

The St. John Standard

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LORD BEAVERBROOK.

It is gratifying to note that among those men of high position in the Canadian Imperial Government, the name of Lord Beaverbrook frequently appears. Whether or not he eventually becomes Secretary of State for the Colonies, as has been suggested, it is pleasing to note that his splendid accomplishments of the past few years have won such recognition on the part of the British Press. It is, too, a striking commentary on conditions in England today that this acknowledgment of his efforts disregards the fact that his greater activities have been toward the well-being of Canada, which country has received the major portion of his attention.

Since going to England some years ago, Lord Beaverbrook has been more or less of a public figure, and while he has actively participated in public affairs in the Old Country he has remained at all times a staunch friend of Canada and has devoted his time and his means to advocating the interests of this Dominion on the other side. In Imperial affairs he has been engaged in a number of notable undertakings. He was Director General of Great Britain's War Loan Campaign of 1916, which proved such a resounding success. He carried that campaign practically on his own shoulders through the exceptional organization which he was able to devise. Because of his successful work in the Canadian War Records Office, he was asked to organize a London office and carry out the same work for England as he had done for Canada. His propaganda in favor of this Dominion thus led to his appointment as Minister of Information for Britain and in that position he was able to offset in Italy the German campaign which had brought about the defeat of the Italian army in 1917. Having accomplished this without much fuss he turned his attention to the United States and it is due to his efforts here that the fiercest and most freely expressed in the United States towards England has been to such a large extent overcome and a really friendly feeling engendered. Lord Beaverbrook's work in this respect came to an end with the cessation of hostilities and as he had been in poor health for some time he has since resigned his office and gone to his home in England. His resignation of the post of Minister of Information for Britain has been a great relief to the Canadian people, who have been able to see in his place a man who is a worker who understands the business of organization to a very marked degree.

Yet, even while engaged in these various Imperial undertakings, Lord Beaverbrook has perhaps been the most efficient of all Canadian representatives in the United States. He has been in the United States since the spring of 1915 when he was appointed Canadian Representative in France, and Military Eye-Witness with Lieutenant General Alderson at headquarters of the First Canadian Division. During the Ypres campaign he wrote and supplied to the press all possible information regarding the second battle of Ypres, which information later formed the basis of the book, "Canada in Flanders." At another time, as Canadian Representative, his office was with General Headquarters at St. Omer. In the winter of 1915-1916 he organized the Canadian War Records Office in London, having been appointed officer in charge. This institution has become one of the greatest of the kind imaginable. It acts as the military archives for Canada in preserving and co-ordinating the war diaries of each Canadian unit in the field. It administers the activities of all official Canadian photographers and artists, produces all Canadian literature, both historical and for propaganda purposes. In the spring of 1917 a branch of this office was established at general headquarters and afterwards at headquarters of the Canadian Corps. Some sixty artists have been employed by this office to make permanent scenes and incidents as are of importance, as forming part of Canadian records in the war. It has purchased such historical pictures as were available in England and elsewhere for the use of this nation after the war. This particular branch of the work has been accomplished through a subsidiary organization known as the Canadian War Memorial Fund. This fund has been created without one cent of expenditure on the part of Canada and has in addition to preserving the pictorial records referred to, conducted a series of exhibitions in London and in all large towns in England since early in 1916. By means of these exhibitions and by the literature which has been sent out through the War Records Office, Canada has secured throughout Britain such advertising, as money could not buy under other circumstances. It was because of the marked success of this work that Lord Beaverbrook was asked to undertake, and has for some time been engaged in carrying on, a similar work for the Imperial Government.

During the early part of the war, when Canada's troops first went across, it was the desire of Lord Beaverbrook that those forces should be

merged with the forces from Britain and other portions of the Empire. There was in this way the certainty of lost identity, but Lord Beaverbrook, through the influence which he enjoyed at that time was able—and his efforts have been publicly recognized in this respect—to preserve the identity of the First Canadian Division. This was achieved in 1915, and because of the policy then adopted as a result of his efforts, succeeding Canadian divisions have retained their own identity as well. In this way Canadian troops have formed a unit in the Imperial army instead of being lost as individuals or as separate regiments in the general mass.

