

## The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 25 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada. H. V. MACKINNON, Manager and Editor.  
 THE STANDARD IS REPRESENTED BY  
 Henry de Clerque, ..... Malters Bldg., Chicago  
 Louis Klabin, ..... 1 West 34th St., New York  
 Freeman & Co., ..... 9 Fleet St., London, Eng.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1919

## INFLUENZA.

Dr. Rupert Blue, Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service, has issued an authoritative statement based on nationwide information secured and tabulated by the United States Public Health Service, which should be secured and studied with the fullest attention by health authorities everywhere. In this statement Dr. Blue condenses in a few words what is known at the present time as well as what may be anticipated with respect to influenza. This summary of the situation is as follows:

"Probably, but by no means certainly, there will be a recurrence of the influenza epidemic this year."

"Indications are that, should it occur, it will not be as severe as the pandemic of the previous year. The city officials, state and city boards of health should be prepared in the event of a recurrence."

"The fact that a previous attack brings immunity in a certain percentage of cases should allay fear on the part of those afflicted in the previous epidemic."

"Influenza is spread by direct and indirect contact. It is not yet certain that the germ has been isolated, or discovered, and as a consequence there is yet no positive preventive, except the enforcement of rigid rules of sanitation and the avoidance of personal contact."

"A close relation between the influenza pandemic and the constantly increasing pneumonia mortality rate prior to the Fall of 1918 is recognized."

"It is now believed that the disease was pretty widely disseminated throughout the country before it was recognized in its epidemic state. This failure to recognize the early cases appears to have largely been due to the fact that every interest was then centered on the war."

Attention is drawn to the fact that no mention has as yet been made of a cure for influenza or a specific which can be guaranteed to produce beneficial results in all cases. No such remedy has been discovered and those forms of treatment which have given most encouragement are even now in their experimental stages. Nor is it at all certain that any serum will provide immunity. This feature, too, is as yet an experiment. But, while evidence is not conclusive, there is reason to believe that an attack during the earlier stages of the epidemic confers a considerable but not absolute immunity in later outbreaks. In view of the lack of knowledge which the medical world faces and of the uncertainty of treatments now in use, the greatest attention should be devoted to the task of preventing the spread of the disease. It is, of course, apparent that influenza is communicable, that climate has little effect on the spread or development of the disease, that the germ, whatever its nature may be, is carried not only by those who are ill with influenza, but by persons who may be entirely well, and that from the standpoint of community interest, the most effective weapon against a recurrence of the epidemic is preparedness. The disease may be transmitted by many paths. The use of face masks, a method adopted by certain communities last winter, is effective only in preventing communication of the disease through inhalation, but it is recognized that the protection this affords very often leads to carelessness along other lines. Soiled hands, drinking cups, dishes, restaurant tables, soda fountains, roller towels, infected foods and in fact everything with which persons are brought in touch may be germ-carriers, and too great care cannot be exercised in their use. The history of epidemics in the past would indicate that influenza has not yet run its full course, yet, as influenza has already shown three distinct phases, one especially severe, there is in the minds of medical men some hope that should it re-appear during the coming winter, it will prove less serious than in 1918. However, this may be, the best opinion is that there will be at least local recurrences, with an increased death rate from pneumonia for perhaps several years. But whatever the future may bring there should be no repetition of the extensive suffering and distress which accompanied last year's epidemic. Municipalities, boards of health everywhere, should have their plans completed for dealing with any recurrence, and prompt recognition and early isolation should mark the handling of the first cases reported. Summer colds, such as have prevailed here during the past month or so, have been found in various centres to be in reality a mild type of influenza and the medical profession recognizes that from these mild types much more severe visitations may spread.

## THE CITY ASSESSMENT.

The consensus of opinion seems to be that the present system of assessment will not do, that it will result in very great hardship to a considerable number of people, that it must eventually drive scores or perhaps hundreds out of the city, and that only

comparatively few who are highly favored under the application of this new law will remain content with it. There has been more complaint in six weeks over this year's assessment, than against the application of the old system during the past ten years. And the striking feature is that the old plan, with which people were comparatively content, was a better revenue producer than the new one, for this reason, that today we are exempting not less than \$7,000,000.00 of personal property, much of which should in all fairness be subject to taxation, and have had to very greatly increase our rate in order to secure a couple of hundred thousand dollars additional revenue.

