

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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.

### THE NEED FOR MEN.

The eloquent appeal of Hon. J. D. Hazen and the other speakers at last evening's great recruiting meeting resulted in securing eight recruits, while eight others joined the forces during the day—a total of sixteen men for the day's work. The total number secured since the campaign started on Friday, September 10th, is 200—not a bad showing when it is considered that already this province has done well in the matter of furnishing men for the Empire's armies.

The success of the past, however, must be duplicated, for it is plainly evident that the great need of the Motherland in this struggle against Prussian oppression is for men, strong, earnest men, willing to surrender the ties of business and join the colors for service against the common foe.

As the Minister of Marine truly pointed out last evening, the people of Canada, resting in security as the result of the efficiency of the British navy, have as yet scarcely realized the need of service or of sacrifice. Here business is being conducted very much as usual. The people are indulging in their pleasures and amusements without fear of molestation or danger. The vocations of peace are being uninterruptedly pursued as a year ago, and while the sight of military uniforms betokens that unusual events are forward, there is, as yet, nothing of the hardship of war.

How different it is in France and Belgium, and even in England. In the heart of the Empire the citizens are confronted by the ever possible danger of attack, either from the sea or air. In the European countries, once centres of culture and wealth, the red rain of blood has fallen with terrible effect. Homes are desolated, cities razed and nations plunged into mourning. Thousands and hundreds of thousands of the best and bravest of the men of the Allied nations have forsaken the paths of peace and marched to the front, some never to return. And in spite of the fact that the greatest and wealthiest nations of the world are comrades in arms against an enemy, terrible, aggressive, ruthless, the German hordes have not yet been crushed.

Today, the Russian army, which has fought so bravely since the outbreak of war, is in grave peril. Their defeat or capture will release hundreds of thousands of Teutonic soldiers, trained, with the lust of conquest in their nostrils, eager for strife. The situation in the western front will grow more serious as the Russian resistance weakens and Germany finds it possible to transfer men from one to the other scene of activity. To meet that accession of strength the British armies must be increased and Canada must do her share in bringing about this result.

In the United Kingdom seven per cent of the total population has answered the call. In Canada the proportion is slightly in excess of one per cent. This is not as it should be. If the Empire's cause is to triumph the men of all portions of the Empire must be ready to participate in the operations which must be carried out preparatory to that success. The need is for men. Canada, which, in the past, has felt the benefits of British protection, and is feeling those benefits today, should be prepared and willing to do her share in maintaining the integrity of the Empire which has been her guide and stay for years.

### THE CENSORSHIP.

The decision recently arrived at by the Post Office Department, presumably at the suggestion of the Secretary of State, that all foreign mail matter addressed to Canadian newspapers, or members of newspaper staffs, in care of their offices, shall be censored in the post offices before delivery, has aroused some opposition on the part of newspaper men. Letters have reached this office, addressed to members of the staff, which have been opened before delivery and, presumably, read by some postal official clothed with the authority. In at least one case a letter addressed to a member of The Standard staff, and written by a relative in the United States, was so opened and the recipient naturally

did not relish the thought that his private mail should be seen by other eyes.

On enquiry, it was learned that the action was taken as a precaution against the possibility of matter reaching the newspapers which in the interests of Canada should not be published, and which, if it escaped censorship and received publication, might furnish valuable information to the Empire's enemies. Of course, as the rule is general, there can be no particular objection to it on the part of local newspapers, and if it is part of the game to have private letters opened before delivery to the person whose address they bear, newspaper men will willingly submit and try to play the game with good grace.

But it appears that the censorship system which regards such a measure as necessary is likely to entail more than a little hardship. It is eminently right and proper that every precaution should be taken to prevent enemies of the Empire from securing information which might be of value to them, but it would seem a more prolific source of danger of this sort is to be found in letters leaving Canada for newspapers in the United States, letters not always written by members of the staffs of Canadian papers.

Not long ago the Board of Censors requested that certain information should be suppressed. All newspapers, in St. John at any rate, acquiesced in the request yet, within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the request in this office, Boston newspapers were being sold in St. John containing the very information the use of which the censors had prohibited. Of course it is not possible for Canadian censors to control American publications, but it would seem they could exercise some authority over matter sent from Canada to those papers. If it is possible for German agents to get, through newspapers, information of value to their cause, they already have all requisite facilities to their hand in the papers published in Boston and New York.

