

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited 82 Prince William Street,
St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.
ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1919.

RETURNING TRANSPORTS

It may be taken for granted that soldiers now returning from overseas are a very different class of people from the same men who went over two, three and four years ago. When these men were leaving Canada they were new in the military organization and were very deeply impressed by the necessity for strict obedience to regulations. They had for the time being lost their individuality in the organization of the army and were keeping themselves in order from the point of view of discipline so that they might be best fitted for the work before them. Now, on coming back to Canada after years of service they know a great deal more than they did about military methods, about their own position, and what is due them. They are coming back with the sense of duty performed, and they know that they are coming back not for years of service, as was the case when they were sailing eastward, but to an immediate discharge from all regulations now binding them. They possess, also, a knowledge that they are entitled to sympathetic friends and that any person they may have for complaint against unfair treatment will find ready learners. Consequently, it is but natural to expect that these men will look for and will demand better treatment on the return voyage than was accorded them when they left Canada, simply because of the fact that their individual independence is reasserting itself. This condition does not mean that saloon accommodation with fried chicken and wine must be furnished every soldier on the west-bound transports, but it should bring to those in authority the realization of the fact that the returning soldiers will not endure without complaint any thing short of fair treatment.

Now where there is a lot of such there is bound to be some fire, and it may be taken for granted, irrespective of the views of friendship officers who are naturally biased to some extent that repeated complaints of treatment on shipboard would not be heard unless there were some good grounds for these complaints. The Northland was not the first transport subjected to this criticism, but it was the first in respect to which action in the way of an investigation was taken. The Canadian voyage came in for a share of censure and now the Scandinavian is the subject of adverse comment by persons on board who must, of necessity, be regarded as responsible individuals. All of which goes to show that there is a looseness, a carelessness, a wilfulness at irregularity in the methods adopted for the transport of our returning men which is to be deplored, and which should be corrected at once. And not only are these grievances with regard to treatment on shipboard unfair to the men themselves during the voyage, but this condition, if allowed to continue, will create among all returned soldiers the feeling that Canada after having had their services for so long is not particularly concerned about the treatment accorded them now that their duty has been accomplished.

It is time and more than time that the military authorities should grapple with the situation in earnest and see to it that proper food and proper accommodation are provided for all men coming back from overseas service.

THE ONE ISSUE.

"If there is to be a Provincial election two years will be the chief issue—the record of the Government and that of the Opposition. And the Opposition, so far as is known now, will have the same leaders and largely the same candidates as before."—Telegraph.

And the Government so far as is known now, will have the same leaders and largely the same candidates as before. Between the records of these two parties the Opposition has nothing to fear. The Government includes among its leaders Hon. W. E. Foster, Peter Veniot and J. F. Tweeddale. These are the three who went to Ottawa on what was supposed to be an interprovincial conference, but who spent a large part of their time while in Ottawa on provincial business, in the company of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, making plans with him whereby this province was to be swung through their influence against the present Union Government, and to the support of the Laurierite party. These are the three who, during the course of the coalition campaign with their support, who opposed coalition in every way within their power, although too cowardly to come out definitely in opposition to it. They are the ones who are working hand and glove with Laurier and who, by this new open acknowledgement of their approval of his policy and leadership, have also endorsed his praise of the German people, his condemnation of Britain, his demand that Canada take no part in the war, and his many other public utterances which have branded him as an enemy of the interests of the Empire. Apart altogether from the questions of Provincial politics which have aroused some interest here during the past year or two, there

stands out this issue of loyal support to the government of a country in which the best men of all political parties are united, as well as the issue of support to the Empire during this time of stress, and in this respect Premier Foster, Peter Veniot and J. F. Tweeddale, along with others of their clique, have utterly failed to appreciate the sentiments of the people whom they are supposed to lead.

On the other side of the House there is not one leader or member of the party who has failed in what he recognized as his duty to the country as a whole. There has been united support to the cause of coalition and to the interests of Canada in the war displayed on the part of the Conservative Party in Fredericton and through out the province. And these men have openly announced their advocacy of union and have worked for it. They have not hidden behind the cloak of cowardice in refraining from making their positions clear, as has been done by the Foster-Veniot group, while at the same time endeavoring to injure the province in the eyes of the rest of Canada.

"If there is to be a Provincial election two years will be the chief issue—the record of the Government and that of the Opposition. And the Opposition, so far as is known now, will have the same leaders and largely the same candidates as before."—Telegraph.

ST. JOHN'S FINANCES.

