

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 17, 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 THIS EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

## THE WAR SITUATION.

The statement made yesterday in the British Commons by Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, Foreign Secretary, to the effect that Britain was prepared to listen to authoritative peace proposals made by the enemy means just what it purports to mean, and nothing more. Britain will listen—it is not necessary that Britain should act unless the terms are satisfactory—and to be satisfactory they must be such as to guarantee that Prussian militarism shall never again be in a position to plunge the world into a conflict like the present.

Reports that Germany is about to make a renewed peace offer have been in circulation for some time. It is believed that the latest drive, undertaken by the enemy against the British and French lines in the West, had for its real purpose the securing of positions so favorable that Germany would have much with which to barter in the event of peace parleys. But the drive failed and the enemy today is in a plight more serious than was the case some weeks ago. It is now reported that a new drive is timed to commence next week and that then Germany will use "everything she has"—on land, on the sea, and in the air, in another attempt to smash the Allied lines. Following that drive, if it is at all successful, it may be expected that new peace suggestions will be made.

Just now Germany is in a bad way to talk peace. Her campaign in the West has not succeeded, while in Italy our Allies have made gains. British troops are progressing in Mesopotamia, while General Allenby's men continue to push forward in Palestine. Only in the East has Germany gained success, and even that has been less profitable than she hoped. The great stores of grain and supplies she believed she would obtain are smaller than expected, while the condition of the country is such that it will require the presence of a comparatively large force to maintain order. Add to this the fact that the hard months are at hand—the three months preceding harvest. Germany and Austria are hungry and their people discontented. Evidence of this discontent is found in the attacks on Austria to be found in practically all the German newspapers. There is more than a suspicion that Austria-Hungary has lost stomach for the war and enthusiasm for Germany in one and the same operation. The Hapsburg Empire has practically no government for the political history of the past few weeks has centred around a procession of Austrian premiers who assumed and relinquished the reins of power as they found they could not gain national confidence.

In England there has been a striking demonstration of Lloyd-George's ability to retain the confidence of the public, while the spirit existing between the Allied nations was never better. Great Britain, France, the United States and Italy are united in aspiration and purpose and it is not likely they will permit that purpose to be interfered with by the acceptance of peace terms unless such terms meet the Allied demands in every particular. While the political situation is thus of the best, the military situation, while still serious, is nevertheless very hopeful. The Allied armies await the threatened drive with calm confidence that it will not succeed—a confidence that is shared by the entire civilized world.

## MR. VENIOT'S OPPORTUNITY.

While campaigning in Kent county during the last provincial election, Hon. P. J. Veniot carried as his star attraction a small lad of tender years whose name he claimed had figured on a public works payroll as being employed on undertakings of that department. In that case Mr. Veniot alleged that public money had been squandered, and, at the vaudeville entertainments conducted by him under the guise of political meetings, took much pleasure in exhibiting the child to the audience as a party to a discreditable transaction.

Following recent disclosures in the inquiry into road work in Gloucester county it would not be surprising if Mr. Veniot should decide to put on a home talent show, merely to demonstrate that in the gentle art of payroll padding the Foster government is in a class by itself. He has a much better opportunity now than was afforded to him in Kent. Instead of one child he could have several, all of tender years, and all of whom have figured on public works department payrolls as adult laborers, teamsters and the like.

Nor would there be difficulty as to added attractions if Mr. Veniot decided to present the Gloucester road fiasco to

the public. Alphonse Robichaud, brother of John G. Robichaud, M. L. A. for Gloucester, the man who figured on the public works payroll under three different names, and drew money for all, could doubtless provide an interesting exhibition of the dual, or triple personality. But we must not forget those two trusty fishermen, J. E. Degrae and Louis Jule Robichaud, to whom the Foster government paid money for road work while they were engaged in fishing lobsters and had done no work on the roads. A selection "Keep on Fishin'" by these artists would add to the Honorable Mr. Veniot's programme a spice of variety not to be found in the investigation itself, for, from the evidence, the only difference between any of the gentlemen who secured from the Foster government money for which they rendered no service, was a difference of method—the purpose of all was identical—got the coin.

