

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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.

THE GERMAN PEACE DRIVE.

Although Prince Maximilian of Baden has succeeded Von Hertling in the leadership of the German Reichstag it is quite apparent that the new chancellor wears the garments of his predecessor. His bid for peace, which, yesterday was the subject of all sorts of exaggerated rumors, contains nothing more definite than those already made from Berlin and Vienna. Maximilian has addressed the Swiss government asking that President Wilson be requested to notify the other Allies that Germany is prepared to take Wilson's platform, as outlined in his speech of September 27th, as a basis upon which to open negotiations for peace. It is suggested that the Allied nations send plenipotentiaries to a council meeting to be called for the consideration of such peace terms and that in the meantime an armistice shall be declared between the warring powers.

Although a reply from the Allies has not been received it is unlikely that the Maximilian request will be treated differently from the request the Bulgarian delegates addressed to the commander of the French armies in Salonika. That officer said he would be pleased to receive the delegates but there would be no armistice, the Allied troops would continue their pursuit of the fleeing Bulgarian army. The effect of this stern reply was that Bulgaria, seeing she could not gain time to reorganize her shattered forces, speedily found it to her advantage to accept peace without conditions.

Germany today is in desperate straits. The much vaunted Hindenburg line of defenses, fondly believed by the German people to be impregnable, has been broken in half a score of places and the Allies are inflicting upon the troops of the Kaiser a punishment much more severe than anything the Germans have previously suffered. It is the natural time for Germany to send out a feeler to ascertain what chance there is of securing a peace by negotiation but it is not to be thought that the Allied Governments will be caught by any such ruse. There can be no trafficking with the Hun. If Germany wants peace the way is open but it is unnatural to suppose the Huns will be permitted to open negotiations in the hope that such an action will relieve them of a portion of the punishment they so richly deserve.

Probably there is not one of the Allied nations but would rejoice if peace could be brought about without further bloodshed, but even though the casualties of the future may be heavier than those we have already suffered the general disposition will be to fight on until the Hun has been punished for the disaster brought to the world.

From all the war fronts the news is good. The Allied armies continue to make most satisfactory progress against the most stubborn resistance of the foe. Soon they will be over the German boundaries and in a position to treat German cities as the Germans, when the opportunity presented itself, treated the cities of France and Belgium. It has always been the opinion of war-viewers that when it became certain that the Allies would be able to invade Germany the Prussian would open rather than see German cities subjected to bombardment by an invading army. That time has come.

Nothing about the conclusion of peace can keep the Allied armies from progressing to the Rhine and as far beyond that river as they deem it necessary to go. Germany is beaten and knows it. It is a whimpering, whining loser, smarting under punishment already received and knowing that a greater portion of the same punishment is in store, that now tries to open negotiations for the withholding of the hand with the whip. It is either too late or too early for such an attempt. The flooding must be continued.

THE PREMIER AND MR. CURRIE.

It is difficult to see where Mr. Premier Foster can obtain much comfort from Commissioner Friel's report on the investigation into the Currie charges. It is true that local newspapers supporting the Foster administration are doing their utmost to smooth the premier's path by intimating that because the Commissioner did not find the reduction of the Continental Lumber Company's cut was the result of the conversation between Mr. Currie and Scaler Murchie, the charges all to the ground and Mr. Currie is innocent. But it is not so easy to get away from the Commissioner's finding that the province was defrauded out of a sum of money by the company of which Mr. Currie was manager, and that Mr. Currie could have prevented it but did not.

Mr. Currie's company received from

the Crown Land Department a bill for stampage on a cut much smaller than the real cut and Mr. Currie knew it but made no effort to rectify the error. His attitude on this point was plainly brought out by his own evidence on the stand in Fredericton. Under cross-examination by Hon. J. B. M. Baxter Mr. Currie condemned himself, not once but several times. On page 345 of the record of evidence, for instance, he is quoted as follows:

Q. Would you question a bill for pork or other supplies if you thought it was too high?
 A. Yes.
 Q. And if you thought a merchant had sent you a bill too low would you draw it to his attention?
 A. Yes.
 Q. Would you apply the same rule to the Government?
 A. No. Because it is hard to get a refund from the government.

And again on pages 352 and 353:
 Q. You didn't care whether the government got the right amount or not?
 A. That was not my job.

