The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1918.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

A THREE TO ONE PROPOSITION.

Canadians who refuse to subscribe to the Victory Loan are not playing fair to the Canadian soldiers and are not doing the best thing for themselves. For this loan is not only an added sinew in the arms of the men at the front but, from a plain business standpoint, it is a three-to-one proposition, with all the odds in favor of the subscriber. The Toronto Telegram puts it this way:

1. For every dollar the farmer puts into the Victory Loan the farmer will get back three dollars in a market for his products. That market will be created and maintained by the proceeds of the Victory Loan.

2. For every dollar the manufacturer puts into the Victory Loan the manufacturer will get back three dollars in profits in filling a demand for products that would fail if the Victory Loan failed.

3. For every dollar the wage-earner puts into the Victory Loan the wage-earner will get back at least three dollars in continuity of employment and rates of wages that can only be maintained on the proceeds of the Victory Loan.

Aside altogether from the fact that investment in the loan is good business, there is the further argument that it is the duty of all to assist in every manner in the prosecution of Canada's war. The men who have gone overseas and have fought and suffered in the cause of Empire realize something of the extent and seriousness of this struggle. Home staying relatives and friends of some of these men have realized the war through the dread message of the casualty lists. But very many Canadians have not felt the iron of anxiety in their souls; their realization of the war is largely confined to the knowledge that their profits have been greater, or their salaries higher, and that they are more prosperous than formerly. To these the opportunity of the loan should particularly appeal as it affords an avenue by which they may contribute to the national success without a personal sacrifice but, instead, at a personal gain. The purchase of a Victory bond is good business as well as good patriotism.

THE TABLES TURNED.

After almost half a century the tables have been turned between France and Germany. In 1870, during the Franco-Prussian war, France, beaten but not dishonored, asked Prussia for an armistice. Bismarck and Von Moltke, then in a position to dictate terms, offered fifteen days, but demanded in return that France should permanently surrender Strasburg, Toul and Bitsch. According to a history of the Franco-Prussian war M. Thiers, in those grim days regarded as the foremost man in France, received Bismarck's announcement with this reply:

"Rob us of our provinces, burn down our homes, strangle our peaceful inhabitants; in one word, complete your work. We shall fight you as long as our breath remains. Perhaps we shall die, but we shall never be dishonored."

And Jules Faure declared that "France would immolate herself on the altar of self-defence," rather than accept a peace upon the humiliating terms offered by the victorious Germans.

Bismarck, writing of Faure, described him as "a somewhat Jewish looking man with a hanging underlip," and told how the Frenchman wept at the thought that a triumphant enemy would humiliate and humble his country. To this Bismarck added:

"It is true, Faure seemed to be crying, but when I looked a little closer, I positively believe he had not shed a tear. He had intended to work upon my feelings, with a little theatrical performance, as the Parisian advocates work upon their public. . . . It is possible, of course, that he feels all this, but he is no politician. He ought to know that bursts of feeling are out of place in politics."

This was the German attitude in 1870. Today, forty-eight years later, Germany is asking for an armistice and German newspapers, in their fervent desire to see such a development brought about, are passionately warning the Allies to "beware lest they drive a proud people to extremities." The tables have been completely turned. The France that, on the verge of despair, begged Germany for a cessation of hostilities in 1870, and was answered by Bismarck's insulting suggestion, now has much to say as to whether a similar boon shall be granted to the heirs and successors of the men who plundered her, and robbed her of the jewel of Alsace-Lorraine, almost half a century ago.

The Germans are in despair, and passionate pleadings are the order of the day. It will be no more than retributive justice if France decides to turn a deaf ear to all appeals and insists upon a reparation that will humiliate and humble the Prussians, at the same time coupling her decision with the opinion that "bursts of feeling are out of place in politics."

THE INFLUENZA SITUATION.

The appeal for the emergency hospital at Grand Falls has been withdrawn. It never should have been necessary to make it, and to Mayor Collins must go the credit for forcibly and effectually drawing the attention of the Provincial Government or the Provincial Department of Public Health to the serious situation. Grand Falls' needs are to be met by the municipality of Victoria County, but with very substantial assistance from the provincial treasury. That is what should have been done at first.

It is now fair to ask: Are there other localities in the province where the Provincial Government or the Provincial Department of Public Health has failed to do its duty? Are there other localities in the province where the activity of the Provincial Department of Public Health has been confined to closing schools and places of amusement, and issuing regulations which the people themselves are to work out? The Standard believes that there are.

