

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 25 Prince William Street.
St. John, N. B., Canada.
H. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor.
ALFRED E. MCINLEY, Editor.
Yearly Subscriptions: \$5.00
By Mail: \$3.00
Semi-Weekly By Mail: \$1.00
Semi-Weekly To United States: \$2.00
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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 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 Fortinberry 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 George P. Hennessy, a returned wounded soldier, who had seen much service as a member of the 26th 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, it may be said that for some time that 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 Fortinberry 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, Sergeant George P. Hennessy, a returned soldier, and Mr. Sugrue, a labor agitator. Their qualifications of ability and good character were at least equal. Sergeant 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 Fortinberry. 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. Oedip and Mr. L. W. Shinn. 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 partisanship. 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

returned soldier. Beyond the military age himself, he has, nevertheless, given three sons to his country. One has been killed, another wounded and a third is still "carrying on." But to offset all this Dr. Manning was a supporter of the former Government and was therefore marked for the axe.

Premier Foster and his colleagues and supporters have not strengthened themselves in St. John by their determination to subordinate all else to the most sordid political partisanship, the partisanship that could reject a soldier for an agitator and ignore war service while recognizing political affiliation. It will be some time before the selections announced in last evening's newspapers are forgotten by the people of this constituency who will now await with keen interest the government's action in connection with the demanded retirement of the police magistrate and the selection of his successor. It is rumored in some circles that the Foster government does not dare to make a change in the local police court and in others that W. J. Mahoney, also a Foster candidate at one time, has the promise of the position. We shall see what materiality that promise holds.

THE WAR NEWS.

The news from the western front continues to be most satisfactory. Last night's reports told of further advances by the British, French and Canadians, further heavy casualties inflicted on the Germans and a very large toll of prisoners, estimated in the last London bulletin to reach 20,000. While the measure of German resistance is stiffening the onrush of the Allied troops has not yet been checked, position after position falling into their hands with most encouraging regularity.

It is not to be expected, however, that the success will continue indefinitely at the same rate as reported during the past two or three days. Somewhere in their retreat the Germans must reach prepared positions much more formidable than anything they have left and, so encircled, they will be able at least to hold the Allied advanced lines for a time. But it is the general opinion that the enemy can make no sustained resistance to such a mighty force as has been gathered behind Foch, Haig, Petain and Pershing.

Reports from Russia continue indefinite and the situation involving Britain and the Soviet government has not developed. The Bolshevik foreign minister declares that his government has not actually declared war on England but that Bolshevik troops will oppose the Czech-Slovak movement and in doing so may come into conflict with British troops. Such a development would be most unfortunate for the Bolshevik soldiers as the Allied forces now in Russia are in no mood for trifling but are determined to carry out their policy no matter what result.

Reports of the activities of enemy submarines off the Atlantic coast continue in circulation but lack of definite news from official sources indicates that such rumors are not well founded. It is assured that adequate measures have been taken to guard the Atlantic coasts and to protect shipping in coastal waters and there is no cause for alarm.

AN OLD PROJECT REVIVED.

The project for the construction of a tunnel under the English Channel, which has been for years under consideration has been revived. Representatives of the Allied nations have approved of the plan and French and Italian delegates at the International Parliamentary Conference in London voted in favor of commencing operations at the earliest opportunity. The progress made by engineering science brings the Channel tunnel well within the realm of possibility and it is no longer regarded as a visionary scheme.

Sir Francis Fox, builder of the Simplon Tunnel and of similar great works, is one of the promoters of the project. In a recent address upon the subject he said that the value of such an underground passage between England and France could be realized when it is considered how strongly instrumental it would have been in the transportation of troops. It would have saved wounded from the danger and the suffering of the water route; it would have brought immunity from the peril of mines and submarines in the line of communication between England and the continent.

The Allies are already forming plans to direct travel and traffic by the Orient Railway through Germany and Austria to the railroads across France

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 unsatisfied.

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.

The fruits of victory are sweet—
Ride on to reap your just reward!
Ride on in arrogance and boast
The Angel with the flaming sword!
—P. H. B. L.

A BIT OF FUN

War Sharpened His Wits.

Tommy (just off train with considerable luggage)—Cabby how much is it for me to Letchford?
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, I 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 Sordham. "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.
"About twenty men in Louisville ain't got 'er have me friends point 'em out as a good-for-nothin'."—John Smith.

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Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

CLOTHES.

Clothes are wat you haff to ware
To keep yourself warm and correctable.
Its all rite to be born without any,
But the rest of the time theyre more respectable.

We ware more in summr than wintir.
And we ware more awake than asleep.
And theres genelly a grate deal of diffrance
Between the ones we give away and we keep.

Some things we ware are necessites,
Sutch as overcoats and sherts,
Vile others are ony luxuries
Sutch as powder on n-ses of beris.

You can tell by wat a jorin wares
Jest wat he genolly does,
Therefore it begeres youe all dress spects
They would haff to waste too much time 'xplaining wat they was.

Animals dont ware clothes at all,
Being satisfied with their hair,
And so wood people too, maybe,
If they had it everyware.

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 14,000,000 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 were previous to 1917 whiskey stocks were advanced to \$5 a gallon in the barrel.

"Whiskey that is retelling today for \$250 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 "whim" 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 loses approximately 25 per cent. in volume. It is put into the warehouses 47 tons 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. In fact, that price for several weeks, then jumped to \$2.50. 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."

"One Louisville firm had 30,000 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 \$3,500,000. Another firm is said to have had 25,000 barrels. Their profits would be \$5,575,000. Another old distillery in Louisville is said to have had 25,000 barrels. These five firms would show profits of \$2,500,000 each, or a total profit of \$12,500,000.

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