

# The St. John Standard

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 ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 29, 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.

## CONCERNING CHARGES.

Certain information in regard to roadwork in Gloucester county furnished to the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature by Hon. B. Frank Smith, drew from the Minister of Public Works the promise that he would investigate the matter under oath. It is to be hoped the investigation will be complete and fair, although Mr. Veniot's intense and bitter partisanship does not support a belief that this hope will be realized. Nor is encouragement to be obtained from Hon. Mr. Foster's treatment of the charges against Hon. William Currie, Speaker of the Legislature.

When the information upon which the Currie charges were based came into the hands of the Opposition, Mr. Foster was at once advised and supplied with the facts. He had as much information then as when the charges were formally laid some weeks later, yet his only action was to present the charges to Mr. Currie and ask for an explanation. Mr. Currie denied them and was given opportunity to obtain a declaration from the president of the Continental Lumber Company in support of his denial. There the activity of the premier ended, but it is safe to say that if formal charges had not been laid by the Opposition the government would have taken no steps to investigate but would have permitted Mr. Speaker to continue to occupy his position as presiding officer of the Legislature with the knowledge that at least there was in existence a solemn affidavit charging him with defrauding the province.

The attitude of the government press does not encourage one to hope that the charges against Mr. Currie, or the investigation into allegations of misappropriation in connection with the Gloucester county road work will be fairly treated. There is no disposition on the part of The Standard to convict any person in advance of the evidence or of the decision of the Royal Commission that will investigate the Currie charges; nor do we say that all the allegations in regard to the Gloucester road work are correct. Like the charges against the senior member for Restigouche, their truth remains to be proven. At the same time it is equally unfair for the government press to assume that the gentlemen making the charges are at fault.

In these matters it should be easy to ascertain the truth. In the Currie case the records in the Crown Land Department should show the report made by Sealer Murchie, who has sworn he made a false return at Mr. Currie's request. Also there are six men of whose operations on Crown Lands no return was made but who, it is alleged, cut lumber for the Continental Company, of which Mr. Currie is manager. It should be easy to discover whether they did cut lumber, and if so, why their accounts were not turned in with the others.

In the case of the Gloucester road work so many persons are said to be involved that there should be no scarcity of witnesses who can testify to the facts. It is alleged among other things that the name of an eight-year-old child figured on a government pay roll as an employee and that more than \$50 was drawn on his account although he did no work on the road. Another case concerns a gentleman who apparently drew pay under three variations of his own name and in no case rendered value for money received. These cases should not be difficult of investigation.

Mr. Veniot's duty in regard to Gloucester county charges is particularly plain. Not only is he the head of the department of the government under which this alleged wrong-doing was practised, but he is the senior member for the county and, presumably, the men who are alleged to have profited through misappropriation of the road monies are his supporters. For his own honor as well as the credit of the department and of the government generally it is his bounden duty to have the allegations thoroughly probed no matter who may suffer. Premier Foster went into power on promise of honest business-like administration. He now has the opportunity to demonstrate whether that promise was intended to be taken literally or merely as an attractive election slogan. We look for a complete and fair probing of all allegations touching the matters to which we have referred.

## A DISAPPEARING SURPLUS.

When the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer presented his budget in the Legislature he estimated that the surplus of receipts over expenditures for the year 1918 would be in the vicinity of \$10,000. This estimated surplus has already disappeared, for at Friday's

session of the Legislature supplementary estimates were passed to the amount of \$19,588.74, so as it stands now the Foster government will have an admitted estimated deficit of at least \$9,500 on their operations for the fiscal year ending October 31st next.

It is believed the deficit will be many times that figure and this year the Minister will have no one to blame it on but themselves. A noticeable feature of the budget debate at the session just closed was the desire of government apologists to attempt to screen the administration behind the fact that the Murray Government had been in power during a portion of the period covered by the auditor-general's report, and consequently, that Government was responsible for the greater part of the huge deficit shown. When the next budget is presented it will not be possible for Mr. Foster's government to hide behind the skirts of its predecessors. For the operations of the year from October 31st last until the same date in 1918 the Fosterites alone will be responsible. Already their estimated surplus has been swallowed up by their supplementary estimates, and before the year closes it will probably be found that the ordinary expenditure will exceed the ordinary revenue by many times the amount of the disappearing surplus. The troubles of the Fosterites are but commencing.

## OUR HALL OF FAME.

At the entrance to the new Parliament buildings at Ottawa there will be a Hall of Fame, in which statues of Canadian celebrities will be placed. There ought to be some comprehensive and artistic design, says the Toronto Star. A miscellaneous collection of statues may easily become grotesque rather than dignified. The ancients had the advantage of graceful flowery drapery for their heroes, but there is no beauty in frock-coats and trousers more or less bulged at the knees. We admire those who gave us responsible government and Confederation, but many of the hairy facial ornaments of fifty years ago are now treated with derision.