Numerous employees who were paid for harvesting grain for the road supervisor would doubtless be provided with places of honor in such an entertainment. "Bringing in the sheaves" to the tune of the Public Accounts would be an appropriate selection for them. And as a finale Mr. Veniot himself might recite that beautiful line from Kipling "Pay, Pay, Pay" as an indication of the part the people of the province are expected to play in this highly diverting performance. Gloucester county certainly offers a wonderful opportunity for Honorable Mr. Veniot's venture in the amusement field; the only drawback might be that the Telegraph and Times, his organs, might refuse to advertise the production, as up to the present they have conveniently ignored the dress rehearsal of the farce now being staged under Mr. Veniot's personal direction in Shippegan. But even without the Telegraph and Times press agents it should be one great show.

## THE COLLAPSE OF A BOOM.

In a recent issue of the Edmonton Bulletin twenty-nine pages were required to contain the list of city properties to be sold for non-payment of municipal taxes. In the list some 40,000 lots are involved and the amounts of arrearage vary from sums as low as \$2 to \$10,000 or more, a great many of the number being less than \$25.

The list tells a sad story, the story of the failure of a boom that was grossly inflated. In the past the opinion has been expressed that if a western city had St. John's advantages, the resultant increase in land values and the amount of real estate exploitation would far exceed anything ever known in Canada. St. John has never had a boom such as has been experienced by western cities and it is well. Property values in this city are solid and afford a better and safer investment than the much lauded lands of western mushroom towns and cities. Citizens of St. John have not always realized this, and in the past many of them have sent their good money out of this city to western land agents—who still have it.

It is true that a boom in any town means business while it lasts. But when the collapse comes it generally leaves in its wake a trail of saddened hearts and broken fortunes. There is no doubt that Edmonton, now one of the largest cities of the West, is destined to become even greater and, in time, land investments there should yield a profit. But the days of the Get-Rich-Quick West have gone never to return.

## A THEATRE INCIDENT.

In an Ottawa movie theatre last week, the orchestra when the performance was over began playing God Save the King. The audience stood up, but some started to leave their seats at once, and among these a couple of men put on their hats as they moved. A returned Canadian soldier—one who, by the way, had got a bullet through his neck in Flanders—who had been sitting behind the two men touched one of them on the shoulder. "Look here," he said, "are you Canadians? If you are, you ought to keep your hats off when you hear God Save the King." The hats came off.

Such a hint ought never to be needed among us, but it sometimes is, even in Loyalist St. John. Some of us are obtuse, others are careless. The great British anthem, like the flag, should have the earnest and solicitous respect due to the great things it symbolizes. Respect shown to the anthem or to the flag is respect shown to our British brotherhood and all that it stands for of freedom and fairness and manliness. Disrespect to the flag or the anthem is

disrespect to these things, and also lack of courtesy to other people who remember and honor them. The man who claps his hat on and begins shoving out of a public place when God Save the King is heard may not be a German or a pro-German, but if he is anything but almost inexcusably thoughtless he is either a fool or a boor.

## City Boys and the Call to the Farm.

St. John, N. B., May 16th, 1918. The Editor of The Standard.  
 Sir,—There have appeared in the daily papers quite recently several references with regard to the work of the Soldiers of the Soil and the impression has been left on the public mind that the boys of New Brunswick are not willing to do their bit in connection with the effort for increased production.

The results of the recent enrollment are perhaps sufficient evidence to show the willing attitude of our boys in this respect. New Brunswick was asked by the Canada Food Board to enroll 500 in the S. O. S. movement—700 have responded so far. They have done this under circumstances that have not been all that might be desirable.

These circumstances were the result of several causes.

For example, the voluntary S. O. S. committees were new to their task and had to build up their organization as they progressed with the work. Again the lack of concerted direction in the campaign with the school teachers, who must be depended upon, to a great degree, to issue the call and enlist the boys, without doubt also affected enrollment. Then the repeated postponement of the time for enlistment from that set by the Canada Food Board, in deference to the wishes of the Education Department, discouraged to a certain extent the advertising campaign and decreased the opportunity for preliminary investigation of the boy and the farmer applicants and still allow the boy to get work on the farm before sending time.

There was a lack of definite organization in the country districts to encourage the farmers to send in their applications and give the boys a chance to show what they could do on the farm. This was evidenced by the small number of applications received, and it did not encourage the boys to sacrifice their holidays or to give up more congenial city jobs and wait for employment on the farm to turn up.

