

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1919.

HAWTHORNE AVENUE.

The Hawthorne Avenue water service, or lack of service, is a problem now awaiting settlement by the City Council, and is one which presents many difficult points. On this street, living between the ice house and the Parks hospital, there are a number of houses, whose occupants have until quite recently depended for water on several wells in the vicinity. These wells are now closed by order of the Board of Health and the families in that district are put to great inconvenience. The first consideration is that St. John is in duty bound to provide water and sewerage. As this is not the case, the opinion is general that it might reasonably be paid for out of capital account, which of course means a bond issue. But there are reasons, and very good reasons too, why this may not be done without further negotiating. The cost will be ten thousand dollars. That means, at the rate of ten per cent, one thousand dollars per year revenue, if the policy which has applied in similar contracts elsewhere in the city is to continue. Six per cent will provide interest and sinking fund for the bonds, but ten per cent is necessary when replacement and maintenance costs are added, as they should be. Now there are not enough users of water in the area affected to guarantee such a revenue excepting at a tax which would prove excessive. But there are unoccupied lands along the route which would undoubtedly greatly increase in value if the water service is extended. It has not been the custom to assess unoccupied lands in the past for water and sewerage, and apparently no good authority exists for the application of such a principle to the section now in question. But in view of the fact that with water and sewerage along that street all properties would benefit, the suggestion that all should be asked to contribute toward the necessary revenue is worthy of consideration. Of course the situation is this—a number of people desiring to have homes of their own, looking around for cheap lots of land, found them on Hawthorne Avenue, built houses without water or sewerage services, and are now asking the city to extend these services for the convenience of the owners of such homes and of lands not yet occupied. Compliance with such a request involves the possibility of endless trouble, for no one can say where such a course might lead. Certainly the city should do all in its power to assist our people in securing comfortable homes, but at the same time the city should not be placed in the position of having to refuse what appear to be reasonable requests, from parties who have scattered themselves all over the county with the purpose of eventually asking that water and sewerage be carried to their doors. The easiest solution of the present problem rests with the property owners on Hawthorne Avenue, who can by mutual agreement give an undertaking to pay the sum required by the city before such work may be carried on. Another method of providing such a situation will be found in St. John seeking such legislation as will permit it to assess unoccupied lands for a proportionate share of the assessment for water and sewerage purposes.

OUR GREAT UNDERTAKING.

Some months ago when plans were being arranged for the reception to the 26th Battalion and Siege Battery, the suggestion was offered that a formal reception which would include all St. John soldiers might become a duty of the war future. Premier Foster at that time intimated that the government would be prepared to co-operate in such an affair which might then take on the form of a provincial celebration. Recently in considering the programme for the reception to the Prince of Wales—which is a provincial reception—the suggestion of a gathering of our returned men was again brought up. Now while this matter has not been referred to the consideration of the council, it has been placed before the citizens' committee and enthusiastically endorsed. There has been no official acceptance of the plan by the council simply because the council has not had opportunity to consider it. But in view of the general popularity of the scheme and the manner in which it has been received by the citizens, the proposal may be regarded as settled. It would never do now to throw obstacles in the way because of lack of formal approval by the commissioners. And in view of what has been arranged so far, we may take it for granted that this reception of soldiers—our own men first of all, and with them all from outside points who may care to participate—is a St. John affair. True the provincial government will co-operate to some extent. This means assistance in arranging transportation for the men from provincial points, and paying for the same when arranged. But the heavy and will fall on St. John not merely in the matter of financing the entertainment but in providing accommodations for our guests and in arranging the programme. It is a tremendous

undertaking and one that in order to be successful will demand the heartiest co-operation of all our people. So for the next few weeks the various committees which have been selected will have all they can do without having to combat indifference on the part of anyone. St. John is committed to a pleasant duty, one in which every person should be glad to participate, and those who have so generously accepted the task of carrying out the plans now or hereafter to be approved should enjoy active support of others to whom they may appeal for assistance. Let all work together and make this welcome something which our men will remember for years as the great event of their homecoming.

