

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 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.

## GERMAN "DETERIORATION."

That the German army has deteriorated in efficiency as the result of the heavy casualties inflicted by the Allies in the present most successful offensive is obvious. At the present time unseasoned troops under the Kaiser's banner are fighting, or rather, running from, the fiercest military aggression the world has ever known and it is not reasonable to expect that they could do as well as their more experienced opponents even if they were disposed to fight with the same splendid spirit the Allies are showing. But the German soldiers in the ranks lack that spirit. They know they are beaten and only look for an opportunity to end it all and this is demonstrated in peculiar fashion by German officers and German military critics.

Reference to the manner in which the German offensive of March 21st was received by the military critics of the German troops, the nature of the press comment at that time will show at once the spirit that and fly at that time. The military critics wrote long articles to prove that it had been necessary to attack and some of these, appearing side by side with official German communiques announcing great victories were almost apologetic in their tone. These articles were evidently written at the order of the German government, for different papers used the same arguments and in some cases, even the same language. They gave a very interesting indication of the condition of the German people, which was confirmed by later articles complaining of the nervousness and alarm of the people of Berlin, where more attention was paid to unofficial stories of enormous German losses than to the official accounts of a great German advance. The German people appeared to feel that victory at the price was not a profitable purchase.

In one particular most of these articles were alike. They attempted to throw the responsibility for the offensive upon the German troops. Thus the military critic of the Berlin "Lokal-Anzeiger" wrote: "Moreover, the splendid aggressive spirit of our incomparable troops positively urged us to the attack." In other words the Germans were forced to advance against the Allies because the German soldiers of the line were so eager to fight and to do their whole duty that it was impossible to hold them back. Much the same story was told by General von Ardenne, military critic of the "Berliner Tageblatt," who wrote: "Moreover we were urged to this by the immense, tireless, and steady fighting spirit of our own army which rightly felt that we can see the road to peace only in a decision by arms." Upon the aggressive spirit of the German soldier von Ardenne attempted to pin the responsibility for the lengthy casualty lists which were bringing anguish to the hearts of the Berlin civilians.

But while this sort of thing was handed out to be read by the civilian population of Germany the German leaders were experiencing much difficulty because of the "slow but steady deterioration" of their "incomparable troops." The soldiers were falling in to the same condition as the civilians, they were tiring of the war and this can be proven by orders issued by German officers and complaining of the lack of discipline among their men.

A little more than a month after the publication of the articles referred to General von Quast, commanding the Sixth German Army, issued the following order:

"The slow but steady deterioration of discipline is undoubtedly due to the long duration of the war. This lack of discipline shows itself primarily in the large number of sentences passed in which courts-martial too often show signs of clemency and subsequently, more plainly in the unsoldierly bearing adopted by the men towards their superiors."

Von Quast went on to complain that "the great majority of the men" were becoming slowly, that they were forgetting to show marks of respect to their officers and no longer troubled to salute. More significant still he complained that the German officer, the most excellent of all officers in his demands on his men, contributed to this condition by his own indifference. Evidently the officer as well as the private was tiring of the war.

The Von Quast order was published in May and in June, General von der Marwitz, commanding the Second Army, complained of precisely the same thing. He said:

"Discipline, which is the keystone of our army, is seriously shaken. I cannot permit commanders to take upon themselves to shield by excess of

indulgence officers, N. C. O.'s or men guilty of breaches of discipline." The next week he issued another order:

"Cases of soldiers refusing to obey orders are increasing to an alarming extent."

Such was the true condition of the "incomparable army," whose ardent and aggressive spirit could not be restrained. It was disobeying orders "to an alarming extent." It was "slowly but surely deteriorating" as a result of "the long duration of the war."

## THE GERMANS STILL RETIRE.

At no point of importance along the long eighty-mile battlefront have the Boche forces been able to find a safe anchorage, and the retreat continues. The Canadians, who have done many acts of valor recently and have captured many villages and about 20,000 prisoners in the past month, are occupying new places which have been abandoned by the Germans without fighting, and are getting a slight rest after their sanguinary clashes and drives of last week and the early part of the present one. The British are within a few miles of the important centre of Cambrai and of Douai, so that the fall of both is only a question of time.

The Germans yesterday evacuated the city of Lens and left it too full of gas for the British to occupy immediately. In addition to forcing the Germans to retreat north of the Oise and on the Vesle front the French have made big gains northeast of Noyon. The Vesle has been crossed on a front of nearly twenty miles and more towns have been taken.

The situation continues bright, therefore, and further withdrawals by the enemy are anticipated. In the Vesle region he is beginning a general retreatment.

The sacking of the British embassy and the murder of a valuable attaché at Petrograd has a bad look. It remains to be seen whether the British demand for reparation will have any effect on the discredited Bolshevik government or what remains of it. The Allies have a long, arduous task ahead of them in restoring something like order in distracted Russia, where things are still at sixes and sevens.

