

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 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.

## ANANIAS AND MAN FRIDAY.

In their zeal for "good government," which, translated, means government by gentlemen who will permit Mr. Dark Lantern Brigadier Carvell, Mr. Peter J. Veniot, Mr. Man Friday Carter and others of their ilk to get a little closer to the provincial treasury, the Morning Ananias and the Evening Saphira continue the campaign of complete misrepresentation which has characterized them ever since the last change of paymasters brought them into the fold of the Liberal party.

On Saturday, the Morning Ananias featured on its first page an article from the pen of Man Friday Carter in which that gentleman complained that a request from him that Commissioner Chandler should investigate certain payments made by the Dalhousie Lumbar Company and which did not appear in the books of the Province, had been refused.

Before the production of the article in question was finished Mr. Man Friday Carter, according to the Telegraph, "telephoned" to that newspaper and conveyed the information that Commissioner Chandler had met him on the train coming from Fredericton on Friday night and asked for an opportunity to reconsider the letter in which he stated as his opinion that his commission did not empower him to investigate such matters. The Commissioner, in coming to this opinion, was not influenced by any thought that Mr. Carter's charges might include something the Government did not wish to have brought out, but that the Commission did not authorize him to investigate matters already covered by the Dugal hearing some months ago. Meeting a member of the Government, Mr. Chandler was at once informed that the desire was to have a complete investigation and, accordingly, did what any gentleman would do under the circumstances—sought to set himself right with Mr. Carter.

Mr. Carter, however, was not too much of a gentleman to take an unfair advantage in order that the Morning Ananias might make political capital and he, conveniently, chose to forget his own belief that the charges would be fully probed. However, he did notify that newspaper that Mr. Chandler had asked for an opportunity to reconsider his letter. This information reached the office of the Morning Ananias before midnight on Friday. Whether Mr. Carter called personally, or really "telephoned," does not affect the case but as he spent that night in the city, registering at the Royal Hotel and occupying room 47, it does not appear that he was in such a hurry as to make a telephone message necessary when a visit to the office would have enabled him to look over his article and, possibly, add a few touches of burning invective which he had previously omitted.

Had the Morning Ananias desired to play at all fair it had ample opportunity to publish both sides of the case on Saturday and from information which Mr. Carter could have supplied. That it did not do so, but, instead, published a false and misleading story under a heading which conveyed an insult not only to the Premier of this Province but to the thousands of good citizens who have confidence in Premier Clarke and his Government, merely illustrates the depth of dirty journalism to which Mr. Carter and his political associates are prepared to descend.

Neither Mr. Carter nor the disreputable newspaper for which he writes can longer attempt to conceal from the public the information in their possession that there will be a full and complete enquiry into any and every charge they can bring. It will be interesting, this morning, to see if they will give as much prominence to the announcement of the investigation and the letter from Commissioner Chandler to Mr. Carter, himself, as they did to the false and unfair production of Saturday.

## GENERAL FRENCH.

One of the most interesting books published since the opening of the present war is "Sir John French, an authentic biography," from the pen of Cecil Chisholm, M.A. The introduction to this little volume is written by Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C. and for the benefit of those new Brunswickers who have formed their estimate of Sir John French from the opinions expressed by that other eminent soldier, Mr. Dark Lantern Brigadier Carvell, we republish Sir Evelyn Wood's tribute to the man who today is leading the British and Canadian soldiers to victory on the battlefields

of France and Belgium. The British Field Marshal says:

