

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1916.

"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.

"NATIONAL SERVICE"

Under this, and similar headlines the Evening Times, during the past few days, has devoted considerable editorial space to unjust, absurd and, at times, violent attacks upon the Premier and the Borden Government. That newspaper contends that there should be no national service unless there is a "national government" at the head of affairs in this country. What the Times means by a "national government" is not clearly stated in any of the columns of editorial vapors in which it indulges, but from the general tone of its articles there is room for the suspicion that it does not approve the present administration.

When one considers certain facts in connection with the ownership, management and record of the Times, its course is not surprising. But it is fair at this time when the united effort of the whole country is required to successfully prosecute the greatest struggle in the world's history, when thousands of Canadians have surrendered their civil life and donned the King's uniform to face hardship, discomfort and possibly death, when hundreds of Canadian homes are mourning a loved one whose chair is vacant this Christmas—and may never be filled again—and when the sole thought of every patriotic loyal man in the country should be "what can I do to solve this problem?"

It is true that the people of Canada have placed the Conservative party in control of the affairs of this country, and that party held control when the war broke out and up to the present time. It is believed, and in the interests of Canada earnestly hoped, that it will continue to rule for many years to come. But suppose the condition had been reversed, suppose Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Pugsley, and Mr. Graham and the other front benches of the Liberal party had occupied the treasury benches and had labored as hard and as earnestly as Premier Borden and every one of his associates have done to see to it that Canada should do her duty in the full prosecution of war measures. Would any Conservative paper, for political purposes only, be justified, day after day, in devoting its sole effort to criticism and condemnation of that Liberal government, especially when such criticism was based on absolutely false premises or ignorance of the real facts of the situation? Every fair-minded Conservative in the country will be the first to answer "no."

The South African war was but a Sunday school picnic compared to the struggle in which the world is now engaged. In that war Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his associates made a greater number of mistakes than can ever be charged up to the present administration that has shattered all precedents, abolished all standards and set a new record for ferocity, bloodshed and loss. Yet during the South African campaign the Conservative papers were not filled every day with such material as the Times provides. There was criticism, legitimate criticism, but through it all there was a disposition and a tendency to fair play. And that at a time when the Empire's existence was not at stake, when Canada was represented in the fighting lines in Africa by a comparative handful of men and when none of the perplexing social and economic problems of the present day required solution.

If this was the tendency of the Conservative newspapers at that day, and the editor of the Times knows it to be so, for in those days he was a Conservative writer, how much more should there today be a spirit of broad-mindedness, a disposition to help rather than hinder, to applaud the best, the praiseworthy achievements of the Government rather than attempt to hamper and destroy the work by bitter and exaggerated criticism of minor mistakes and shortcomings.

Of course there have been mistakes. No government is infallible and the Borden Government does not claim to be. But it is a collection of earnest, honest, patriotic Canadians, every one of whom is bringing to bear on the problems of the day his very best talents and unceasing labor. Are they not in all fairness entitled to some credit?

The editor of the Chatham World, after reading the Telegraph a few days ago, expressed the opinion that if he ghost of John Livingstone could again occupy the editorial chair of that paper he would bring about some changes. That is as it may be, but one thing is certain, if the ghost of Mr. Livingstone, Mr. Elder, Dr. James Hannay or any of the other worthy journalists who in years past directed the activities of that newspaper, could today revisit the scene of their labors, they would be heartily ashamed of the miserable spirit of petty, dirty, cunning, cheap, political mud-slinging that seems to be the sole end and purpose of the Telegraph and its evening counterpart, the Times.

In other parts of Canada newspapers, quite as effective in the heat of an election as our contemporaries can possibly be, have risen above the limits of political fault finding and attempted to aid to the best of their ability in the great work that the Canadian Government is doing. Is it too much to expect that on the birth of the New Year even our friends of the Telegraph and Times will come to see the light and devote their recognized abilities to real patriotic effort in the interests of the country, the effort that is expected at this time of all reputable Canadian journals.

There will probably be a general election in due season and the Telegraph and Times then will be able to indulge to the fullest degree their proclivities for insinuation and misstatement. In the meantime there are so many more important things to think about and consider than in their playtime effort to arouse suspicion and resentment against the Government, to create the idea that Ministers at Ottawa are not "doing their bit" according to the needs of the hour, they at least are painfully out of joint with the public and with public sentiment.

CONTRASTED METHODS.

On December 1st the retail milk dealers doing business in this city advanced the price of their product to ten cents per quart.

On December 5th the City Council got around to an expression of opinion that the price was too high and that, under the provisions of the Dominion Government's order-in-council regulating such cases, it would be advisable to ask dealers for an explanation of the reasons for the increase.

For two or three days the Commissioners cogitated in their own minds as to what questions to ask, and finally on December 8th the Common Clerk sent out the required notices.

The dealers, taking advantage of an increase which milk producers had put into effect (after the retail advance had been decided upon), claimed that conditions had arisen which made it necessary to ask for an extension of time in which to supply their answers. Of course the council granted it. This period of grace expired on Tuesday of this week but circumstances arose which prevented the replies then received from being brought to the attention of the city fathers.