It is intimated, unofficially, that St. John, during 1918, lived within its income, and that its books for the year closed with an overdraw amounting. This is very satisfactory indeed, and presents a contrast to conditions not so very long ago when frequent borrowings on current account were necessary. There are very few cities in Canada today that stand so high financially as does St. John. In comparison with our assets, the deficit is not great, our sinking funds are now in excellent condition, thanks to the attention given them during the past ten years or so, and our various departments, while not as efficient as those of some other cities corresponding to St. John in size, are on the whole economically managed. It is true that there are times when we could wish for a little more extravagance in some of these departments, but this city is going along, in its own quiet way, improving greatly from year to year, and maintaining a sound system of finance. Our rate of assessment is comparatively high, possibly due to the fact that for a long time values have been too low. With the introduction of the new assessment of revenue which has hitherto escaped taxation, it is anticipated that the valuations in real and personal property will be materially increased. Whether this increase will result in a fair adjustment of the burden, so that those best able to pay what they should pay will be reached, is a matter which can only be judged through experience. Generally speaking, however, the new assessment should more fairly readjust the burden of taxation of all classes, and should result in a marked reduction in the rate of taxation, based, of course, on the increased values. It should not be anticipated that this assessment law will remove all the inconsistencies which have existed in the past. Such a result is too much to expect, but there seems to be a very general feeling that it will distribute the assessment for civic purposes more evenly than at any time in the past. The introduction of this system should, in itself, greatly strengthen St. John's financial position, and enable the city more readily to deal with the important problems which must be dealt with in the very near future. Before long harbor commission will become a live issue, some action will be necessary with respect to the Power Company, there must be a definite programme of street construction, there should be extensions to our school system, and doubtless other problems of a more or less important nature will present themselves. Under the circumstances it is gratifying to note that the city is free from any financial embarrassment, and that, although expenditures continue to increase, our position is reasonably satisfactory.

WHAT THEY SAY

Enough Red in the Flag.

(New York World.) The Stars and Stripes have replaced the red flag of revolution on the old German fortress of Ehrenbreitstein. There is enough red for republican purposes in the American banner, and the more the German public sees of it the greater its tranquillizing effect will be.

Computing Our Losses.

(London Daily Chronicle.) Spread over the 17 quarters which the war lasted the deaths in the army average 32,000 a quarter, instead of the normal death rate of 12 per thousand, we have had during the four years, as a result of the war, a death rate of over 12 per thousand. These cold statistics leave out of account the paramount fact that it is upon the most virtile of the male

population that this ghastly toll has been levied.

The Man Higher Up.

(London Daily News.) That the origins of the war should be accurately and carefully traced is in the highest degree desirable. It has been stated that the assassins of the Archduke Ferdinand, who were imprisoned at Sarajevo, are still alive. Is it not possible to bring them before a commission of judges selected from neutral countries, who shall carefully investigate the case and prove who were the persons that planned the crime and used these two men as their tools? It is even more important to trace the kindling of the first spark than to discover who blew upon it afterwards.

Some Queer Trades.

(London Daily Express.) We have made a most many discoveries amid the upheaval of war, and by no means the least among them is that we have more trades in our hands than most of us are aware of. The Director of Demobilization, whose duty it will be to see that the industries of the country are set in working order, must know where to place a rapper, a halvaner, a stopper in the mining industry, a tubber, a fellow, a cleaver in the leather trade, a cutter, a generator, a wheeler in the textile trades, a notcher, a snipper, a pyler in the metal industry, only a few, as well as the butcher, baker and candlestick-maker. He must also know when to place them.

American or Canadian Plan.

(San Francisco Chronicle.) In regarding an indissoluble union of indivisible states the Germans will have to choose between the American plan, in which all powers are reserved to the state, or the Canadian plan, in which the latter plan they will get to real centralization, but under the American plan, as we see, they will get there just the same. It might retard the coming process of the judicial tribunal which must be created to give on matters of jurisdiction were required to sit a thousand miles, if the country is big enough from the seat of political authority, and make a vast of any member of the court to the political capital work an immediate forfeiture of office. It is difficult for the judicial spirit to flow in the atmosphere of a political capital.

Get a Move on.

(London Daily Express.) People are asking "When is my son or my husband, or my father coming home?" We are asking the question, too, and no one can give us an answer. The year is over, and there is what the Americans call "a whole lot of talk" about demobilization, and that is all. Our men are still in khaki. True, they cannot all come home at once, but surely out of the millions of men who are in the army a hundred or two thousand could easily be spared provided something definite action were done to bring them back into civil life. The country is crying out for labor, and here sits this great army anxious to come back to work, waiting for some official to put his name to paper and say the word. We presume that minutes are being written by the yard in the War Office, in the War Labor Ministry, in the National Service Ministry, in the Reconstruction Ministry, and in the dozen or two committees' offices which are doing with demobilization. The transports going west are already filling with American troops, who have done their job, packed their bags, and are going home. And America is hustling. She wants to get back to work. Are we hustling?

