

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1919.

THE HARBOR SALE.

When the question comes to a vote of the people, it is clear that we will have to be satisfied with the two million dollars the Federal Government is offering for our harbor, or go without altogether. This at least is the inference to be drawn from the remarks of the responsible ministers during the discussion preliminary to the passage of the bill at Ottawa. Hon. Mr. Ballantyne calmly states that St. John holds the unique record of having provided a national port out of its own money instead of waiting for the Government to do it. That having so burdened its own people, this city in view of a prospective transfer submitted its lowest estimate of about one million. The fact that the Government has been so generous in its offer, and that it is a wise policy to take advantage of St. John's needs and drive a hard bargain by reducing the lowest estimate to one million, is a fact which is not to be overlooked. The transfer of the harbor will be a good thing if Ottawa intends going ahead with improvements and extensions. Otherwise it will be poor business. But at best the whole transaction is indicative of a desire not to repay the people of this city for the enterprise they have displayed and the outlay they have borne, but to graciously accept at less than cost the national port which they have created and which the country has enjoyed free of charge for so long a time. The City of St. John has rendered inestimable service to the country. As a reward for that service we are now permitted to contribute out of our own pockets some hundreds of thousands of dollars additional since the burden of further harbor management in accordance with the requirements of Canadian trade prohibits continued civic control. We must accept the offer, no doubt, or let things run down, which no one wishes, but the whole affair leaves a decidedly unpleasant impression. Our representatives made a splendid fight for better terms, but found the opposition too strong, and naturally have expressed their disappointment in the amount offered while at the same time tacitly agreeing that the proposal now made is better than none at all. In adopting this attitude they have acted wisely, for they doubtless feel convinced that the Federal Government will go ahead at once with the work which is every day becoming more necessary. It is worthy of note that in the discussion on the bill Mr. McKenzie held that St. John should get nothing for its harbor, that it has already enjoyed a sufficient return for the investment. This is the attitude of the leader of the present opposition.

HOUSING SCHEMES.

In the very general desire to find a solution to the housing problem there is a distinct tendency on the part of many people to confound the federal scheme under civic administration with the suggestion of independent action on the part of the city. These two proposals should be kept entirely apart in the minds of all. The fact that the City Council has approved the federal housing scheme and is committed to its administration is not a policy on which the city deserves any great credit. It involves merely the handing of funds provided from other sources, and while there is no doubt that the opportunity afforded by loans thus made possible will result in some improvement in the situation, it is equally clear that as a community St. John might reasonably undertake on its own account and on city land the construction of a number of moderately priced houses to be sold or leased, this project to be financed from our own resources. Under the federal plan, loans up to thirty-five hundred dollars may be granted. Assuming that the average amount to each prospective builder will not be more than twenty-two hundred and fifty dollars, our entire portion of the federal appropriation will be used up by one hundred applicants and the additional housing accommodation which can be provided by this small number of new homes will be entirely inadequate in really relieving existing congestion. In this matter the city of St. John merely acts as a sort of trustee between the Federal Government and the individual builder, and while the action of the Council in endorsing the scheme is commendable it required no assumption of responsibility, it involved no expenditure from civic funds and it contained no trace of originality to indicate that the members of the Council are alive to the needs of the people.

These features are embodied in the other proposal, that the city build with money borrowed on its own credit fifty or more houses, preferably on the

Lancaster sub-division now available. This would be real enterprise, something our people in enjoyment of very moderate incomes could appreciate, and would be of very material assistance in relieving the existing congestion. Such a move, by releasing from occupation many of the undesirable dwellings now in demand because of the scarcity of housing accommodation, would enable the owners to remodel or rebuild.

Ten years ago the material used and the labor expended in the construction of a house bore the approximate relationship of seventy-five and twenty-five per cent. of the cost. With materials have advanced, wages in the building line have gone up more rapidly, and today it is estimated that labor will account for forty per cent. of the outlay apart of course from the value of the land. Consequently the saving which might be effected by the simultaneous construction of a group of houses with lumber prepared by mill work is less than would have been the case some years ago, but it is still believed that this saving would represent fully twenty per cent. of the cost. However accurate or otherwise these figures may be it is clear to all that the city could if it so desired build a group of dwellings much more cheaply than individual owners, that it could sell these at a slight advance over cost and still give bargains to purchasers, and that out of the moderate profits so acquired it could meet all legitimate expenses in connection with the administration of the undertaking.

OUT OF DOORS.

