

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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.

TODAY TELLS THE TALE.

The City Commissioners meet today in committee and the public expect that they will pass a resolution to the effect that the price of milk in this city has been unduly enhanced and that it is their opinion that an investigation should be held. That is decidedly the action that will prove in the interests of the citizens and will work no injustice to the milk dealers. If the decision to advance milk to ten cents per quart can be justified by the cost of production and handling then the dealer can make that charge and there is no recourse on the part of the consumer except to use less milk if he still feels he is being imposed upon.

In the public interest, however, there should be the most searching inquiry as to whether the increase is fair. Up to the present the milk dealers' figures have brought a mass of evidence to show that the statement submitted by Mr. Bell placed the cost of producing and handling milk higher than conditions warrant. First, Mr. Bell, acting for the dealers, included an item for handling in the country. Men who supply milk to the dealers concerned declare this item cannot be justified. "We never heard of it" is the substance of their statements, and they further state that it is only when farmers handle milk themselves that they are paid at the rate of 40 cents per eight quart can. When the milk is handled by a representative of the city dealer the farmer's revenue is but 39 cents. Yet the milk dealers would have the public believe that to purchase and handle milk in the country costs 42 cents per can, or two cents more than the facts show. It is also believed that the figures for feed of horses, wages, breakage, loss of bottles, depreciation and bad debts are higher than are really warranted; in fact this is the opinion of men who should know.

There is no necessity, however, to proceed on lines of guesswork. An investigation will definitely establish either that the costs are correctly stated and the advance is warranted or that the costs are lower than dealers have attempted to show and that milk can be profitably sold in this city for less than ten cents per quart. The next step in the matter is in the hands of the city council and citizens will watch with interest what happens at City Hall today. They will also remember it.

THE BRITISH SITUATION.

In the absence of detailed information of the exact causes leading to the resignation of David Lloyd George from the British cabinet any comment on the situation must be conjectural and of little or no value. Despatches received last night give London newspapers authority for two stories of the reasons leading to Mr. Lloyd George's action. One is that he desired to form a small war council which was to include Sir Edward Carson but was to be without the services of the Premier or the head of the Naval Department. In such an event the Prime Minister had every right to object to the plan for one can scarcely conceive of a British war council without mentally placing as its first two members the British Premier and the First Lord of the Admiralty. Another alleged reason is that Mr. Lloyd George has become disgusted over what he has termed the lack of vigorous prosecution of the war and that he is in favor of more aggressive measures. This is as it may be and in the absence of more definite information cannot be the subject of extended comment. It may be recalled, however, that Baron Bessford, Britain's most famous living admiral, has also placed himself strongly on record as favoring a more aggressive naval policy in connection with the campaign against Germany.

Almost equalling in importance the announcement of Lloyd George's determination to disassociate himself from his cabinet colleagues is the second report that Mr. Bonar Law and the Earl of Derby may follow his example. Both are strong men who have played a prominent part in the affairs of the Empire. The situation is not without keen interest for those who have advocated a coalition government for Canada and who have held that at the

outbreak of the war Sir Robert Borden should have called to his council leading members of the Liberal party. Britain has had a coalition government for many months but in this case coalition does not seem to have proven synonymous with harmony.

WHAT OF OUR 500,000?

Report comes that the Canadian divisions in France are for the moment retired to a quieter part of the front than they have been in of late. It is the necessary policy of all the combatants to give periods of rest to the fighting units on the western battle front. Also these units after meeting losses must receive and absorb reinforcing drafts. In the case of the Canadian divisions, the reinforcing reserve in England is still ample, but as the losses have lately been larger than the volunteering in Canada, a time may come, possibly soon, when the reinforcing might fall short of maintaining the present Canadian regiments. Have you thought, says the Ottawa Journal, of what would follow? One of two things would have to happen. Either the present regiments in France would have to be amalgamated into a fewer number, or the Canadian force would have to be broken up altogether, and our men used to reinforce regiments from the British Isles or Australia.

Either event would be a disgrace to this country, while we remain short of the 500,000 men we promised. Are we in Canada going to risk the arrival of such disgrace? Every patriotic Canadian should ask himself that question as he considers in his own mind the problem of compulsory military service.

Meanwhile there is a growing call to every unmarried man of physical fitness to consider what his duty is to his country and to manliness in regard to joining the national army.

