

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 52 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.

THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY

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 Freeman & Co.,, 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1919.

LANCASTER EXTENSION.

No one at City Hall disputes the statements made by residents of Lancaster as to the security of water in that section. Such hesitation as appears in connection with the proposed extension of the thirty-six inch main to Spruce Lake is on the ground of expense. Very naturally some of the commissioners feel that they are not justified in authorizing an outlay of more than three hundred thousand dollars in order to accommodate a few residents outside the city limits. This hesitation is increased by an impression that property values in the whole territory served will be very greatly enhanced by the introduction of an adequate water supply and that for this reason if for no other those property owners should be prepared to contribute generously to the maintenance of such a service. The Commissioner of Water and Sewerage also regrets that the pulp mill people have not come forward with an attractive proposition. The amount of money which can be secured from that industry in the form of an annual income is a very small portion of what will be required in the way of interest charges, and the management of the pulp mill will not guarantee even this limited payment for any extended period. This is a matter which need not necessarily block the whole proposal. If the pulp mill management is not prepared to pay a reasonable price for the most necessary item in their work, they are not entitled to first consideration. And it is inconceivable that a large number of private residents contributing to the city's revenue on the same basis as either users of water should be deprived of that water in order that a non-profitable customer may benefit. Better far to reduce the quantity supplied the pulp mill and divert the flow to residential districts. Lancaster is beyond the city limits and persons residing there who pay taxes only in the county are in the unfortunate position of having to ask St. John for something which this city is not bound to supply. Yet since we do many things which we are not compelled to do in order that the community may expand and enjoy a reasonable degree of comfort, it is only fair that the most favorable consideration should be given these out-of-town residents in their appeal. The Standard has always been in favor of the so-called Lancaster extension even at a cost of three hundred thousand, as it will undoubtedly prove an incentive to building operations in that delightful locality and will as well greatly improve the entire west side water supply. It means an additional burden of eighteen thousand per year at the very least on the ratepayers of the city, but by a readjustment of water rates in the outside districts much of this might be raised, while new buildings will undoubtedly provide an ever-increasing revenue. The request of the Lancaster people should be favorably considered, not so much because of any just claims which those people have, but rather from the standpoint of our own interests in encouraging development in that direction.

HELPING THE SOLDIERS.

A committee of prominent educationists chosen at the conference of Canadian university heads held in May last has prepared a memorandum to the federal government on the question of extending aid for educational purposes to returned soldiers. The proposal now outlived appears very moderate indeed and if those responsible for it are correct in their forecast of probable results the comparatively small expenditure involved should prove a sound investment. It is shown that among those who enlisted for overseas service there are numbers of young men who at the time of enlistment had planned a college education and others who had actually commenced that work. Among these a certain portion were but poorly equipped financially, and they, quite naturally, by one means or another during their term of service, expended whatever funds they might have accumulated or which might have been available for the continuation of their university course. Now they are at home, still with the desire to enjoy the benefits of a college training, but deprived to a certain measure of the financial advantages which might have been theirs had they remained at home. It is now proposed that, subject to investigation by properly constituted authorities, such men as were in course or had arranged their college careers shall be assisted by the federal government in securing that education. The plan is to loan sufficient means for the purchase of books and other supplies; to make in each case a gift of roughly the total amount of the college fees, together with ten dollars per week living expenses for that portion of the first year during which the student is required to be in attendance at college. For the second and succeeding years in the course the same amount of money is to be advanced annually in the form of a loan. In con-

sideration of the gift of the first year's expenses and the advance covering supplies and expenses of subsequent years, the student is required to furnish satisfactory security for the repayment, within a reasonable time, of that advance. The personal conditions suggested are that all prospective students must be under thirty years of age, that application to the responsible authorities be made within six months after discharge, and that the extension of assistance from time to time shall depend upon the reports received from the college authorities touching the ability and ambition of the student in question.

HOSPITAL WORK.

Statements which have recently appeared in certain city newspapers may have created an impression that interest in the comfort and well-being of invalid soldiers is not as deep as formerly. This belief should not prevail, for the various military hospitals throughout New Brunswick, and certainly those in the vicinity of St. John, are still the objects of unremitting attention on the part of patriotic workers. The suggestion that auto owners devote the service of their cars to the soldiers should not lead to the supposition that patients at military hospitals here do not enjoy motor rides and outings of that nature. The Provincial Red Cross is still active in this regard, and twice a week with unfailing regularity all the soldiers at Lancaster and East St. John who are able to be out are taken for rides around the country. These cars are hired by the Red Cross and last month's bill for this one item amounted to \$108. The Red Cross furnishes slippers, toilet articles, bedroom slippers, flowers, and all the other numerous incidentals which go to make hospital existence less monotonous. In addition, the Knights of Columbus and Y. W. P. A. have their visiting committees who pay weekly or semi-weekly visits to the hospitals, bringing comforts for the men, and spending money every day on little extras which the government does not provide. They are, in short, caring for the invalid soldiers just as conscientiously as at any time during the period of the war. Of course anything more that can be done will be appreciated, but the inference which might be drawn from statements recently published is unfair to those patriotic workers who have been for so long devoting their time and their means to this splendid work.