"I regard John Denton French as the man who for the last twelve years has been the driving force of tactical instruction in the British army. He made use of all the best ideas of the Generals who preceded him in the Aldershot command, and he was, I think, instrumental in causing the appointment of Horace Smith-Dorrien and Douglas Haig to succeed in turn to that nursery of soldiers. How sound his judgment has proved to be may be discovered from the despatches, carefully worded, in which he describes how Smith-Dorrien conducted the most successful retreat since that of Sir John Moore to Corunna, 1808-9, and how Douglas Haig carried his army across the Aisne River in face of the enemy's fierce opposition. From 1884-5, when as a Squadron Officer he showed marked determination in the abortive expedition for the relief of Gordon, until 1898-1902 in South Africa, he has been the ablest and most manly of cavalry leaders, and his spirit and unlike many advocates of that spirit, he has never become a slave to the idea. He has been at pains to teach the cavalry soldier that when he can no longer fight to the best advantage in the saddle, he is to get off his horse and fight on foot. This is a marked feature of his military genius. He is intensely practical and he is possessed of great moral and physical courage which never fail to assert themselves in the face of the most difficult situations. They were conspicuously shown during the Boer war when with an extraordinary determination, he formed up his men on their tired and exhausted horses and advanced in extended order, galloping through the Boers in position, and reaching Kimberley as the result of his heroic determination. When in the earlier part of this war, things were not going well, I was asked to give my opinion of our chances of success. I said I did not think our prospects were then bright, but although many men had gone 'hands up' before John French, he would never put up his own, whatever happened."

This is the same Sir John French of whom Mr. Carvell said:

"The principal cause of the trouble with the Minister and his topheavy militia is the report of a General by the name of French, who came to this country some years ago, and, in my judgment, his visit was one of the greatest misfortunes that has ever befallen Canada. I told the Minister of Militia both publicly and privately that in adopting the ridiculous and unreasonable report made by this General (French) he had committed a great mistake. His (French's) ideas were ridiculous."

Can it be possible that Sir Evelyn Wood was mistaken when he said: "I regard John Denton French as the man who for the last twelve years has been the driving force of tactical instruction in the British army?" Unless Mr. Carvell is seized with a convulsion similar to the paroxysm which gripped him when Dr. Edwards of Frontenac offered to chastise him for insulting remarks, and caused him to retreat from the House of Commons by a rear door, he will face the electorate of Carleton-Victoria counties in a contest for the federal representation. The people of those counties might strike a blow for the Empire than by sentencing to political oblivion this blatant libeller of British military heroes.

The Dresden has followed the General's and Scharnhorst's. Another argument in favor of the "big gun" ship such as Sir Robert Borden would have provided for the British navy if the Grit party headed by Laurier and Pugsley had not stood in the way.

The Cammell, Laird tender for the construction of destroyers and cruisers in St. John was in the hands of the Laurier government for five and a half months. Why did Mr. Pugsley not award that contract?

## France's Magic Number Is 75

(Mail and Empire.) Seven is a magic number, thirteen has a world-wide significance, and on this continent the number of 23 has a meaning all its own. In France the figure today is 75. A few weeks ago they had a tag day in Paris and the larger French cities. A huge sum of money was raised for the "work at the front," and the tags bore only the mystic number 75. All France did honor to it, and we may be sure that in the future 75 will stand with 7 and 13, and will be considered the luckiest number in the world. The 75 in question is the official name of the great French field gun, "the gun of victory," they call it. To this weapon the people in France attribute the fact that the Germans are not now in Paris. It is one of the greatest, if not indeed, the greatest, weapon ever produced for the purposes of modern warfare. Italy is said to have the best of field guns, but Italy has not yet had an opportunity of proving that it is superior to the great 75 which is the idol of France today. By all odds the most popular picture post-card in France is one bearing a picture of the 75 in action and the two French officers

chiefly responsible for its development and adoption. Several times being translated, means 75 millimetres, or 75 one-thousandths parts of a metre. In other words, it means about three inches, and the calibre of this wonder-working French gun is great, while the heaviest ordnance ever turned out from Krupp's. The gun itself is far from impressive. It looks like any ordinary cannon, and is small and grey, and a child could lift the projectiles it hurls. The point is that the 75 will hurl its shells faster and with deadlier aim than any field gun so far evolved. It is easy to make, easy to shift, and it is put out of action more is no great loss, for the 75 can be turned out of the French armories almost as quickly as bicycles.

