

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 32 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

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Yearly Subscriptions: By Carrier, \$5.00; By Mail, \$4.00; Semi-Weekly, \$2.00; Single Copies, 10c.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 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.

THE WAR NEWS.

The news from the western front, while meagre in quantity, is most encouraging in tone. The Germans have not yet launched the offensive which they expect, will decide the issue of the struggle, and the only explanation of the delay seems to be that they are experiencing difficulty in their preparations. British and French troops have been striking back at many points on the battle line from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border, and while this "nibbling" has not produced individual successes of magnitude, yet, in the aggregate, much damage has been inflicted upon the enemy and the Allies have captured and now occupy positions that may prove of great value in future operations.

Every day increases the number of American soldiers that will be in readiness to co-operate with the British and French in repelling the next thrust, and this fact does not tend to smooth the path for Hindenburg and his associates. The spirit of the Allied armies is reported as splendid. They are awaiting the expected advance with full confidence in their ability to meet it and inflict serious, if not decisive, defeat upon the enemy. It is likely that the struggle will be the most bitter of the present war and, possibly, in its results, the most important. Hindenburg is said to have called to his assistance every available man from the eastern fronts and military observers believe that it is his intention to stake all on this one attempt. Meanwhile Austria is massing for a drive against Italy for which the Italian army is said to be well prepared, so the next few weeks will witness Titanic struggles along the whole western line and, possibly, on the sea, as it is reported the German fleet will co-operate with the land forces in one mighty attempt to wrest victory from the defeat that is assured as soon as the United States is ready to strike with full force.

In a situation such as this Germany must force the fighting. The Allies have already established superiority in the air and the Hun submarine campaign has failed to come up to expectations. The Allied armies grow stronger daily and, therefore, Germany's sole remaining hope rests in her ability to score a swift, smashing victory on land. It is the opinion of the best qualified military experts in the world, men who have carefully canvassed every possible development of the coming thrust, that no matter what may happen in the initial stages of the operation the German plan is doomed to complete failure. There is every reason to be optimistic as to the outlook.

BEATING THE SUBMARINE.

Three items coming to the desk of The Standard's news editor among the despatches of last night illustrated the degree to which the watchfulness of the British and Allied navies has succeeded in surmounting the so-called menace of the Hun submarine. The first is a cable from London, transmitting the official statement of the British Admiralty as to the losses of British and Allied and neutral shipping, during the month of April, in that time British tonnage lost totalled 230,709, and that of Allied or neutral shipping other than British, 84,393. The loss to British ships is somewhat smaller than the average loss recorded during the quarter ending March last, and in other Allied and neutral shipping the loss shows a great decline.

Another item from London gives the tonnage of ships restored during the period from August last to April 25th. In that time the average of weekly restorations was 414,105 tons, almost double the tonnage the Germans managed to destroy in a month. In other words, Britain is placing in the sea more than eight tons of shipping for every ton destroyed.

But the most significant of the three items comes from Washington and reports that the insurance rate on the lives of officers and crews of merchant vessels passing through the war zone has been reduced forty per cent, while the rate on vessels and cargoes has declined from three to two per cent. The Washington despatch indicates even more clearly than the Admiralty statement that the Allies are at last mastering the submarine.

It was by the unrestricted use of the submarine that Germany hoped to starve England into submission. That hope was shattered long ago. The danger from U-boat warfare has not yet passed but, as shown in the despatches referred to, the margin of safety is daily growing greater. The Allies are the superior on the sea, as in the

air; there remains but the operation on land, and in that field, too, Britain, France, Italy and the United States have demonstrated that they are more than a match for the enemy. The end of the war may not be in sight but it certainly is not in doubt.

ST. JOHN WILL MISS HIM.

While it will be gratifying to the many friends of Rev. George F. Scovill, rector of St. Jude's, to learn that he has been called to the charge of such an important parish as St. George's, Guelph, Ontario, yet there will be a very general feeling of regret that the Church of England in this diocese is to lose one of its brightest and best minds, and the City of St. John a citizen ever active in all good works, a patient, unostentatious and successful laborer for the betterment of his fellow men.

The rector of St. Jude's has been a force for good in many circles outside of his own parish, but it is by his own church and congregation that he will be most deeply missed. During his term in West St. John, St. Jude's has prospered and he leaves that charge with a record for service that will be difficult to equal. As chaplain of the 3rd Regiment, Canadian Garrison Artillery, Rev. Mr. Scovill was a guide and friend to all wearers of the khaki. He was also strikingly successful in work among boys, to which he devoted much thought and attention. His translation to a larger field of labor comes as the natural sequel to success here. The Guelph parish, to which he goes, secures a forceful pulpit orator and an indefatigable worker, while St. John loses a citizen who stood very high in the affection of his parishioners and the esteem of the public. The Standard regrets Mr. Scovill's removal but extends to that gentleman congratulations upon his selection for such an important parish, and the best of good wishes for his future success.

