

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

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Yearly Subscriptions: \$5.00, Do not enclose cash in unregistered letters. Use postal notes, money orders, or express orders when remitting.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 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.

WAR COMMENT.

Despite the rout of the Austrians and apparent inability of the Germans to overcome the Entente armies on the western front an official of the Kaiser's government, in a statement in which he declares Germany is prepared to consider peace negotiations, refers to the hope of Allied victory as a "dream." It had said "nightmare" he might have estimated more accurately the fear with which even members of the German government must by now be possessed. For evidence of Allied victory are daily accumulating and the notable success of the Italians is but one more piece of testimony to add to that already adduced.

The Italians, while successful yesterday in clearing the western bank of the Piave of the last of their enemies, may be robbed of some of the fruits of their victory by the action of nature. The waters of the Piave have risen again, this time after the Austrians had been driven across, and the time lost through the necessity for re-establishing communications, destroyed by the rising tides, may tend to save to the enemy thousands of soldiers who otherwise would have fallen prisoners to the pursuing Italians. However, though this circumstance favors the enemy, the Italian success is sufficiently decisive to be reckoned as the greatest of the year.

On the western front there is as yet no sign of the expected German thrust, the Allied armies displaying most activity in the way of bombardments and raids, some of the latter of considerable importance. In all these operations our men were successful and it is pleasant to learn that Canadian troops figured in at least one raid with most satisfactory results.

One of the interesting items of the past few days, which may have escaped attention in the press of news of more apparent importance told of the operations of Italian soldiers acting with British, French and American troops against the Germans in France, and of British and French troops acting with the Italians against the Austrians. This affords a fine indication of the unity of purpose and resolve among the Allies. Troops of all Allied nations are freely intermingling while the enemy is attacking with all his force on both the French and Italian fronts. If the motive of France were selfish French troops would be confined to operations on French soil. If the Italians were concerned solely in Italian success their armies would be opposing the Austrians on the Italian front and taking no part in the fighting in France. But this is not the case. French, Italians, British, Americans and Belgians are fighting shoulder to shoulder against the common foe. It is this pooling of men and resources that will bring to bear against the enemy the whole weight of the Allied arms and that will spell eventual victory for our cause.

NON-REGISTRATION PENALTIES.

From information gathered by The Standard last evening it would appear that railway officials are the only people in St. John who are making an effort to enforce the penalties provided for failure to register. These penalties are being enforced in other cities where hotel clerks are demanding registration certificates before they will permit a guest to occupy a room, restaurant employees are refusing to serve food to patrons unable to produce the necessary documents and in other ways the lot of the man or woman who failed to obey the law is being made miserable. In Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto firms are canvassing their employees, for it is unlawful for any man to employ a non-registered employe, and employers cannot be held liable for wages earned by such an employe. St. John hotel men and restaurant proprietors may not be aware that if they serve meals or provide rooms to persons lacking the registration certificate they become liable to a penalty. Transportation officials are prohibited from selling railway or steamship tickets to non-registered persons while any police official has authority to escort and, if necessary, arrest persons who, on demand, fail to produce evidence that they have complied with the law.

No effort to enforce the penalties of the law has yet been made in St. John and police officials seem last evening to think it necessary to receive official notification from Ottawa before they can act. It does not appear that police officials of Montreal, Ottawa or Toronto understand the act in that way as they started to enforce it on Sunday without waiting for instructions from any source.

Those who were prevented from registering on or before Saturday have another opportunity. They should apply to the nearest post office where, on presentation of a reasonable excuse for failure to obey the law, they can secure certificates after answering the questions found on the registration cards. Post office officials are not obliged to accept the excuse offered and those who may be in default have no redress if they do not.

It may be thought that the penalties are drastic but they were provided to compel obedience to the law and were given ample publicity so there can be no excuse for wilful failure to comply. And it is only those who wilfully ignored the demand that will be subject to inconvenience no matter how strictly the law may be enforced. Those who have a reasonable excuse for not registering have another opportunity open to them and should avail themselves of it at once. Otherwise they may be placed in the class with the wilfully disobedient.

There can be no excuse for delay on the part of local officials in enforcing the penalties provided. In other cities the enforcement is already under way. St. John should not be behind.

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

Questioned by The Standard as to the assistance given by the Foster government to the school teachers of this province the esteemed Times suddenly loses all interest in the discussion and switches to a complaint as to the character of High School entrance examinations, taking the ground that the examination questions are unduly difficult. The Times also suggests that the St. John school board should consider the system of advancing pupils upon recommendation of their teachers after the fashion advocated by the Toronto Globe.