BUILDING IN HALIFAX.

Rentals in Halifax are higher than in St. John, houses are equally difficult to secure, and construction costs are certainly not any lower. Yet, apart altogether from the ocean terminals, the new shipyard and the Reconstruction Committee's work, building permits in the Nova Scotian capital are running about one hundred thousand dollars per month, which is a great deal more than in St. John. The bulk of this is made up by the construction of residential properties for private use or for rental. Apparently the people of Halifax who have a little money of their own are not so conservative about spending it as are our own folk.

The Province of Nova Scotia, too, is suffering from the non-application of the federal grant for better housing. In fact this grant is so far as Eastern Canada is concerned does not appear to be working out to the best advantage. The conditions applying to it were evidently formulated at the suggestion of Upper Canadian Committees who may understand the situation in their own province, but who apparently do not realize that a different state of affairs exists down here, and that homes and conditions of living are not everywhere the same. We in New Brunswick are finding difficulty in harmonizing the requirements of the federal government and the wishes of prospective home builders. In Nova Scotia politics interfere as well, and the failure of the people to take advantage of the opportunity offered is even more striking than in our own province. Yet if private building operations continue as at present the scarcity of houses will be overcome without any long continued delay.

KING SQUARE.

The Standard does not wish to criticize unjustly, but in view of the opportunities to our hand, the appearance of King Square, the one beauty spot which this city possesses, is scarcely what it should be. Maybe this is an off year for flowers. Perhaps there has been some difficulty in preparing the beds or setting out the plants, or possibly the shallow soil has become unproductive. Whatever the reason may be, while the grass is

beautifully green and seemingly well cared for, the flower beds are not at their best. Here and there are little patches of sickly-looking plants, withered geraniums, dusty phlox, with only sufficient bloom to indicate their possibilities. The whole effect, apart from the green, is rather disappointing, and having in mind the many thousands who spend only on King Square their occasional hours of relaxation, it would seem not unwise for the city next year to appropriate whatever further small amount of money may be necessary to improve the appearance of the garden.

WHAT THEY SAY

Plans Upset.
 New York Herald: Not only Congressional but Presidential plans have been upset by Mr. H. Cost of Living. Members of the House and Senate planned to see their constituents and secure their fences, while the President attempted of the Tammany boss to make the great post of justice the supreme court of New York a piece of political soap.

Tammany's Impudence.
 New York Times: Justice Newburgh performs a capital public service in accepting a renunciation from the Republican party and in consenting to run on an independent ticket and to accept the support of other organizations determined to resent the impudent attempt of the Tammany boss to make the great post of justice the supreme court of New York a piece of political soap.

Bela Kun's Oeuvre.
 New York Tribune: So it is farewell to Bela Kun, the patent medicine man who has been destroying what the war left of Hungary. Six months of dictatorship was all Budapest was able to endure, and among those hounding the adventurous quack out of the country was the president of the Hungarian Soviet organization.

The Dispute Over Wheat.
 New York World: Eastern editors and politicians throw the blame for the high cost of living upon the wheat price guarantee, established to protect the farmer from the war. Western Senators say that the wheat crop is short of the anticipated figure and that world scarcity keeps prices high—but most Western men know something about wheat.

A Bolshevik Plot.
 New York World: Eastern editors and politicians throw the blame for the road programme. Nobody need doubt that the already abused and outraged American people are sweating traffic rates and taxes to pay railway wages would pulverize any government, any party, any organization that tried to press their Soviet committee railroad programme to action. But everybody may well grieve, everybody may be sick with shame, that at such a time as this, when the eyes of the world are turned to America for clear political light, for shining economic sanity and for sound business vision; when the eyes of the world are turned to America for leadership and endeavor, for guiding moral example, brazen politics should splotter that Bolshevik plot upon the legislative branch of the United States government.

An Insolent Demand.
 Boston Globe: The attempt of the railroad brotherhoods to dictate by the threat of a strike and a resulting paralysis of business, the legislation of Congress on the subject of the return of the railways to their owners, is a proposition for that sort of political "direct action" by labor organizations which is of the essence of I. W. W.-ism and Bolshevism. It is a proposition to replace the power of the Congress and the executive of the United States with that of an organization which represents, all told, supposing that all the engineers, firemen, conductors, assistant conductors, baggage-men, brakemen, flagmen, switchmen and yard workers in the country belong to it, only 308,733 men out of the 100,000,000 of our population, according to the figures of 1916.