Never, even in pre-war days, have the St. John and Kennebec rivers been as popular as they are during the present summer. Never have the tired business man, the tattered business man, the lazy business man, and all the business men's families, so eagerly sought the camps, the cottages and the boarding houses along the shores of these beautiful streams. Never have those who are compelled or content to remain in town for the greater portion of the week, turned their backs on Westfield way or out the McAsh Road, or their Olympic northward through the waters of Grand Bay, with a keener zest in the anticipated pleasures of a day in the bush (C. P. R. and C. N. R. trains, which in other years have been found sufficiently commodious to handle easily all ordinary suburban traffic, are this year crowded to the platforms. Along the river every old shack is taken, and although rentals are high and occasional meals command almost Chateaux prices, the rush continues. From Friday evening—and particularly on Sunday—the rivers are literally dotted with sail and motor boats, while the main roads are clouds of dust from the seemingly endless procession of cars filled to overflowing with father, mother, the girls, the baby and half a dozen friends. It is a pity, too, that with unsurpassed scenery, with the magnificent waterway, and with the opportunity for general desire to enjoy these things, our people are not permitted to take fuller advantage of what might be theirs. We have no hotels along the river—a couple of little houses with no provision for entertainment. We have no steamboats worthy of the name—half a dozen slow old tubs lacking in every attribute that goes to make a river trip enjoyable. And we have no roads. The motorist who ventures as far as Brown's Flats kisses his car goodbye before he starts. It may stand the trip or it may not, but during the entire journey the driver sees just one thing and experiences only one thought—his accident policy spread out on the road in front, and a mental calculation as to whether he will get anything out of it or not.

DROPPING THE TITLES.

The Standard has noted with pleasure that one of its correspondents—and this one a writer who because of the nature of the news submitted might least of any be expected to adopt such a course—avoids the use of all military titles or distinctions in referring to men now discharged from the service. This is not done in any slighting manner nor in order to wipe from memory the splendid work these men have accomplished. Its purpose is deeper and much more desirable. With the discarding of the uniform go the distinctions of rank, but the honors accruing to our men will never be blotted from the recollection of those who remained at home. Canada before the war was not a military country. Warlike aspirations had no place in our national life and we had but a handful of militiamen and a handful of retired colonels. Today in New Brunswick there are a couple of thousand discharged officers and many times that number of discharged privates and non-coms. They have done their duty. They have earned and enjoy the gratitude of all at home. But they are sick of war, weary of military discipline, and they want to be called Bill and Bert and Alf, instead of Major and Captain and

Colonel. And we want to call them by their own names again, to remember in our hearts what they have done, but to forget on our tongues the temporary though honored rank they held. We wish, too, to get away from the whole cursed idea of militarism, to shut out as a horrid nightmare the awful four years of war and to bring this country back to its olden, golden days before the ploughshares were turned into bayonets and the pruning hooks into coils of barbed wire.

WHAT THEY SAY

Willing to Let Bygones Be Bygones. Philadelphia North American: Lots of people declare Germans are just the same at heart, but they have to acknowledge that Germany leads the world today in a Christian willingness to forgive and forget.

Baptist Principle. Calgary Herald: Baptists in convention at Edmonton have declared against the use of the Bible as a school text book. Many of their churches about the world today in a Christian willingness to forgive and forget.

Not Real "Labor." Buffalo Express: When it is said that British, French and Italian "labor representatives" are going to take a demonstration against Allied intervention in Russia it should be understood that "labor" as thus used means about what we in America think of as "Socialists."

The Irish Problem. Toronto Globe: It is doubtful if any responsible British political leader favors making Ireland a Dominion in the sense in which Canada is. That would mean an Irish army and navy under control of a Parliament sitting in Dublin. There are a lot of people in Ireland who would not sleep sound at night under these conditions.

Burlesques. Hamilton Herald: The presence of a deputation of American negroes in Paris to plead with the peace conference for equal rights for the colored race in the land of the free is regarded by all patriotic Americans as a joke which is in rather bad taste—a sort of burlesque of the Irish business. And indeed it is not considered the proper thing to attempt a burlesque of a burlesque.

Wood for Cotton. New York Tribune: Wood is now being converted by a new process into a product which for absorbent cotton—a product which is being supplied to the Government by one mill at the rate of several tons a day. This absorbent wood is of great value in covering and staunching open wounds.

The Wood is ground up and then spun or rolled out into pure white flax or spun into cotton batting, and is so light and bulky that only about 4,000 pounds of it can be packed in an ordinary box car. This substance costs 28 cents a pound.

A BIT OF VERSE

It is the twenty-fifth anniversary of her debut into the world that is often celebrated by a woman.

When a girl thinks a young man is almost good enough for her, she is sure to think he is too good for her own girl.

A Much-Married Lady. Sign in movie theatre: "Her Wedding Night. Every night this week."

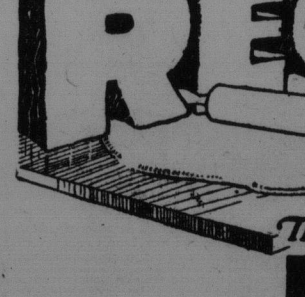
Thumbs Down. "Any social distinctions in your town?" "Oh, yes. The laboring classes will have nothing to do with the rest of the population."—Judge.

"I planned the house out of my own head." "Oh, I didn't know it was a wooden house."

Objected to Upper Berth. "What is an 'accident of birth'?" "Having the good luck to get a lower one, my son."

The Retort Discourteous. Lady: "Now that you are leaving us, please go away in a respectable manner."

By Edgar A. Guest.



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Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.
 The Park Ave. News.