The chairman of the Canada Food Board says Canadians are still eating too heartily of foods required by the men overseas. More wheat, more bacon, more beef and more cheese are needed by our soldiers, which means we must either tighten the belt another notch or partake more largely of substitute foods.

The Unionist candidate will get the Yukon seat in Parliament which is altogether as it should be. The opposition in Parliament attempted to protest the soldier vote cast for that constituency on the ground that, owing to the deferred election, polling was opened before the official nomination day. The Government supporters quite properly took the view that the soldiers voted for the Government or the Opposition and that in such a case the vote should count. And the Government view prevailed although it was necessary to divide the House before the matter was finally settled.

The expectation now is that the Canadian Parliament will have finished its labors for the present session before Victoria Day. In many respects the present is the most remarkable Parliament Canada has ever known but in the quality and quantity of legislation placed on the statute books the session now rapidly approaching its close will not suffer in comparison with any of its predecessors.

That all the railways in Canada may be forced under one management and that this country will then embark upon the world's most extensive experiment in public ownership, is a possibility of the not too remote future. The construction of the N. T. R. was the first factor to contribute to this probable result. When the N. T. R. was mooted in Parliament the late Hon. Andrew G. Blair raised his voice in strong, though unsuccessful, protest, and developments have proved beyond question that his appraisal of the situation was indubitably the correct one.

A TRANSFORMATION.

(Toronto News.) The British Admiral in charge of the naval forces off the Irish coast has thanked the officers and men of the American warships who are under his command for the skill and energy which they have shown in their work. It is understood that all American warships in European waters are acting in co-operation with and virtually as a part of the British Navy for the time being. Two world-famous British ports have become advanced bases for American warships, Canadian and American troops traverse the Atlantic on the same transport. Who would have

imagined such a thing possible four years ago, or even two years ago!

Among the remarkable changes wrought by the war none is more striking or more hopeful in its indications for the future than the close drawing together of the two branches of the English-speaking world—the British Empire and the United States. The world conflict is breaking down ancient prejudices which formerly tended to keep these two great democracies apart. Having fought together and suffered together in defence of civilization the British and American peoples will understand each other and esteem each other as never before. We believe that the war is forging an Anglo-American entente which will link the Empire and the Republic in permanent friendship—in a partnership which will be productive of much blessing for the human race for all time to come.

THE YUKON ELECTION.

(Montreal Gazette.) The soldiers voted for the Government or Unionist candidate, irrespective of who those candidates might be. The personal element, so far as the voters were concerned, did not enter into the election. It was a choice, not between one candidate and another, but between one principle and another. It was this vote which gave the Government candidate, Col. Alfred Thompson, his majority, and his seat. The contention of the Opposition is that the overseas vote cast in this way for a principle, rather than for an individual, must be rejected, and the seat given, under a fine legal technicality, to the candidate whose platform failed to commend itself to a majority of the qualified electors. The clear duty of Parliament is to confirm in its seat the man who stood in the election for the principle of which a majority of the electorate declared their approval. It should be done, too, without delay, and the way to a speedy decision is through the course prescribed by the House of Commons on Thursday. The concept of a popular will ought not to be subjected to the delays and hazards of a reference to the Supreme Court.

MODERN SOCIALISM.

St. John, N. B., May 20th, 1918. To the Editor of The Standard. Sir—Your interesting editorial in Monday's Standard, entitled "What is Modern Socialism?" is opportune, to say the least, at a time when even a sorely distressed world is reading with interest press notices of the centenary of Karl Marx, who is known as the father of modern Socialism. That there are Socialists (so-called), also scientific Socialists, and pseudo Socialists, is well known, and that genuine Socialists will not agree with all that is set down in your editorial already referred to goes without saying.

To the question, "What is Socialism?" it has been said: "Socialism is simply the theoretical expression of the contemporary phase of the economic evolution of humanity." This definition is difficult to grasp or sense except by those who have given some study to sociology. Again, to the question, "What is Socialism?" we may truly say Socialism is a science, the science of sociology, the science that explains society, and by society we do not mean the aristocracy exclusively but, of course, we mean all humanity or all associated peoples.

In the study of the science of biology, the biological student studies everything which deals with the origin and life history of plant and animal life to the minutest detail. Likewise the sociological student familiarizes himself with the structure of the earth and the causes which have operated in producing alterations in the crust of the globe.

As the scientific student strives to mentally grasp everything pertaining to the particular science he may be studying, so it is essential that the student of Socialism or sociology study and explain the human family and all that act truly as a science, we may finally say to that now familiar question—What is Socialism?

Socialism is the science of society and as a science it is here now. Religion is not opposed by Socialism, but explained.

Religion being an important activity of the human family, the student of Sociology is forced to explain it along with all other functions in human society, to do otherwise would be both unscientific and illogical.