Q. Didn't it come to be your job when you signed the cheque?
 A. That was a matter of routine.

Q. Didn't it come to be your job when you were a member of the House of Assembly?
 A. It might have.

Q. Do you think that you can sit in the House of Assembly and act as manager of a milling business and pay not the slightest attention to finding out whether the amount of the stampage is correct, and settle on the amount given by the scalers, and wash your hands of the whole business?
 A. I cannot answer that.

Q. Why?
 A. Just because I don't want to. That was not my job.

Q. As a member of the House of Assembly have you a duty to the people?
 A. Yes.

Q. Is it your duty to see that what ought to be paid into the crown is paid in?
 A. In a general way I think it is.

Q. And again on the same page:
 Q. Have you any doubt that the province has been defrauded of this money?
 A. They received as much from us as they did from anybody else.

But, as a matter of fact, Mr. Currie's whole defence and only defence is summed up in the words of his own counsel. Mr. Currie was under examination by Mr. LeBlanc and on page 365 of the record of evidence appears the following:

Mr. LeBlanc: You said you went before the government at the very first session of 1917 and condemned the whole system?
 A. Yes.

Mr. Currie: I object to this. I didn't bring it out. A man can't steal from the government and go to the government and try to change the system.

Mr. Currie: Do you say that?
 Mr. LeBlanc: He stole no more than others who had stolen before him.

So, after all, all the Premier can grasp upon if he desires to keep Mr. Currie in his place as Speaker of the House of Assembly is the mere statement of Mr. Currie's counsel that he (Currie) "stole no more than others had stolen before him."

And the people of the Province of New Brunswick will not be satisfied with that. Mr. Currie has been found guilty of allowing the people of the Province of New Brunswick to be defrauded by a company of which he was manager. And this after he had taken an oath to see that the rights of the people of the province were safeguarded. He pledged himself to watch the treasury of the province and yet permitted that treasury to be defrauded by a concern in which he had a direct financial interest and from which he obtained his living. Mr. Currie has been false to his trust. He cannot be permitted to retain the trust he has violated. Mr. Premier Foster must call for the resignation of the senior member for Restigouche and also take steps to have restored to the province the money payment of which was evaded by the company of which Hon. William Currie was and is the manager.

A BIT OF FUN

All Used.
 Bilkins and his son Bobby were taking great armfuls of parcels to a little sister who was ill. As they neared the bedroom door the father said, forgetting momentarily that the youngster's arms were full, too, "Open the door, son," to which the youngster replied:

"I can't papa, I'm all used."

Get Her Desires.
 "Can't you play something else

than that everlasting march from "Lohengrin" at my wedding?" asks the several-times grass widow, who is arranging for another of her matrimonial evenings.

"Certainly, madam," responds the courteous organist. And as the bridal cortege wends its way down the aisle the church shakes to the thundering of that popular classic, "Over and Over Again."—Judge.

Phenetic Sports.

Stonehammer the Boob—Say, Boneless, loan me a clamshell for carfare. You won all my skins on that last pot.

Old Sport Boneless—All your skins, nothing! Didn't I leave you your original skin?

Too Generous.

"I wish Charles was not so generous to his family." "How do you mean?" "Well, he spends a lot of money, as well as I can find out, on some ante-rat other, and when I missed his watch and asked him where it was he said his uncle had it."—Baltimore American.

Delayed References.

Old Goldlocks' chauffeur had joined the army and he had decided that now he would enlist the services of a woman driver for his car. When a young woman appeared in answer to his advertisement she was asked for a reference.

"Well, sir, I haven't one now, but I could get one in a month or two," she said.

"Yes, but why the delay?" asked Goldlocks.

"It's like this, sir. My last employer is in the hospital at present."—Chicago News.

Lucky.

Fortune Teller—I see a dark cloud in your future.

Patron (joyfully)—Then we must be going to get our coal.—Baltimore American.

A BIT OF VERSE

Fighting in the Rain.

I hear 'tis wet along the front,
 'Tis but a swampy plain;
 O dear! to think Johnny Henry
 is fighting in the rain!

He never plowed when it was wet,
 Nor sloshed among the grain;
 Whoever saw John Henry
 Pullin' turnouts in the rain?

He called for both his granddads;
 Ours is a noble strain;
 Alas! to think John Henry's
 A-shinin' in the rain!

I sent to him a noble shirt,
 A wool cotton and dolomite hat;
 I know that he will spill it,
 Fightin' in the rain.

On days of wet he'd work inside
 The back of his coat and maul,
 Er set around the cookin' stove,
 On cheerless days up rain!