P. E. ISLAND ELECTIONS.

The result of the provincial elections in Prince Edward Island should come as an awful warning to Hon. W. E. Foster, Mr. Veniot and the others. The Island Government has been sailing close to the wind for a good many years, no particularly able men having appeared in either party, a very different situation from the days of Davies, Owen, Sullivan, McLeod, Ferguson and others whose names have become history. Since the breakup of the Hazzard Government in 1911 the Conservatives have enjoyed a varying majority in the Legislature, at times scarcely sufficient to carry on the business of the province, for Prince Edward Island is naturally Liberal and has favored that side of politics ever since Confederation. The immediate cause of the turnover on Thursday, which result was brought about through the influence of a comparatively small number of votes, was neglect of the public roads and expenditure of funds without adequate result. In the enjoyment of a considerably increased revenue, the Arsenault administration, hampered by increasing costs of labor and material and of every item involved in departmental affairs, was unable to make such a showing as the majority of the people believed should have been made. This unsatisfactory result, together with indifference to the highways, brought about the downfall of the government just as it will bring the downfall of the Foster Government in New Brunswick.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

The housing problem in St. John has become so acute that it is the master of our people now regard it with contempt. The seriousness of the situation, while perhaps understood, is not actually realized. Spasmodic agitation to bring about some relief have so far resulted in nothing but failure. Scarcely a new house has been built in years, very few existing buildings have been remodelled, and there is no apparent prospect of any improvement whatever. The situation, as it stands today, is not merely that number of our people are unable to obtain what they regard as reasonably comfortable homes for themselves, but that hundreds are actually without accommodation of any sort whatever. Families can be named by the score who are unable to procure even board and rooms at prices within their incomes and in many cases at prices what they, and who, having found accommodation during the summer months when so many families are out of town, are at their wits end to know what to do to become of them in the autumn. It is not a question of comfortable housing, or a question of price. The problem is to find any place whatever in which to live.

HOW ROADS ARE MADE.

In a certain locality in the Westfield district two stalwart Liberals live, and have their being. These men, staunch friends of Mr. Foster, long ago gave up all hope of ever having the road in front of their summer homes put in shape for travel. So they went to it themselves, and in course of time, by the expenditure of money and labor, they made a stretch of highway—short it is true, but for a king to travel. It was smooth as marble, nicely rounded, and so well oiled that for the past month or more not one atom of dust has been seen in the neighborhood. But on Thursday, some of Mr. Veniot's men appeared on the scene when the interested parties were absent, and they drove that road machine right over the beautiful stretch, ripping up the surface, tossing sods and stones about, piling six inches of dirt on the lovely oiled surface, and in short not only destroying what had been done, but ruining the road for this season at the least. Now there is trouble.

WHAT THEY SAY

A Capital Offence, Surely. Quebec Telegraph—France has provided the death penalty for profiteers. Most people will consider this capital.
 Kerenky and Karolyi. New York Times—When General Smuts says that the Ebert administration in Germany "deserves our backing and encouragement," he is probably right, though some of us are still curious to know whether that ad-

ministration is dominated by Ebert, or by Noske, or Lettow-Vorbeck. But when General Smuts appeals for kindly treatment of Germany by begging us not to deal with Ebert as we dealt with Kerenky and Karolyi we ought to look back over a little recent history.

Kaiser's Change of Venue. Columbus Dispatch—Probably the ex-kaiser would welcome a movement to transfer his trial some place where there is less prejudice against him—say Mexico City.

Thrifty Japan. Boston Transcript—Of course a good many soldiers will bring home souvenirs secured from the war zone, but it remained for thrifty Japan to show the most enterprising along this line in gathering up valuable pieces of China.

Such Solitude. New York Evening Post—An air of unreality overhangs the furious battling over Shantung. The conflict is unreal in respect to the motives which inspire the attacks. It is unreal in the obvious exaggeration of the ascertainable facts. It is essentially unreal in our lack of knowledge of the vital facts. From Washington come intimations that Mr. Wilson will make a statement on Shantung in the course of the next few days.