A BIT OF FUN

TO A CERTAIN OLD LADY ON HER BIRTHDAY.
 Hall! dear "Mother"—fifty-nine?
 And so young, so fair and fine!
 Many birthdays be yet thine!

Hark, how e'en the birds rejoice
 And shower down on you their noise,
 Drowning out my feeble voice!

See, how smiles the rising sun,
 Beaming your grey head upon,
 Making bright the year begun!

Ah, what scenes pass 'fore your eyes—
 What sweet days of sunny skies,
 Drawing from you this morn'ning light!

Too, how pass into review
 Days so full of pain for you,
 Bringing tears to your eyes blue!

Yet, dwell not those days upon—
 But behold the loved ones gone,
 Gazing lovingly on you!

Note how happy are this day
 Friends who their fond greetings pay,
 Praying you may here long stay!
 —Wilfred Arthur Hunter.

A BIT OF VERSE

Maid Enough.
 Lady Jane—have you given the
 goldfish fresh water, Jane?
 "Yes, my husband shot a good game
 of golf yesterday and I believe
 in getting things while the getting
 is easy!"

Not Necessary.
 "It would please me very much,
 Miss Stout," said Mr. Mugley, "if you

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and Puds Simkins and my cousin Artie was standing on the corner waiting for something to happen, and Puds Simkins sed, G. gosh, look at the Bullshaviks! I bet that's a bonum he's got under his arm.

Meeting a funny looking man with funny looking whiskers wawking along carrying something round rapped up in a newspaper, and me and Puds and Artie started to follow him, Artie saying, Gosh, I hope he don't accidentally drop the bonum while we're in back of him.

Lets go up and ask him if he's a Bullshavik, and if he is lets tell a cop, sed Puds Simkins.

Go on, you dont think he's going to tell you if he's a Bullshavik, do you? I sed.

Sure, why not, if we tell him we're Bullshaviks first, sed Puds.

Being a pretty good of a idee, and we quick started to wawk faster, Artie saying, Well gosh, G. we cant go rite up and ask him if he's a Bullshavik, he mite think that was sudden, mite he?

Sure, we awt to seed up to it gradual, sed Puds, and I sed, Lets ask him if he's got a match ferst, Wich we did, catching up to him and me saying, Have you got a match, mister?

I dont know, wat do you want it for? sed the man, and Artie sed, We dont want it, you need it to lite the bonum with, dont you?

The who? sed the man.

Thats all rite, mister, we're Bullshaviks too, sed Puds.

For the love of mud, sed the man, and he looked surprized and the round packidge dropped out from under his arm and started to fall, and us 3 fellows quick ternal errand and started to run like everything, and there wasent any explosion by the time we had run about a block so we turned around to look, and the man was wawking away with the packidge under his arm again.

Either proving it wasent a bonum after all or sits it didnt go off.

would go to the theatre with me this evening.

"Have you secured the seats?" enquired Miss Vera Stone.

"Oh, come," he protested, "you're not so heavy as all that."

The Sugar and the Fly.

Vestryman (at meeting)—We must now take up the problem of getting our boys to church.

New Minister—That problem will solve itself if we can get our pretty daughters to go.

Not Guilty.

Minister—My dear young lady, I hope I am mistaken, but I thought I saw you talking during the sermon yesterday.

Stray Lamb—You certainly are mistaken. Why, I never talk in my sleep.

Sorry She Missed It.

A young woman on being introduced to Sir Robert Ball, expressed her regret that she had missed his lecture the evening before.

"Oh, I don't think it would have interested you," said Sir Robert; "it was all about sun spots."

"Was it really?" she replied. "Then it would have greatly interested me, for between you and me, Sir Robert, I have been a martyr to freckles all my life."

The Shrewdness of Satan.

A husband was remonstrating with his young wife for her extravagance in buying another new dress. "I really think Satan must be at hand when you women see a pretty gown," he exclaimed.

"I'm afraid he was this time, dear," she meekly admitted.

"Then you should have said to him, 'Get thee behind me!'"

"I did, Jack, dear. That was the trouble. I said 'Get thee behind me, Satan,' and he did, but he whispered over my shoulder, 'It fits you beautifully in the back.' And I simply had to take it then."

His Only Complaint.

The landlady bustled up to her new lodger as he came down to breakfast the first morning.

"Good morning, sir," she wheezed. "Good morning," said the lodger.

"I hope you've had a good night's rest," said the landlady.

"No," said the middle-aged little man. "Your cat kept me awake."

"Oh," said the landlady, tossing her head. "I suppose you're going to ask me to have the poor thing killed?"

"No, not exactly," said the gentle lodger. "But would you very much mind having it tuned?"

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