Although last night's meeting in the Imperial Theatre did not succeed in securing one recruit for the British Navy, yet it is reported that the audience was most enthusiastic in its rendition of the National Anthem. On occasions of that sort the prayer God Save Our Gracious King takes on a new significance.

The Longshoremen will ask the Provincial Government to make inquiries as to the quantities of food stuffs kept in cold storage in this province. This matter of the cost of living is progressing to the stage where there is likely to be some surprisingly vigorous action.

Just to show the power of a city wide boycott it might be mentioned that the price of turkeys in New York was forced down to twenty cents per pound after the women of that city once got to work on the matter.

And now it is just possible that the Russian troops may save Roumania after the Germans have got within gunshot of the national capital. Again hats off to Russia.

The British Government has placed Sir David Beatty in command of the North Sea fleet and promoted Admiral Jellicoe to the post of First Sea Lord. This is a well merited tribute to the heroes of the Battle of Jutland. It may be remembered that on that historic occasion Beatty with his cruiser squadron kept the enemy engaged until the arrival of Jellicoe with his big-gun ships.

December Flowers. The Standard yesterday obtained from a friend on Spar Cove Road a bunch of old-fashioned pansies popularly known as "Johnny-Jump-Ups," which were picked yesterday morning. These flowers were brought to New Brunswick some sixty-five years ago, coming from England to a gentleman named Squire Brittain who settled in this province. They were in blossom on Nov. 14th, the day of the snow-storm, and the lady in whose garden the blossoms were found turned a tub over them to protect them from the frost and cold. Yesterday they were found in full bloom and good condition.

Further Decline in Flour. The price of Manitoba flour dropped a further 30c per barrel on Saturday, making the present ruling quotation for this brand \$10.90.

SUFFERING GREATER THAN ON THE FIELD.

Investigator Says Seven Million Belgians Have Been Dying by inches for Past Two Years.

"The most terrible thing I saw was not, as you might think, the scenes along the battle line and at the Red Cross stations," said an investigator who just returned from Europe, "but my glimpse into the true state of affairs in Belgium. The constant gradual squeezing of the Belgian people by the Germans is terrible in its effect and the effect is doubly hard to witness when the stolidity with which these Belgians are bearing it is considered.

"Why cannot the world—the allies of these people, the allies of civilization—do something and do it now. We on this side pride ourselves on our charitable works, on our kindness of nature and yet we are permitting these people to starve. Hunger haunts the streets of every Belgian town and city and gaunt, emaciated figures, little children and sorrowing mothers, walk the streets with nothing to cheer them except a little soup and a few slices of bread each day. It is terrible and it's beyond description. What men have suffered on the battlefield these people and they are innocent victims, are suffering tenfold. A man is killed instantly, a wounded man's sufferings last through a limited period until health or death claim him, but these people are dying by inches, and have been dying for two years. Death has actually claimed up to us to continue the subscriptions—they are just waiting for it."

The work of the Belgian Relief Committee is remarkable in its administration. No more businesslike organization ever existed. It has worked wonders with simply the money from voluntary subscriptions and it is up to us to continue the subscriptions to carry on the good work.

Money, wheat, flour, clothing—let it be what it may, but give, give now. That is the main thing. There are seven millions starving to death—think of it, a whole nation, a nation of our allies perishing, suffering untold agonies for us and we are failing to provide the necessary amount of food for them.

There is a Belgian Relief Committee in your town. And there is the central Belgian Relief Committee at 53 St. Peter St., Montreal. Send your contribution, right now to either one. It all goes the same way—to save human life.

MARRIAGES

Spooer-Dunn.

A very pretty wedding took place at the residence of the bride's parents, 173 Adelaide street, Thursday afternoon, at 3.30 o'clock, when Mabelle Clare Floyd youngest daughter of W. Baxter Dunn, became the bride of Orin Edward Spooer, of Arlington, Mass. Owing to a recent death in the family, the wedding was very quiet. The bride entered the parlor on the arm of her father to the strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March, played by Miss Bessie Farmer. The bride's dress was of silk crepe de chine over silk and she wore the conventional veil with Juliet cap and orange blossoms, and carried a bouquet of cream roses.