There is no desire on the part of The Standard to complain of the methods of censorship but in all humility we offer the suggestion that more good might be done by relaxing the censorship on matter coming to the Canadian newspaper offices and devoting attention to letters sent out of Canada to American publications.

### CANADA'S RAILWAY SCANDAL.

Canadians have the national misfortune today of reading in the foreign press the story of their railway scandal—a story that unfortunately is only too true. The National Transcontinental Railway fiasco is in grave danger of proving calamitous to Canadian interests, and this at a period when the national resourcefulness may be required to its fullest extent in providing against the contingencies of the war.

The New York Sun says "the plain story is told of the enormous waste and folly in the building of the National Transcontinental by the Canadian Government, with the result that the Government is now forced to undertake on its own account and at the expense of the taxpayers the operation of a thousand-mile line, simply because the lessee, the Grand Trunk Pacific, could no more than any other private concern undertake the unprofitable job." The Sun deduces these lessons from Canada's experience:

"This is the culmination of Canadian experience in railway building and ownership. Easy borrowing because of the credit behind the enterprise; shameful waste and extravagance in construction, because of the vicious workings of the commission system; onerous responsibility and certain financial disaster in the operation of the very railroad which private enterprise would have put through successfully."

The attack upon public ownership of public utilities is made also by the New York Times, based upon Canada's experience with the National Transcontinental. The Times says "a lovely light" is shed upon the whole business. "For eight years not a man on the Government board knew anything about building or operating railroads or had ever engaged in either

work." This scandalous proceeding was carried out in the face of the most strenuous protests of the Canadian press and Conservative members of the Commons, but all in vain. Men with political pull drew large salaries as railway commissioners despite the fact that they were not equipped to give to the people a fair return for the salaries paid them.

The Times proceeds: "Naturally the contractors took advantage of these innocents. Only five bid for the 800 miles; only eleven for the whole work. It was subject to sub-contractors, who in case of a private line, subject to common sense, would have bid on their own hook. The eleven made \$8,800,000 on the sublet contracts."

Fortunes were made by private contractors in the building of the railroad through the Canadian wilderness. These contractors are living on the fat of the land. But the railroad they built is so tremendously costly that the prospective lessee has refused to have anything to do with it, and unless the Government, at further loss to the taxpayer, operates the road it will soon be hidden amid the weeds and the wild growth of the Far North.

### The Boys of Labassee

You'll see from the Labassee road, on any summer day, The children herding goats, the women making hay. You'll see the soldiers, khaki clad, in columns and platoon, Come swinging up Labassee road from billets in Bethune.

There's hay to save and corn to cut, but harder work by far Awaits the soldier boys who reap the harvest fields of war. You'll see them swinging up the road, where women work at hay, The straight, long road, Labassee road, on any summer day.

The night breeze sweeps Labassee road, the night dew wet the hay, The boys are coming back again, a straggling crowd are they. The column's lines are broken up, and gaps in the platoon, They'll not need many billets now for soldiers in Bethune.

For many boys, good lusty boys, who marched so very fine, Have now got little homes of clay beside the firing line. Good luck to them, Godspeed to them, the boys who march away, As swinging up Labassee road each sunny summer day.

—Patrick MacGill.

### The Suspension Bridge

Over the "Falls" of St. John, N. B. Though great the skill to draught and plan it, It's a greater feat, from iron, wood and granite To adjust, connect, extend and traverse o'er, Until a course suspend and span to either shore.

Where on each lofty cliff two massive pillars stand, On each five cables resting composed of wire strand, Overstretched and anchored back firmly in the rock, To hold the airy structure that man and beast may walk.

Stayed with braces, guys and straps, each bearing on a caster, All hung and strung at easy strain in safety from disaster, And slightly curving downward the passageway in tension.

To harmonize and undulate with uniform suspension. As by heat expanded and by cold contracted, Must stay each hanging part or the fabric be refracted, I doubt if it would stay if everything were stiff.

So apt to break away and tumble on the cliff, Then futile all the plans of the skillful architect, Without the aid of artisans to follow them correct, It was their intrepid skill that put the thing in fetter.

So if design is good the workmanship is better. —Henry Gaskin. Kingsville, St. John, N. B., February 25, 1915.

