

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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.

## WHAT VENIOT FORGOT.

With elaborate detail the Telegraph of the other morning told how Mr. Peter J. Veniot, the Gloucester county politician, who aspires to be minister of public works when the opposition party succeeds to office, had shown the intelligent electors of Carleton county how the Clarke Government had utterly failed in every branch of administration, how the small gains of revenue they were able to report came as the result of the preparations made by the old plunderbund, and how, in fact, the real beneficiaries of New Brunswick were not Premier Clarke and his associates but the men who were hurled from power back in 1908.

Doubtless Mr. Veniot is completely satisfied with his explanation of the growth of the public revenues but, peculiarly, he has forgotten to explain the item of \$210,000, the amount of the annual increase in the taxes paid by the lumber operators over the sums they paid under the old government. It is also strange to find that Mr. Veniot has forgotten to tell the people that under the present Government these operators are compelled to make their returns on the basis of their annual cuts, and not as formerly the case on any basis they chose to adopt. As a result of this change the provincial treasury at the present time gets every dollar to which it is justly entitled and is not forced to be content with the amount the lumber operators choose to pay.

During the past seven years, since Mr. Hazen came into power, the province has received from the lumbermen cutting on timber lands \$1,500,000 more revenue than it would have received had the methods of the former government been followed.

A comparison of the figures showing the total returns of lumber cut on which the government was paid stampage during the last seven years of the old administration and the seven years of the present administration is decidedly interesting. These figures are:

	Sup. feet.
1902	109,977,927
1903	123,516,469
1904	139,338,244
1905	107,705,676
1906	141,449,449
1907	149,510,471
1908	152,318,333

In round figures this amounts to a total stampage of 923,000,000 sup. feet. During the last seven years in which the present Government has been in power, the returns are as follows:

	Sup. feet.
1909	205,761,583
1910	281,716,402
1911	309,883,428
1912	282,893,141
1913	270,221,155
1914	270,234,773
1915	290,120,823

These figures total in round numbers 1,910,000,000 s. ft., and the stampage upon the difference between them and the total cut by the late government estimated at \$1.50 per thousand, amounts to nearly \$1,500,000.

The same receipts during the period the present Government has been in power have largely increased, being in round numbers \$288,000, as against \$151,000 in the last seven years of the late government. This satisfactory result has largely been brought about by the more systematic and complete methods of collection, together with a better conservation of the game. The total receipts from all sources of the Crown Land Department from the year 1902 to 1908 amounted in round numbers to \$1,920,000, whereas for the seven years of the present Government the revenue is in round numbers \$3,583,000, and this it should be remembered does not include the bonuses paid on timber licenses, amounting to \$420,000, which have been placed to a sinking fund.

Mr. Veniot also had a few remarks to make about the increase in the expenditures on ordinary bridges under the present Government, and by way of attempting to show that this increased expenditure was fictitious, he quoted the figures for 1909 and 1915, the latter of which was slightly smaller than the former, but both years during the regime of the present administration. We are sadly afraid that Mr. Veniot had no greater desire to be honest with his audience in his remarks on the bridge accounts than he was over the stumpage returns.

The following figures will show the difference in the expenditures on ordinary bridges during the last seven years of the old administration, and the present.

Under the old government there was spent in	
1902	\$110,020.90
1903	53,247.44
1904	80,180.68
1905	87,070.73
1906	86,401.54
1907	50,168.19
1908	168,535.24

In addition to these, there was the sum of \$83,147.06 outstanding, which had not been included in the accounts. These figures total \$718,871.78, but in the year 1908 the larger part of the expenditure should be credited to the present Government, as they did the bulk of the bridge repairs that year. During the present Government's administration they have spent on ordinary bridges

In 1909	\$154,916.40
1910	162,524.35
1911	236,128.95
1912	162,557.99
1913	173,910.36
1914	194,521.51
1915	149,788.23

The total of these figures is \$1,234,347.79, a difference in favor of the present Government of \$516,476. In the face of these figures—which in all cases are taken from the Auditor General's report—it will be difficult for Mr. Veniot to convince the electors that the present Government is not doing more for the public benefit than his party did.

As a "practical" politician of the most degraded and infamous stamp Mr. Veniot is well at the head of his class, but as a plain, unvarnished liar he would make the late lamented Ananias blush with envy.

## A CARTER LIE NAILED.

One by one the falsehoods of the opposition organizer and the associated orators who are holding forth in the Carleton county by-election are being exposed by the testimony of disinterested and honest men. The most recent instance of this sort comes in the shape of a repudiation of a statement made by Carter and reported in the Telegraph of the 9th in regard to the shipment of patriotic potatoes.