The Standard does not believe that the Provincial Department of Public Health has come up to "advance notices" in its handling of this epidemic. In this city, for instance, where the disease has probably been fought more successfully than in most other cities and towns in the province, the great credit for results already attained must go to physicians in private practice who have freely given of their time to combat the epidemic, and who have no official connection with the Provincial Department of Public Health. Great credit must also go to the nurses, the members of the V. A. D., and the volunteer helpers who heroically, and in many cases at personal sacrifice, are laboring unceasingly and doing a splendid work. But if the Provincial Department of Public Health, as an official organization, has done anything here or elsewhere that could not have been done as well under the old board of health system and without one-half the red tape and officialdom that now exists, then this newspaper does not know of it. It is granted that the situation is an extraordinary one, but if the Provincial Department of Public Health was not created particularly to care for just such extraordinary situations, then the general conception of that organization is far astray.

The situation in Grand Falls, and there are similar situations in other parts of the province, affords the best sort of evidence that all has not been done that might have been done. For instance, Charlotte County yesterday reported that the epidemic had gained great headway, fifty cases being reported within the week from Wilson's Beach. Has the Provincial Department of Public Health, through the minister in charge, taken steps to provide emergency hospital accommodation there, or to provide nurses, or to do anything else, except to receive the report and transmit it to the newspapers? The Standard will be pleased to learn that any official action has been taken, but The Standard does not believe that such information will be forthcoming.

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

A VICTORIA CO. COMPLAINT.

Red Rapids, N.B.,
Oct. 28th, 1918.

To the Editor of The Daily Standard:

Sir:—The ratepayers of this section have been under the delusion that the reason our roads are in such condition (namely, the roads from Arthurette Bridge to Perth on both sides of the river), is that the government has no money to expend on the same, but as most of our people have automobiles and have been in different parts of the county and province, they are now wondering why money is being spent in liberal sums elsewhere, when the only money being spent in the section above mentioned is being put in a bridge near Licford, N.B., and for what purpose, or for whose convenience, no one in this section can say.

According to the press the contract for this bridge was $4,000, and, according to a reliable bridge builder, the cost will be far in excess of this amount when completed. This bridge is being built across the Odellic stream about half a mile upstream from the main road bridges, and is near a sawmill which cuts on an average of one hundred thousand feet of custom lumber yearly, and which is already connected by good roads, so the only conclusion we can come to is that there must be a surplus on hand or a political debt to pay, as no one appears to know who made the requisition for the bridge, and some of those in the county who are supposedly connected "higher up" and on the inside, express great surprise at such a piece of business being transacted right under their nose.

Now these sections of road from Arthurette Bridge to Perth are about the roughest pieces of roads in this section of the province, and a person is in danger of destroying an automobile or breaking a leg of a horse in travelling. There have been holes in the bridges and culverts all summer, and yet when Mr. Veniot passed through, we understand he complimented some of the residents on the good roads, but no press report of his inspection of the Tobique roads came out.

Now in justice to all, had this bridge money been expended on the roads mentioned these roads could have been put in fair condition or at least some bridges, culverts and mudholes fixed so as to be fairly passable.

We at least think an explanation is due us as there have been enough elections run on this slogan of "Good Roads," and still our roads are no better. The priest of this parish, who travels the road weekly, states that the roads this summer have been the worst in his twelve years' work here, and to quote another of our ratepayers who states that "This county has the premier, the minister of agriculture, and an ex-member to spare, and nearly all of us had the smallpox last winter, and none of the bunch was of any benefit to us."

Now there must be money for our roads, as there is money to fix the roads in other parts of the county (especially near Arthurette and Grand Falls), money to build a useless bridge, money to buy fence wire, eggs, pigs and seed grain for the selected, free of charge.

Thanking you for your valuable space, I remain, yours truly,

ONE WHO VOTED WRONG.

THE CHAIN LETTER NUISANCE.

To the Editor of the Standard:

Sir:—Early in the year "Chain Letters" were circulated throughout Canada, asking that money be sent to the French consul at Seattle for the establishment of a hospital in France for the treatment of diseases of the face. This scheme was exposed as a fraud by the "Toronto Saturday Night."

These letters have begun to appear again in the city and to my definite knowledge a number of people are taking considerable interest in the matter and distributing this appeal.

I take this opportunity of advising the public that the French consul in Montreal still insists that this appeal is nothing more than an attempt to obtain money under false pretences, and he has asked me to obtain for him, if possible, a copy of the letter and forward it to him. If any one reading this letter can supply me with a copy, I shall be much obliged.

Yours very truly,

H. G. ELLIS,
P. O. Drawer 1060, City.

ORGANIZATION FOR N. B. COMPLETED

The organization for the province of New Brunswick to assist in the influenza epidemic was completed yesterday afternoon at a meeting held at Lady Tilley's residence. The Committee of three, Lady Tilley, organizing president of the Red Cross, Miss McCain, supervisor of the Women's Institutes and Mrs. Kuhring, commandant of the V.A.D. met with Mayor Hayes, president of the Provincial Red Cross, and Hon. Dr. Roberts, Minister of Public Health, to make plans as to the best ways to send assistance through the province.

