

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1918.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—M. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

THREE APPOINTMENTS.

It was announced last evening that the Foster government had selected Mr. John A. Sinclair as chairman of the board to administer the Workmen's Compensation Act, James L. Sugrue as the representative of union labor on that board, and J. D. Pollard Lewis to be a member of the Board of School Trustees for the City of St. John in succession to Dr. James Manning, whose term has expired.

Two of these appointments came as something of a surprise to the public; the third was expected. For some time it has been reported that as a reward for political services rendered Mr. Sinclair would receive a position under the Foster government. His qualifications for the position of chairman of the compensation board remain to be demonstrated. That the government owed him some recognition cannot be denied, for in the last provincial election he carried the Fortitude banner in this city and ran at the foot of the poll. That, at least, should entitle him to something.

The appointment of Mr. Sugrue was a surprise, as it was generally expected that Sergeant G. P. Hennessy, a returned wounded soldier, who had seen much service as a member of the 28th Battalion, and enjoyed the endorsement of the Great War Veterans' Association and the majority of the labor unions, would be selected. Mr. Hennessy has not been prominent in politics but he possesses excellent qualifications for the office and his hosts of friends hoped he would be chosen. Mr. Sugrue has been closely identified with the Trades and Labor Council; in fact, he has said that for some time past the organization has been largely a reflection of his own activities. At the last election he supported the Foster government and was a familiar figure about "the lobby" of the legislature at the session recently closed. He was a member of the commission upon whose report the Compensation Act was largely framed.

Criticism of Mr. Sugrue's appointment will not be based upon his lack of qualification for the office he is called to fill, but upon the evidence his selection affords that the Foster government's professed concern for the welfare of the returned soldiers was not a sufficiently robust plant to stand the test of time. During the last election campaign members of that government stated from the platform that, other things being equal, the returned soldier would always have the preference for government employment. Similar expressions of tender solicitude were repeated from time to time through the Foster press, and it is true that a dozen returned soldiers were selected to do guard duty around the legislative buildings. In the present case, where there was a position worth while to be filled, there were two candidates, Sergt. George P. Hennessy, a returned soldier, and Mr. Sugrue, a labor agitator. Their qualifications of ability and character were at least equal. Sergt. Hennessy had been wounded in the service of his country and had a creditable war record; Mr. Sugrue's "battling" had been largely in the interests of the Postersites. Yet the agitator was selected and the soldier rejected. Returned soldiers generally cannot fail to note and remember the circumstance.

It may also be recalled that the Foster government's course in selecting its board is in distinct contrast to that followed by the late Government in naming the men to examine the compensation legislation in Nova Scotia and Ontario and frame improving amendments to measures then on the provincial statute books. In the appointment of that commission politics did not count; the chairman was Mr. F. J. G. Knowlton, once a candidate for election in opposition to the Government. Mr. Sugrue and Mr. Daley were named as representatives of union labor and other members were Mr. J. B. Cadilh and Mr. L. W. Gilman. The politics of these gentlemen was not enquired into but at least the board held two members opposed to the government of the day. The work the commission was appointed to do was well done. The appointment of the men to administer the act based on the report of that commission has been made a matter of political patronage. In this Premier Foster and his colleagues were guilty of a serious error.

Mr. J. D. Pollard Lewis may make an excellent member of the School Board of this city but we fear his selection to succeed Dr. James Manning is but another case of patronage. As a school trustee Dr. Manning had given fine service and there were also most substantial reasons why he merited the consideration of a government voluntarily pledged to the

and Italy. If London was the terminal of such railway connection it would be of inestimable value to the British capital. Sir Francis Fox predicts that travelers from London will be able through the medium of the tunnel to reach distant parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa by railway travel alone.

A BIT OF VERSE

VAE VICTORI.

(From a Little People.)
At your decree we die or live,
Our goods are yours to burn or bind,
Our honor, which we would not give,
You can not take. Ah! fools and blind.

What conquest wins you innocence,
What mastery a heart unstained?
Your power is but impotence,
Your gain—what is it you have gained?

What though your ships should ride
The seas,
Your armies sweep from tide to tide?
Man lives by higher things than these,
You shall go back unassailed.

And not tomorrow or today
The scales are set, the balance told;
They still have judgment, who betray
Their Christ for glory or for gold.

A BIT OF FUN

War Sharpened His Wits.

Tommy (just off train with considerable luggage)—Cabby how much is it for me to Latchford?
Cabby—Two shillings, sir.
Tommy—How much for my luggage?
Cabby—Free, sir.
Tommy—Take the luggage—I'll walk.

Knew His Business.

"As you never work, Sponger, don't understand why you take such interest in trade reports."
"Well, when other men are prosperous I find it easier to make a touch."

The Busy Season.

"What are you going to talk about in your next speech?"
"I'm not going to make any speeches during the next week or so," replied Senator Sogham. "There is so much regular work to be done that if I was to get a crowd together to stand around and listen to talk I wouldn't have any respect for my audience and my audience wouldn't have any respect for me."—Washington Star.