## "THE NEED OF THE COMPANY."

The Telegraph, yesterday morning, devoted considerable editorial space to a criticism of observations made by The Standard in the course of a discussion of a proposed temporary increase of rates for the New Brunswick Power Company, and professed an inability to understand what this newspaper meant by the words "the need of the company." All things considered, it is, perhaps, not surprising that the editorial brain of our Canterbury street contemporary should occasionally be befogged. The editor of the Telegraph has many causes for worry.

He must, for instance, do his best to convey the impression that all is harmony between the members of Hon. Mr. Foster's government, when, as a matter of fact the reverse is precisely the case; he must also maintain his attacks on the New Brunswick Power Company though lacking real ammunition to make them successful, and at the same time he must steer clear of a course as to be able to claim a vindication of his policy of unreservedly damning that company and every person connected with it, no matter what decision as to the merits of the company's claims may be reached by the commission now investigating the case.

As The Standard understands it "the need of the company" means a sufficient revenue to pay operating expenses, maintain services adequate to the requirements of the city, pay bond interest and give the holders of common stock a fair return upon the money actually invested. We do not advocate that revenue shall be provided to pay dividends on watered stock. We do not understand that the New Brunswick Power Company asked for such a concession. But we believe the people of this city who buy the services which the New Brunswick Power Company offers for sale will be quite content to give that company a fair deal. Can the Telegraph say as much?

It is interesting to recall that at the time of the appointment of the commission to investigate the New Brunswick Power Company's case the Telegraph was hard put to it to find language in which to express its complete endorsement of the gentlemen placed upon that board. The editor's extensive vocabulary was taxed. Now that there is a possibility the commission may decide that the company's claim possesses a modicum of justice, is the Telegraph preparing to execute another of its characteristic somersaults and snarl the commission?

Our contemporary is a valiant champion of the rights of the people only when it can "bait the grudge" or further the interest of its owners. We ask: If certain gentlemen, said to be associated with the Power Company had purchased from certain gentlemen, said to be associated with the Telegraph, a certain "rock" in a certain river, would there then have been as much excitement in the Telegraph of late as there seems to be today?

## A BIT OF FUN

### Making Progress.

Tommy came home at supper time highly elated. "Pa," he said, "I have just learned from one of the soldiers how to say 'thank you' and 'if you please' in French."

"Good!" said his father. "That's more than you ever learned to say in English."

### The Boy of It.

Mother—Now, as this is your fifth birthday, Bobbie, wouldn't you like to have a pretty cake with five candles on it?

Bobbie—I guess, mamma, I'd rather have five cakes and one candle.

### Perfectly Innocent Fun.

"Willie, are you and Roy in any mischief out there?"

"Oh, no, ma," came the reply. "We're just playing with some of the eggs the grocer left, to see how many times we can catch them before they break."

## A BIT OF VERSE

### TH ECONNAGHT RANGERS.

I saw the Connaught Rangers when they were passing by. On a spring day, a good day, with gold rifts in the sky.

Themselves were marching steadily along the Liffey quay! An I see the young broad look of them as if it was today!

The bright lads, the right lads, I have them in my mind. With the green flags on their bayonets all fluttering in the wind!

A last look at old Ireland, a last good-bye maybe, Then the gray sea, the wide sea, my grief upon the sea.

And when will they come home, says I, when will they see once more, The dear blue hills of Wicklow and Wexford's di' mgray shore?

The brave lads of Ireland, no better lads you'll find. With the green flags on their bayonets all fluttering in the wind!

Three years have passed since that spring day, sad years for them and me. Green graves there are in Serbia and in Gallipoli.

And many who went by that day along the muddy street Will never hear the roadway ring to their triumphant feet.

But when they march before Him, God's welcome will be kind, And the green flags on their bayonets will flutter in the wind.

—W. M. Lettis in the April Yale Review.

## CHICAGO PRODUCE.

Chicago, Sept. 4.—Corn—No. 2 yellow, 1.60 to 1.62; No. 3 yellow, 1.57 to 1.60; No. 4 yellow, 1.52 to 1.55. Oats—No. 3 white, 68 1/2 to 70 1/2; standard, 69 3/4 to 71 1/4. Rye—No. 2, nominal. Barley—No. 2, 1.08. Timothy—\$5.50 to 9.00. Clover—Nominal. Pork—Nominal; lard, 28.90; ribs, 24.00 to 24.62.

## RECENT DRIVES

### BRINGS SAD NEWS

### TO ST. JOHN HOMES

Relatives of Heroes in France Hear of Their Loved Ones Being Killed or Wounded

Yesterday's wires from Ottawa brought sad news to a number of St. John homes. In two cases the word was that the supreme sacrifice had been made, and in others that loved ones had been wounded in the fierce fighting which is now taking place on the fields of France and Flanders.

### Capt. Rea Mackay.

Word came to Mr. and Mrs. W. Malcolm Mackay that their youngest son, Captain Rea Mackay, had been killed in action August 29. Captain Mackay, who was only twenty-two years of age, crossed overseas with the 46th and was later transferred to the New Brunswick battalion, serving with that unit for the past two years. He had been wounded and had only been back to his unit a short time when killed. Two brothers, Colin and Malcolm, Jr., are still "over there."

