

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1915.

"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.

"RIDING THE WATER-WAGON."

One does not have to be an active worker in the cause of prohibition to appreciate the vastly important bearing which the present war will have on the liquor question in future years. At the outbreak of war Russia quite cheerfully "went dry", the government agreeing to do without the hundred million roubles received annually from the manufacture and sale of vodka, which was a national monopoly. The benefits which this action have brought to the people of Russia have already been so great as to receive world-wide attention. Never in her history did Russia prepare for war so well and so thoroughly. Troop trains were moved on schedule time, soldiers appeared equipped and ready, and went into battle every man sober. Russia made a new name for herself by the speed and thoroughness with which she got her troops in the field and it is the opinion of qualified observers that a very large proportion of the credit for such an achievement must go to the decision of the government to abolish vodka drinking among the people.

While France did not feel the necessity of reform to the same degree as her Muscovite ally, yet the struggle was not many months old before the French Chamber of Deputies adopted a government measure prohibiting the manufacture and sale of absinthe, and although the results have not been so apparent as in the case of Russia, yet France has benefited immeasurably.

Whether Great Britain will follow the lead of her Allies is not decided, but it is most significant that at this time the British Government is considering a measure to prohibit the sale and manufacture of all liquors until after the war. Lloyd George, in a wonderful address recently, declared that drink more than the Germans was an enemy to the British nation and strongly advocated a measure of temporary prohibition.

While the liquor traffic can be assailed from many standpoints there can be little doubt that Russia and France in their decisions were influenced more by the economic argument. A sober soldier is the best soldier and a sober people the most contented and thrifty. Russia will lose a vast revenue but there is no doubt she will have it returned in the form of an increased product in other lines, for statistics have been presented to show that in the past the productivity and development of the great Russian Empire was handicapped and hampered more than a little by what has now come to be known as the vodka curse. Freed from this it is expected that, after the war, Russian development will be on a scale not previously dreamed of.

While prohibition on this continent is a matter for future years it is impossible to overlook the force of the weapon of argument prohibition advocates have had placed in their hands by the action of Russia and France, and the possible action of Great Britain. When a nation like Russia, where the liquor traffic was one of the richest of the state monopolies, can afford to give up the vast revenues thus received in order to abolish a national curse, the peoples of other nations who pride themselves on occupying a higher position in the scale of civilization can well afford at least to ask themselves "why?"

CONCERNING NEW BRUNSWICK

An interesting resume of business conditions in New Brunswick is contained in Canada, the leading weekly publication in London dealing with Canadian affairs. In its issue of March 20, Canada has the following: "Commercial travellers say that business throughout New Brunswick is good, particularly along the valley of the St. John. Railway passenger traffic is also being well sustained. Almost all of the provincial communities are showing progress. St. John is going on with its harbor development work, the construction of the bridge across the falls, the new post office and other enterprises. The new sugar refinery has begun work. A bond issue has been made for water extension to the amount of \$24,000. The winter export business is being well sustained. Sackville has decided to issue \$40,000 in bonds for water

extension. Moncton is replacing the churches and schools recently burned with splendid structures. Sussex has been doing a lot of construction work. It is estimated that in the past two years about \$500,000 have been expended in the erection of public and private buildings in Sussex. St. Andrews has almost completed its \$300,000 summer hotel. The re-opening of the \$1,000,000 sardine factory will also tend to boom that locality. St. Stephen industries are booming; the new shoe factory has been opened and orders are pouring in fast; the soap factory and the other industrial establishments in that thriving border town are doing a very satisfactory business. Woodstock, Fredericton, Edmundston and the North Shore towns are all doing their share in maintaining the slogan 'business as usual.' On the whole, a sane and satisfactory business campaign is in progress in New Brunswick."

THE ASSESSMENT ACT.

Whatever decision may be reached by the Municipalities Committee of the Provincial Legislature in reference to Commissioner Potts' tax exemption bill discussed yesterday, it is evident that the interests of the whole community will be considered and that the committee will not recommend anything favoring of class legislation.

