looked to be thrifty and comfortable. In Roadville we also found farms far above the average, very fertile soil and a fine location. Then we travelled along the Kennebecasis to Apohaqui and here we also found fine farms and good prospects. Upon the whole we had a splendid trip through Kings County, and would strongly advise any who are tired of city life to go into the country for a trip such as this. We can assure them it will be a complete rest from the worries of city life.

"OBSERVERS."

## CHINA'S MAIL SERVICE.

(Popular Mechanics.)  
In a little more than twenty years China has built up a national postal system which is one of the best and cheapest in the world. This has been done in spite of extraordinary difficulties, due not only to the vastness of the population and territory served, but also to the fact that in recent years the monarchy has given place to a republic, and several provinces have declared their independence. Regardless of revolutions the service has been maintained.

Since there are only about 6,300 miles of railway for carrying mail in China, a big part of the transportation is done on boat lines aggregating 21,600 miles, and by courier lines, which total 143,000 miles. Snow sleds, wheelbarrows, carts, pack animals, rafts, boats and bicycles are all employed in this remarkable system, which has features both picturesque and hazardous. Today, in the large cities, there are as many as twelve mail deliveries daily. A letter for local delivery requires a stamp worth a cent and one-half, American money. In 1907 76 million pieces of mail were hand, while in 1916 the number was 850 million. In recent years the department has shown a profit and has made a steady growth in public favor.

## IN THE HOME TRENCHES

(The Chicago Tribune.)

We imagine the male population of the United States can reconcile itself patriotically to most prohibitions, wear wool substitutes, do without booze, get along without beer, give up peepsteaks, take one lump of none,

## Little Benny's Note Book

—BY LEE PAPE

My cousin Artie came around last night with a big fat mustache that he saw in a store for 3 cents, and me and him made up a line one to play on my sister Gladis. Artie putting on the fat mustache and pops rain coat and me going out and ringing the door bell and then going up to Gladis's room and saying, "There's some fellow down stairs to see you, Gladis."

Goodness, who is it, and don't say some fellow, say a gentleman, and Gladis.

There's a gentleman down stairs to see you, I sed.  
That's better, who is it? sed Gladis.  
Some gentleman, I sed.

I know that, what he look like? sed Gladis.

He looks like he didn't have much sense, I sed. Wich he did, in the big fat mustache and pops rain coat, and Gladis sed. How dare you say such a thing? Has he got a little mustash?

Yes got a mustash, I sed.

O, its Mr. Larker, the idee of him coming calling so soon, I knew I made a hit with him, sed Gladis. And she quick put some more powder on her nose and went down stairs, me following her, and when she waked in the parlor Artie got up off of the sofa with his fat mustash hiding half of his face and pops rain coat looking more like a lady dress than pops rain coat saying, good evening, Miss Potts, how are you this morning. It will be a nice afternoon if it don't rain.

Well, upon my word, such impertinents, sed Gladis.

Don't menashin it, sed Artie. Has some fellow, aint he? I sed. And Gladis made such a grab for Artie and Artie fell down on account of Gladis quick picked it up and woudent give it back, and this afternoon I hunted all throo her bewro drawers without getting it, only I bet ill get sumthing else wen she sees her bewro drawers, all rite.

ake money to the coal dealer in a scuttle and bring the coal home in a pocket, go to bed at 3.30 to save light, etc., etc., but when it is intimated that the needs of smokers in France will be met by a ration in the United States there is a most uncomfortable feeling that the war is most uncomfortable. If the fellows in France need the tobacco they shall have it if every male inhabitant in the United States has to go around chewing gentian root or snuff or go to Lacey Page Gaston for her anti-cigarette wash which makes good little A. D. T. boys out of little A. D. T. boys.

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When a tobacco ration is necessary in the United States the trenches have come right up where the clothing used to hang.

## A BIT OF VERSE

### KEEP HEART—KEEP HOPE.

These are not laughing days for us at home,  
The old, free-ringing laughter which we knew  
Seem to have faded out of place and out of time.

A something soberer and more sublime,  
More beautiful but quieter, has come into our hearts—more earnest and more true.

The men who fought can laugh the same old way,  
Reckless and carefree sometimes, sometimes grim.  
We know they laugh, though they draw near the while,  
But, though our light of faith grows never dim.

We here at home can only smile and pray—  
Yet, while we pray, we shall not fail to smile!

—Lee Shipley.

## A BIT OF FUN

### Progressive Economy.

"Are you trying to economize?"  
"Yes, I've actin' got on so far that I've quit tellin' other people what to go without and am going without a few things myself."—Washington Star.

### Getting On.

"Professor, how is my little daughter doing with her music lessons?"  
"Fine, Mr. Speechless; she can play the scale without sticking out her tongue."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

### Profitable Superstition.

Customer—"Why you give me only 11 oysters when I ordered a dozen?"  
Waiter—"Oh, sir, I didn't think you'd want to sit with 13 at the table, sir."—Town Topics.

### Cause to Cheer.

Husband (reading telegram)—"Heaven! My rich uncle Ben has fallen and broken his neck while putting up an American flag on his porch."  
Wife—"Three cheers for the red, white and blue!"—Akron Times.

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