Lord Beaverbrook has been a worker not only along the lines mentioned, but in innumerable personal affairs which have been referred to him by Canadians at home or overseas. He has interested himself in the well-being of every person and every thing touching on Canada, and it is the success which has attended his efforts in this direction, as well as the accomplishments to his credit in Imperial affairs, that places him in such an enviable position politically today.

SCHOOL FINANCES.

The Board of School Trustees of the City of St. John will apply to the Legislature at the approaching session for a further increase in the assessment. The amount now asked for is \$50,000 additional, which will permit the Board, through City Hall, to assess for \$275,000 for school purposes, in addition to whatever amounts may be required for sinking fund, coupon interest and repairs. At the present time the assessment over and above these three items is \$225,000 but at the end of June the Board faced an overdraft of \$88,000, which cannot possibly be reduced under the present assessment, but which on the contrary is liable to be decidedly increased from year to year.

The last application made by the Trustees for a similar advance of \$50,000, but this was opposed by the City and a compromise, raising the assessment from \$200,000 to \$225,000, was reached. It is thus clear that in spite of the City's opposition, the Board has found it impossible to reduce expenditures to any appreciable extent and that although the amount of increase asked was not granted at that time, it must come eventually in order to wipe out the existing overdraft and to provide for necessary future expenditures. It is believed that by continuing along the lines now followed, the Board may be able for the next few years with an increased assessment of \$50,000 to carry on its work as well as to materially reduce the existing debt. But even the increase now asked for will not permit such expansion and such additional expenditure as many in the community believe necessary or advisable. Requests have been received from members of the teaching staff for increases in salaries, which increases, it is generally admitted, are more than deserved. The amounts asked for by the male teachers would aggregate \$5,700 per year; while the advances asked by the female teachers would total \$19,500 per year, making an addition of more than \$25,000 to the yearly bill. This, in itself, is a greater sum than the Board will be able to afford, even if it secures the \$50,000 additional now requested, because in the year which has just ended, there has been expended some \$40,000 more than was voted. If the expenditures remain during the coming year exactly as in the past year, the overdraft will be increased, by \$15,000 according to present indications, and it is to avoid this, as well as to meet abnormal conditions, that the additional assessment is desired.

From the history of the past fifteen or twenty years it is apparent that even under the judicious management of our school board, it is impossible to carry on this work in a satisfactory manner at any less expenditure than has been made, and deferring the increases asked for from time to time only serves to pile up the indebtedness which the community must eventually face. There is, of course, some slight cause of friction in the fact that the school assessment for St. John is beyond the power of the city authority and is controlled by the Legislature, but it is extremely doubtful whether, even with direct civic control, any saving whatever could be made. Certainly this supposition is not justified by the records of civic departments.

WHAT THEY SAY

No Waste Will Be Allowed. Chicago Tribune. This is no time for anyone to advocate the scrapping of property worth many millions of dollars, when, if destroyed it must be immediately replaced by nations already burdened with armament costs. It would be a sad confession indeed, to admit that the allies are not sufficiently masters of their own armaments to be able to distribute these German fleet units among themselves in peace and fraternity. Preserve the fleet. Let the delegates at Versailles say what shall be done with it. But too much valuable shipping has already been sunk to justify anyone proposing now to sink millions more. This is

an era of saving, not of ruthless destruction.

Feeding the Hungry.

Indianapolis News: One of Mr. Hoover's duties is to find out what, if anything, is needed by the Germans. The stories in regard to conditions in the central empires are conflicting. One thing is certain, however, and that is that it would be very bad policy to allow Bolshevism to spread in Europe. Vast amounts of food will have to be provided by this country. There should be no delay in the matter of distribution. Sound statesmanship as well as humanity demand this. The question of raw materials can wait.