Failure of Bolshevism. New York Sun—The failure of Bolshevism in Hungary seems now to be as complete as it was in Bavaria. In both states it failed from the lack of support by the sturdy elements of the population. The re-establishment of the stable government, perhaps of the republic which Bela Kun overthrew, either by the Magyars themselves or by allied intervention, would now seem a possibility in Hungary. The one evident fact is that Bolshevism has failed to make its vaunted gain in western Europe.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE PRAYER.

(By Lillian Mayfield Roberts, in The Women's Century.)
 Dear God, I am a woman—womanlike,
 No weaker and no stronger than the rest,
 And that is why I ask this prayer to-night
 For help and guidance in the little things.
 If I could feel your hand upon my lips
 On days when I am sick or merely tired
 Of all the little trivial worrying things,
 Perhaps the childing word would not start out
 To wound my child, and turning, cut my heart.
 I do not want to nag. I only want
 Guidance to understand that each of us
 Has his small troubles, and that mine are not
 Harder in truth than other women bear.
 And when the little troubles vex me so
 I am too prone to turn and cry them out
 In maudlin tears upon my husband's breast.
 Keep me from this!—he has enough
 To bear.
 And one more prayer that I would make tonight:
 If I could only see the difference
 Between the really big and little things!
 I do not ask for better—or for more—
 Only ask for this, God, keep me from
 Proving growing petty. It will be enough.
 Help me in this, and I am satisfied.

A BIT OF FUN

"Yes," said Audrey, "I spent the entire evening telling him that he had a terrible reputation for kissing girls against their will."
 "And what did he do?"
 "He ate there like a booby and denied it."
 Seafaring Diet. Holiday-making Horace: "There's a fasting man who has been living for forty-five days on water."
 Seaside Sybil: "That's nothing. My father lived for twenty years on water."
 Holiday-making Horace: "Go on!"
 Seaside Sybil: "Yes; he was a sea captain."

Pet Names. Business Man: "Who is at the phone?"
 Typist: "Your wife, sir."
 Business Man: "What does she want?"
 Typist: "The only word I can make out is 'idiot,' sir."
 Business Man: "I'll come at once. She probably wants to talk to me."

Disappointed. "So you consider his misreading and disappointing? Why?"
 "Well, he had me on the gut wire last night to the expectation that he was going to ask me to the theatre."
 "And he didn't?"
 "No; he only asked me to marry him."

Straying Anatomy. Walker: "Mr. Brown's left his umbrella against me. I do believe he would leave his head if it were loose."
 Robinson: "I dare say your right. I heard him say only yesterday he was going to Switzerland for his lungs."

Took Her at Her Word. "Recalling Mr. Hanson," said the fair girl, "I'm shocked to hear you confess such behavior in your business dealings. You should always do unto others as you would have others do unto you."
 "You wouldn't have me do that always?"
 "Certainly," she replied, "always."
 "All right. Here goes!" he replied, and kissed her.

An Acrobat. Sergeant (drilling awkward squad): "Company! Lift up your left leg and hold it straight out in front of you!"