In the course of his outburst on that subject Mr. Carter recited what he claimed were instances where potatoes had been shipped to St. John, rejected by the inspector and then taken over at the express request of Mr. J. B. Daggett, secretary for agriculture. In one case, Leslie A. Slipp, the inspector, according to Mr. Carter, rejected eighteen cars of potatoes which had been shipped by B. F. Smith and they were subsequently taken over on the order of Mr. Daggett.

Carter's purpose was plain. He desired to create the impression that Hon. Mr. Smith and Secretary Daggett were parties to a serious crime against the people of the province and against those unfortunate for whom the gift of potatoes was intended. However, he overlooked the fact that Mr. Slipp was still in the country and able to nail the lie as soon as it was brought to his attention. This he effectively did in the following letter sent to Hon. J. A. Murray at Fredericton yesterday and which is self explanatory:

Fredericton, N. B.,  
Sept. 11th, 1916.

Hon. J. A. Murray, Minister of Agriculture, Fredericton, N. B.:  
Dear Sir,—I have just read in the Telegraph of Saturday, the 9th inst., the statement of Mr. E. S. Carter, to the effect that eighteen (18) cars of potatoes, shipped to St. John by B. F. Smith, M. L. A., for the patriotic shipment, were rejected by myself as inspector, and that Mr. J. B. Daggett, secretary for agriculture, insisted that these cars be taken over and that I was compelled to accept them.

I wish to say that THE STATEMENT IS FALSE IN EVERY PARTICULAR. There were a number of cars that did not appear to be up to the standard required. Several of these were from Hon. B. F. Smith and several from other shippers. All of these cars were closely racked under my supervision and all poor potatoes were taken out. The shippers objected to my close racking and culling. An appeal was made to Mr. Daggett. In every case he sustained my rulings, stating plainly and emphatically to the shippers in my presence that he would not interfere with my judgment.

I POSITIVELY STATE THAT NOT

ONE BARREL OF POTATOES WAS ACCEPTED AGAINST MY JUDGMENT. I WISH TO STATE THAT, IN THE DISCHARGE OF MY DUTIES AS INSPECTOR OF THE POTATOES SENT TO THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT AND TO BELGIUM, NEITHER MR. DAGGETT NOR ANY OTHER OFFICIAL OF THE DEPARTMENT INTERFERED WITH MY WORK IN THE SLIGHTEST DEGREE. I HAD IN EVERY CASE A FREE HAND. I believe that the potatoes sent across the water were the finest possible selection.

I wish further to state most emphatically that Mr. Daggett never asked or suggested that I should do anything except that which was absolutely straight in every particular. This statement is made, as I feel that you and your deputy are being very unfairly treated and STATEMENTS ARE BEING CIRCULATED CONCERNING THE PATROTIC SHIPMENT WHICH ARE ABSOLUTELY FALSE.

I beg to remain,  
Yours respectfully,  
(Signed) LESLIE A. SLIPP.

Mr. Slipp's repudiation of Carter and his methods is not surprising, but it is only one case of many. In this, as in other campaigns, the opposition spell-binders are working on the old principle of putting a lie in circulation in the hope that the correction will never catch up with it. It is pretty small politics but the only kind in which the members of the Carvell-Carter-Veniot clan are schooled. Such tactics will not deceive the people of Carleton who will vote on Thursday, September 21st, in favor of Hon. B. Frank Smith, Mayor Sutton and honest government, and against the coterie of slanderers into whose hands the fortunes of the opposition party have been permitted to drift.

The Telegraph has not yet succeeded in making Hon. B. Frank Smith or Mayor Sutton responsible for the disaster in the St. Lawrence on Monday. This is a serious oversight to which the attention of Twice-Horsewhipped Carter is respectfully directed.

## BIGGER CROPS A CRYING NEED IN ENGLAND

Prices Gone Up, but Area Under Cultivation Less Than Year Ago.

## SITUATION REVIEWED BY A STANDARD MAN

Colin McKay Gives Some Interesting Sidelights on a Subject Over Which British Authorities Are Much Concerned.

England, Aug. 24.—In spite of the rise in the price of foodstuffs during the past two years and efforts of the government to encourage increased food production, Mr. Acland of the Board of Agriculture stated in the House yesterday that the area under crops this year was less than last year, though greater than before the war. On the other hand he said, the stock of cattle this year was greater than ever before. One of the first things the average Canadian in England remarks is the extent of the land practically lying idle; on the other hand the average Canadian in France is equally surprised at the intensive cultivation of the land there now, for the most part carried on by young boys and old men. Premier Hughes of Australia, just before he left England, said in a speech at the Mansion House, London:

"In a recent town along the front in France, I did not see as much land uncultivated as you may see within ten miles of London. The French nation is rooted in the soil of France, that is the secret of its great strength. You must cultivate the lands of Britain, create such conditions as will induce men to follow agriculture."