The Krupp's are commonly given credit for inventing the breech-loading cannon, which followed the breech-loading revolver and rifle. As a matter of fact, it was a French officer, Captain Boleau, who in 1842, devised a cannon that was loaded from the breech, and this was used successfully in the Italian campaign of 1859. For some reason not known, but probably on account of a mere prejudice, the invention of Captain Boleau was not appreciated by the French War Office. At any rate, the specifications continued to call for the standard muzzle-loading cannon. Then in 1866, the Krupp's turned out a satisfactory breech-loading cannon on the principle of the invention of the Frenchman. This Germany employed in the war with France with great effect, while the besotted Napoleon III. risked the destiny of his country upon the muzzle-loading, which he had improved himself. The French rapid-fire gun, however, was faulty. The German breech-loading field piece was a success.

The Krupp's, however, did not develop all the possibilities of their breech-loading cannon. The French army, as 1892 Col. Duport, of the French army, wrote to the Chief of Ordnance pointing out that it would be possible to devise a gun that would solve all the problems of range, and range, which, at that time, were the chief drawbacks to any field gun so far produced. The Colonel had plans to prove his argument, but again the importance of the improvement he had made. The Italian Government, however, did not call for it, and it is now said by artillery theorists that the Italians have the dearest field artillery in the world. In the war with Turkey, of course, they did not have much opportunity of displaying their superiority in the matter of field artillery, since the Germans were obviously outclassed from the beginning. If the Italian weapon is even the equal of the French 75 it may be expected to astonish Germany should Italy make the final change and take her place with the Allies.

But even when the first invention had passed to Italy, the enthusiasts in the French army continued their experiments. Col. Rimmler, and Gen. St. Claire Deville made improvements, and then came Gen. Baquet, who perfected the shell that the 75 was to fire. Though he did not add to the efficiency of the gun, Gen. Baquet deserves as much credit as any of the inventors for the enthusiasm with which he developed gunnery in the French army. He was considered a crank on the subject, but he persevered, and it is chiefly owing to him that the French gunners have been able to achieve a skill that is the despair and the terror of the Germans. They are wonderful gunners, whether firing directly or indirectly, and to them as much as to the perfect weapon that has been placed at their disposal is due the amazing precision and speed with which the famous 75 is operated. The gun was described several years ago by a French inspector-general, as "an incomparable instrument, an elegant work of art, a masterpiece of months it has been shown that the words were not too strong."

## ENGLAND UNDER WAR CONDITIONS

Reports received in London from all parts of the Ireland show that the number of recruits for the new army is growing from week to week. In Dublin a much larger number of men present themselves weekly at the two recruiting offices than in the earlier days of the war. Recruits for Irish regiments are also coming forward in increasing numbers in the southern counties, such as Cork, Kerry, and Limerick. The Nationalist population in Belfast has also supplied many men of late for the Irish Brigade.

A writer in the London Times says: "It seems clear that the public are being exploited in regard to coal prices in London. But it is by no means easy to say upon whom the responsibility rests. To a large extent the public are themselves responsible. Just as at the beginning of the war prices of food were forced up by panic buying, so it is now in regard to coal. While many colliery owners and coal dealers have done their best to keep prices down, others have seized their opportunity and are making considerable profits. There are very few coal dealers in London who do not obtain their supplies under contracts made before the beginning of the war at prices varying from 9d. to 13s. 6d. per ton, but prices at the pit have now risen to from 21s. to 22s. per ton. The opportunity to obtain the higher price has been, too much for some colliery owners."

The latest military toy, produced by the Women's Emergency Corps, in London, is a trench designed by the mother of one soldier and the wife of another from the description of those actually in use at the front. Carved out of solid wood, the trench has mud toy trenches, with dug-outs and communication trenches, are filled with khaki-clad toy soldiers and defended by wire entanglements and piles of sandbags. This ingenious toy has been pronounced to be an accurate model of the real thing by soldiers from the firing line.