Weather. All kinds of hot. Spontaneous. All the capitals of the world are in Benny Potts' house on account of summer, and last Sunday afternoon Benny Potts, Leroy Shooter, Arlie Alexander, Ed Hunt and Sam Cross was seeing who could run all the way up and all the way down again the most times without getting tired and make the most noise doing it, and Mr. Potts won up out of a nap in the sitting room thinking something serious was the matter and immediately afterwards the only fellow left in the house was Benny Potts much to his misfortune.

Intending Flocks About Intruding People. Potts' Sinkiness most popular dessert is chocolate and vanilla ice-cream mixed on top of a piece of apple pie surrounded by cut up peaches.

Pome by Sidney Martin. I know the Rime I ate 11 buckwheat cakes I sat on top with jelly Which was there to be probably the reason For some pines I had in my watty-coutless.

Society. Miss Mary Watkins has a new green hat looking even grayer on account of the green rib in around it.

Advertisement. Are you going away for the summer? For 4 cents a week we will tell people nobody is home when we see anybody on your front steps, thus saving wear and tear on your doorbell. Ed Wernick and Lew Davis. (Advertisement.)

How DOUGHBOYS WERE WOUNDED. Washington, D. C., July 2.—The figures shown in a report on 62,790 claim cases reported by the War Risk Insurance Bureau to the Federal Board for Vocational Education for the period ending April 30, give a fairly accurate indication of the general run of disabilities suffered by the men in the United States army, navy and marine corps.

Of eyesight cases there have been 2,000, being 4 per cent. of the whole; of wounds and injuries to leg necessitating amputation, 746 cases, or 1.4 per cent. of the whole; wounds and injuries to leg not necessitating amputation, 1,868, or 3.6 per cent. of the whole; wounds and injuries to leg not necessitating amputation, 8,497, or 16 per cent. of the whole; chest complaints and tuberculosis of the lungs, 10,332, or 19.6 per cent. of the whole; tuberculosis of the lungs, 377, or 8 per cent. of the whole; rheumatism, 1,922, or 3.7 per cent. of the whole; heart disease, 3,780, or 7.2 per cent. of the whole; epilepsy, 312, or 6 per cent. of the whole; nervous disease, shell shock, etc., 1,919, or 3.7 per cent. of the whole; deafness, 1,280, or 2.4 per cent. of the whole; frost bite, totalling amputation of feet, 25; miscellaneous diseases, 8,873, or 17.3 per cent. of the whole; not stated, 4,900, or 9.3 per cent.

These injuries are apportioned as follows:—Occurring in camp, 16,301, or 34.6 per cent. of the whole; occurring in battle, 19,254, or 36.4 per cent. of the whole; occurring in other service, 3,057, or 5.7 per cent. of the whole; not stated, 12,186, or 23.3 per cent.

Changed His Objective. "She refused him because she was sure he would propose again."

"Yes. But to another girl."—Chicago Herald and Examiner.

The Exact. "They're comparatively rich, aren't they?" "Well, I wouldn't say 'comparatively,' but relatively. They have a rich uncle of whom they expect great things."—Pearson's Weekly.

The Proper Vehicle. "How foolish some of these poets are in their imagery! Now, how can a lady's lady drink to him with her eyes?" "Couldn't she use a looking glass?"—Baltimore American.

A BIT OF FUN. THOSE UNFORTUNATE BREAKS. When I was very wise and young I kept my tongue in my mouth. I let it gallop, trot or pace. As any time or any place. And frequently to my chagrin I used to exercise my chin. But I am older grown today And do not have so much to say. Unless I'm certain of my ground. My vocal chords don't make a sound.

"Oh, go!" said I, with courage rare. "Who is that honey woman there? To all my days I've never seen A living human butter bean. But there's a dame from foot to chin That's just as fat and just as chin. She's one the angels high above Would find it difficult to love. Yet some guy's tied to her for life!" "Yes," said the stranger, "she's my wife."

"Of all the bores that I recall, There goes the biggest boob of all. If that bird had a pound of brains, He'd still be far from being sane." The pretty damsel turned her head: "That is my brother Joe," she said. "There goes a chap that I detest. He is a nuisance and a pest." The lady's cheeks at once turned red. "That is my husband, sir," she said.

Oh, lessons I have easily learned, As with chagrin my cheeks have turned. Oh, splutterings I've made in vain As I've attempted to explain! Oh, bitter hums I've tried to nurse And soot always to make them worse!

Now I am older grown and gray And do not have so much to say. I hold my tongue and never let It utter speech I may regret.

By Edgar A. Guest.

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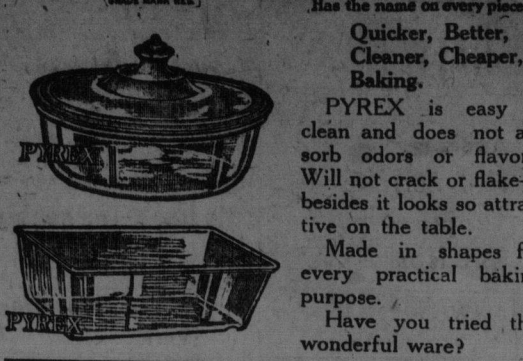
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