The selection of the famous ones will also be a difficult matter. For the most part statesmen or those aspiring to the name are chosen. Many of equal worth are necessarily omitted because there are so many. The pioneers who braved the hardships of early settlement rest in unknown graves; the graves of the defenders of our liberties are marked by crosses in France and Flanders. No building could contain memorials for all. But there should be typical statues—of the pioneer, the worker, the soldier, and some legend recounting their deeds. The collection should not be made at haphazard. Some man of artistic faculty should make a design, having in view not only those who are to be chosen for honor today, but the additions to be made from time to time. It is worth considering whether mural decorations would not be preferable to statues, which in large numbers are very difficult to group into a harmonious design.

## THE WAR NEWS.

While the news from the western front is decidedly serious, the Germans having made substantial land gains, nothing that has occurred in the last five or six weeks gives any cause for pessimism. In an operation such as that now proceeding in France the capture of territory is of less importance than the conservation of the fighting line of the nation.

To illustrate this contention: If the Allied forces retire from a comparatively unimportant position with the loss of 1,000 men, when to hold that position would entail the loss of 10,000, and to take it caused a similar loss to the enemy, the Allies, by saving their men, gained more than their opponents.

It is probably true to say that the Germans could be driven from any of the positions they have occupied during the past four or five weeks if the Allied commanders deemed it wise to pay the price of such a success. But in the final decisive battle that must be fought on the western front it will be the army with the most men that will gain the victory, and if the Allies, by a series of retreats, can succeed in wearing down the enemy until the time comes to strike the final blow their strategy will be abundantly justified.

We in Canada, far removed from the scene of conflict, may be inclined to fear that the present German successes may spell defeat, but it is well to remember that the men who are directing the affairs of the Allied armies are the equal of the best the enemy can produce. They are seasoned soldiers and skilled strategists. We also

know that in valor and willingness to fight, the British and French armies have no superior in the world, therefore, it is not far that is responsible for retreats. More likely the Allies are awaiting the time when American reinforcements will have so strengthened the lines that they can resume the offensive with the knowledge that they possess the force required to drive it home. Such a time is certain to come. Meanwhile it is well not to take a gloomy view of the war news.

## A BIT OF VERSE

### TO MY GODSON.

They shall come back through heaven's bars,  
 When June has filled the earth with joy.

And you are seeking playmates, boy,  
 To share your kingdom of the stars.  
 Or part with you the bracken fronds  
 Where golden-armored knights may ride,  
 Or learn where baby rabbits hide,  
 Or dabble in the silver ponds.

O all the pipes of fairyland  
 Shall give you royal welcome,  
 And all the fairy bells shall ring,  
 And you will enter hand in hand,  
 But through the music gay and sweet,  
 That fairies teach their chosen ones,  
 Shall sound an echo of the guns  
 And high adventure's drum will beat.

For those who died, lest all that's good  
 And beautiful be lost to sight—  
 Should sink in hell's obscurity—  
 These claim you in a brotherhood.  
 The lot is fallen, O child, to you  
 To finish all they had to leave  
 And by their sacrifice achieve  
 The manifold desires they knew.

And you will feel their ardor burn  
 And quickening fires within your heart;  
 In all your life they'll have a part,  
 And all their secrets you shall learn.  
 They would have guided your young feet,  
 Kind, but so far from boyhood's day,  
 But death has found a surer way  
 Of making comradeship complete.

O all the pipes of fairyland  
 Shall play for you and play for them,  
 Their flame of radiant life will stem  
 Evil you scarce could understand,  
 They'll bid you raise your wandering eyes  
 Till, far above you, you shall see  
 The Beauty that they know might be  
 Calling you from the star-lit skies.  
 —Mildred Huxley, in the Spectator.

## A BIT OF FUN

### HIS FIELD.

"He's taking to knitting."  
 "For the soldiers?"  
 "No. He says since everybody else seems to have forgotten them he's going to knit lovely little pink and white sweaters for the Red Cross nurse."

### A SUITABLE REBUKE.

Innumerable are the stories—many of them "chests"—of the ready wit of Mr. Justice Duff. Here is one that is new to me, at all events.  
 It appears that one day while trying a case he was disturbed by a young man who kept moving about in the rear of the court, lifting chairs and prying under seats.

"Young man," exclaimed the learned judge at last, "you are making a good deal of unnecessary noise. What are you doing?"  
 "I'm doing," replied the offender, "I have lost my overcoat and am trying to find it."

"Well," came the witty reply, "people often lose whole suits in here without making all that fuss."

## TWO SESSIONS ON WEDNESDAY

The One Session System Held During Winter Months Finish May 1st—Conserving of Coal Has Been Most Successful.

