

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 32 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 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.

WAR COMMENT.

Advice from the Italian front indicates that although a decision has not yet been reached, the Italians, British and French have succeeded in checking the advance of the Austrians. The fighting is heavy along the entire front. It being reported that the Austrians have thrown at least one million men into the line in an effort to win a decisive success. In this, up to the present, they have failed, and there is every confidence that the failure will be permanent.

One result that may develop from successful resistance to the Austrian effort is that the Germans may be forced to divert troops from their western front to reinforce their allies existing toward Italy. Germany can ill afford such a venture, for, judging from the fighting of the past few weeks, she has all she can do now to hold the terrain she has occupied and weakening of her forces might necessitate a retreat. At a time when she is believed to be preparing for another thrust in the direction of Paris such a development might easily prove serious if not disastrous to her plans.

Meanwhile the number of Americans on the western front is increasing at a most satisfactory rate. Already there are more than 800,000 "Sammys" in France, which probably means about 300,000 in the front lines. This in itself is a sizeable army and its power is being increased daily. Wherever the Americans have figured in the fighting they have done well and with the rapid development of their force they will soon become a more important factor in the operations.

From every area of conflict the war news is encouraging. In the west the German drive has received a severe setback, while on the Italian front the Austrian effort is already so far behind schedule that it may be said to have been checked before it got fully underway. The fighting, however, continues very severe and it will be several days before a definite result is reached.

RECREATION FIELDS.

It is pleasing to learn that the City Council will give sympathetic consideration to the question of providing recreation fields for the boys of St. John and we may be assured that if at all possible arrangements will be made to give the boys a spot in which they can play ball and engage in other healthful outdoor sport.

The playground question is attracting a certain amount of attention all over the city. The benefit of the work already carried on among young children has been considerable, and the movement to provide the older boys with suitable recreation grounds where they can receive all possible encouragement. The cost of providing the ground suggested as suitable for the South End would be very slight as the boys of that section would probably be glad to devote their spare time to assisting in putting it in shape. Also in the other sections of the city it should be possible to find areas which, with little or no expense, could be converted into suitable ball fields.

It is not many years since St. John boasted at least four passable baseball diamonds, the old Atlantic grounds beyond the Marsh Bridge, the Shamrock grounds in North End, the Barracks Square and a portion of Queen Square in West St. John. In addition to these the ground now occupied by King Edward school was a famous amateur baseball ground, while St. Peter's grounds, and the old shipyard each had their followers.

For one reason or another these grounds have been diverted to other uses and today the boys of St. John are practically without suitable facilities for baseball or other sports. This is not true of other cities where such accommodation abounds. Anything the City Council can do to assist the movement for the provision of recreation fields should meet with the approval of all citizens who believe that better amusement than corner loafing can be found for the boys of St. John.

ANOTHER HUN FAILURE.

The attempt of the Germans to use their U-boats to damage shipping off the Atlantic coast of the United States has proven a failure. When the presence of enemy underwater craft in the Atlantic was first reported it was estimated that not more than three such vessels had made the trip to this side and now it is believed these have been destroyed or captured by the American patrol. One report published last evening was to the effect that one of the U-boats had been destroyed off the coast of Virginia, the toes of another had been previously reported and there

is a well defined rumor that the third is now tied up to a wharf in a certain Atlantic port after a brief and disastrous interview with an American naval vessel.

The latest German U-boat effort was feeble in the extreme. The submarines did not attack vessels in the main sea lanes leading out of New York, Boston or other ports from which there is a heavy volume of trans-Atlantic traffic, but devoted themselves to picking off craft engaged in coasting, although in the regular routes of travel there were vessels of much greater value than anything they succeeded in attacking. The American protection on the regular sea lanes was too good for the visitors to challenge it and consequently they were forced to content themselves with scoring on a small ship here and there in waters less well covered.

Even if the report that there are no more German submarines in American coastal waters is not correct the scanty achievement of those that made the journey from Germany to this side of the Atlantic, and the fact that the Germans have not yet succeeded in sinking a troopship bound from this continent to the other is in itself fairly good evidence that the pirates are well watched and that there is little need for anxiety.

GOOD FOR CANADIAN INDIANS.

The Toronto Mail and Empire has discovered that there are more than 8,000 Canadian Indians in the ranks of our overseas forces. When it is recalled that the Indian population of Canada is very small and that there was no compulsory service among the men of that race, the fact that 8,000 have volunteered is most creditable. It is probable that many of these "braves" have already given of their blood for the Empire and it is certain they met the fortune of war with the stoicism characteristic of the race.