Even before the war, prophets were continually arising, preaching the need of better and more extensive cultivation of the lands of Britain, not only to place the nation in a better position to meet the ordeal of war, but as a means of reducing emigration. And chief among these, perhaps, was Chamberlain with his celebrated campaign for three acres and a cow. But even Mr. Chamberlain's campaign failed to effect the desired resolution in agriculture. Later Mr. Lloyd George with his land tax attempted to slay the dragon of landlordism, and open the land to cultivation by Englishmen assumed to be anxious to get back on the land. But the Welsh Wizard was no more successful than the great protagonist of Imperialism, grafted on the inalienable right of all Britons to a heritage of three acres and a cow.

Now the government has appointed a committee charged with the task of settling partially disabled soldiers on the lands of Britain, an experiment which under present conditions is not likely to have very satisfactory results. The fact of the matter is that in all probability the problem of the effective cultivation of the lands of Britain will remain unsolved until

## Little Benny's Note Book

The dawg catchers was around our way yesterday, driving rite up our block with about 10 dawgs in the waggin all barking as if they thart they was having a good time, instead of knowing they was arrested, and me and Puds Simkins and Sam Craws followed the waggin to see if they wood catch any dawgs we noo, wich there wasnt any in site till the waggin started to go past Mrs. Webbs house and then Mrs. Webbs funny looking little yello dawg ran rite out and started to run around barking.

Chase it back in the house before they get him, yelled Sam.

To the rescue, I yelled.  
Ship ahoy, yelled Puds. And us 3 started to chase it back, and the waggin stopped and the 2 men started to run after Mrs. Webbs dawg, one of them waving his arms, awn account of not having any net, being pritty itching, all rite, the little yello dawg dodging around as if it thart we was playing tag with it instead of trying to save its life, and Mrs. Webb leened out of her parlor window and started to make a fearsome noise, and the 10 dawgs in the waggin kepp on barking and jumping around, and jest as the man with the net pritty ner had it, Puds chased it back in the house, and the dawg catchers went away, and Mrs. Webb stood in the parlor window kiasing the funny looking dawg on the nose and tawking to Mr. Webb, saying, Who left the door open, I repeat, thats wat I want to know.

Mrs. Webb being a grate big fat lady and Mr. Webb being a little skinnny man with a red mushtash, and he sed, I dont know, my deer. Im sure, I dont know. Mr. Webb being the one that takes the dawg a wawk every day looking as if he woodent if he didnt haff to, and Mrs. Webb tawked some more and then she went away from the window, and Mr. Webb stood there a wile looking out at us as if we had did him a derly mean trick, wich maybe we did, and then he rinkled his nose at us and went away, to.

something like a revolution has been effected, not only in the land system and methods of distribution of product, but in the education, habits, and outlook of the masses of the people.

Even the war, emphasizing as it has, the importance of men over money, in the national economy has not persuaded the governing classes that the state should be reorganized with a view to making the development of agriculture a matter of greater concern than the development of manufacturing industry and commerce. In any case England is evidently destined to remain a great manufacturing nation.

## Increased Production Not Immediate Prospect.

While the war continues the British farmer, even with the most patriotic determination, is not likely to increase his production of food to any appreciable extent. It is for him a question of labor and machinery. Now the manufacture of agricultural implements receives less attention than the manufacture of shells, and the withdrawal of agricultural laborers for military service, is not adequately met by the employment of women.

If the war continues another year or so—and according to some German papers the German government is making preparations for a struggle of ten years' duration—if the war continues the problem of feeding Great Britain will bristle with difficulties. Already the British workman finds that a sovereign is hardly worth the shillings when it comes to purchasing necessities of life. Supposing the purchasing power of the sovereign continues to decrease at the same rate, in a little over two years more £1,000, 000 wouldn't buy a biscuit. Which is a sad prospect; though not without its consolation, since the present crop of monsters now making millions would be no better off than the workmen.

In the circumstances it is obvious that the problem of assuring the food supplies of the United Kingdom cannot remain a local question, but must be approached from an Imperial point of view. Nor can the matter be left to the enterprise of the middleman, whose practices have caused soldiers in the trenches to write to great dallies: "A lot of good men out here are being shot for doing the right thing; it is high time some men in England were shot for doing the wrong thing."

An extension of the policy adopted by the British government in connection with sugar production and the transport of Argentine beef, will doubtless be necessary before the war ends, and perhaps more so after the war, when the disbanded soldiers are trying to pick up the broken threads of civil life. In the House yesterday the government was censured for not making arrangements with the Canadian government to purchase the Manitoba wheat crop direct from the farmers, a measure which probably would have prevented the forcing up of prices by Chicago speculators. The laissez-faire doctrine of liberalism no longer fits the national needs. Even Mr.

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