The Colored Fighters.

New Orleans Times-Picayune: During the early years of the war a strong demand went up from many quarters for reinforcement of the Allied forces by the bringing of Japanese soldiers to Europe; and as many as half a million was mentioned as being available for this purpose. There was opposition to this plan from several sources, and while Japan was asked to send to Siberia it was not asked to help in Europe. Colored troops were brought to Europe because of the necessity for early action, but this force was reduced from time to time and formed only a fraction of the big army in France when peace came. The explanation seems to have been that most of the countries involved in the struggle found they could get the men they needed, and secured better results from an army that was more homogeneous than the very composite force of the earlier operations.

Known by His Friends.

London Daily Mail: About Mr. Lloyd George's own aims and purposes we have no doubt whatever. The two things in political life for which he craves most are the love of his country and a desire to help the underdog. So said Mr. Bonar Law, and we believe he spoke truly. But we desire to be assured, and the elections must be enabled to make certain, that the men who will surround Mr. Lloyd George in the next Parliament are men who are of the same mind as himself. The soldiers, too, would like to know whom they are voting for. Mr. Lloyd George they know and believe in, but who are to be the men in his new cabinet? He has a weakness for discredited politicians. Many of them unfortunately have "safe seats." Are they to come back again into the new government to carry out the new policy? This is a time for letting in the new forces which have been developing during the war, and the Premier should choose his cabinet accordingly. It is a dangerous thing which he is doing to bring back into the government men who have been discredited during the war, and the Premier should choose his cabinet accordingly. It is a dangerous thing which he is doing to bring back into the government men who have been discredited during the war, and the Premier should choose his cabinet accordingly.

Preparedness.

Cincinnati Official Journal—United States training for preparedness, heretofore called military training, is bound to command the serious thought, consideration, and action of the American people in the very near future. It is thought that one of the results of the successful conclusion of the world war, by the allies and the United States, will be a league of nations, the avowed purpose of which is to prevent future world wars—that is, that the league of nations will protect any member of this league of nations, large or small, against an armed invasion by any other nation.

Seeds Must Be Rooted Up.

Boston Globe—It appears to be the intention of the League of Nations, Europe as well as in America that for a permanent peace all that is necessary is to pulverize Germany. That is a dangerous illusion which President's policies are expressly designed to dispel. Such persons mistake effect for cause. It is not the fruit of war that must be eradicated, but the seeds of war, and these are not confined to Germany. They are sown all through our social structure. And the League of Nations, which is often spoken of as an end in itself, is merely a means.

A BIT OF VERSE

AT AN EARTHWORKS. (John Drinkwater in the English Review)

Ringed high with turf the arena lies,
The towering mounds unseen, unheard,
Here are but unhorized skies,
And on the skies a passing bird.

The cones and a wandering sheep,
The castings of the chambered mole,
These, and the haunted years that keep
Lost agonies of blood and soul.

They say that in the midnight moon
The ghastly legions gather yet,
And hear a ghastly timbre-tune,
And see a ghastly combat met.

These are but yeoman's tales. And here
No marvel on the midnight falls,
But starlight marvellously clear,
Being girdled in these shadowy walks.

Yet now strange blooms of anemone
Creep on me through this morning light,
Some spectral self is seeking me,
I will not parley with the night.

LORRAINE.

(Lines written by Robert Chambers in 1897.)
When yesterday shall dawn again,
And the long line athwart the thrill,
Thine own shall come to thee, Lorraine!

Thou in each vineyard, vale and plain,
The quiet dead shall stir the earth
And rise new-born, in thy new birth,
Thou holy martyr-maid, Lorraine!

Is it vain the sweet tears stain
Thy mother's breast? Her caressed
Is lifted now! God guide her quest!
She seeks thine own for thee, Lorraine!

So yesterday shall live again,
And the steel line along the Rhine
Shall curvate thee and all that's thine.
France! live thy France—divine
Lorraine!

