

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 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.

CONCERNING INVESTIGATIONS

The Telegraph appears to have the opinion that this journal of the home and fire-side is opposed to the idea of a general investigation into the awarding of shell contracts in Canada. To that extent the Telegraph is correct. The Standard does not believe that such an investigation, during war time, could have any useful effect but, on the contrary, would result in making public information which it would not be in the interest of the Empire to bring to light. Also the Standard believes that the question of shell contracts in Canada is a matter in which the British government is interested first of all. If that government desires to hold an investigation and give to the public information as to the location, extent and facilities of Canada's shell making plants, the quantity of the output and other facts that naturally would come out, there can be no objection on the part of any newspaper or any citizen. But when the Telegraph attempts to claim that this newspaper or the Borden Government opposes an investigation for fear that some wrong-doing will be shown, the Telegraph speaks altogether without information.

Some time ago Mr. Carvell, in the House of Commons, intimated that there was wrong-doing in connection with the shell contract now being performed by the Messrs. Fleming of the Phoenix Foundry. The Telegraph, prompt to give publicity to the Carvell charges, took the matter up and held that contract up as one reason for an investigation. The Standard thereupon challenged the Telegraph and Times to send representatives to Messrs. Fleming or to Mr. J. B. Cudlip, whose name was also mentioned in connection with the matter, ask any questions which might be deemed relevant and then print the replies. For a day or so there was silence from the Telegraph and the Times. The challenge was not accepted but, on the contrary, those newspapers suddenly lost interest in the Fleming contract, the one case in which information could be most easily gained by them. The Standard has pleasure in repeating the matter and will enlarge it to take in the contracts being fulfilled by the McAvity firm. Let the Telegraph or Times interview Mr. Cudlip, Mr. Fleming or Mr. George McAvity and publish their statements. Apparently the Telegraph does not desire to take that course, so we may be pardoned if we ask "why the anxiety to keep the lid on?"

THE WAR IN THE AIR.

Germany's war in the air has not been an unqualified success up to the present time despite the fact that her aerial messengers of death have brought destruction and sorrow to more than one English village. There is a disposition to regard these German air raids as the practice of wanton cruelty but that description hardly meets the mark. Germany does nothing in the dark and while it may be difficult to ascribe a motive for the expeditions to England we may be sure that those behind the venture hope to accomplish something more than the slaughter of a score of non-combatants or the destruction of property. There is a military purpose behind it all.

In the British Isles at the present time there are between one and two million soldiers in training camps; also there are munition factories of various sorts scattered all over the country from Land's End to John O'Groats. Also there are very many important supply bases, and naval depots and plants. These Zeppelin expeditions have not as yet struck at the vital points referred to but it is evident that they will try again and again until they finally locate them. On this point an exchange, which urges reprisals in kind, says: "It might be expected that an indiscriminate discharge of bombs would destroy or damage some important works or stores. Even if the squadrons failed to destroy much plant and property, their navigators would gain information. They already know the geography and topography of the country. They also know the location of the works, and have some idea where the military camps are. But

at the height they travel, and at night or in thick weather, it is not easy to distinguish cities or to preserve the sense of direction and locality. It is dangerous to fly low or to invade England in clear daylight. But every expedition of this kind will teach the navigators something. If they are able to repeat these visits and escape, they will gradually find their way to the points sought and accomplish some serious military purpose. We would like to assume that British aviators are learning how to find and fight the Zeppelins as fast as the Germans are learning how and where to strike effectively, and that the British batteries established to protect the country against the air-raiders will become more efficient than they have shown themselves to be on recent occasions. There is also a great chance for the British offensive. It is no farther from England to Germany than it is from Germany to England."

