

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1915.

"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.

ASSESS FOR THE CHARITIES

While the proposal made by Commissioner Potts to the City Council yesterday that a percentage should be added to the general civic assessment for the purpose of providing a fund from which contributions to the Patriotic Fund and similar causes will be paid, may require careful consideration before becoming effective, nevertheless, it has the right principle and appears to point the way to the only business-like solution of the question of civic aid to charitable and semi-charitable institutions, funds and similar objects.

If institutions such as public playgrounds, boys' clubs, girls' clubs, children's aid societies, kindergartens and the like are of benefit to the community they should be supported by the community and every taxpayer should bear his fair share of the cost of their maintenance. Power to make grants for such objects and assess to raise the money for them is already possessed by the city but, in the past, has been but indifferently used. As a consequence we have had the spectacle of an institution of undoubted value to the community as a whole receiving from the city treasury a grant too small to maintain it and then becoming dependent upon the efforts of a few citizens for the funds to enable it to continue its existence. This is a decided mistake. If the institution is at all worthy of public confidence and support it should be fully and completely maintained from the civic treasury, then it can be regulated in the same manner as any other civic venture.

At the present time the necessity of contributing to movements of a patriotic character has made many demands upon the citizens and at best the burden is being borne by a comparatively small portion of the people. Voluntary subscriptions to the Patriotic Funds, the Red Cross Funds and similar worthy causes, to say nothing of the local charities which will still be with us after the war is over, have provided a measure of support but the result has not been as satisfactory as could be attained if all such causes submitted to the civic or municipal council an estimate of their requirements for the year and a sum sufficient to cover that estimate should be placed in the appropriations upon which the assessments are based.

At the present time the rate of civic assessment is fixed at a figure which cannot be exceeded and the only method of securing additional revenue is by increased valuation. It is doubtful if the assessors can do much more in this line for the coming year than they have already done, so temporarily, Commissioner Potts' plan may meet the case.

The time must come however when the charity problem will be scientifically dealt with. When each tax bill will bear a detailed statement of the institutions or causes receiving civic assistance and all will be under the management of a Civic or Municipal Bureau of Charities and on a basis of equality with any other line of public endeavor. Then there will be no necessity for subscription lists, tag days or the other methods of raising money to which charitable organizations have been forced to resort in the past.

It is admitted that hospitals and schools are necessary and, consequently, are supported by general assessment. Why should the same procedure not be followed in regard to the Playgrounds, the Children's Aid Society and other local movements, and even such national undertakings as the Patriotic Fund and the activities of the Red Cross? No one will deny that these movements do not play an important and valuable part in the community life, why then should they not be supported by the community as a whole?

PATIENCE, GENTLEMEN.

At this season of peace and good will it is well that those newspapers which have been offering gratuitous advice as to the course Premier Clarke should pursue in regard to the Chandler report and the gentleman affected by them, should possess their souls in patience.

The Premier of this Province and

his associates in the Government threw the doors wide open for the production of all possible evidence in support of the charges made by Mr. Veniot, Mr. Carter, and those others who had busied themselves in an effort to discredit the administration. The result of the enquiry was to show not one suspicion of wrongdoing on the part of the Government, or any member of it; not one dollar had been lost to the public in the performance of any works undertaken by the administration, and in the cases where bills presented to the Government departments, were found to be at all excessive, not one dollar was paid except for fair and legitimate claims.

Compared with this, what is the record of Provincial Governments prior to 1905? The people have not forgotten the shameful revelations of the Central Railway or the days of control by the school board ring. There is still proof of the existence of "suspense accounts" and criminal bungling of public business. Do the friends of Mr. Veniot desire to be reminded of these? If so the proof can easily be produced.

CANADA AFTER THE WAR.

An interesting prediction of Canada's condition after the war has been made by Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and is reviewed at some length by the Morning Post, of London.

Sir Thomas says that many years must elapse before the capital of Canadians will be sufficient for Canadian development. Consequently a large proportion of the money required for this purpose must come from abroad. Therefore Canada's chief concern must be for her credit, and it is, he says, "the first duty of every citizen to be exact, careful, and economical in his expenditure, while Government, municipal, and company expenditure must be merciless on 'graff,' and must insist on a lynx-like perpetual audit, even in these days of record earnings, bumper increases, and untaxed war profits. Credit is of urgent importance, since the war has made it difficult, if not impossible, for Great Britain to continue her investment in Canadian securities on which Canada has depended. If, as is likely, Canadians have to turn to New York, they must be able to guarantee that the borrowed money will be carefully and economically spent. Extravagant promotions born only to serve political ends must be rigorously stifled at their birth, and those unhealthy offshoots which have been spoon-fed by too lenient subsidies or Government guarantees must be reduced by sterner tutelage, and in some cases perhaps handed over to the guardianship of the Official Receiver."

To this the Canadian Gazette of London, England, adds:

"Sir Thomas Shaughnessy refers to the American preference for private rather than Government enterprises. He adds that the Western lands afford good security, and that the migration of farmers from the United States continues unabated. If, then, Canadians see to it that their security and credit are good, he sees no reason to fear that the progress of Canada will be hampered by lack of capital, even though the European investor is cut off by the present war. The supply of labor will be an uncertain element, but the taxation which will be imposed after the war will tempt many people in Europe to transfer their homes to Canada. The future

of Canada depends largely, he says, on how the incoming population is handled, and we should be busy now thinking out and formulating an organization which should place upon the land or in the industries for which they are fitted, with the least possible friction and loss of time, those individuals and families who come to make a new home in Canada."