In connection with the war service of Canadian Indians the Mail and Empire notes that the Grand Indian Council of Ontario met last week and that among the proceedings of that council was a memorial to Sir Robert Borden expressing thanks to the Government for not attempting to enforce the draft among them, but leaving the question of service on the voluntary basis. That they have not failed to answer the call to arms is also set forth by the newspaper referred to, which gives the following information on that point:

"On the smallest of the islands in which the delegates gathered for this meeting the men of military age were only eight in number. Of these eight Indians seven volunteered for service and are now in the army. Several of the battalions that went from Canada have each one company of which the full strength is made up by Indians. One of the resolutions passed at the meeting last week embodied a petition to the Government voluntarily for service and to be conferred on every Indian band, whether small or large, to vote and collect money for whatever use in behalf of our defenders the Government might see fit to designate. Canada's Indian population is loyal to the Crown."

THE SPIRIT OF NIPPON.

That Japan is willing and ready to make any sacrifice necessary to assist the other members of the Entente in conquering the Teuton is indicated by the Yoru-dan, an influential Japanese newspaper which, according to a cable from London, deals as follows with the suggestion that the Japanese should take an active part in the operations in Siberia:

"What additional resources can the allies muster? Prompt action by the Japanese army alone can save England, France and humanity. The allies soon will request the intervention of Japan, who now stands like an archer with bow bent."

"The answer must be instantaneous; Japan's army exists in vain if it is not used now to win the game which divides the world. Japan must call up half a million men, two millions, three millions if necessary, and advance to the Urals or beyond until the main enemy is encountered."

"We will go as far as is necessary to check the Germans effectively. We fear no difficulties and will shrink from no sacrifices. There speaks the spirit of Nippon."

"We fear no difficulties and will shrink from no sacrifices."

WAR SAVINGS STAMPS.

It is now definitely stated in Ottawa that the Canadian Government will authorize the issue of war savings stamps to the public and it is expected that when they are placed on sale the demand will be very large. While detailed arrangements for the issue

have not yet been given out the belief is that the stamps will be in denominations of five, ten and twenty-five cents and that generally the method employed will be similar to that which proved so successful in the United States. The magnitude of the response to the appeal to invest in war bonds demonstrates that there is a strong disposition toward saving on the part of the Canadian people. War savings stamps would promote this tendency on the part of the children and those who are not possessed of the means to buy bonds. In other words they would provide an attractive means of garnering the small change of the nation and pressing it into service by the side of the Canadian dollar.

The success of the thrift stamp campaign in the United States has been told of so often that people generally are familiar with the splendid result attained there. A similar campaign in Canada, supported by the necessary publicity could not but become popular and, we believe, would add materially to the war funds of the nation.

In an interview granted to the Fredericton Globe yesterday Dr. W. S. Carter, chief superintendent of education, declares that the question of teachers' salaries is up to the boards employing them. That is quite true, but at the same time the indifference of the Foster government in ignoring the claims of the teachers for an increase in the provincial grant cannot be glossed over so easily. Some of the school boards have done their share already and if, as the Chief Superintendent suggests, others have failed, that fact cannot be permitted to excuse the government's inaction.

THE EDITOR'S MAIL.

THE SUSSEX ROAD.

To the Editor of The Standard:—Sir, I was amused at reading in the Telegraph and Times of the automobile pilgrimage made by a select party one day last week from St. John to Sussex and return, and the nice things those papers had to say about the condition of the road.

Now, sir, I know that road well and have made many trips over it this year and last, and admit it is in pretty fair shape, but that is not because of the great amount of work done on it by the men of Mr. Veniot's department. Instead it is due to the exceptionally favorable weather we had during the early spring which prevented the worst of the mud condition in the road from setting in. It is not more than five miles in the whole distance on which the present government has done any work and the road is in good condition in the autumn of 1918 as it is today.

On the Marsh road leading out of St. John the best work done was done at the instance of Hon. B. M. Baxter when he was a member of the government. So it is fairly safe to say that credit for the present condition of the road rests, first, on the favorable weather; second, on the good work done during the term of the Murray government; and third, on the work done since it is not in the least fair to give all the credit to the present government or to Mr. Veniot.

Yours,
A FARMER.

KERENSKY AND TROTSKY.

(Buffalo Express)
Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, former leader of the English suffragettes, is in New York. She was in Russia at the time of Kerensky's overthrow and for a while afterward, having been sent there on a special mission by Lloyd George. She says "The Bolsheviks have just run riot. If the women had been listened to, Kerensky's overthrow would have been understood long before it was. I talked with him for 20 minutes—but that was enough to convince me that the man was an utter fraud. I warned everyone not to trust him. He had a futuristic manner—never looking one in the eye. He was the most thoroughly repulsive person I ever met. Trotsky is a lineal successor to him. They are of the same cloth. Kerensky played his part in the great tragic drama and went his way. Then Trotsky came in his wake, to play his part."

This may be called the opinion of an "observer," judged by events, this keen and somewhat fanatical woman has formed a more correct estimate of both Kerensky and Trotsky than have the Governments which have had to deal with them, particularly the United States Government.

THE UNLUCKY NUMBER.