Yesterday the Commissioners met again but there was no mention of the milk question and one council member, when asked why, said he forgot all about it and he presumed that the others did the same.

Today the council will meet and possibly the replies will at least be heard and passed on to a committee to consider and report back. That may take another week or possibly less, according to the disposition there is to handle the matter promptly, but as a matter of fact nothing effective has yet been done at City Hall to remedy the situation.

Chatham is a much smaller town than St. John and it might be expected that the Town Council of that enterprising place would be slower than the Commissioners of the City of St. John to grapple with a matter of this sort. Chatham, however, wasted no time. The council met, decided that the price of milk was too high and sent a printed list of questions to each of the milk vendors requiring them to make replies under oath or affirmation and to have their replies filed with

the town clerk not later than December 23rd. The Town Council also decided that any dealers who desired to be heard in person could attend the meeting on the evening of December 27th, when an opportunity would be given them to state their case.

One of the claims made for Commission form of Government was that public business could be handled without all the backing and filling popularly ascribed to the old council plan. Yet Chatham, with a town council, has handled this milk question much more expeditiously than the Commissioners of the city of St. John.

The City Council meets today and The Standard takes this opportunity of drawing the attention of the Commissioners to a rather important development of the milk situation since they first asked for their information. In Sydney the milk dealers decided to raise the price of milk as the result of an agreement reached at a meeting of those interested in the business. When this was brought to the attention of the Minister of Labor he at once decided that such action was against the law and rendered those guilty of it liable to a fine of \$5,000 or imprisonment. Chatham, in its communication with the dealers, pointed out that as they had met together and decided to advance their prices they were guilty of an indictable offense. St. John dealers did exactly the same thing but has any intimation to this effect been given by the City Council of St. John? If not, isn't it high time that some member of the council board, with the interests of the purchasing public at heart, should consider this phase of the question?

Of course it may be possible that the council members today will take action, vigorous and effective. If so, they are entitled to credit for keeping the interests of the great mass of the public uppermost in their minds. If not, the same public cannot be blamed if they want to know why.

LOCAL STUDENTS ASSIST IN KING'S FORWARD MOVEMENT

The members of the Law Students' Society of the St. John Law School, affiliated with King's College at Windsor, are taking steps to assist in the raising of the \$100,000 which the board of governors of the university have decided to raise to improve the financial standing of Kings. Yesterday J. A. LeBlanc, the president of the students' society, wrote the authorities at Windsor, extending congratulations on the decision to inaugurate the forward movement, and expressing the desire of the local students to do their share to make the movement a complete success.

There are a large number of practicing barristers in the province who are graduates of the institution who will no doubt be prepared to co-operate with the present students in raising funds.

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S. Kerr,
Principal

Little Benny's Note Book

I was wawking along with my cuzin Artie yesterday, and I sed to him, Lets pertend we are the 2 most pullite people in the world.
All rite, sed Artie. Wich jest then we started to go around a corner, and Artie stopped, saying, After you, my dear Benny. you go first, I beseech you. And he started to bow and wave his hand, and I started to bow and wave mine, saying, Far be it from such, my dear Artie, you go first, I implore you.

No sutch of a thing, my dear Benny, I woodent think of turning around a corner before you, sed Artie.
My dear Artie, you pane me exceedingly by not leaving me let you go first, I sed.
And we both stood there howing and being as pullite as the dickins, and I sed, My dear Artie, I know wat, lets us both go around together. Wich we did, taking ahold of each others arm and wawking around the corner, and as soon as we got around there wat did we see laying on the pavement rite in frunt of us but a sent, and we each made a grab for it as if we dident know anything about pulliteness, and our heads banged together with a farsee crack on the way down and I got my foot on the sent and Artie started to kick it off, and I grabbed ahold of his hair and he grabbed ahold of mine, and I sed, Lets compermise.
All rite, lets go wacky on it, sed Artie.
Wich we did, buying 34 jelly beans with it and wacking up 17 apeece.
Proving the pullitest people are libel to get ruff if they wunt sumthing.

To Help Recruiting.

Toronto—At a meeting called by Mrs. Ambrose Small plans for an elaborate moving picture to be called "What a Woman Can Do," were discussed. This picture, which it is proposed will be under the auspices of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, will include all the women's organizations in Canada, showing their work and what they are doing for the war, including the women ammunition workers and the girl guides. The film will be shown all through Canada for the purpose of raising the 100,000 recruits asked for by the Dominion government, as it has been found that the only way to reach the right men is through the movies. The film is also to show the women what they must do to keep the wheels turning by preventing closing down of factories for the want of helpers.

Through the whole scenario there is an interesting story interwoven and the leading characters will be taken by clever professionals, Toronto women and their work forming the background.

Billie Ritchie of the Pathe Lehrman comedies, has a new leading lady in the charming person of Dot Farley.

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