Next year by starting the organization early in the winter, it is hoped that by working with only the winning of the war in view it will be possible to form a close co-operation between the voluntary workers in the cities and in the country with the different government departments, to the end of the supply of boy and other labor for increasing food production may be materially increased.

So are we not accusing our boys wrongly when we say they are not ready to respond to the demands that are being made upon them? In New Brunswick last week 450 boys pledged themselves to "Earn and Give" \$10,000 each to the overseas work of the Y. M. C. A. 150 of these boys are from St. John.

Wherever the appeal of real service has been placed before the boys, they have responded readily and gladly, and as their older brothers have given up their lives in France, so they are willing to come forward and take the place of those men in the front of their city. They are continually accepting and performing responsible tasks that are "man-sized" in their scope.

Many of our city boys are numbered in a group that are not permitted to leave school and enroll in the S. O. S. movement. Included in this number are the older boys who would be of the greatest service on the farm. They are prevented from doing this and are forced to remain upon their city jobs until examinations in June and for their matriculation examinations in July. In other provinces these examinations have been arranged for a much earlier date and in some other provinces have been waived entirely.

The value of the city boy on the farm has been questioned. Last year in Ontario 5,000 were reluctantly accepted by the farmers in that province to assist in greater production. In January of this year, weeks before the S. O. S. was spoken of publicly, 8,000 applications had been received by the Department of Agriculture for boy-labor this summer.

Surely this is conclusive evidence of the worth of our boys on the farm and of the patriotic spirit of service and self-sacrifice they are willing to make when given a fair chance.

Yours truly,  
 A. R. CROOKSHANK,  
 Local S. O. S. Director.

## Farmers and the M.S.A.

Editorial Page v tThaflq  
 St. John, N. B., May 16th, 1918.

To the Editor of The Standard:  
 Sir,—Please publish the following: To whom it may concern:  
 Any man ordered to report for military service, must report at the military depot in St. John at the time specified. If he fails to obey orders he is a defaulter and as such he can not apply for leave of absence.

After the man has reported at the Depot Battalion and been medically examined, if his examination places him in a category lower than "A 2" he may call upon the agricultural representative, where he will be given full instructions and if he can make it clear to the representative that he is an efficient farmer or farm laborer, he will be recommended for leave of absence, until July 15th, 1918, and this leave may be extended for a further three months upon application to the agricultural representative and a certificate to prove that he has been extensively engaged in farming and that his services are still required on the farm.

A claim for leave of absence without pay made on behalf of a man who reports for duty as ordered by the registrar, on the ground of the death, disablement, or service of the other members of the same family while on active service in any theatre of actual war, will, if it appears that the man concerned, whether he is in Category

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

My Cousin Artie slept at my house last night, which was very nice. We had a race getting dressed in the morning, and this morning when we both jumped out of bed and started to race getting dressed, me being ahead till I came to my pants, yelling, Hay, wares my pants?

How do I know? said Artie. And he quick kapp on getting dressed, and I started to run around the room looking for my pants, saying, G, wares my pants, gosh, wares my pants?

Ware do you gennelly put them? said Artie. I dont know ware they are, but I gennelly find them rite away, I sed. Wich I gennelly do, and I kapp on looking, saying, G, Artie, you must know ware they are, this is a heck of a note.

Wet do I know about your pants, Im no pants milder, sed Artie. Him being all dressed except for his other shoe, wich wile he was putting it on he sed, Wy dont you look under the mattress?

Wich I did, and wat was under there but my pants, and I sed, G wize, thats a derty trick, going and hiding a fellows pants, thats no fare, that aint.

Wets you tawking about, who sed I put them there? sed Artie.

How did you know ware they was, then? I sed.

I didnt, I jest thart they mite be there, I herd a noise last nite and I bet it was you wawking in your sleep, and I bet you put your pants under the mattress, sed Artie.

Yours crazy, I never wawk in my sleep, I sed.

How you know you dont, if youre asleep? sed Artie.

Me not being able to think of any good reason wy, and I finished getting dressed and we went down and ate breakfast, me still thinking Artie put them under there, and thinking so yet.

"A" or not, is the only remaining son of military age, be immediately forwarded to the officer commanding the district for transmission to militia headquarters.

J. J. SCOTT.

## Beating the Submarine.

(Toronto Globe).