Chairman Munro stated the matter clearly, fairly and concisely when he observed that if the assessment system of St. John was unsatisfactory it was for the citizens to get together and talk over the situation and then formulate some solution. As a matter of fact the City Commission, when it was elected to power, was authorized by its charter to appoint an assessment commission and give the matter of assessment immediate attention. It did not do so and the best excuse any of the commissioners could offer yesterday for this fact was that it had been overlooked in the multitude of other matters pressing for attention.

It will at once be admitted that the assessment system in vogue in St. John is not satisfactory and there will also be general agreement that wage-earners here have much to bear in taxation and other items entering into the cost of living. If the effect of the bill submitted yesterday is simply to shift the burden from the taxation to the rent column the lot of the wage earner will not be improved.

The assessment system should be scientifically amended after careful enquiry with the sole idea of distributing the burden of taxation in the most equitable manner. Encouragement should be given to wage earners who wish to provide their own homes but it should also be remembered that property owners and business men have rights which should be safeguarded. A perfect assessment act is probably impossible but we believe it will be found that better results can be attained by careful revision of the entire system than by attempting to lighten the burden of one class by shifting it to another.

VICTIMIZED SEVERAL MONTREAL PEOPLE

Man who suicided in Boston jail was in Montreal last week.

Montreal, March 31.—William C. Wallace, whose death in jail in Boston this morning from cyanide of potassium, self-administered, is reported, was in Montreal last Sunday. He is thought to have procured over \$4,000 in the past three months, some of it from over-confiding Montreal citizens, by fraudulent means. He cut a wide swath in several cities in the United States, including San Francisco and San Diego, and by clever manipulation of drafts secured several thousand dollars from American banks. Detectives followed him from San Francisco to Montreal, where he registered at a prominent hotel on Sunday last, then on to Boston, where they effected his arrest. Three months ago Wallace was a stenographer in Pittsburg.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS REPORT

Two volumes now necessary to show extent of this work — Valuable information.

The work and scope of the Experimental Farms and Stations have developed to such an extent that it has been found necessary for the sake of convenience to devote two volumes of nearly five hundred pages each to the main or aggregate report for the year ending March 31, 1914. In the first volume is presented the reports of the Director and the Divisions of Chemistry, Field Husbandry and Animal Husbandry. It is by a study of these chronicles that an idea can be obtained of the vast amount of work that is being done and an appreciation arrived at of a resultant good.

In the first few pages are given the usual comparative tables of grain yields and prices, and of live stock for the five years extending from 1909 to 1913, each of which, excepting horses and swine, show a decrease in the Eastern Provinces since 1910. In the Western Provinces there was a deficiency of upwards of 300,000 cattle between the same year and 1913, but an increase of nearly half a million horses and only a slight disparity in sheep, which, however, are showing a tendency to improvement. Swine increased by upwards of 500,000. In British Columbia the numerical changes were comparatively slight. Naturally much space is given to reports of experiments at the different farms and stations. These experiments, it is hardly necessary to say, cover every variety of grain, fruit and vegetable production, as well as soil development, crop management, cultivation of forage plants and grasses, live stock breeding and dairying. It would be impossible to overestimate the importance of the information thus furnished.

Of course at this time when the value of increase by improvement of production is being strenuously urged the reports are of special interest. It is not alone with what may be termed activities of the farm proper that they deal, but also with building, with clearing, with road-making, with reports constitute virtually an encyclopaedia of farming and its branches brought to date.

While, as has been said, Volume One is devoted to the review by the Director and reports of the Divisions of Chemistry, Field Husbandry and Animal Husbandry. Volume Two presents the reports of the Divisions of Horticulture, Cereals, Botany, Entomology, Orange Plants, Poultry and Tobacco. All that has been said of the completeness in its contents of the first volume can be repeated of the second. It, too, is a useful compilation and a sample in detail of the benefits to be derived from scientific and painstaking research.