A BIT OF VERSE

YPRES SALIENT.

O quiet peoples sleeping bed by bed,
Beneath gray roof-trees in the gloom,
We who can see the silver-gray and red,
Rise over No Man's Land—salute your rest.

O quiet comrades, sleeping in the clay
Till a turmoil you need no more mark,
We who have lived through yet another day,
Salute your graves at setting in of dark.

And rest you from your beds or from the clay,
You, dead, or far from these of slain and slayers,
Through your eternal or your finite day,
Give us your prayers!
Ford Madox Hueffer.

SWORD OF PEACE.

We yearn for peace! Is it to drift and dream,
To live soft lives, and greedily to stand,
Clutching our hoarded stores; or with strong hand
To grasp the sword of Justice and redemption?
A shrieked world! Man's part in this vast scheme
Of evolution by Creator planned,
Here to fulfil His Law. By His command
Peace may not spring from wrong, but Right Supreme!

No peace can stand if mad injustice mar,
Or soft indulgence dull the mind's keen tool,
To lasting peace the one remaining bar,
Is slaying cringing to a tyrant's rule,
There are no tyrants where no cowards are;
The wise and strong must still protect the fool.
—Paul Derrick in London Times.

A BIT OF FUN

Jolt from the Bench.
The lawyer was wasting the time of the court, and, in the course of a long-winded speech, dwelt at unnecessary

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and Puds Simkins made up a good one to play on Pudes' easy cousin Persey this afternoon, me saying, Hay, Persey, did you know I can hipnotize people?

I don't believe it, sed Persey, and Puds sed, I didn't neither till he hipnotized me, hipnotize me soon, Benny.

Which I pretended to do, wiggling my fingers in front of his face and saying, how-legged thee, hipnotize, bucketty hop, hipnotop, 1, 2, 3. And Puds shut his eyes slow and wobbled his head around, and I sed, You are hipnotized, you are in my power hand and sole, I command you to turn into a top.

Which Puds started to do, turns around and around quick as anything waving his arms up and down and going, Buzz, buzz, buzz.

Aw, he's jost doing that, sed Persey, and I sed, The heck he is, he's hipnotized, and Persey sed, Well he ever saw a top with things waving up and down like that?

How do you know it ain't some kind of a top we don't know anything about, wen a persina hipnotized they know everything, I sed, if you don't believe he's hipnotized call him anything you want to and he won't pay any attention to you. Which jost then Puds stopped being a top on account of properly being dizzy, and I sed, go on Persey, call him something, and Persey sed, Hello, you pug nose tarpeedo. Which Puds stopped wobbling and said, his eyes is still shut, ain't they?

Go on, Persey, you may never get another chance, he can't hear you, I sed, and Persey sed, Go stick your head in the mud ware it belongs, you sed, and Puds opened his eyes mad as anything and jumped at Persey, and Persey ran down the street like the mischief, and around the corner with Puds after him, and I went in the house, thinking he might come back still mad if he didn't catch him.

length on the appearance of certain bags connected with the case.

"They might," he went on pompously, "they might have been full bags, or they might have been half-filled bags, or—"

"Or, perhaps," dryly interpolated the judge, "they might have been wind-bags."

Bess (rapturously)—See what a perfectly gorgeous gift Jack has sent me. It couldn't have cost a cent less than all he could borrow.

His Choice.

Doctor—You sleep too much. You must get up two hours earlier in the morning.

Patient—If it's all the same to you, Doctor, I think I'd prefer to retire two hours later.

"Look Up And Not Down."

Her neck has hurt.
To stop the breeze;
But she looks cold.
Below the knees.

Diagnosed.

He was a young doctor and he had been asked to break the news to the wife of the man who had been run over by an automobile.

"Is my husband really ill?" asked the lady.

"Altered, little run down," said the young doctor hopefully.

Onions are recommended as a cure for indigestion, but as yet no cure has been discovered for onions.

Both Wrong.

Two brothers were being entertained by a rich friend, and the black would have it, during the evening the talk drifted away from ordinary topics.

"Do you like Omar Khayyam?"

Here's
a Good Boot
for Winter Wear

Men's Box Calf
Blucher Bats

Calf Leather Lined, Worth
Cushion Insoles, Dampproof
Outsoles.