Yours truly,
M. GOUDIE,
St. John, N. B.

A BIT OF VERSE.

THE IRISH GRASS.
The gray streets of London are grayer than the one,
The gray streets of London, where I must walk my lone;
The stony city pavements are hard to tread, alas!

My heart and feet are aching for the Irish grass.
Far down the winding borean the grass is like silk;
The wind is sweet as honey, the hedges white as milk.
Gray dust and grayer houses are here, and skies like brass;
The lark is singing, soaring o'er the Irish grass.

The gray streets of London stretch out a thousand miles—
O dreary walls and windows, and never a song or smile;
Heavy with money getting, the sad, gray people pass;
There's gold in drifts and shallows in the Irish grass.

God built the pleasant mountains and blessed the fertile plain;
But in this sad, gray London, God knows I am in pain.
O brown amber and clear as any glass,
The streams my heart hears calling for the Irish grass.

The gray streets of London, they say, are paved with gold;
I'd rather have the cowpats that two small hands could hold;

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

THE PARK AVE. NEWS. Sports, Puds Simkins, Benny Potts and Leroy Shooster was having a catch, last Saturday, and 3 fellows in long pants came along and got in it, not catching any better than Puds Simkins, Benny Potts and Leroy Shooster, however.

Sissidy. Mr. Artie Alexander went in a sartin candy store last Thers day to buy 2 sents worth, and he was sampling different kinds to see wich kind he wanted, and just as he was going to at his 5th sample the lady insulted him by making him put it back agen. Mr. Alexander sees he woodent deal there any more if you paid him.

Intriguing Facks About Intrinsing People. Wunts wen Ed Wernick was about 4 years old he got lost and had a free ride to the station house in a patrol wagin, but he says he was too young at the time to enjoy it.

Pome by Skiany Martin.

Ignorante is Bliss
I was wawking along wieseling happily,
Which I generally do as a rule,
And all of a sudding I sudding stopped,
Because I remembered I was going to skool.

Incourable Accident. Sam Crosses new watch brokek last Sunday on account of him dropping it for the 3rd time, and Sam Cross tried so hard to fix it that now even the jewler cant fix it.

I'd give the yellow money the foolish folks amass
For the dew that's gray as silver on the Irish grass.

I think that I'll be going before I die of grief;
The wind from over the mountains will give my heart relief.
The cuckoo's calling sweetly—calling in dreams, alas!
"Come home, come home, achusha, to the Irish grass."

A BIT OF FUN.

A Great Risk.
"Do you think," he asked, "that you could learn to love me?"
"Possibly," she answered, "but if I were a man I'd hate to think I was an acquired taste."

Self-Defence.
"Every young man should learn to swim," remarked Higgins.
"Yes, that's right," rejoined Muggsby. "A fellow never knows what minute a girl may throw him overboard."

Inferior to An Expert.
The accused had been struggling hard for some time at the old and forbidding task of being his own attorney. He was making a poor job of it.

You are lying so clumsily," said the judge finally, "that I would advise you to get a lawyer."

Y. M. C. A. ARRANGES WORKING BASIS.

Ottawa, May 17—Representatives of the National Council of the Y. M. C. A. met today in conference with Colonel Almond, director-general of chaplain services overseas, and mutually agreed on a working basis in a religious work for enlisted men. Certain misunderstandings which appeared to exist were happily cleared away. Those representing the chaplain services were: General Carlisle Jones, Colonel J. L. Almond, Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. H. Williams, principal chaplain M. G. No. 2, and Rev. A. M. Moore.

The representative of the national council of the Y. M. C. A. were G. H. Wood, chairman of the national council; John W. Ross, chairman of the Red Triangle fund campaign committee; W. M. Birks, Montreal; L. F. Monypenny, chairman National Y. M. C. A. military committee, and Dr. John Brown, Jr., associate general secretary.

The following statement of policy and basis of co-operation was mutually agreed upon:

(a) The Canadian National Council of the Y. M. C. A. reaffirms the policy in its military work of placing all its butts and equipment at the service of the chaplain, regardless of creed or denomination, for communion or parade services.

(b) For the religious work, carried on under its own officers, the National Council officers, the National Council officers, the National Council officers, and assistance of the chaplains, and trusts that satisfactory methods of co-operation may be largely extended, and to this effect it will again instruct its military secretaries.

(c) The National Council reaffirms the loyalty of the whole movement to the church and fully recognizes that the background of the association's resource and power is in the church, and that its definite aim is to send the men it has influenced into the life and enterprise of the church.

(d) The National Council at the same time retains that full liberty which it has enjoyed among Canadians for the past forty-five years in conducting voluntary services and other religious activities.

(e) It also retains its right to invite outstanding clergymen to lead in this voluntary religious work.

(f) While affirming its desire to draw such leaders from the various denominations, the National Council must be governed primarily by the qualification of the minister for the special work.

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