As in the preceding years, the matters dealt with in this volume are divided into sections, (a) Giving precise information of the work at the Experimental Farms in the Divisions referred to, and (b) Treating of the various lines of experimental work under way throughout the system. It is explained that the latter section is devised and designed with a view to aiding the farmer more directly in the details of his vocation. It is worthy of wide distribution. One thing certain is that the nature of the reports makes them deserving of the closest attention. Copies may be obtained by making application to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

A VICTORY FOR HON. MR. CROTHERS

Minister of Labor's efforts to permanently settle trouble at Crow's Nest Mines proves successful.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, March 31.—The Minister of Labor received today information that the anticipated trouble in the Crow's Nest Pass Mines has been avoided and that no further difficulties are anticipated. This is regarded as a great victory for industrial peace in that district, and is a feather in the cap of Hon. T. W. Crothers. The story of the Crow's Nest Pass mines has been one of much industrial trouble. There was a strike in 1907 and a two years agreement was made. In 1909 another two years' agreement was made and in 1911 when the Conservatives came into power a strike which lasted for six months was one of the legacies to which Mr. Crothers fell heir. Hon. Mr. Rogers visited the scene

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE
Skinny Martin was the only one absent from school today, and Miss Kitty, being the teacher, said, Can anybody tell me why Artchibald Martin is absent.

I think he's sick, said Sid Hunt.
My goodness, and there's an epidemic of scarlet fever in this neighborhood, to see Miss Kitty, suppose you and Benny Potts go around to his house and find out what's the matter with him and kum back and report to me.

Yes mam, said me and Sid Hunt.
Can I go with them, Miss Kitty, said Sam Krawse, and Reddy Merty said, Can I go, and awl the fellows startid to say, Can I go, can I go. I will be sufficient, thank you jest the salm for yure kind awffers, said Miss Kitty.

And me and Sid startid to go around to Skinny Martin's house, me saying awn the way, G, if he's really got scarlet fever, school will be closed and we won't haif to go back till it's awl bin fergwernated.

It mite take them a hole day to fergwernate it, said Sid.
It mite take them 2 days, I sed.
It mite take a weak, sed Sid Hunt, and I sed But maybe he aint got scarlet fever.

G, that wood be a dirty trick, awtuz you going awl the way around to hee, sed Sid.
Do peepid die of scarlet fever, I sed.
Most of them, sed Sid.

And we kepp awn going till we got thare; and I rang the bell and Mrs. Martin cam to the door, and Sid sed, Miss Kitty sent us around to see if Skinny has scarlet fever.

My goodness grayhiss, wat an idee, the poor boy has got a raging headache, izent that enuff, sed Mrs. Martin.
Aw, G, I sed.

Aw, G, sed Sid Hunt. And we went back and told Miss Kitty, which she didnt seam as disappointed to hear it as wat we was.

of the disturbance and assisted Mr. Crothers in getting an agreement fixed up between the miners and the operators for three years. This agreement expires today and the Minister of Labor has had considerable anxiety as to whether there would be a settlement or not. He sent one of his most reliable officers to the Crow's Nest and the official wires that all the miners are in favor of the new agreement. There are eighteen mines in the district.

AGREEMENT REACHED IN MATTER OF SCHOOL ESTIMATES FOR YEAR

Trustees M. Coll and M. E. Agar of the St. John School Board appeared before the law committee of the legislature yesterday to protest against the passage of the city bill legalizing the assessment for the current year. Their ground of objection was that the commissioners had cut the school board's estimates by \$10,000. They claimed that this was interference with the legal powers of the school board. The trustees were accompanied by Superintendent Bridges.

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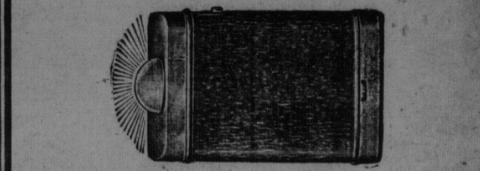
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S. Kerr, Principal

The funeral place yesterday, from his late wife, by Rev. R. was in the ground. The funeral took place half-past two at 56 Sydney where services were given by Rev. Ralph