The list of the heaviest taxpayers published in The Globe last week was an eye-opener. Years ago, and only a few years ago at that, The Globe printed annually, usually in one page of newspaper space, a complete list of those who contributed \$50.00 or more to the City treasury. This year practically the same amount of space was required to carry the names of those whose taxes amount to more than \$300.00. And what a revelation this list contains. In some cases men whose wealth has not increased during the year have found their taxes more than doubled, by reason of the application of the super-tax on incomes. In other instances men much more wealthy have been reduced in their assessment by fifty, sixty or seventy per cent. Glaring instances of unfairness are apparent among these wealthier residents, for whom, naturally, there is less popular sympathy than for those more moderately placed. Persons depending on salary alone, who last year found their incomes small enough to meet ordinary living expenses and who this year are scraping along on a much more economical scale than ever before, have been advanced fifteen, twenty or twenty-five per cent. in taxation, while others, enjoying the possession of hundreds of thousands of invested fortunes, have had their assessments reduced from perhaps \$2,200 to less than \$1,000, a cut of sixty per cent. when their incomes are no less, when they are in no less favorable position to pay generously, but because, better holders of personal property, they are now very generously exempted.

The man who in the past year has cashed in his securities and purchased a home for himself finds that he is comparatively much worse off, that it would have paid him a great deal better to rent such a home, even at the high rates now prevailing in St. John. Business men, whose work is carried on in an office only, are beginning to realize that they can just as readily move out of St. John, conduct business from some suburban point, go away and spend the winter in the south or elsewhere, and save enough money on their investment to pay their expenses of travel. The estates, which have not been sold and which have not disappeared, have shrunk in value by the exemption clauses of the Assessment Act so that they are now paying in some cases not much more than five per cent. of last year's levy. Persons whose business is conducted elsewhere, who come to St. John to spend the winter, are assessed to the fullest extent on their incomes with the natural result that they and their families will be driven away from the city and the resulting expenditure from the families which are left to them should enjoy will be lost to them. Others who were here for a few months only, who have removed since long, now appear on the list as heavy taxpayers, but from them not one cent of revenue will be secured, as they are no longer residents. The general trend of the whole list, as published in The Globe, seems to indicate that our wealthiest men, those who can afford to tie up their money in invested securities, rather than in business stocks, and who are naturally in the very best position to contribute generously to civic finances, today enjoy the most liberal exemption, while the unfortunate holder of real estate, the clerk or artisan in receipt of barely sufficient income to pay his weekly bills, is taxed to the limit on his real estate or on his income. The exemption of personal property to the extent of fifty per cent. applied as a general condition, is not working out as anticipated. In short the new Assessment Act is impossible.

## BOSTON'S EXPERIENCE.

The people of Boston have been experiencing a slight taste of the conditions which they have been endeavoring for many years to force upon Ireland. The support which Boston, more than any other United States city, has given the Sinn Fein movement has been to a very large measure responsible for the disorders throughout Ireland. And the revolt against constituted government, through which Boston is now inconvenienced, resembles in some respects the disturbances in Dublin and other Irish cities. Possibly after last week's turmoil the people of Boston may not so anxious to fall over themselves

in welcoming men like deValera, and in contributing so lavishly as they have heretofore done towards the bands of those who oppose British rule.

## A BIT OF VERSE

## GREAT BRITAIN'S FLAG.

Where the guns like fiends are raving  
 There a grand old flag is waving.  
 Singing Britain's might,  
 There he folds repeat the story  
 Of each field of battle gory,  
 In its cross we see the glory.  
 Of a holy light.

Through long years that banner  
 floating,  
 Swept the seas while U-boats glowering  
 Over murders dire.  
 Cried that liberty had perished,  
 Said that holy thing we cherish'd,  
 Died by hellish fire.

In all lands that flag was flying,  
 In all climes her dead are lying,  
 Fighting where they fell;  
 We hear guns like great drums beat  
 In.

See her sons each charge repeating,  
 And the beaten foe retreating,  
 From that field of hell.  
 We see states and empires falling,  
 Hear the old flag proudly calling  
 Sea and mountain crag:  
 "Anglo-Saxon souls have striven,  
 British hearts the lifeblood given—  
 High floats Britain's flag."

