

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1916.

"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 COST OF LIVING.

Those Liberal newspapers clamoring for the Government to investigate food prices in Canada and which expect that investigation will at once show that the greedy trusts are unduly forcing prices up, will find little comfort in the report of a commission of experts which has just completed probing similar conditions in Great Britain. The main impression produced by the British report is that the cause of unusual prices for almost every commodity and especially for food stuffs is found in increased cost of production and transportation resulting from the war, decreased output and increased demand.

It is natural that the production of commodities should be hampered by the war and this is probably as true in Canada as it is in Britain. The call to arms took from their productive employment millions of men in the Motherland and in France and it is only reasonable to believe that great difficulty has been experienced in filling their places. The war has also increased the demand for many articles used by the public and also required for the armies and navies. With a decreased supply and an increased demand higher prices were inevitable.

All the demands of the Allied armies and navies could not be met from the continent so calls were made upon Canada especially for food stuffs. The Montreal Gazette illustrates the effect this call for food stuffs has had in the Province of Quebec when it says: "The reports of the dairy markets in the Province of Quebec held on Saturday illustrate one effect. At St. Hyacinthe cheese sold at 21½ cents a pound; a year before the price recorded was 16½ cents a pound, and it was counted high. At Cowansville, on Saturday, creamery butter was sold at 41½ cents a pound; on the market day a year before sales were made at 31½ cents a pound, and that, too, was counted high. These are simple cases. In greater or less degree the same state of affairs exists in the grain and cattle markets. In the case of dairy produce the prices noted are those paid into the producer's hands. Men who have orders for what they can buy go practically to the factory doors for the goods they need. The middleman, who is a merchant taking the risks of his trade and expecting a trade profit on his transactions, does not figure in the connection till later. The commission in Great Britain found no evidence of combines, rings or manipulation. It may be doubted if a like inquiry would find any in Canada."

The situation is undoubtedly more acute in Great Britain than in Canada but it is difficult to see where public control would help matters. Governmental control, unless undertaken in a measure much more drastic than Canadians would tolerate would not, for instance, regulate the price the farmer would receive for his butter, his eggs, or his grain. The farmer would not be compelled to sell except at a figure which suited him. Meatless days have been suggested as a remedy for the high price of flesh foods in Britain and of this proposal the Gazette says: "It is stated on authority that should be reliable that in Great Britain a large proportion of the population has lapsed back to the order of a past time, and has more than one meatless day in the week. The proportion will increase. Shortness of food is a direct result of war conditions and while the war lasts there is little hope of relief. Whether they like it or not people in all the warring countries will have to curtail their living expenses, those for food along with others."

There is more than a grain of truth in the Gazette's estimate of the situation. In these days it has not been difficult to confuse the cost of high living with the high cost of living and to blame one on the other. Government control cannot regulate the tastes, desires or demands of the people.

ROUMANIA IS SAFE.

Although the Germans yesterday claimed to have won a victory over the Roumanian troops it is well apparent that the force of the enemy's onslaught in that direction is well spent. Germany has made a strong effort to

remove Roumania from consideration as a factor in the fighting and it is admitted that the effort came within a measurable distance of success but was stopped before its object was fully attained. Now the Roumanians have turned and shown a remarkable ability to inflict heavy punishment upon the Teutonic invaders.

In their attack the Germans planned to advance against Roumania from two sides, through Dobrudja and through Transylvania. A junction of these two armies would have scattered the Roumanian forces and left her practically helpless. It would have given to the enemy comparatively easy access to Constantinople and augmented food supplies. Incidentally it would have frightened the smaller neutrals and shaken their beliefs as to who will win the war.

In part, the plan was carried out as intended. General Von Mackensen made his way through the Dobrudja to Danube, where his further progress was stayed by the destruction of the only available bridge across that river. But the Germans coming by way of Transylvania have not fared so well. Although they have scored some victories, they have found themselves unable to break through.

Nor is it likely that they can accomplish anything more. They were the best troops Germany has, being veterans who have learned their business thoroughly during the past two years. They were, no doubt, equipped with all the artillery and munitions that could be provided. If they could not do the job at once, they cannot do it at all.

The net result, therefore, is that the road by which Russia might have attacked Bulgaria and Turkey, is blocked temporarily at any rate. This must be reckoned a loss, but against it we can set the fact that Roumania is keeping half a million Germans busy and weakening them to that extent in France. Recent incidents at Verdun show the effect produced. The gain to the Allies by the adherence of Roumania is very real, although perhaps a little slow in developing.

MEN FOR THE NAVY.

The formation of a local association to promote recruiting of Canadians for the British Navy is the first organized effort to be made in this great port to help provide men for the vessels which protect our commerce and enable Canadian food stuffs to be transported in safety to the Mother Country. St. John has been behind other portions of Canada in this regard. As pointed out by Hon. J. D. Hazen on Monday voluntary organizations in Ontario and the West have done much to advance this worthy object and the work of such bodies has been the subject of much favorable comment.

This loyalist community has never shirked its duty in any movements being promoted in connection with the successful prosecution of the war. Whether it entailed the contribution of time or money the residents of St. John have always been ready to bend their energies to the task and now that work of enlistment for the British Navy is to be vigorously prosecuted there is no doubt satisfactory results will be attained.

That the new association intends going about its task in earnest is evident from the fact that at its first meeting it was decided to ask the Admiralty to allow a cruiser to pay a brief visit to this port and also to entertain any parties of sailors that might pass this way. A cruiser in the harbor and the presence of the "boys in navy blue" on the streets of the city would stimulate interest in the navy and its wonderful work. There is every reason to expect that recruiting for Britain's sea forces will now take on added zest in the port of St. John.

STILL IN DOUBT.