Frederick Palmer, the eminent war correspondent, who has followed events in Europe since the outbreak of war takes a different view. In his opinion the ferocity of the German air raids and submarine attacks indicate that the enemy is growing desperate and seeks only to inflict as much damage as possible before giving in. Also he believes that Germany's struggles on the land fronts are without definite purpose. He says: "What is the objective of the Zeppelin raids? What military end are they designed to achieve? What is the object of the submarine war upon passenger vessels? There is no more object in them than in the ravings of a man in delirium. The effort in the Balkans, too, may be a mere purposeless struggle. Germany moves there because she can move nowhere else, and she has an instinct that tells her, as instinct tells a man who is freezing to death, that she must keep moving if she is not to perish. The truth is that Germany has had to improvise plans from month to month. Before the war she made the most elaborate plans for years. The best brains in the army and navy were ceaselessly at work on them. These have all crumbled into dust. Not a single plan made before the war has been successful. Everything has failed. It is true that Germany retains the initiative, but since she cannot advance on either her two great fronts, of what avail is the initiative in the Balkans? The war can never be decided in the Balkans. Nor can it be settled in Egypt or in India, even should Germany by some miracle be able to get a foothold there. It will be settled in France and Flanders, if not in Germany itself. Any success that is not a success against the main British and French armies is no success at all."

One thing is sure, whether Palmer is right or wrong, whether Germany's air raids and submarine attacks are according to preconceived plans or the ravings of a sorely wounded animal seeking to get a blow before it surrenders, the most effective way to deal with the aerial problem is by giving the Germans a taste of their own medicine. If bombs can be dropped from the skies on Britain they can also be dropped on Germany. If property can be destroyed in London the message of destruction can be carried to Berlin by the same means. An aerial bombardment of Berlin might do more than anything else to let the German people know the real situation in this war. At any rate a very large section of the British press and British public holds the opinion that the experiment is worth a trial.

The representative of Carleton, N. B., wants an investigation into hay supplied for war purposes. The member for Richmond, N. B., complains as to work done in that locality, the editor of the Moncton Transcript alleges that there has been graft and corruption in connection with military purchases at Amherst, N. B., and challenges the Government to hold an investigation. This is war time and the Hawkes, the Kyles, and the vultures seek to glut themselves on the carrion of scandal. Meanwhile Sir Wilfrid Laurier declares that the present is no time for politics. It is an interesting situation.

HUN SEAPLANE FLIES OVER COPENHAGEN

London, Feb. 12.—A Reuter despatch from Copenhagen says it was a German seaplane that flew over Copenhagen. According to the despatch it circled twice over the city at a height of 3,000 feet disappearing over the harbor and navy yard.

S. S. CONVENTION

Midland, Feb. 12.—The Parish Sunday School Convention for the parishes of Springfield and Karn was held in our swamp meeting house on Thursday afternoon and evening.

Mr. Wm. Beals, parish president, presided. In the afternoon an address on "Temperance in the Sunday Schools" was given by Rev. R. H. Stavert, superintendent of the Sunday School Association work for the Province of New Brunswick.

A round table conference was then conducted by Rev. W. A. Ross, field secretary. A very interesting and helpful discussion was carried on for more than an hour.

The early part of the evening session was given up to a song service. Rev. W. A. Ross then gave an inspiring address. Both sessions were well attended. The evening meeting was especially large.

The outlook for a much deeper interest in Sunday school work in this community is bright. The reports from the various schools given by the parish secretary and others were quite encouraging.

Mr. Wm. Orchard of Chipman visited friends here today.

Rev. C. W. Walden has been confined to his home for some days with a gripe.

Mr. Oscar Patrinquin is spending the week-end at home.

Miss Smith of St. Martins is spending a few days with her sister, Miss Vera Smith.

C. W. Patrinquin spent Wednesday in St. John.

Mr. Heriot Allaby who has been quite ill, is slightly improved.

HOW GOTCH AND STELLER COMPARE

It cost Tex Richard \$101,000 in addition to bonuses, to bring Jim Jeffries and Jack Johnson together at Reno, Nev., and while wrestling have never received as much as pugilists in the general run of championship matches, it is certain that a new record in wrestling purses will be made when Gotch finally signs for his grapple with Stecher. Whether the match will prove as disappointing to those that witness it as the Johnson-Jeffries battle did to the spectators who gathered at the Nevada rinkside on July 4, 1910, only time can tell.