The bride was attended by her sister, Mrs. Jos. E. Hawker, as matron of honor, who wore yellow silk and large black velvet hat and carried a bouquet of pink and white roses. Joseph Hawker supported the groom. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Hodges, pastor of Coburg street Christian church, of which the bride was an active member.

Many handsome presents were received. The groom's present to the bride was a set of ermine furs, and to the matron of honor a horseshoe brooch of diamonds and pearls. After the wedding dinner the bride and groom left on the Boston train for a trip to Troy, N. Y., Philadelphia and Washington, after which they will take up their residence at Arlington, Mass.

Births and Marriages.

Last week fifteen births, five boys and ten girls, and nine marriages were reported to Registrar Jones.

Worsted Suitings and Overcoatings

—ALSO—

Heavy Winter Trousers

BALANCE OF FALL ORDER JUST RECEIVED.

Edgecombe & Chaisson, Tailors, King St.

Look Ahead

Keep down expense—in Footwear as in other things. Keep shoes dry—wet hurts them as much as wear.

Buy before prices advance—and buy HUMPHREY'S SHOES—the shoes of quality, made here. Sold by progressive dealers.

Ask for HUMPHREY'S Footwear.

Little Benny's Note Book

I wanted to go to the movies yesterday and I only had 4 cents, and I hawt I mile as well go around and see wat movie it is, enway, jest for fun. Wich I did, and the aino outside sed, Today, Alkall lkes Revenge in 5 reels, and there was a big pickture of a lot of cowboys and people shooting guns at each other.

G, that looks pritty excitable, I wish I had another sent, I hawt. Wich jest then Puds Simkinsee sissy cuzzin Persey came up and started to look at the pickture, sayins, G, I wish had another sent, I ony got 4 senta.

G, thats funny, I ony got 4 senta, to I sed. Thats funny, sed Persey. I tell you wat, I sed, lets us matcho see wich one loans the uther one a sent to go in.

All rite, you match me, sed Persey. And he put one of his senta on the back of his hand and put the uther hand over it, and I did the same thing with one of my senta, and then we took our hands away and Perseys sent was tales and mine was heds, meaning I lost.

Best out of 3, I sed, Its always the best out of 3. All rite, sed Persey. Persey being pritty innerrest, and Persey matched me, and my sent was heds and so was his, meaning he won. Lets make it the best out of 5, I sed.

All rite, sed Persey. Being innerrest as anything, and we matched agen and I lost agen, and I sed, Wat do you say we make it best out of 7? No sir, no sir, you haff to loan me a sent, sed Persey.

Wich I loaned him one and he went in to see Alkall lkes Revenge and I hawt 6 Hekerish sticks with my uther 3 senta. Proving no matter how innerrest a peroson is, theyve got some rites.

Horse Killed in Exciting Runaway. Had not Main street been practically deserted on Saturday night about 11.45 there might have been a casualty to report in addition to the death of a valuable horse belonging to the firm of Logan & McKinney. The animal which was attached to an express wagon and standing in the barn on Adelaide street bolted out of the door and at a mad gallop raced up the street, turned the corner and continued at wild speed down Main street. Had not the horse collided with an automobile bearing the number 3397 and owned by F. H. Quirt standing near Dr. Francis J. Hogan's office it is not known what the consequences might have been. As it was the collision caused the horse to leave the wagon entangled with the auto. The animal mortally wounded probably by the top of the car, ran down Main street as far as W. J. Savare's saloon where it fell on the street and shortly afterwards died. The blood from the horse's wound flowed profusely and it is thought that this in itself was sufficient to cause the animal's death. The automobile was damaged somewhat, while the wagon was practically ruined.

Subway Cases on Trial. Judge Audette of the Exchequer Court of Canada will hold a session in St. John on Dec. 12th, when four Montreal subway cases will come on for trial. The cases are as follows: James D. LeBlanc vs. the King, Dr. E. O. Steeves vs. the King, Gen. V. Steeves vs. the King, M. & F. Hogan vs. the King. These cases have been waiting some time for this session of the Exchequer Court.

New York, Dec. 2.—It need not be feared that the trade of the U. S. will be seriously hurt by the decision of the British and French governments not to issue the short term treasury notes.

Bootleggers Arrested. Despite the fact that recently bootleggers have been heavily fined in the police court, others persist in the unlawful practice. Saturday night at 10.15 o'clock the police arrested Michael Angelo on the charge of selling liquor without a license, and also

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