A GOOD CITIZEN GONE.

The death of Mr. J. A. Belyea, K. C., which occurred last evening, removes from St. John a strong exponent of good citizenship at a time when such men are needed in the community. The late Mr. Belyea was one of the first advocates of the commission form of civic government and performed valuable service on the original citizens' committee which fathered the movement. In numerous other ways he had also been of real service to St. John and his death will be heard of with sincere regret.

In his profession he enjoyed the confidence, esteem and respect of his associates and of the public generally. Never a candidate for public office he was, nevertheless, deeply interested in all matters of community importance and was ever willing to assist in all good works. A true Christian gentleman in every sense of the word, his passing leaves a vacancy in the sphere in which he moved and which it will be difficult to fill.

READING MATTER FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS VERY ACCEPTABLE

Committee met yesterday to discuss plans for looking after returning heroes

A meeting of the Returned Soldiers' Reception Committee was held yesterday afternoon in the Board of Trade rooms. There was a good attendance, amongst those present being C. B. Lockhart, chairman; A. O. Skinner, Dr. Morison, Mrs. H. A. Powell and Mrs. A. O. Skinner. The invitation from the W. S. Harkins company to entertain all soldiers at the Opera House on Friday evening, and the offer of W. H. Golding to provide free entrance to returned soldiers at the Imperial Theatre at any time were accepted with thanks. The committee, it was agreed, would meet for the purpose of the organization in small numbers according to plans to be formulated. Thanks were given to the New Brunswick Chapter Daughters of the Empire, for a gift of \$25 to the fund. The offer of E. C. Skelton, on behalf of the Boy Scouts, to carry baggage and material from the wharves as a help for returning soldiers was accepted with thanks. The committee urged that magazines, books, etc., for the use of returned soldiers, to be read on trains or at the rest rooms in West St. John, be sent either to A. O. Skinner, King street, or to such places as may be advised after communication, by phone or otherwise, with C. B. Lockhart, West St. John. A "Ways and Means" committee was appointed to secure additional funds for the purposes of the organization, consisting of G. S. Mayes, Simon Jones and others to be named hereafter.

CAPT. BOY-ED'S PARTING INSULT IS ANSWERED

Providence Journal Which Showed up German Attache's Intrigues Gives Lie to Statements He Made Prior to Departure.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 28.—The Providence Journal today sent a long wireless despatch to Captain Karl Boy-Ed, on the steamer Rotterdam.

"Your farewell statement to the American people, insofar as it relates to the Providence Journal," the message said, "is a wilful and deliberate falsehood. The Providence Journal created an hysterical suspicion concerning the destruction of American factories, the murder of American workmen, or the daily plots against the peace and safety of this government and its citizens, almost all of which acts have been fostered and financed from your own office. Every word of what the Journal has published with regard to your personal connection with these plots has been true and nobody knows it better than yourself."

The message reverts to its charge that Captain Boy-Ed wrote the warning to American citizens not to take passage on the Lusitania, to attempt it

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Mr. Lewis was with pop when he came home yesterday, and they came up in the sitting room where ma and ma was, and wat did pop have one but a noo oviroote, being a brown one all full of stripes, pop says, Well, mothir, wats your reel honest to goddus opinion of my noo oviroote.

Willum, do you mean to say you asultly intend wearing that thing, sed ma.

Seriously, wats rong with it, sed pop.

Yes, Mrs. Potts, I must say that I fail to detect anything rong with it, sed Mr. Lewis.

Well, if you dont object to going around looking like a professional gambler, then theres nothing rong with it, I suppose, sed ma.

A professional gambler, wy, thats reedickills, sed pop.

And so is that oviroote, sed ma.

Wich it was, pritty reedickills, and Mr. Lewis sed, But Mrs. Potts, brown stripes are all the stile this season.

Amung berglers and gambblers, maybe, sed ma.

Berglers and gambblers, ha ha, sed pop.

I cant see anything funny about it watsover, its sad to me, sed ma.

Ha ha, berglers and gambblers, thats a good one on you al rite, Lewis, sed pop.

The crill thing must of gone to your mind, sed ma, I fail to see how it can affect Mr. Lewis.

Effect him, ha ha, wy, its his oviroote, he wunted a wumans candid opinion of it and he noo he woodent get it if you noo it was his oviroote, so he got me to wate it and let on it was my own, ha ha, Lewis, I gess that aint a hot wan, ha ha, sed pop.

Willum Potts, you shell heer from me about this later, sed ma, and as for the oviroote, I think its perfectly al rite, Mr. Lewis, its much more talstiff than anything Willum wood of chosen, Im sure. And she went out of the room mad looking as anything, and Mr. Lewis sed, O well, Potts, I gess the look aint all on me, youll be heering about this all the rest of the nite.

Wich pop did.

asserts he made to embroil the United States with Great Britain with false affidavits regarding shipments of supplies to naval vessels and to the so-called "Huerta plot." The newspaper declares also that an attempt was made to "bribe it into silence" by "the offer of a large sum of money for the formation of a press bureau." The message ends with the declaration: "You well know the reason why the United States refused to permit you to remain any longer in this country. These reasons were raised on 'hysterical rumors' printed by the Providence Journal."

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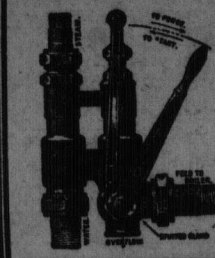
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