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

The other nite I had such a fearsome tooth ache in one tooth it felt as if all the other teeth was catching it, waking up with it and not being able to go to sleep again from it, and I went down stairs in my pajamers and who was wawking up and down the 2nd story hall in his pajamers but pop, holding his face with one hand and going, Owch, O good nite, owch.

O pop, have you got one too? I sed.

One, too, sed pop, I've got one 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, owch, owch, hohy smokes, this is fearsome.

I bet it aint any fearsome than mine, pop, I sed. And I started to wawk up and down the hall with him, both holding our face in our pidjammes.

Do you think this will make it any better, pop? I sed, and he sed, It can't make it any worse, that's a cinch.

It can't make mine any, either, I sed. Wich it couident, and we kept on wawking, me saying, wats yours feel like pop, does it feel like a hammer hammering? and pop saying, No, it feels more like a pile driver shooting up a town, and me saying, mine feels more like a hammer hammering. And we kept on wawking up and down the hall in our pidjammers making noises, pop saying Ill take you over to the dentist and if the blame things here after that they cant hurt anybody but themselves. And after a while we both went back to bed and in the morning my face felt like it genrally feels, and pop was in the bathroom shaving, his face, me saying, How is it now, pop?

Never better, never as good, hows yours? sed pop, and I sed Fifo, wat time we going to the dentists?

Perhaps we better wait a little while for fear of worrying your mother, sed pop, Ill let you know wen Im redy.

Well he hasent yet.

A BIT OF FUN

When the cat is away the mice have one swell time.

Where there's a will there's a way, a scamp among the heirs.

Such an Inquisitive Woman.

Hub—Who is that letter from?

Wife—What do you want to know for?

Hub—There you go. "What do I want to know for?" I declare if I ever met that most inquisitive woman I ever met.

Alternative.

Wife—Richard, are we going to the Bank's dance or not? If we are, it's time for me to dress. If not, I must put a mustard plaster on my chest and go straight to bed.

The Reason For It.

During the early days of the war an old reservist sergeant was out on musketry exercise, range finding, etc., with a new batch of recruits, and, pointing out a large house, and giving the range, he inquired if any of them could pick out any details about the house. "Oh, yes," answered one man, promptly. "There's a small well in the garden, some lumps of coal in a heap, and a bird cage in the front window." "Well," said the sergeant, "you have remarkable eyesight. What's your name and number? How far can you see so well at that distance?" "Oh," calmly replied the recruit, "that happens to be where I'm billeted."

His Trade.

Warder: "You will have to work here, Moriarty, but you may select any trade you wish."

Prisoner: "Well, if it's all the same to you, sorr, Old like to be a sailor."

Little Hazel had attended a church christening and upon her return home her grandmother asked her what they did. "Nothing much," replied Hazel, "except wash a little kid's hair."

A Jolly man always finds himself in good company.

Relationship.

"Is she his first wife?"

"Well, as he married her again after divorcing her, she is what you might call his first wife once removed."

Similarly.

"Bones are like trees."

Said one in jest.

"It's when they leave."

We like them best.

Some men think it is necessary to make fools of themselves every time they have the opportunity.

Too True.

"There are lots of receipts for getting fat."

"Well?"

"But the surest way I know is to go to a butcher shop and buy a piece of meat. You'll get nearly all fat."

New York, Jan. 4.—The French Line mail ship, which sailed today, carried a battalion of Poles, numbered 1,554 men, recruited in America for the Polish army.

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SOLDIERS' SOCIAL.

About one hundred soldiers, including six who had arrived on the steamer Tanian, on Saturday, and are stopping over in this city, attended the regular Sunday night soldiers' social at St. David's Church last night. Mrs. J. M. Barnes presided at the piano and rendered the accompaniment for several delightful solos by Miss Cline. Later Private Hancock played for the songs in which the men heartily joined. Refreshments were served later and a regular St. David's night was enjoyed.

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