On Wednesday, May 1st, the public schools will return to the two session day, the sessions opening at nine in the morning and one thirty in the afternoon with the period from noon to one-thirty as the dinner recess. Dr. Bridges, superintendent of the city schools, in speaking to The Standard yesterday, said that the plan of holding one session during the winter months for the purpose of conserving fuel had been most successful. He estimated that since February 1st to the present time 150 tons of coal had been saved while the school work had not suffered.

## HAD BRONCHITIS

### FOR THREE YEARS.

### COULD GET NO RELIEF.

Bronchitis is generally the result of a cold caused by exposure to wet and inclement weather. It begins with a tightness across the chest, difficulty in breathing, and a wheezing sound comes in speaking to The Standard yesterday, said that the plan of holding one session during the winter months for the purpose of conserving fuel had been most successful. He estimated that since February 1st to the present time 150 tons of coal had been saved while the school work had not suffered.

On the first sign of bronchitis you should check it immediately by using Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, and thereby prevent it becoming chronic and perhaps turning into some more serious lung trouble.

Mr. Theodore P. Bears, Upper Main River, N. B., writes: "I was troubled with bronchitis three years and could get no relief. I was always worse when I got wet. I tried lots of different medicines, but none did me good until a friend told me to try Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. I got three bottles and before I had them half used I was better."  
 "My mother is now using it for asthma. It is a great medicine and we never want to be without it."

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## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I was sitting on Mary Watkins' front steps yesterday talking to her saying G. that sort of a pretty hair ribbon, Mary.  
 Which it was, especially on her, and she said, O, I got a hole drawer full upstairs, I got bowdler ones than this.

And I looked at her a while, and then I said, Do you expect to go to heaven when you die?  
 Why certainly, only I don't mean to sound consoled, said Mary Watkins, and I said, Well do you expect to be an angel?  
 I miss, said Mary Watkins.

Well if you was you could ever wear any hair ribbons, I said.  
 Why couldn't I? she said, and I said, Because they never do in the pictures.

I think you're perfectly horrid, said Mary Watkins.  
 Why am I? I said, I don't make the laws, do I? and they never eat ice cream, either, and they never take any nawks, because there's nothing in the pictures to wawk on.

Im going rite in, said Mary Watkins. And she got up, and I quick said, That don't prove its true, you know, G, you cant believe everything you see in pictures, the people that drew the pictures was never there, so how do they know?

You had not blimes to say it, said Mary Watkins.  
 And she went in, and I sat there a while to see if she wood come out agen, which she didnt, and I went home.

## WATCHED MANY WAVES OF HUNS

### BEING SWEEPED TO THEIR DEATH

Lieut. Col. Porter Writing from France Describes Awful Slaughter—Succession of Waves Eight Men Deep Melt Away Before Storms of Shot and Shell—Splendid Fighting of New Brunswick Boys.

To stand in a ditch representing a front-line trench and to watch the assaulting lines of Huns sweeping up against our defenses in a succession of waves eight men deep, seeing those waves melt away in the storm of artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, is the experience of which Lieut. Col. Porter in a New Brunswick Regiment has written to one of his friends on this side.

The attack of which Colonel Porter speaks so briefly, was heralded with a storm of artillery fire, following which the gray-clad waves of the Huns swept toward our trenches only to be beaten back time after time with appalling losses by the accurate and terrible bursts of machine gun and rifle fire. In describing this Col. Porter simply says that "a Lewis gunner of the New Brunswick Regiment, who hasn't at least two hundred Huns to his credit is considered a poor shot by his comrades." Considering that each battalion would have something like twelve of these guns in action at a time, some estimate of the enemy losses is possible.

The enemy attacked with at least seven or eight divisions in depth where he wished to gain ground, and to quote Colonel Porter, "the mowing down was something great."

In his letter he says that the spirit and determination of the men is beyond all praise. "They are out to kill," says Colonel Porter, "and believe me they are doing it."  
 Continuing his letter, Colonel Porter stated that any retirement in the army was purely tactical and that the morale of the men was never higher. No grousing of any kind but only a very earnest desire to get at the Hun and give him a dose of steel.  
 "That the Germans have not abandoned their dirty tactics is evidenced by the fact that they or their agents had at one point succeeded in filling wine bottles with lye and water and sold it for the cheap white wine of the country. Colonel Porter said that one of the men of the New Brunswick regiment was responsible for bringing this latest deviltry to the notice of the proper authorities.

This man having purchased a bottle decided on tasting it that all was not right. He immediately took it to the colonel and expressed the opinion that some of the civilians were attempting to poison the battalion. The bottle was at once taken to the regimental doctor who on examining it discovered it to be a powerful mixture of lye and water. The case was at once investigated and the military police succeeded in finding twelve bottles of the mixture in one estaminet. Needless to state the attempt at poisoning was nipped in the bud through the energetic action of the military police.

Colonel Porter in closing stated that all was well with the battalion and that everyone was prepared to put up

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