It is probable the Times knows that the St. John school board has nothing to do with High School entrance examinations, but that the party really at fault in the matter is the New Brunswick Board of Education on which Premier Foster and all his colleagues in the government hold membership. The questions are set by teachers to whom the duty is delegated by the Chief Superintendent of Education, approved by that official and sent under seal to the Superintendent of Education in St. John, who is not supposed to see them until the day of examination. This is provided under regulation 46 of the regulations of the Board of Education which, for the enlightenment of the Times, is republished in part herewith. The section reads:

"1.—Examination papers prepared under the direction of the Chief Superintendent, shall be forwarded under seal to the local school superintendent (or to the secretary of the school board if there be no superintendent) in each city, town or district in which an examination is to be held."

So it appears that, after all, the Board of Education is guilty and the creation of the provincial government. The Times' grievance is not a case for the school board of the City of St. John but rather for Chief Superintendent Carter, or Premier Foster and his ministers who can instruct the chief superintendent if the examination questions are unduly severe.

Now that it is shown that responsibility does not rest with the city school board but with a Foster government official, if not with that government itself, will the Times lose all interest in this matter, as it did in the question of teachers' salaries? It is distinctly up to the Times and its friends.

FOSTERITE ECONOMY.

An argument persistently advanced at the last session of the Legislature in support of the Foster government's claims to economical administration was that the attorney general of that government, Hon. J. P. Byrne, was content with his official salary and had not followed the practice of his predecessors of retaining for himself a percentage of succession duties collected by the crown. It was pointed out by members of the Opposition that while Mr. Byrne had not retained the percentage to which he was entitled by law he had engaged a deputy to assist him in his duties and consequently the province was no better off by reason of the change.

It was also advanced that in the matter of employing outside counsel in criminal cases the Foster government's attorney general had been liberal to his political friends. There was an evidence of this in St. John yesterday when a young lawyer, Liberal in politics and who in the last Dominion election was prominently identified with the anti-Unionist campaign in St. John and Albert, represented Attorney General Byrne in a case before

the circuit court while the Attorney General himself was in St. John, as the Times tells us, "on private business."

Under former governments it has been customary for the chief law officer of the crown to employ lawyers to appear for him in cases being heard before courts where he was prevented from attending by other public business, or where it would be cheaper to engage a lawyer in the county where the case was tried rather than pay the travelling expenses of the Attorney General to appear in person. But there does not appear to be precedent for the action taken by Attorney General Byrne in the present case, where that official is present in the city and yet engages another lawyer to do work for which he receives a salary.

For the Attorney General to surrender his proportion of the succession duties and at the same time increase the expenses of his department in the manner shown is true evidence of the Fosterite brand of economy, the economy that, to quote an old and trite phrase, "saves at the spit and tongs at the bung-hole."

A TAX ON BACHELORS.

(London Free Press.) Why not a tax upon bachelors? Why should men go through life taking no share in the responsibilities of home-making and home-building? A nation is founded upon its homes. Compulsory marriage is not suggested. The thought is rather that those who escape through their own selfishness or indifference the duty of entering fully into the social life of the nation should be required to contribute to a fund which might be employed for the safe-guarding of homes where the burden may have proved too heavy, and for the encouragement of those who are willing to accept the responsibilities but whose financial position is not adequate.

Allow the bachelor full opportunity to "make good." Impose no tax until the age, say, of 35 years. That should be ample time in which to reach a decision whether to accept the marriage bond or the tax. Graduate the tax up the scale of years, when the maximum should be reached. Make provision for certain situations which impose upon a bachelor, for example, the duty of taking care of a home bequeathed by mother and sisters. Such a law would produce a handsome revenue, to be employed, as we have said, in providing for the care and education of children of households where for one reason and another the task is greater than can properly be met.

BEEF AND BACON.

(Montreal Star.) The next time you plunge your fork into a juicy undercut of beef, or cut a crispy piece of bacon, "Thank!" Remember that compulsory rationing in England includes everyone from the King to the humblest citizen, excepting seven or eight million. That the rationing of meat, sugar, butter and margarine is being accepted by the English people without complaint is a tribute to their sense and education of children of households where for one reason and another the task is greater than can properly be met.

HUSTLE BEFORE WINTER.

(Hamilton Times.) The Canadian Railway War Board Bulletin for this month contains some excellent advice and suggestions to the public to waste no time in getting in their supplies of all kinds before the snow flies. The producers and manufacturers are urged to get their customers to accept their delivery of goods now and not wait until the railways are congested later on. If it says that there is usually a peak load in the winter. They are asked to make the peak load now when traffic is easier and the going better. Winter will be here, when the lakes will be frozen up and when the railways will be blocked with snow and congested with traffic. The Board also advises the consumer to accept delivery as far as he can. The executive of the Board consists of Lord Shaughnessy, Howard G. Kelly, Sir William Mackenzie and Alfred Smith, all experts in transportation matters. The call comes to everybody to get their transportation worries over before winter sets in. Let dealers and customers get in their supplies now and the winter will have few terrors for them.