At two o'clock this morning the result of the United States presidential election was still in doubt with the final decision apparently depending upon the voting in the State of California. During the day and night the chairmen of the Democratic and Republican committees, respectively, claimed victory for their man but their claims up to the hour of writing have not been definitely established.

GOVERNMENT CAR FERRY FOR P.E.I. SOON READY

Work at Cape Tormentine and Carleton Place being Pushed to Completion—Northumberland Making Extra Trips.

The undertaking of the Canadian government to establish a car ferry service between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island is rapidly becoming a realization.

The apron on which the cars are brought ashore from the car ferry is nearing completion at Tormentine after which the contractors and workmen will proceed to Carleton.

Those in authority venture to state that by Christmas day a trip on the car ferry is quite probable. Standard and narrow gauge rails have been laid half way out on the landing pier at Carleton. Work is progressing in the yard and the station is now completed at Tormentine, great yard accommodation is being provided and new sidings are being laid on the wharf.

A great many potatoes have been ferried from Traverse and Carleton to Tormentine in small gasoline boats and landed into cars and shipped to Toronto and New Brunswick.

The government steamer Northumberland is still making extra trips Sundays between Summerside and Point du Chene to reduce the freight congestion. The freight consists largely of potatoes, oats and lambs.

PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH TO MEET HERE

A special meeting of the Provincial Board of Health will be held here this evening when infantile paralysis will be placed on the list of cases which requires quarantine. At present infantile paralysis is not mentioned in rule 4 of the health regulations, but in view of the discovery of cases the board has determined to take drastic steps.

Dr. B. M. Mullin, secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, stated in Fredericton yesterday that the statement published Monday that the case found in St. Stephen was the first one reported in this province is incorrect. He says that in all three cases have been reported, two of them being from Charlotte county and one from Queens county. The first one reported in Charlotte county was that of a young child at Rolling Dam, but the infant has recovered. This child came direct from Hyde Park, Boston, to Rolling Dam, and contracted the disease in the former place. Dr. Mullin said that he had the case quarantined and the results were very satisfactory. The second case in Charlotte county was reported on Saturday last.

In view of the number of cases reported in Montreal recently, the Provincial Board of Health have decided to take every precaution and thus prevent, if possible, the disease spreading into New Brunswick from Quebec. Of the three cases reported in the province the first was that of a young child at Rolling Dam, but the infant has recovered. This child came direct from Hyde Park, Boston, to Rolling Dam, and contracted the disease in the former place. Dr. Mullin said that he had the case quarantined and the results were very satisfactory. The second case in Charlotte county was reported on Saturday last.

DRANK ST. JOHN SPIRITS AND HAD PIG-STICKING

How Albert Co. Men Behaved After Long Thirst—Authorities Investigating Case.

Alma, Nov. 8—A supply of strong spirits brought here from St. John on a schooner, and a pig-sticking frolic, in which ten men were concerned are subjects of an investigation by the county authorities.

It appears that the thirsty ones went to a house on Sinclair Hill while the family was absent and uncorked numerous bottles.

The joy party then went to the pigsty and killed a choice porker which they took to the house and arrayed in an overcoat and cap belonging to the owner of the dwelling.

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Little Benny's Note Book

Mama was going to take me to the movies last night, and just as we was all ready to go, the door bell rang and I looked and saw Mrs. Hammond on the steps, and I sed, its Mrs. Hammond, ma, G wiss, cant we go to the movies now?

O, sugar, she always comes around lost as I want to go sunnware, I think its to bad, sed ma, they say Married in Haste is such a good picture, to.

Shood I tell her your in bed sick as anything and dont feel like seeing anybody? I sed.

Serterny not, the idee, you mussett tell anybody stories, sed ma. O deer, wy dose she always have to come calling at such inopportune moments?

Which jest then the bell rang agin, and I sed, Was if I jest tell her you got a broken leg, and dont feel as if you cood walk down stairs very eddy.

Stutch nonsense, go down and let her in immediatly, sed ma, you know you mussett keep anybody waiting like that.

And I went down and opened the door, and Mrs. Hammond sed, Hello, Benny, didnt you hear the bell?

Mam? I sed.

Is your mamma in? sed Mrs. Hammond.

Mam? Yes, mam, I sed.

Well tell her im heer, you dont seem very brite this evening, sed Mrs. Hammond.

She sint home, I sed.

But you jest sed she was, sed Mrs. Hammond, and I sed, Yes mam, she was but she sint now, shes at the movies, I was thinking you ment was she in, not is she in.

Wy, I dont bieve youve got good sents, sed Mrs. Hammond. And she went away and I came back and told ma, and ma sed, Benny Potts, you dont meen to say you told that woman an absholout story.

No mam, I sed, I jest told you was at the movies, and youd be there pritty soon, wont you?

Thats troo, sed ma. And we went to the movies, being pritty excitible.

WELCOME TO MISS BURKE.

There was no doubt of the warmth of the reception accorded Miss Kathleen Burke at the station on the arrival of the Quebec train. St. John wished to show its appreciation of the work for the relief of the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit which she represents.

Miss Burke was greeted by Mrs. Kuhring, president of the Women's Canadian Club, under whose auspices she spoke in St. John; then the mayor and members of the women's patriotic societies were introduced to her. His Worship the Mayor made a brief speech welcoming Miss Burke to the city.

Mr. Rankine, on behalf of St. Andrew's Society, welcomed Miss Burke, expressing an interest in her work and calling for three cheers and a tiger, which were heartily given.

In reply Miss Burke said that she had been greeted by the Mayor as an Irish woman and welcomed by St. Andrew's Society as a Scotch woman. She said she was a Canadian born. The Scottish Women's Unit does not stand for nationality, but is a standard under which the allied nations are represented. The unit contains women from all over the Empire, even far-off Australia being represented. There

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