Sensitive Soul.

Hobo—Now that I've jined yer mission, Mister, I suppose you'll provide me wit' lodgin' till I gets a job?
Mission Worker—I'm sorry, brother, but the present state of our finances makes it impossible.
Hobo (angrily)—Den I resign, I ain't goin' ter have me friends pointin' me out as a good-for-nothin'.

DISTILLERS IN KENTUCKY

Prohibition is not frightening distillers in Kentucky as it did. The situation has not changed, nor is there any less doubt that the State will go dry when the wet and dry question is put to a vote. But here is the reason: "Eight months ago every distiller in Kentucky was steeped in gloom over the prospect of what appeared after ruin as the result of the enforced closing of distillery plants and the aggressive advance of the prohibition movement. Today practically every big distiller or holder of whiskey has become a millionaire by reason of the advance in the price of whiskey."

"About two years ago in Louisville alone have entered the millionaire class as the result of this situation which embraces an advance in the price of whiskey since Sept. 1 of last year to the present time of approximately \$2.50 a gallon.

"One Louisville firm had 50,000 barrels when the rise in price began. Whether they have held all of it to the present time is not known, but if they did they now have a profit of approximately \$2,500,000. Another firm is said to have had 25,000 barrels. This would represent a profit of \$2,337,500. Five other firms are said to have had holdings aggregating 100,000 barrels, and it is thought that all of them have held on. These five firms would show profits of \$2,250,000 each, or a total profit of the five of \$11,250,000.

"There were many dealers referred to as 'small fry,' who holding from 150

to 300 barrels, which is considered a very small amount of whiskey, have 'cleaned up' from \$10,000 to \$20,000 each.

Five Dollars a Gallon in the Barrel. "The holdings of the men and firms referred to whose names cannot be given because the exact statistics of their holdings could not be secured from them, aggregating approximately 300,000 barrels of forty-seven gallons each, or 14,100,000 gallons, on which they have cleared or stand to clear \$35,350,000. Many of them are still holding on to their goods, with the expectation of even higher prices.

"One interest in close touch with the whiskey situation has expressed the opinion that whiskey prices will advance to \$5 a gallon in the barrel. "Whiskey that is retailing today for \$2.50 a quart, sold last summer at 85 cents a quart. The Government tax was raised \$2.10 a gallon, and this caused a rise in the retail price, but prior to Sept. 1, 1917, there appeared no reason to expect an advance in whiskey. In fact, for several years prior to 1917 whiskey stocks were piling up at such a rate that distillers were much discouraged and steps were taken during 1915 and 1916 to curtail production.

"Upon the top of this came the project of the Government to close down distilleries to conserve grain. (Gloom was thick in the whiskey circles of Kentucky. But the worst was yet to come in the adoption by Congress of the national prohibition amendment. When the blow landed and the 'victim' had settled down to take his medicine, there began to creep in a ray of hope. It came in a way that might have been expected, but that was not except by a few distillers and dealers. There began immediately an accumulation on the part of the public which was reflected by increasing withdrawals of whiskey from bond.

"This has increased steadily and indications are that it will continue. Many indications which have been accustomed to buying whiskey as they needed it for family use have laid in a supply.

"When the law closing distilleries went into effect it was estimated there was a supply which would last for approximately two years, but at the present rate of withdrawal, it is estimated the supply will scarcely last a year. During March there was withdrawn from bond more than 10,000,000 gallons. It is estimated that whiskey in bond losses approximately 25 per cent. in volume. It is put into the warehouses at 47 cents to the barrel, but a reduction of 25 per cent in evaporation would cut a big figure in the total supply.

"About Sept. 1 last year, the average price of whiskey in bond ranged from 50 to 60 cents. Later in the fall the price rose to 85 cents and then to \$1. At this point many distillers were inclined to sell. The price moved up easily to \$1.12. Then early this year it began to jump. The next move was to \$1.50, then \$1.75 and then \$2. It hung around that price for several weeks, then jumped to \$2.60. The price now is quoted at \$3.05 a gallon.

"The consumer has been called upon to settle the bill and pay the profits the distillers are making. Over the bar consumers are getting less for their money. Whiskey that formerly was served at 100 proof is now diluted to 85 proof, and lower."

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE, CLOTHES.
Clothes are what you have to wear to keep yourself warm and comfortable. Its all rise to be born without any, but the rest of the time they're more respectable.
We wear more in summer than winter. And we wear more awake than asleep. And there generally a grade deal of difference between the ones we give away and we keep.
Some things we wear are necessities. Such as overcoats and shirts. With others are luxuries. Such as powder on n-ces of ferts.
You can tell by what a person wears just what he generally does. Therefore it begets you all dress suits they would have to waste too much time 'xplaining what they wear.
Animals dont wear clothes at all. Being satisfied with their hair, and so wood people too, maybe, if they had it everyware.

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