Lady Tilley announced that she had sent a telegram to Colonel Marshall, Toronto, and had received the following reply:

Lady Tilley, Canadian Red Cross Society, St. John, N.B.

Executive will support any action you and your committee may think wise to take in regard to placing all supplies of Canadian Red Cross at disposal of Provincial authorities dealing with epidemic of influenza. This policy governing action of society all through Canada.

NOEL MARSHALL.

Immediately on receipt of this telegram Lady Tilley arranged for one hundred copies of the following letter:

New Brunswick Provincial Branch,
Canadian Red Cross Society,
St. John, New Brunswick.
Oct. 29, 1918.

Dear Madam President:

Owing to the outbreak of the Spanish influenza in the province the need for help in many cases is very urgent. All branches of the Red Cross Society are therefore asked to do what they can to assist in every possible way those who are working in their districts, to care and provide for the sick who are afflicted with the disease.

All supplies of the Red Cross are placed at the disposal of the Provincial authorities, and it is the wish of the executive of the New Brunswick Provincial Branch of the Red Cross that its various branches should provide the health officer and those in authority in their district with any supplies which may be needed. If such supplies are not in stock when required, branches are requested to notify the provincial branch at once, and they will then be sent from our Provincial stores in St. John without delay.

As general meetings are prohibited, it will not be in order to call a meeting of all your members to notify them of this matter, but the executive of your branch may be called together, or in some way notified of the steps being taken in this emergency.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the Red Cross to be of great assistance, and we therefore ask for your most earnest co-operation in this time of need.

Yours very truly,

ALICE TILLEY,
Organizing President.

These letters have been already sent out by Miss Elsey Clements, secretary of the Provincial Red Cross.

Dr. Roberts expressed himself as greatly pleased to find that the organization of the Red Cross was so complete. He was impressed with the promptness with which the machinery had been set in motion and felt sure that it would have a very good effect upon the province when it was known that steps had been so quickly taken by the Provincial Red Cross co-operating with the Women's Institutes to care for the sick and those who needed help. For four years the Red Cross has been a strength to the province, always ready to answer every appeal without the slightest delay.

The mayor was appointed to confer with all other mayors of the cities throughout the province and ask them to consult with the president of each chartered branch of the Red Cross to see what could be done.

Miss McCain, supervisor of the Women's Institutes, will get in touch with each of the 108 Institutes and ask them as far as possible to try to get volunteer helpers for their own locality or for other places which may be in need of help.

Mrs. Kuhring spoke for the V. A. D., saying that they would continue their work with the utmost effort and would welcome volunteer nurses to lend their aid in the care of the sick.

One person will be appointed in each county who will oversee the workers and see that helpers are sent to districts where their services are required.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

Late Sundey afternoon ma wunted the heater fire fixed and she started to call pop, terning her face up in the air and calling up stairs, Willyum, Willyum, Willyum. Ony the more she called the more there wasent eny anser, ma saying, He must of gone out, wel, the fire will haff to wait a wile, thats all.

If I knew how to fix it, Id fix it for you, ma, I sed.

Thank you jest the same, sed a.

Can I have 2 sents, ma? I sed.

No, sed ma.

And I started to go up to my room, going slow on account of going backwerds, and wat did I smell outside of pops room but tobacco smoak smell. And I opened the door and who was reeding in there but pop with his hed back and his feet up intirely serrounded by smoak, me saying, G, hello, pop.

Wy the overwelming serprise, sed pop.

G, pop, you serteny look comfortable I sed.

Then I dont belie my looks, sed pop. Meening he was, and I sed, Ma was calling you to fix the heeter, pop.

I thawt so, I meen, is that so, sed pop.

Yes sir, shell I tell her youre home? I sed.

Did you ever heer the old story of the man that made 10 dollers? sed pop, and I sed, No sir, and pop sed, He got 5 for minding his own biznizz and 5 for letting other peeples biznizz alone. Meening he dident wunt me to tell.

Wich I closed the door agen and dident.

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Children love this "fruit laxative," and nothing else cleanses the tender stomach, liver and bowels so nicely.

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Millions of mothers give "California Syrup of Figs" because it is perfectly harmless; children love it, and it never fails to act on the stomach, liver and bowels.

Ask your druggist for a bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly printed on the bottle. Beware of counterfeits sold here. Get the genuine, made by "California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse any other kind with contempt.

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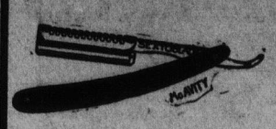

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