The British Board of Trade announces that arrangements have been completed under which compensation will be payable in the case of all persons employed in any capacity on board British merchant ships who may

## Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

I was reassembling with Sid Hunt today, and Pops Simkinses elsy cousin Persey started to hum up the street, and I sed, G, Sid, lets pretend im hipertizing you and try to make Persey bleve yure reely hipertized.

And I startid to make moshins in frunt of his face with my hands, and Sid eyes startid to go shut as if he was beeing hipertized by sunboday, and jost then Persey calm up, saying, Wata you doing, Shh, im hipertizing him, dont make so much noise, I sed, And Sid Hunt startid to make farsee faces with his eyes shut as if he was hipertized, and I sed, Look at that, Persey, look at that.

G, how do you do it, sed Persey.  
I sed, You haff to do it make moshins in frunt of his face and tell him hes hipertized.

You was hipertized, now let Persey try to do it, go awn, Persey. I sed, You haff to do it make moshins in frunt of his face and tell him hes hipertized.

With Persey startid to do, saying, I command you to be hipertized, I comand you to be hipertized. And pritty soon Sid's eyes startid to go shut agen and I sed, G, Persey, yure doing it, yure doing it.

I didnt no I cood, sed Persey, and Sid startid to tawk as if he was tawking in his sleep, saying, Wake me up, wake me up.

G, you bettir wake him up, Persey, I sed, the lawngir you wate the hardir it is to wake them up, sumtimes they dont wake up at awl.

Dont they, sed Persey, and Sid kepp saying, Wake me up, wake me up, and Persey startid to make moshins in frunt of Sid's face agen, saying, Wake me up, commane you wake up.

Im a baby elcunt, sed Sid, And he startid to wawk awl eround awn Persey's feat still keeping his eyes clozed, and Persey sed, Hey, stop that, wake up, I command you wake up.

Im a rote, sed Sid. And he put his hed down and startid to butt Persey in the stummick.

Hey, wake up, will you, yelled Persey. And he gave Sid a farsee kick in the shins with wood of weak enboday up, and it woad Sid up awl rite, and he startid to rub his shins, saying, Hey, wat do you call that enyhaw?

Is the any way I cood wake you up, sed Persey, it mite of saved yure life for awl you no.

Well dont hipertize me agen, thats awl, sed Sid, still rubbing his shins.

I wont, sed Persey rubbing his stummick.

be injured owing to hostilities. A special scheme has been brought into operation to provide for cases which are not already covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act. The arrangement also applies to fishing vessels insured under the Government scheme.

The Great Auk and her egg, among the chief treasures of the Natural History Museum, in London, have now been removed to a vault, where they will no longer be endangered by bombs from intruding Zeppelins.

To overcome the labor difficulty in the big armament and engineering works at Sheffield, the clerical staffs of the big firms have been searching the records to find the addresses of men who in years past were discharged because they were "too old at forty." The operation of the Workmen's Compensation act led to many men being discharged upon reaching an age when it was thought they were more likely to meet with accidents. Many of these are now being brought back to their old employment—even men up to sixty years of age.

In consequence of the German submarine menace, the Mercantile Marine Service Association of Liverpool has petitioned the Government first, that all shipmasters who are in command of British ships be granted a temporary commission in the Royal Naval Reserve for the period of the war, without compensation of salary, and that the Government shall recommend shipowners to pay a war bonus to all their shipmasters and officers in acknowledgment of the special risks incurred while at the disposal of which, in view of the full employment of shipping and the prevailing high freights, can be afforded without imposing any undue burden on the trade.

A plea is made for some official recognition of the irksome and arduous, though not very dangerous, duties performed by the special constables of the United Kingdom—many of them substantial, married, middle-aged men—during the past six months of the war. The task of guarding all the water works, electric plants, gas-works, bridges, and other places of importance which the constables have assumed would have absorbed the energies of some 20,000 troops, who have been relieved for service more active. It has been dull work always, and not seldom in the bitter weather it has involved no little physical hardship.

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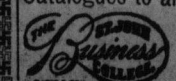
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