

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 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.

## WAR COMMENT.

After several days of comparative inactivity the western front is developing more action. There are as yet no indications of the expected German offensive but the British and French troops have been doing some aggressive work themselves. Yesterday the British, operating on a front of three miles in the vicinity of Neuport, drove forward and penetrated the German line to the depth of almost one mile, capturing several prisoners and inflicting heavy casualties upon two hostile divisions which, for two months, had been holding the positions under attack.

The French troops were also active. Southwest of Soissons they carried out a vigorous attack and in some places penetrated the German lines to the depth of one mile and a quarter, inflicting casualties and capturing more than one thousand prisoners.

The aviators were also busy over the western front. A statement from London indicates that the British airmen succeeded on Thursday in destroying twenty German planes and driving nine more to earth out of control. The British admit the loss of fourteen machines but even at that it will be seen that they inflicted twice as much loss as they suffered.

In Italy the British were active in the Asiago region, attacking the Austrian lines, taking positions, capturing prisoners and sustaining very slight casualties themselves.

As far as the Austrian offensive is concerned it is admitted now that it is a thing of the past. The positions from which the Italians dislodged the invaders have been consolidated and there is an opinion that an Italian attack is among the probabilities of the immediate future. The week has been a disastrous one for Austria for their military reverses, coming as they did at the same time as the revival of disturbance and dissatisfaction on the part of the civilian population, cannot but have a serious effect on the morale of the whole nation.

Strange reports are coming from Trieste, mainly through German channels. It is stated that the Bolshevik government has been overthrown and that Grand Duke Nicholas has been proclaimed emperor at Moscow. Another report tells of the arrival at Harbin, Manchuria, of a mission of influential Russians who are attempting to incite another revolution. The Russian reports, however, are published with reserve and may prove to be unfounded.

## THE NEW FLOUR LAW.

The new order of the Canada Food Board which goes into effect on Monday in all parts of Canada east of Port Arthur will compel Canadians to save flour, and as its provisions will be compulsory on all the people it will probably prove far more useful than voluntary appeals in gaining the end desired.

From July 1 to July 15 every person baking for public or private consumption must use one pound of a substitute for wheat flour—corn flour, oatmeal, barley, rice, rye, buckwheat, tapioca or potatoes—with every nine pounds of wheat flour. After July 15 the proportion must be increased to one pound of substitute to every four pounds of wheat flour. The regulation applies east of Port Arthur, substitutes not being sufficiently available in the West at present.

Compliance with the order will be enforced largely through the provision for the sale of substitutes. Dealers must have on hand at all times a sufficient stock of substitutes, and they are forbidden, from July 15, to sell flour unless substitutes in stated proportions are bought by the customer at the same time.

In the past many people have made a real effort to conserve flour and other foods, but through selfishness or carelessness many did not. The result was that the family inclined to comply with the requests became dissatisfied and discouraged by the knowledge that neighbors, owing equal duty, paid no attention to the appeals. Under the new order the sacrifice will be exacted of all and the only way by which it can be evaded is by buying large quantities of flour and proportionate quantities of substitutes, using the flour and throwing the substitutes away. The cost of this plan will prevent it from coming into general use and if it were attempted the regulations against waste would speedily stop it.

The method of enforcement through regulation of sales looks to be an effective one, but, we do not imagine there will be any desire to evade the law. The assurance that everyone is

on an equal footing with regard to saving, with the consequent assurance that the saving, because it is general, will be a really effective one, will remove any disinclination towards compliance with the order. All most people wanted was assurance that while they were saving food everybody else was doing it, too.

In connection with the enforcement of the Food Board's order some attention should be given by that body to the price at which substitutes for wheat flour are sold. Some substitutes are higher in price than the flour they seek to conserve and consequently compliance with the order will involve something of a monetary sacrifice. The board doubtless has in mind protection to the public in this regard, for the order provides that the dealer must have in stock a sufficient quantity of substitutes to meet the demand and that they must be sold "at reasonable prices." In this case the position of the retailer is the unpleasant one. He comes nearest to the consumer and, consequently, gets most of the blame for high prices. The operation of the new order will also bring him nearest to its directions.