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

My cousin Artie was around last night and me and him played par-
 chowise and lotto and authors up in the setting room until ma sed, its
 getting late, Benny. Art Sue will be getting anxious about Artie. Art Sue
 being Artie's mother, and I sed, She knows wato he is, ma.
 And I know wato he's going, starting immediately, sed pop. Meaning
 home, and I went down stairs with him to take him to the front door,
 and Artie sed, O, I tell you lets wat, lets consult our faces with berni
 cork and put the hall life out and see if we can see each other in the dark.
 Wich we did, me finding a cork out in the kitchen and burning the end
 of it with a candle, and we rubbed it over each other faces till they was
 both pannelfagged black and I got up on a chair and put the hall life out
 and we stood there seeing if we could see each other, wich we couldnt,
 and jest then pop called from the setting room, Benny, wat the mischief
 are you doing down there all this time?
 Wich I didnt answer anything, and Artie whispered, Shh, lets see if he
 can see us in the dark. And grity soon pop came to the top of the stairs,
 saying, all for the love of Pest, the halls as black as the inside of a hat—
 Benny, Benny.
 Wich nobody answered, and pop started to come down, saying, He
 couldnt of gone up to bed very well without me seeing him, this is a funny
 thing.
 And he kept on coming down till he was down, saying, Mitey queer,
 mitey queer. And jest then he bumped into something, being me, and I
 sed, Hello, pop, Im camelfagged.
 Yours a camelfagged little unisance, you pritty near scared me out of
 a years growth, sed pop, wares that blasted life. And he started to wawk
 tords it feeling up in the air, and jest then he bumped into something elsa,
 being the chair I climbed up on to put the life out.
 That sed me, pop, I sed, and Artie sed, Its me, Unkko WIL, Im
 camelfagged too.
 Wat, you still heer?—well you wont be much longer, sed pop. And
 he struck a match to put Artie out by, and wen he saw his face he was
 so surprised he berned his fingers and dropped the match, and Artie ran
 out by himself, and I ran up stairs and wen pop came up I was in bed,
 looking as if I thawt I was asleep with my face still black and also the
 pillo cover, and pop gave me 4 slaps some place and told me to get up and
 wash my face.
 Wich I did.

One of the squad held up his right
 leg by mistake. This brought his
 right-hand companion's left leg and
 his own right leg close together. The
 sergeant, seeing this, exclaimed an-
 grily:
 "And who is that blooming galoot
 over there holding up both legs?"

Glad He Found Out.
 A commercial traveller, on leaving
 a certain hotel, said to the proprie-
 tor: "Pardon me, but with what ma-
 terial do you stuff the beds in your
 establishment?"
 "Why," said the landlord proudly,
 "with the best straw to be found in
 the whole country."
 "That," returned the traveller, "is
 very interesting. I now know whence
 the straw came that broke the
 camel's back."

Would She?
 "Now, ladies and gentlemen," said
 the conjurer with a wave of the hand,
 "this is the magic cabinet. I invite
 any lady in the audience to enter this
 cabinet. I will then close the door,
 and when it shall be opened the
 lady will have disappeared, leav-
 ing no trace."
 There was an impressive silence un-
 til a little, undersized man in the
 second row turned to an enormous wo-
 man, who sat by him, and breathed
 eagerly:
 "Maria, dear, won't you oblige the
 gentleman?"

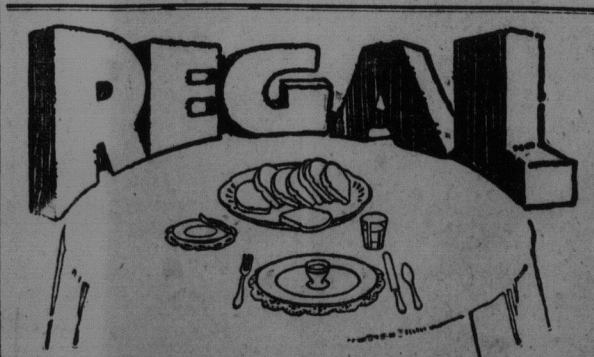
The Bolshevik Boss.
 Samuel Wilson was talking in
 Washington about his recent foreign
 tour.
 "Heaven deliver us," he said, "from
 the Bolshevik type of labor leader!"
 Here Mr. Gompers gave a hearty
 laugh.

"You know," he went on, "about the
 unemployment allowance of 25 shillings
 a week that is given to English
 labor? Well, a Bolshevik labor leader
 at a labor demonstration one night
 pointed to a modest, neatly dressed
 young woman and hissed in my ear:
 "Scab! Look at the dirty scab! It
 wasn't for her sex I'd leave her
 out of the window!"
 "The Bolshevik gave an indignant
 snort."

"Why," he said, "when her moun-
 tion plant shut down she said it
 wasn't right—the dirty scab—to take
 the 25 shillings unemployment al-
 lowance when there were plenty of
 good places vacant, and go-blimey if
 she didn't go back to general house-
 work!"

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