(People's Home Journal.)
Enemies of the "13" superstition are citing in confirmation of their skepticism that America's first expeditionary force to France left on the 13th of the month in 13 transports and in 13 days making the journey. And in spite of this triple hoodoo there was only one man ill when the troops arrived. Such proofs are futile however in shaking the belief of those who fear the malign influence of the "unlucky" number.

Ludicrous as it may appear to many persons, there are actually a number of "skyscrapers" in New York that have no thirteenth floors. After one passes the twelfth floor the next stop is the fourteenth. This very palpable subterfuge to deceive a supposedly inexorable and malignant fate, is the owners of the building will tell you, not because they are themselves superstitious, but because so many of their tenants are.

Fear of 13 is, beyond doubt, the most widely spread superstition, its only rival being the Friday superstition with which it is closely allied. Thirteen acquired its sinister significance because, at the Last Supper, Christ sat with twelve disciples. The tragedies that followed that feast with its 13 guests are supposed to have cast their black shadows over every-

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

The Park Ave. News.
Weather. Warmer during the day and not so cold at night.
Big Loss of Blood. Leroy Sheeters nose started to bleed in school last Thursday on account of bumping it while trying to see how close he could push his face to his desk without touching it.
Shasley. Mr. Sam Cross was observed setting on his front steps all last Sunday afternoon, on account of his new pattern leather shoes too tight.

Poem by Shlainy Martin.

BE CHEERFUL.

I morned all dooring the morning
Because evening wood some so soon.
But then I forgot my worries
And laffed all the afternoon.

Intriguing Packs About Intriguing People. Wen Pads Simkins eats noodle soup he always saves the noodles till last, taking longer but being more intriguing.
Reel Estate News. Sid Hunts fox terrier Teddy has started to dig holes in the back yard with his front feet. Sid Hunt saying it's a sign of spring and he always gets blamed for it.

thing connected with the number.

Centuries of civilization have not served to obliterate the dread of 13. Innumerable attempts have been made to overcome the superstition but they have failed to convince. Too often sinister fate appears to overtake the scoffers.

There was the case of Matthew Arnold, for instance, who gave a dinner to 13. Fate decreed that the famous host himself should die within the year, so instead of hitting the superstition the blow he had aimed, his efforts reacted in the opposite direction.

A BIT OF VERSE.

THE SACRED ROAD.

From the dunes of the sullen North Sea.
Where the birds sob by day and by night
To the slopes that herald the Alps
With their whimples of snowy white,
Runs a road that is sacred for all time
To the host of our children
Who went out to die!

They lie in the valleys of Verdun
Where the foot of the Hun never trod;
They lie on the downs at Peronne
Where the hills lift them nearer to God;
They lie nameless, uncoffined, immortal,
Side by side;
Sons of France, sons and brothers of England
Who went out and died!

In the swamps near the blood-red canal
Where they called in the sea to their aid;
Where they faced Hell, and were not afraid,
Are their graves. There they rested awhile
As the radiant-faced mourners passed by—
Oh, the glory that is to the children,
To the fathers and mothers who here them,
To the young girls who gave them kisses
That sweetened the moment of dying—
They are resting awhile; there they lie
Ere they rise up to walk in God's garden.
In that Glory which never can die!
—G. Basil Barham, in Westminster Gazette.

A BIT OF FUN.

Lonely.
A barrister had been sitting in court one day listening patiently for an hour or so to the tiresome argument of an opposing counsel.

"Your lordship," broke in the wearer towards the end of his argument, "I have an idea."

"Your lordship," broke in the wearer once more, "give him a writ of habeas corpus to take it out of solitary confinement!"

A Proficient Instructor.
When father came home to dinner he observed a vacant chair at the table. "Where's the boy?" he asked, nodding to the chair.

"Harry is upstairs," came in a tone of painful precision from the mother.

"I hope he is not sick."

"There was an anxious pause. "No, he is not sick," continued the mother. "It grieves me to say, Richard, that our son, your son, has been heard swearing on the street. I heard him myself."

"Swearing!" exclaimed the father. "I'll teach him to swear!" And with that the angry parent started upstairs in the work. Half-way up he stumbled and came down with his chin on the top step.

When the confusion had subsided Harry's mother was heard saying from the hallway: "That will do, Richard, dear. You have given him enough for one lesson." — Harper's Magazine.

One on the Lawyer.
The lawyer was trying very hard for his client and was setting the points out in a logical manner. There was one thing he was not quite clear about and he accordingly said:

"Now, sir, you state my client knocked you down and then disappeared in the darkness. What time of night was this?"

"I can't say exactly," the complainant answered dryly. "Your client had my watch."

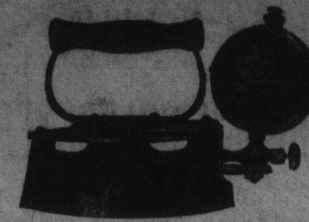
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