### REMOVAL OF THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE FROM THE "FALLS" OF ST. JOHN, N. B.

Soon it won't hang o'er a turbulent tide And be a safe walk from side to side Too narrow to track for the passing of cars And too feeble to stand their inordinate jars.

The hangings and floor may be swept first Then the "cables" dismount to alibi be dispersed When detach'd from support on which safety relied.

A quartette of pillars overtop'd and back-tied, The firm-set granites in turn can be down'd Like to a chimney being razed to the ground.

Thus may the huge blocks be taken apart Layer after layer till back to the start. And the rock-hold assistants may not stay And still be of service to either high way.

## Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

I was around at my cousin Artie's house when there suppr bell rang yesterday, which they have suppr erlier than we do at our house, and Artie asked Am 200 if I could stay for suppr and she sed I ood, so I did, the things I ate being as follow:

- 1 plate of soup half full of noodle.
- 1 big slice of roast beef, fat and awl.
- 5 slices of bread and butter.
- 2 big sweet puttatoyz with gravy awn them.
- 3 sawsefuls of sackerataah.
- 4 slices of tumato.
- 2 peeces of bucklberry pie.
- 4 glasses of ice tee.

After suppr I went hoam and pop and ma and sistir Gladis was still eating there suppr, and ma sed, Late agen, you reely dont diszeare any suppr, do you no that.

G. I thawt I woudnt if I ood eet 2 suppr. And I sat down to see, the things I ate being as follow:

- 2 peeces of fried chicken and a neck beedies.
- 2 helpings of mash puttatoy, wich aftr I had ate the first helping ma asked if I woudnt any moar and I sed, No mam, and pop sed, Wy, wata the trubbel. I thawt mash puttatoyz were yure favorite froot, and I sed, Awl rite, I'll take sum moar.
- 2 eers of corn the 2nd wuh beeing pritty hard to finish.
- 2 slices of tumato.
- 1 sawseful of blackberry pudding, wich I was any going to eet half of it but ma started to look surprized so I ate it awl.
- 4 glasses of ice tee.

After suppr I felt pritty funny inside for about 16 minnts, properly awn ackcount of awl I had ate, but now if enyboddy asks me if I can eet 2 suppr rite aftr each othr, I can tell them I can.

Which if allow'd to remain would travel impeded. Hence their removal is either way's need.

The walls, islands, and rocks will stay And the recurrent "Pitch" be barring the "Way". Yet could be barred their precipitous sway.

Were it a need to have them away. I saw the grim chasm without a way over. And may see it again devoid of such cover.

When it comes off which object is still. For what it went on, a want to fill.

And like the old cover that covers the span I have covered the span allotted to man.

And soon must go to serve no more. Hoping to land on a better shore. HENRY GASKIN. St. John, N. B., August 20, 1915.

The above was composed a short time before work on its removal had commenced. I saw some of these cables stretched nearby the New Road, now named Douglas Avenue, and on a set when across the Falls walked a short distance.

Two Arrests. About 11:30 o'clock last night Police Inspector Wickham with a patrolman went out on a still hunt for suspicious characters in Union Alley and were successful in finding Charles Blisset and Charles Eliah Tyler, two young colored men, lurking in a suspicious manner well up in the back of the alley. When the colored men saw the officers they made a break to get away but after a short chase they were placed under arrest and were locked up at police headquarters for the night.

Another Policeman Gone. J. E. Niles is no longer a member of the police force and when asked regarding the matter last night Chief of Police Simpson said that while Niles was no longer an officer an evening paper was in error when it stated

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### Opportunities for Girls

It looks more and more as if, owing to scarcity of light, men, women will have to do much of the work hitherto done by men. This is especially true of office work. Of course, we are prepared to qualify either men or women to take advantage of their opportunities, and you can enter at any time. Catalogues containing tuition rates, etc. mailed to any address.

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## RECRUITS WANTED ARMY SERVICE CORPS

Recruits wanted to join the Army Service Corps of St. John (Home Service). After a sufficient number have been enrolled, a course of instruction, lasting six weeks, will be opened at St. John. This will consist of night classes so as not to interfere with the daily employment of the men.

Applications will be received by F. T. Barbour, of G. E. Barbour Co., Ltd., or the undersigned

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