There ain't no cookin' stoves in
 the front,
 No wonder I complain,
 John Henry's got to stay outside
 A-shinin' in the rain.

Why can't they wait for sunny days,
 Then they can give us a rain,
 But blame my cats, it's foolish,
 This fightin' in the rain.

ST. GEORGE

St. George, Oct. 5.—After spending the summer here at the home of his mother, Mrs. Julian Southworth (nee Miss M. Perry) returned to Whitman, Mass., on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Kent have returned from a motor trip to Moncton.

Mr. B. D. Maloney of North Head, is spending his vacation here at the home of Mrs. M. Meating.

Mrs. Geo. Meating returned from St. Stephen, on Saturday. She was accompanied by Miss Blanche Haines, who is her guest.

Mrs. Harry Chaffey entertained very pleasantly at her home on Friday evening. Cards and dancing were indulged in and a most enjoyable time was spent by the large number present.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack McGrath returned on Saturday after a short wedding tour through the province. They have taken up their residence on Wether street.

Mr. Henry Murray of St. John, is visiting his uncle, L. W. Murray at the Victoria.

Mr. L. E. Tapley, collector of customs, and Mr. James Bryden, motorist, left St. John on Saturday and spent the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Dewar spent a few days last week camping at Lake Utopia.

Mr. and Mrs. John Mooney left on Monday for Stellarton, N. S., where they will visit Mr. Mooney's old home.

Miss Mae Betts of West St. John, is acting as violinist at the Imperial Theatre in the absence of Mr. Mooney.

Mrs. George Mealey returned to her home in New Glasgow, on Wednesday.

Mrs. Charles McGrath and two children, left on Wednesday for St. John, where they will spend a few weeks at the home of her mother, Mrs. Sweeney.

Mr. Fred M. Cawley received an official telegram on Tuesday announcing that his son, Lieut. Charles F. Cawley is missing. Charles, who was a member of the Royal Air Force, crossed to France about six weeks ago. This is the second casualty in the family, as only a short time ago his brother, Frank C. Cawley, was wounded in the arm.

Mrs. Chipman E. Gresson left last week for Savannah, Ga., where she will join her husband.

Miss Carolyn Gilmer returned to Toronto last week.

Mr. John Campbell has gone to Westfield Centre, where he is employed by A. E. Smye.

Mrs. George Craig returned home on Monday after a very pleasant visit with relatives in Ottawa.

Miss Francis Tucker is spending a week in Black's Harbor.

Mr. N. Stewart returned from Lamberville, where he has been employed for several weeks.

Mrs. F. Seaton of St. Stephen, was a recent guest of Miss Marion Crickard.

The death of Mr. James Woodbury, a respected citizen of Utopia, occurred on Wednesday, Sept. 30th. Deceased was about 50 years of age, has

Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.

"The Park Ave. News."
 Weather. Partly unexpected.
 Sports. Larry Shooter pretty near bawled a swell base ball glove Saturday afternoon, but when he went in the store and asked how much it was, it was 2 dollars and 40 cents.

Society. Miss Mary Watkins gave a party last Tuesday night, to celebrate not having one on her birthday on account of having the measles and her birthday at the same time, and Mr. Sid Hunt started to do a grate trick with cards, only he forgot how to finish when he got half way throo, saying that didn't prevent it from being a grate trick all the same.

Pome by Skinny Martin.

PERVADING IF.

If I was a little apple
 A swinging on a tree.
 Pervading the woods didn't bite me,
 How happy I would be.

Intriguing Facts About Intriguing People. Puds Simkins has bin taking piano lessons so long that now sometimes he can almost make the piano sound as if it was playing a tune.

Lost and Found L-partiment. Lost—A sent. Owner guarantees to recognize it by its general appearance. See Lew Tavis.
 Found—Nothing.

SPEAKER CURRIE'S CASE

(St. John Globe, October 5.)

Hon. William Currie's resignation as a member of the Legislature should be the first and immediate result of the findings of James Friel, Commissioner, who some months ago investigated charges preferred against Hon. Mr. Currie by Hon. J. B. M. Baxter. Although the Commissioner in his valuable report does not find the Baxter charges substantiated, he does establish Hon. Mr. Currie's connivance in his own and his firm's interest in fraud against the province, the Commissioner acquits Hon. Mr. Currie of one level of offence, only to find him guilty of others equally serious. The findings are clear and explicit as to Hon. Mr. Currie's position. They fully justify the investigation and make it impossible for honest, self-respecting men longer to sit under or with Mr. Currie in the Legislature. Commissioner Friel's report naturally divides into three sections. After carefully reviewing the evidence, he submits, in effect:—

(2) That Hon. William Currie had knowledge that the stampage payment by the lumber company in which he was interested defrauded the province, but took no steps to prevent this fraud.