Price \$10.00

These are well made,
comfortable and service-
able boots.

Try a pair and learn what
comfort in cold weather is.

Foot
Fitters McROBBIE 80 King
Street

Clear Hardwood
Flooring

Douglas Fir Flooring
2-4 in.

Clear Maple Flooring.

All Good Stock.

FOR PRICES

Write or Phone

Main 2000.

MURRAY & GREGORY, Ltd.

Landing
100 Tons SHORTS

We Solicit Your Orders.

C. H. PETERS SONS, LIMITED

Peters' Wharf.

Canada Food Board License No. 1248.

Stores closed at 1 o'clock on Saturday, during January, February and March.



Weed Anti-Skid Chains

"The Necessary Accessory"

The only device that absolutely prevents skidding. Now is the time to put them on your car, they make it

100 Per Cent. Skid-Proof

A good assortment of sizes in stock.

T. M. AVITY & SONS, LTD.

The Investment Value of The Diamond

There's more than mere safety in the purchase of the Diamond today as prices are advancing steadily.

THE FINER SPECIMENS
only compose our extensive collection, of both mounted and unmounted stones, priced at figures representing

BEST POSSIBLE VALUES

FERGUSON & PAGE

Peerless Anti-Freeze Liquid Will Prevent Frozen Radiators

Do not drain your radiator or use substitutes.
On draught or in sealed gallon cans.

M. E. AGAR, — — — 51-53 Union St.
Phone Main 818. St. John, N. B.

The Union Foundry and Machine Works, Ltd.

Engineers and Machinists
Iron and Brass Castings. Phone West 15.
West St. John G. H. WARING, Manager.

ESTABLISHED 1870 Civil Engineer and Crown
GILBERT G. MURDOCH Land Surveyor
A. M. Can. Soc. C. E.
Surveys, Plans, Estimates, Superintendence, Blue Prints, Black Line
Prints, Maps of St. John and Surroundings.
74 Carmarthen Street, St. John

FIRE ESCAPES

Structural Steel, Bolts and Rods
WM. LEWIS & SON, ST. JOHN.

LEATHER BELTING

GENUINE ENGLISH OAK TANNED
IN STOCK
NOTE—FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT
SINGLE AND DOUBLE, ALL SIZES—ALSO
Lace Leather, Patent Belt Fasteners, Cotton Waste

D. K. McLAREN, LIMITED, — Manufacturers
Phone—1121. 90 GERMAIN STREET P. O. Box 702

ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

of Best Class.

FLEWELLING PRESS

Market Square.

OUR NEW TERM BEGINS

Thursday, January 2nd

Send for Catalogue.

S. Kerr,
Principal

The Christie Wood- working Co., Ltd.

186 Erin Street



We've just
to prote
in price ar

The Semi-ready Peace Benefit
quality far below the Cost Price
direct from the maker to the west
The "Label in the Pocket" of ev
the true sign of price superiority
prices every dollar is a gift.

Here are absolute savings:

SEMI-READY SUITS	
All sizes for tall men and short-stout men and thin.	
Worsted, Serges, Homespun, Tweeds, Irish Serges and Cheviots.	
Every suit fitted and finished to custom measures.	
18.00 Semi-ready Suits	\$15.00
20.00 Semi-ready Suits	\$16.00
25.00 Semi-ready Suits	20.00
28.00 Semi-ready Suits	23.00
30.00 Semi-ready Suits	25.00
35.00 Semi-ready Suits	28.00
40.00 Semi-ready Suits	32.00
50.00 Semi-ready Suits	40.00
SEMI-READY OVERCOATS AND ULSTERS	
\$25.00 Overcoats and Ulsters ..	\$20.00
28.00 Overcoats and Ulsters ..	23.00
30.00 Overcoats and Ulsters ..	25.00
35.00 Overcoats and Ulsters ..	28.00
38.00 Overcoats and Ulsters ..	31.00
40.00 Overcoats and Ulsters ..	32.00

The Semi-ready
King and C

MARITIME DENT

Enjoy life while it lasts. If you moment with one that is a continual source of pain to us and your mouth will experience and your face will have the clear

PEERLESS VULCO

FULL SET

\$8.00

PAINLESS EXTRACTION
Guaranteed Crown and Bridge
BROKEN PLATES REPAIRED
Fillings of all kinds. Free consultation.

DR. A. J. McKinnon
PHONE M. 2789-21.
Hours 9 a. m. to 9 p. m.

"ACAL Marine Gas Economical and Highly Recommended and PLACE YOUR ORDER P. CAMPBELL & CO., 73