FIELD MARCHAL HAIG.

(Montreal Gazette.) Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig is 57 years of age, having been born in Scotland, June 19th, 1861. The Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary forces in France and Flanders is the most notable member of a family well known in the United Kingdom. Several of the Haigs are high officers in the army and others have achieved success in the sphere of medicine and education. Sir Douglas Haig was educated at Oxford and entered upon his military career in 1885, when he joined the 7th Hussars. He saw service in the Sudan in 1895 and in South Africa in 1899, in both of which campaigns he did good work. In 1903-4 he was inspector-general of cavalry in India. His promotion was rapid. In 1904 he was appointed major-general and in 1910 lieutenant-general. When the great war broke out he was one of the first of the high officers in the field, and after the preliminary engagements with the German armies he was appointed a general for his distinguished services. In 1916 General Haig

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE. THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather Free. Military News. Wife practicing raiding in the dark last Saturday night, Kernel Pads Simkins tread on the back of Lieutenant Ed Wernicks heel, and they made so much noise arguing weather it was did on purple or not that General Skinny Martin made a speech saying it was a good thing it was a practice raid and ordered them both to go to the guard house.

Grate Exhibition. Benny Potts and Sam Cross was in Leroy Shoosters house last Sunday, and he gave a exhibition of setting on the top of the 2nd story steps and bumping all the way down to the bottom without leaving his hands or feet touch, being 18 steps altogether. He was asked to do it again by request, but he said it was too painful.

ALWAYS LATE. Poem by Skinny Martin. I waited a hour for Benny Potts On the corner of his street, And if it hadn't of bin on April I mite of suffered from the heat, And I called him 4 names wen he came And none of them was sweet. Sisisty, Mr. Lew Davis was away visiting his cousin last Saturday and Sunday, having to go to bed a hour earlier than usual because his cousin has to, and wen he cameback he told Mr. Artie Alexander there is no place like home.

succeeded General French as Commander-in-Chief of the British fighting forces, and a year later he was awarded the coveted rank of field marshal. Today he is in higher esteem than ever, for under his direction the tremendous military establishments have been raised by the United Kingdom and the dominions have reached a high state of perfection, and are doing their full share in holding in check a powerful foe. Haig's war may be relied upon to continue their great resistance, with the armies of France, until the rapidly-growing United States army shall have reached a size to justify the assumption of a general offensive against the enemy. So success to Haig, and may the war have reached a satisfactory conclusion before his next birthday comes around!

PRAYING FOR THE HUN (Toronto Telegram.) "Yes, I'll pray for the Hun." —Rev. Capt. J. D. Morrow. "Let the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church meet in London, England instead of London, Ontario, in one of those bomb-wrecked churches, the parishoners of which, in numberless cases, have lost their nearest and dearest through the foolish practices of the bomb-dropping Hun. Then the General Assembly would scarcely pass resolutions calling upon Canada and the Presbyterians to pray for the Germans. I would dearly love to hear what sort of resolution would be made or what kind of prayers would be uttered for the Huns overboard as they drop their bombs, wiping out our schools, homes and hospitals. I think we had better pray for some people in the General Assembly when we hear such talk."

"YES, I'LL PRAY FOR THE HUN, BUT IT WILL BE WHEN OUR CANADIAN BOYS ARE BOMBARDING BERLIN."

"J. D. MORROW. "Base Hospital, Toronto, "June 15th, 1918." Capt. Morrow is in the Base Hospital at Toronto and making steady progress towards recovery.

A BIT OF VERSE.

LIFE'S SUNSET. A little more tired at close of day; A little less anxious to have our way; A little less ready to scold and blame; A little more care for a brother's name; And we are nearing the journey's end, Where time and eternity meet and blend. A little less care for bonds and gold; A little more zest in the days of old; A broader view and a saner mind, And a little more love for all mankind; A little more careful of what we say; And so we are faring a-down the way. A little more love for the friends of youth; A little less zeal for established truth; A little more charity in our views; A little less chafe for the daily news; And so we are folding our tents away And passing in silence at close of day. A little more leisure to sit and dream; A little more red the things unseen; A little bit nearer to those ahead, With visions of those long-loved and dead; And so we are going where all must go, To the place the living may never know. A little more laughter, a little more tears, And we shall have told our increasing years; The book is closed, and the prayers are said, And we are a part of the countless dead. Thrice happy, then, if some soul can say, "I live because he has passed my way."

A BIT OF FUN.

AGREED. (Birmingham Age Herald.) "Mr. Jagaby" said Mrs. Jagaby, severely, "It is now 3 o'clock in the morning and you needn't try to give me a 'song and dance' about where you've been." "I won't 'dear," said Mr. Jagaby.

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