Figures compiled by the French Minister of Marine show that the losses of all the allied nations due to enemy mines and submarines are now averaging considerably less than three hundred thousands tons per month. This, if continued indefinitely, would render necessary the building in allied countries of about three and a half million tons yearly to maintain their marine at its present carrying capacity.

Can this be done? Undoubtedly. Great Britain alone can build two million tons of shipping yearly and care for the needs of the Royal Navy in new construction and repairs.

The United States is now putting an average of two ships per day into the water. In the five months since January 667,896 tons of shipping have been completed and delivered for use, and the weekly launching of steel ships alone now runs as high as 22,000 tons. Britain and the United States, therefore, are now building as much shipping as Germany is sinking. Many other countries are also taking a hand, notably Canada, Japan, Australia, and France. They should be good for several hundred thousand tons a year in the aggregate.

The shipbuilding figures prove conclusively that the submarines cannot win the war.

## A BIT OF VERSE

AN UNPUBLISHED BURNS POEM.

(Vancouver World).

"It is seldom in these days that a hitherto unpublished poem of the great poet comes to light, but Mrs. Moffatt, St. Andrews, Scotland, is the happy possessor of such. The poem below was copied by Mrs. Moffatt's grandfather, the late Mr. Sanderson, well nigh 100 years ago. The verses are prefaced by the following words:

"Composed by Robert Burns, and presented to the noblesman addressed upon being called up from the servants' hall (where he had been sent to dine) to add to the entertainment of his company, along with which company he had been asked to go on an excursion to the Bass Rock—an presenting which he put on his hat, turned on his heel and retired."

My Lord, I would not fill your chair,  
 Tho' ye be proudest noble's heir.  
 I came this night to join your feast  
 An equal of the best at least!

'Tis true that cash with me is scant,  
 And titles trifles that I want.  
 The King has never bade me kneel  
 To stamp my manhood with his seal.

But what of that? The King on high  
 Who took less pains with you than I,  
 Has filled my bosom with my mind  
 With something better in its kind

Than your broad acres, something which  
 I cannot well translate to speech,  
 But by its impulse I can know  
 'Tis deeds, not birth, that make men low.

Your rank, my lord, is but a loan!  
 But mine, thank heaven, is all my own!

A peasant 'tis my pride to be;  
 Look round and round your hall and see  
 Who boasts a higher pedigree!  
 I was not fit, it seems, to die.

With these fox-hunting heroes fine,  
 But only came to bandy jests  
 Amid your lordship's hopeful guests.  
 There must be here some sad mistake—

I would not play for such a stake.  
 Be a butfoon for drink and meat.  
 And a poor Earl's tax-paid seat!  
 No; die, my heart, ere such a shame  
 Descends on Robert Burns' name.

## A BIT OF FUN

ALTERED TO SUIT.

"Agnes married a self-made man, didn't she?"

"Yes, but she has compelled him to make extensive alterations."—Boston Transcript.

RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION.

Mrs. Jones—I wonder what makes baby so wakeful?

Jones (savagely)—Why, it's hereditary, of course. That's what comes of your sitting up nights waiting for me.

—Boston Transcript.

## EXPLAINED IT.

Mistress—Did anyone call while I was out?

New Girl—Yes, mum; Mrs. Wayup called.

Mistress—Did she seem disappointed when you said I was not at home?

New Girl—Well, she did look a little queer, but I told her she needn't get in a temper about it, 'cause it was really true this time.—Vancouver Province.

Brunswick, Maine, May 15—Kenneth C. M. Sills, has been elected president of Bowdoin College to succeed the late president, William DeWitt Hyde. The president elect was born in Halifax, N. S., in 1879. He was educated at Portland, Bowdoin and Harvard. In 1907 he became professor of languages at Bowdoin. He was a candidate for United States Senator on the Democratic ticket in 1916, but was defeated. Relatives of Dean Sills resided at St. Andrews, N. B., some years ago.

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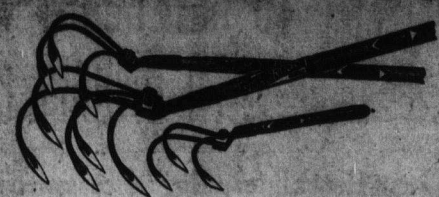
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