It is a fact that on many lines sold by the retail food dealer the profit at prevailing retail prices is less than he formerly made when retail prices were lower. However, if the desired saving of flour is made the consumer will cheerfully bear the small increase in price provided he knows that the burden is being equally shared.

## VENICE IS SAFE.

Aside from the great military value of the Italian success, to Italy and to all the world there is an added cause for rejoicing in the knowledge that the thrusting back of the Austrian invaders has saved Venice, the most beautiful city in the world, from the ruthless savagery of the Hun vandals. The beauty of Venice has evoked many of the most thrilling tributes in literature. A writer in Blackwood's Magazine referred to the queen of European cities as "The city of St. Mark miraculous, a thing for giants to wonder at and fairies to copy if they could."

Walter Savage Landor hails Venice in male mood: "The ruler of the Adriatic who never was infant or strapping, whom God took by the hand and taught to walk by himself the first hour." From Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Letters we catch the stirrings of a poet's heart in response to the magic charm of the Water City: "I have been between heaven and earth since our arrival in Venice. The heaven of it is ineffable—never had I touched the skirts of so celestial a place. The beauty of the architecture, the silver trails of water up between all that gorgeous color and carving, the enchanting silence; the music, the gondolas—I mix it all up together and maintain that nothing is like it, nothing equal to it, not a second Venice in all the world!"

"Well might it seem," wrote Ruskin, "that such a city had owed its existence rather to a rod of the enchanter, than fear of the fugitive; that the water which encircled her had been chosen for the mirror of her state, rather than the shelter of her nakedness; and that all which in nature was wild and merciless—Time and Decay; as well as the waves and tempests, had been won to adorn her instead of to destroy her, and might still spare, for ages to come, that beauty which seemed to have fixed for its throne the sands of the hour-glass as well as of the sea."

Byron and Longfellow paid tribute to the beauty and charm of Venice. Longfellow's tribute is perhaps less generally known than that of Byron but its worth can be gauged from his description of that city as "White swan of cities, slumbering in thy nest so wonderfully built among the reeds." Byron's verses on Venice are familiar to practically every schoolboy and his lines are probably the most expressive of all. Who can forget—"I stood in Venice, on the Bridge of Sighs. A palace and a prison on each hand. I saw from the wave her structure rise. As from the stroke of the enchanter's wand: A thousand years their cloudy wings expand Around me, and a dying glory smiles. O'er the far times, when many a subject land Looked to the winged Lion's make pile. Where Venice sat in state, throne on her hundred isles."

## PRUSSIAN INSOLENCE.

The speech of Von Kuehlmann, German Foreign Minister, in the Reichstag the other day may indi-

cate that Germany is contemplating some sort of a peace offensive, but, at the same time it should be an eye-opener to any pacifists that may still exist in any of the Allied nations. Von Kuehlmann is unrepentant and defiant; while he suggests peace in one breath, in the next he indicates that it must be such a peace as Germany can approve. He does not indicate that the Teutons will accept a just peace but insolently demands that any peace terms to be considered shall be such as will leave Germany still in a position to attempt to impose her will upon the world.

With a flourish of rhetoric that suggests the "shining armor and mailed fist" of the Kaiser he sends this challenge to the world: "We wish for the German people and our allies a free, strong, independent existence within the boundaries drawn for us by history. We desire overseas possessions corresponding to our greatness and wealth; the freedom of the sea carrying our trade to all parts of the world."

Could the Prussian desire for dominion be more insolently expressed? And while Germany's foreign minister, speaking with the authority of his government as those quoted, is there anything in his utterance to give hope that the Kaiser's advisors have experienced or will experience a change of heart? His speech contains no promise as to the future of ravished Belgium. Not a word as to German intentions in regard to Poland, no indication of a willingness to evacuate Russia or Northern France, nothing that by any stretch of the imagination can lead to the opinion that Germany is willing for any peace, save a peace that will guarantee to her the ill-gotten gains she now holds.

There will be no tendency on the part of any of the Allies to give Von Kuehlmann more than passing notice and the only effect of his rhetorical bombardment will be to confirm the termination that this war must go on until the Hun is brought to earth to plead as a suppliant for a cessation of the punishment he has brought upon himself and which will be administered with increasing severity from now until the desired result has been achieved.