### Pte. John H. Leary.

Mrs. John H. Leary, 78 Metcalf street, received official notification that her husband, Pte. Leary, had been killed on August 26. Pte. Leary left St. John two years ago with the 149th Battalion and on arrival in England was transferred to another unit. Besides his wife he is survived by six children, the eldest of whom is thirteen years old, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Leary, Main street, two brothers, Fred of Vancouver, Pte. W. C., "somewhere in France," and one sister, Mrs. Charles Swanton of this city.

### Pte. Douglas Hannah.

Mrs. Thomas Hannah, 10 Canon street, received notice that her son, Douglas, who enlisted with Col. Geo. W. Fowler's 104th Battalion, had received a gunshot wound in the face and was placed in No. 4 General Hospital at Camiers, France.

### James R. McElhinney.

Mrs. James Reid McElhinney of 200

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Ma was looking at the joaks in the paper with just as serious of a expression as if she went, and pop was smoking with his feet up, and ma sed, Willyum, there's a good picture around at the movies tonite, at least the name of it sounds good.

And there's a classy prize fits on in Paris tonite, and I hear there's a good minstrel show in Peekin, China, sed pop.

Wat in the world has that got to do with it? sed ma. In so comfortable rite heer that it would be just as easy to get me to Paris or Peekin China as around to the movies, sed pop.

O, I dont care, Id jest, as soon sit heer and look at you, dearie, sed ma.

Wt this suddin sentimental outburst? sed pop, and ma sed, Its jest the way I feel, Willyum. I was cleaning up today and I found some of the sweetest letters that you wrote to me wile we were ingaged. I wonder how it is a man gets so different after hes married?

I wonder why it is he gets so different after a 30 ton truck runs over him, sed pop.

Willyum, dont be silly, do you remember writing me a letter beginning, My own little peetch dumplings?

You must be thinking of somebody elts, sed pop, and ma sed, Willyum Potts, how can you say sutch things? I remembered it as soon as I saw it, and thank you were perfectly wonderful to think up sutch things.

So do I, I dont see how I ever did it myself, sed pop, and ma sed, And do you remember a letter you rote ending, A million honey kisses from a butterfly to its flower?

Did I rite that? sed pop, and ma sed, Yes, isnt it perfectly deer? And there were a lot of others even better. There was one especially, let me think a minnit.

Wat did you say the name of that movie was? sed pop. Her Grate Revenge, sed ma.

Sounds like a bum one, lets go and be agreeably dissappointed, sed pop.

Can I go with you, ma, can I go with you, pop? I sed. Wich neither of them didnt say I couldnt, so I did, the picture being pritty bum but not the bumest Ive ever saw.

Paradise Row, has been notified by Os laws of the wounding of her husband on August 27—gunshot wound in the arm—and of his being domiciled in the 12th Stationary Hospital in France.

Lieut. Arthur Worrell.

Lieut. Arthur Worrell, a former detective of the St. John police force, has been wounded by gunshot in the neck and was admitted to the 3rd General Hospital at Letreport on Aug. 27, according to information received yesterday by his wife, Mrs. Clara Worrell, 116 Charlotte street.

Lieut. W. L. Patterson.

That Lieut. William L. Patterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Patterson, 256 King street east, has been slightly wounded in the left leg and right side.

Henry Sinnett, had been wounded in the right leg and admitted to a hospital in France on Aug. 27.

Corp. P. C. Willis.

Corporal P. Curlls Willis, infantry, was wounded in the right shoulder, by gunshot, August 27, according to advice received by his father, E. H. Willis, 276 King street, West Side, from Ottawa.

Samuel W. McKim.

Mr. and Mrs. William McKim, of Wexford, have received word that their son, Samuel W. McKim, had been dangerously wounded in the hip by gun shot while in action on August 28th, and had been admitted to a hospital in France. The soldier was employed with the Imperial Oil Company in St. John when he enlisted with the 104th Battalion and went overseas two years ago. When wounded he was with a Canadian mounted regiment.

Harry R. McKim, the Sydney street grocer, and Daniel McKim, street railway motorman, are brothers.

Lieut. Warren Fairweather.

Word has reached the city that Lieut. Warren Fairweather, son of G. Warren Fairweather, and Bella (Hatheway) Fairweather, of Republic, Washington, U. S., was killed in action with the Canadian regiment to which he

was attached on August 9th in France. Lieut. Fairweather was twenty-two years old. Many in St. John will remember his father who some years ago was assistant freight manager, C. P. R., also his wife, daughter of the late Dr. Joseph C. Hatheway. Mr. Fairweather has two sons, Stanley and Kenneth, both Lieutenants in the United States army, now in active service in France. The late Lieut. Fairweather enlisted in British Columbia.

William Kenneth McBeath.

E. J. McBeath of 294 Duke street, West St. John, received yesterday a post card from a Red Cross hospital in France informing him that his son, William Kenneth McBeath, who had been severely wounded in the back and chest, was being removed to England. This was the first notice that Mr. McBeath had received of his son's being wounded and the family are anxiously awaiting further particulars.

William Kenneth McBeath went overseas with the 115th and later was transferred to the 24th. He was only eighteen when he enlisted and has recently passed his twenty-first birthday.

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