Mighty flag! new wars come creeping  
 Like wild beasts on nations sleeping.  
 Faithful watch them keep;  
 Freedom guard till time grows hoary,  
 Let the ages tell the story,  
 Holding high the sign of glory,  
 While deep calls to deep.  
 —Thomas H. Herndon.  
 Washington, D. C.

## A BIT OF FUN

Silent men never have occasion to eat their words.

A: "What is the best business to which a young man can give his attention?"  
 B: "His own."

"Don't you think that young man is afflicted with a swelled head?"  
 "No," answered Miss Cayenne; "he's not afflicted with it, he enjoys it."

She: "Have you ever loved another?"  
 He: "Yes, of course. Did you think I'd practice on a nice girl like you?"  
 Gibson: "I see you are wearing that extraordinary necktie your wife gave you for your birthday."  
 Meekes: "Of course I am. The reason she bought it for me was to show her authority."

"I should like to be a man. One dress suit lasts for years and years, and a woman must have a new frock for every dance."

"That's why one dress suit has to last a man for years and years."

A Difficult Case.  
 "You cannot go to any ball tonight," "Doctor, I must go."  
 "Well, you'll have to put a porous plaster on your back."

"But, doctor, then I can't wear an evening gown."—Kansas City Journal.

A Large Order.  
 "Over five thousand elephants a year go to make piano keys," observed a boarder, who was always full of such thrilling bits of information.  
 "You don't say so?" murmured the landlady absently. "Ain't it wonderful what animals can be trained to do nowadays?"

A Poser for Counselor.  
 The case looked black against the defendant. It was a breach of promise suit, and out of the mouths of various witnesses it had been proved that he had on no fewer than 1,367 times kissed the fair lady.

Now the defendant himself was in the box and very significantly the counsel put the question to him. Had the witnesses spoken the truth regarding his osculatory performances?

"You see, I had to do it," he admitted.

"Had to do it?" belittled the counsel. "How sir? What do you mean? Will you kindly explain to the jury?"

"Well, you see," the young man answered, not in the least embarrassed; "I either had to keep on kissing her, or else let her sing, and—er—well, what would you have done?"

The counsel sat down.

## Expedition For Northern Canada

Scientists at Banff, Alberta, Ready to Start on Great Scientific Expedition.

An expedition to study the wood bison in its native lair in unexplored regions of the Canadian Rockies, headed by L. W. Hutchins, left New York, Thursday by railroad for Banff, Alberta. The trip will last more than six weeks, forty days of which time will be spent in blazing a trail through the mountain country which is said to have never been before traversed by white man.

The wood bison is a rare type of which species there is no specimen in the United States. The Canadian government prohibits the killing or capture of the animals even for scientific purposes. The expedition will turn over the result of its studies to the library on animal subjects in the American Museum of Natural History. Among those composing the expedition are John Broder, a mineralogist, who will conduct researches into the mining possibilities of the territory; Captain Nathan Pearl, a big game hunter, who will have charge of the expedition while on the trail; J. O. Colt, a hunter, and Warren Keates, a motion picture camera man, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., will accompany the ex-

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and Leroy Shooter and Sid Hunt and my cousin Attie was coming home from school, and Sid Hunt said, Hey, fellows, do you see that little kid setting on my front steps? He's waiting there for his mother to come out. He always wait there for her, and his name is Sam Street. Wats you think of that for a heck of a name, you mite think he was named after some street, and gosh, G, maybe he dont hate to have anybody teese him about his name, G, gosh.

Let's teese him about it, said Leroy Shooter. And wen we came to Sid's front steps Leroy Shooter sed to the kid, Wats your name, kid?  
 Being a little kid, setting there eating a cinnamon bun, having such fat cheeks you mite of thawi he was holding them that way on purpose, and he took another bite out of the cinnamon bun, and Leroy Shooter sed, Hey, kid, are you deaf, wats your name?

Sam Street, sed the kid.  
 I didnt ask you wats you lived, I asked you wats your name, sed Leroy Shooter, and the kid sed Sam Street.  
 Wai do we care wats you live, wats your name? I sed.