As a general rule wrestlers hold their grappling ability for a number of years beyond the point where fighters begin to slip back. Jeffries was thirty-five when Johnson at the age of thirty-two wrestled his title from him. Gotch is thirty-eight and Stecher twenty-three, and while Stecher has had a remarkable record to date, many think that Gotch's long mat career and wrestling experience will offset the advantage of Stecher's youth.

In fact some wrestling experts never think the Nebraska grappler is too young to tackle Gotch. Certain it is that a study of the latter's mat record impresses one with the formidable performances of the man when taken in connection with the well known fact that he has always been moderate and methodical in his habits and training.

Gotch, who is 5 ft. 11 1/2 in. tall, and weighs about 210 lbs., in condition, has won more than 100 of the 172 time handicap or finish bouts in addition to throwing more than 200 opponents in fifteen minute exhibition matches.

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Little Benny's Note Book

THE PARK AVE NEWS

Me and grandpop was taking a walk yesterday, and we passed a chewing gum machine to put cents in, and I sed, Look at the chewing gum machine.

Do you like chewing gum, sed grandpop, and I sed, Yes sir, and he sed, So do I, do you no wat I've got half a mind to do, I've got half a mind to put a snag in that thing and get a peeco of chewing gum and brake it in half and give you half.

And he took a sent out of his vest pocket and was jest going to put it in the slot marked Peppermint wa wat did he do but drop it and it rolled a ways and then fell throo a grating down a big hole.

Wares the man that owns this place, peopel have got no rite to have gratings like that on the public highways, its a trap for peopel many, that wat it is, sed grandpop. And he went inside the place, being a grate big blding, and there was a elevator man setting there, and grandpop sed, Wares the ajntor of this blding.

If you waite about 5 minits he will be heer, sed the elevator man. Good nite, sed the ajntor. And he turned around and went up the stairs agen, and me and grandpop went out and kept on walkin, me saying, Wat aint you going to get any chewing gum, grandpop, and him saying, Wat do you think I am, a milymaire.

Wt so, sed the ajntor. I dropped smathing down there, sed grandpop. Wat did you drop, sed the ajntor. O, it mite one of bin a sent forall I no, but its the prinsipl of the thing Im thinking about, sed grandpop.

That grating is put in with mortar, and it costs 5 dollrs every time its takes out, sed the ajntor. Ive got nothing to do with that, sed grandpop.

Well do you expect me to spend 5 dollrs so you can get back a sent, sed the ajntor, and grandpop sed, Sure, its my justis.

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REGAL Free Running Table Salt. Some salt does not stay free-running because of the poor package, which is affected by the moisture in the air. To have table salt at its best, it must be put up in a moisture-proof package. The patented aluminum spout is a wonderful convenience for filling salt shakers. When not in use it lies flat on the box, and seals opening. Try this perfect table salt in the perfect package. ASK YOUR GROCER.

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OUR COMPETITION For Boys and Splendid. A "Sum" Contest. This week's Contest is quite different from previously been asked to compete in, but reader of the Children's Corner will be happy to prize.

Can You Draw a... As you have enjoyed the last Drawing let us have another. Make a careful drawing in pencil or pen and ink. Send result, together with name, to the Editor. This contest is open to all kiddies not over 12 years of age. The drawings will be judged on the basis of originality and beauty. Prizes will be given to the winners. Send your drawing to the Editor of the Standard, St. John, N. B.

STANDARD COMPETITION For Boys and Girls. Full Name... Address... Age... Birthday...

The Convention of Farmers and Dairymen and Provincial Se. Will be held in FREDERICTON, February 28th, 29th, 30th, and 1st March. Thursday, March 2nd, will be Livestock and Experimental Farm. The work of the convention will be under the direction of Prof. Barton, of Macdonald College. Delegates attending the Convention will cater over the I. C. R., and C. P. R.