(3) That the methods of crown land administration were inefficient, and that more than one lumber concern has profited at the expense of the province through fraudulent stampage payments probably over a long period of years.

Commissioner Friel's exoneration of Hon. Mr. Currie from the specific charges of having connived with Murchie, a scaler, who admitted his own dishonesty, becomes a relatively unimportant feature of the investigation and report in view of the Commissioner's declaration that Hon. Mr. Currie was himself guilty of wrong-doing certainly not less serious than that alleged against him in the formal charges. Two paragraphs in the report of Commissioner Friel make very clear his opinion of Hon. Mr. Currie's relation to the crime against the province. In one he says:

"No matter what was done, the province was defrauded out of a substantial sum in the stampage of this company, of which Honorable Mr. Currie was the manager, and that he was in a position to have prevented it, and that outside altogether of the question of business honesty it was especially his duty as a member of the Legislature, and as actually the Honorable Speaker of the House, to see that the province was not defrauded, at least by his own people, when he could prevent it.

The other is equally strong:

"This Commission is dealing only with his case and considering his own evidence. Mr. Currie's evidence and the evidence of his own books. I have to report that the Continental Lumber Company, through a dishonest scaler, defrauded the province of a substantial sum for stampage for the season of 1916-17, and that Honorable Mr. Currie, a member of the House of Assembly, knew what was going on and his action, or rather want of action in the premises, is to be regretted. I do not think that the element of personal gain, relatively a trifle had any bearing on his conduct. He simply could not screw up his courage to the point of bucking the 'system'."

The very plain meaning of these conclusions is that Hon. William Currie, sworn both as a member of the Legislature and as Speaker of the Legislature to safeguard the interests he was elected to protect, the interests of the people and province of New Brunswick, permitted the company in which he was a partner and responsible office-holder to defraud the people and province of a substantial sum. When a man deliberately puts his hand on something that is not his and takes it from the rightful owner there is no mincing of words as to the nature and character of his action. Hon. William Currie, member of the Legislature and Speaker of the Legislature, did not do that. What he did, according to the finding of Commissioner Friel, was to permit without protest his own company to keep in its treasury money that legally and morally belonged in the treasury of the province. The exposure renders it imperative that Mr. Currie's resignation be at once tendered and immediately accepted, and that his company be called upon forthwith to pay into the public treasury the amount of the shortage disclosed by the investigation. If there is law for dealing further with the matter, its machinery should at once be set in motion. The position occupied, and the oath taken, make lenient consideration of Mr. Currie's case impossible. Observations Commissioner Friel makes on what he terms "the system" in stampage collection, by which the province appears to have been defrauded by more than one lumberman, and recommendation as to better methods, are perhaps the most important features of an investigation which appears to have been thorough and impartial. They establish the wisdom of changes already made and the necessity of yet more important changes.

been in failing health for some time, and grief over the loss of his son, the late Pte. Frederick A. Woodbury, who was killed in action recently, hastened the end. Mr. Woodbury leaves to mourn a wife and a daughter, Mrs. Ernest Fisher and a son, Daniel. The funeral was held on Wednesday afternoon; Rev. James Spencer was the officiating clergyman. Mr. Woodbury was at once tendered and immediately accepted, and that his company be called upon forthwith to pay into the public treasury the amount of the shortage disclosed by the investigation. If there is law for dealing further with the matter, its machinery should at once be set in motion. The position occupied, and the oath taken, make lenient consideration of Mr. Currie's case impossible. Observations Commissioner Friel makes on what he terms "the system" in stampage collection, by which the province appears to have been defrauded by more than one lumberman, and recommendation as to better methods, are perhaps the most important features of an investigation which appears to have been thorough and impartial. They establish the wisdom of changes already made and the necessity of yet more important changes.

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Mrs. Coin of St. Stephen, is a guest of her brother, Stephen Conley.

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Mr. D. J. Floyd of the Welsford Lumber Co., went to Danforth, Me., this week.

Mrs. O. Beaton and Mrs. A. Pheasant who have been spending the summer at their cottage, "Sunny Hollow," left for Hampton on Monday.

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