## A BIT OF VERSE

IN THIS LAST HOUR.  
In this last hour, before the bugles  
The summons of the dawn, we turn  
again  
To you, dear country, you whom  
Through summer years of idle selfish-  
ness,  
We still have loved—who loved us  
none the less,  
Knowing the destined hour would find  
us men.

O thrill of laughter of the busy town!  
O flower valleys, trees against the  
sides,  
Wild moor and woodland, glade and  
sweeping down,  
O land of our desire! like man asleep  
We have let pass the years, nor felt  
you.  
So close into our hearts' dear sancti-  
ties.

So, we are dreamers; but our dreams  
are cast  
Henceforward in a more heroic mold:  
We have kept faith with our immortal  
past.  
Knights—we have found the lady of  
our love;  
Minstrels—have heard great harmonies  
The lyrics that enraptured us of old.  
The dawn's aglow with lustre of the  
sun  
O love, O burning passion, that has  
made  
Our day illustrious till its hours are  
done,  
Fire our dull hearts, that, in our sun's  
eclipse,  
When Death stoops low to kiss us on  
the lips,  
He still may find us singing, unafraid.

One thing we know, that love so great  
Is spent.  
Dies not when lovers die: From hand  
to hand  
We pass the torch and perish—well  
It is dark years to come our country-  
men  
Feel the divine flame leap in them  
And so remember us and understand.  
—P. H. B. L., in the London Spectator.

## A BIT OF FUN

A Sad Duty.  
Mother—Nellie, can you spell kitch-  
en?  
Mother—No mother.  
Mother—Well, what do you go to  
school for?  
Nellie—Only because you make me.  
Journalists.  
"I see where seven Frenchmen on  
trial in Paris for espionage claim  
they are 'journalists,' but show no  
ability to write!"  
"Ahem!" said the practical new-

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Pop was smoking and thinking after supper yesterday, and I sed.

Pop. That's me, sed pop. I was wawking along this afternoon, I sed, and a little dog started to follow me as if he thawt he was my dog.

That's a good sene, sed pop, as Shakespeare sed, if a little dog follows you while you're wawking, it's a sene that he likes you, its no use tawking.

Yes sir, he wagged his tale like anything, I sed.

Good, if a things worth wagging its worth wagging, sed pop. And I patted him on the head and he jumped up and kissed me rite in the eye, I sed.

Which eye? sed pop.

Sir? I sed.

Never mind, sed pop. It was probably the eye he aimed for, because he was evidently an intelligent little dog or he wood never taken such a fancy to you.

Yes sir, he was in the yard now, I sed.

Wait? sed pop.

Go rite down and put him out, we cant have any mongrels around the house, sed pop.

O. G. pop, I sed, maybe hes lost and maybe hes a valuable dog, maybe Ill get a reward for giving him back, maybe.

Wats he look like? sed pop.

Hes got a long curly tale without any hair on it, and long ears with hair on them, and hes a kind of a sort of yello color with some spots, I sed.

Go down and put him out immediately, sed pop.

Which I did.

stewed rabbit today, and the gun'nor he says the customers like to have the cat in evidence of these days.

Still To Be Settled.  
Tourist—To what do you attribute your great age?  
Oldest inhabitant—I can't say yet to the grocer, the butcher, and the sir. There are several of them patent-medicine companies adickers! with me.

Summer Plans.  
I shall not seek the ocean strand, Where tepid billows gaily roll. I'll go out to the mountains and Get leave to dig a ton of coal.

Very Likely.  
Wife—I saw such a duck of a hat today.  
Hubby—Yes, and like other ducks, it has a pretty big bill I suppose.

National Anthems.  
Teacher in French School—Marie, What is the national anthem of La Patrie?  
Little Marie—La Marseillaise.  
"Good! Now the national air of England!"  
"God save the King."  
"Very good, mon enfant. Now the national air of the United States?"  
"Certainly! It's Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here!"

A Drawback.  
Jimmy—If men had four feet like horses look at 'th lot of shoes we'd have to shun!  
Billy—Yes, an' if dey kicked like mules who would want to shine 'em!

Taking No Chances.  
Customer—Why don't you drive this cat away from the table, waiter?  
Waiter—Well, you see, sir, it's

PIMPLES AND RUNNING SORES  
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