Sam Street, sed the kid. Saying it as if he was starting to get mad, and Attie sed, Wats the matter with you, kid, dont you know the differents between your name and wats you live?—wats your name?

Sam Street, sed the kid. Telling it as if he was mad as the dickens and getting still madder, and Leroy Shooter sed, G wize, jimminy crickets, wat do you know about a kid that dont know the differents between who he is and wats he goes, wats your name, kid?  
 Sam Street, yelled the kid like a kid that couldent of got any madder if he tried. He stuck wat was left of the cinnamon bun rite in Leroy Shooter's face, the part that was left being the sticky part, and jumped up and ran in the house. And Leroy Shooter tried to rub the sticky stuff off his face, saying, The dark kid, the fresh kid. And everybody but him lafied so hard that 3 ladies looked out their windows.

pedition as a special correspondent of the Herald.  
 From Banff the expedition will move by pack train up the Spray River, through the Goat Range, to a point east of Mount Assiniboine, thence south to the Kananaskis River, through a path in the Misty Range to the Highwood River. From there to a point in the Oldman River, where the expedition will emerge en route to the Canadian Pacific Railroad at Crownest, the trail will be through unexplored territory.

Motion pictures of the animals in their native habitat, will be made.

## Another Alpine Murder Mystery

Headless Body of a Man Found on Summit of the Salene Mountain.

Another Alpine murder mystery, following closely on the discovery of the headless body of a man on the summit of the Salene Mountain a few days ago, is reported from Duche.

The scene this time is the snow-clad summit of the Brenner Pass, on the Austrian side of the frontier, and the victim a handsome and elegantly dressed man, found shot dead, with rings worth several hundred pounds on his fingers, and the word "Spy" pinned to his breast.

Ever since the armistice the main passes and roads of the Austrian Tyrol, close to the frontier, have been patrolled by the Italian Military police.

One patrol yesterday, after examining the famous Brenner Pass and its railway line, climbed to the summit of the slope, and there found the dead body of a young woman lying in the snow.

Revolver Found.  
 A Browning revolver was picked up a few yards away from the body, but the position of the wounds does not indicate suicide, and it is also considered unlikely that the woman could have thrown the weapon to such a distance after shooting herself.

A dramatic feature of the tragedy was a slip of paper which had been torn from a newspaper in such a manner that only the word "Spy" was readable, pinned to the woman's breast.

The Italian authorities, however, consider that the scrap of paper is merely a blind, placed there by the murderer to create a false impression, and are inclined to favor the theory of a private vengeance.

The fact that the woman's valuable jewellery was left undisturbed entirely disposes of robbery as a motive.

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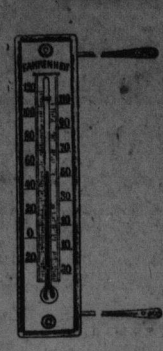
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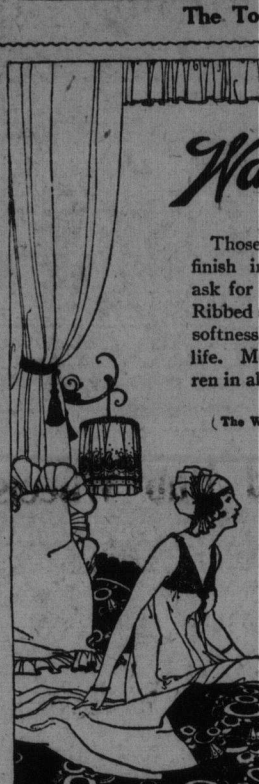
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## SAD DEATH BY DROWNING OF ROY WILLIAMS

Can of Gasoline Upset Small Boat and Struck Lantern—Archie Tebo Companion, Was Burned.

Regarding the sad death by drowning of Roy R. Williams, at Pool on Tuesday, September 9, a gentleman who was in the city yesterday, out the following facts:

Roy Williams was in company Archie Tebo in a small boat and just left beach when a can of line upset and struck a lantern in a second the whole boat was flames.

The accident occurred at 8 o'clock in the evening when young Williams and Tebo started for Grand Manan but had only left shore. Williams was 18 years of age was highly respected. He who knew him, leaves to mourn his mother, Shaw, step-father, one sister,

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