

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 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.

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT.

Whether commission government has satisfied the people of St. John that it is the best system of civic administration which could be devised is a question which should be settled by the people themselves, and we believe they can be relied upon to give a safe and sane expression of opinion upon it when the opportunity arises.

Some weeks ago, Mr. John W. Vanwart, an ex-alderman, and a man who is rated among the large taxpayers of this city, decided in his own mind that commission had not worked out well and, after consultation with a few friends, started a petition to the Provincial Government asking for permission to have a plebiscite on the question. In his action Mr. Vanwart was quite within his rights as are those who sign the petition or who refuse to sign it.

The Daily Telegraph, which was the chief champion of the commission form when it was adopted, questioned the motives behind the petition, hinted at "gangs," "cliques" and "rings," and intimated that the movement was being promoted for unworthy ends. Mr. Vanwart, in a letter to the press, acknowledged that he was the chief spirit behind the movement and at once became a target for veiled abuse and ridicule from the Telegraph. To date he has made no reply to the campaign against him. Last evening the Times announced what it pretended was an aldermanic slate prepared by those behind the movement and containing the names of men favoring the commission plan as well as some known to be opposed to it. The Times had no warrant for its story and the men whose names were published naturally feel that unjustifiable liberty was taken.

The question may well be asked why should the Telegraph or Times object to an expression of opinion on the subject of commission or any other subject. One of the much advertised features of the commission plan was the referendum by which the people could express their views upon any question. Surely the very prayer of the petition now being circulated is that the people may have a chance to pronounce upon the system itself. It is difficult to see what objection can be found to that, or why the promoters of the petition asking for this opportunity should be held up to ridicule any more than the gentlemen who undertook successfully to promote sentiment in favor of the change from the old to the present system. The Telegraph and Times were active in the campaign leading to the adoption of commission. If they wish now to fustigate the different elements opposed to the system into a concrete body they are going a good way about it.

The form our civic administration shall take is a matter for the people to decide. A few years ago they decided for commission and commission was adopted. If they should now wish a change, it is purely their affair.

THE TIMES AND MR. HAZEN.

The Times last evening attempted to ridicule Hon. J. D. Hazen and to belittle the success which has attended his work for the port of St. John. It sneeringly referred to several benefits he has secured in the way of military mobilizations for this port, and intimated that the only reason Mr. Hazen was able to secure them was because this was the obvious place for them. The Times, however, conveniently forgot that it was Mr. Hazen who secured the vote for the extension of the breakwater to Partridge Island and that it was Mr. Pugsley who endeavored to have the work postponed. The Times also neglected to mention that through Mr. Hazen's efforts large appropriations have been secured for St. John harbor facilities, work upon which will provide employment for many St. John men, and that Mr. Pugsley arose in his place in the House of Commons and urged that the vote for St. John should be cut in two, thus depriving these men of at least half of the work and delaying the proper equipment of this port. But the people of St. John recognize that in Mr. Hazen this city has a real representative, something we lacked during Mr. Pugsley's term of office as a member of the Laurier cabinet.

THE FALL OF PRZEMYSL.

By compelling the capitulation, yesterday, of the fortress of Przemyśl in Galicia, the Russians have contributed the most noteworthy success of the war, while, at the same time, the Austrian garrison, which, for more than six months, held the city and fortress safe against the besieging armies has written itself into history's records of bravery and endurance. Despatches indicate that conditions in the beleaguered city had become pitiful some weeks ago. Food was scarce, disease was claiming as many victims as the Russian bullets, all attempts at rescue had been beaten back and the garrison had been sadly reduced. It is reported that, at the last, the soldiers demanded that the fortress should be given up, as it had long been evident that the siege could not be raised and capitulation was the only possible ending.

The success of the Russian operation is regarded as most important both for its military and political effect. From a military standpoint it will release a large army for service elsewhere, and, at the same time, open the way for an attack on Cracow and an advance to the plains of Hungary. Politically it will serve to confirm Bulgaria and Roumania in the belief that to gain advantage from this war, it is necessary to ally themselves with Britain, France and Russia, as possibilities of German victory grow daily more remote. The moral effect of the fall of Przemyśl should also prove of great importance to the Allies, as it cannot but shake the confidence of the German and Austrian people in the outcome. Those who have been taught to regard as invincible the soldiers owning allegiance to Berlin or Vienna, have had more than one reason to revise their lessons, and the victory of yesterday cannot but add to them.

Meanwhile, Petrograd will feel a natural elation over the success that has deservedly come to Russian arms. It should stimulate recruiting, if stimulation is needed; it should cause the civil population of Russia to bear with confidence the necessary hardships of war and to establish them in the knowledge that, with Great Britain, France, Serbia and Belgium, they will enjoy the fruits of that ultimate and complete victory which is now assured. From every standpoint the capture of Przemyśl is a distinct achievement of epoch marking importance.

A TIP FROM P. E. I.

Summerside, P. E. I., March 19.

To the Editor of The Standard,
Sir:—What is the matter with the New Brunswick farmers? Are they so hard up that they are compelled to give their potatoes away for the cost of truckage and packing? There is really no sense in the people selling their potatoes for such an unreasonably low price. Directly there will be no potatoes to be had at any price. When potatoes get so low that they do not pay the digging expenses and the expense of hauling them to market, they will feed them to everything that will eat them on the farms often to the detriment of the stock or they are otherwise wasted. We have found it to be almost the invariable case that when oats are high potatoes are bound to follow later on, as they are interchangeable food products on a farm and the farmers are by far the greater consumers of both potatoes and oats not as is generally believed the city folks.

We do not believe in farmers holding their products as they are doing their oats for instance above their intrinsic value in prices simply because they are perishable, but it is equally as wrong for them to give away their potatoes for less than their intrinsic value simply because they are perishable. They cannot sell any more potatoes at 15c. a bushel than they can at 25c. and there is really no sense or reason in the present low price of potatoes.

Yours truly,
"One of the Largest Handlers of Potatoes in Canada."

P. E. ISLAND DOCTOR DIES OF INJURIES.

Montreal, Mar. 22.—Dr. A. A. McLellan, a physician of Summerside, P. E. I., died in the Western Hospital Saturday of injuries received in a street car accident. He was fifty years of age.

NIGHT MARCH WAS FORM OF PUNISHMENT

Twenty-Sixth Midnight Parade Not Due to Sudden Call to Leave For Front.

Good soldiers are good men, but good men at times have to suffer for the actions of bad soldiers. This fact was borne out at an early hour this morning when the 26th Battalion was called out and sent on an all night march as punishment for the bad conduct of a number of soldiers in the Army last night.

From what could be learned from a couple of the soldiers early this morning there was considerable trouble in the barracks and it was caused by a number of soldiers who were acting in disorderly fashion. Bottles and other missiles were thrown about by the men and a number of windows broken. From all appearances these soldiers were taking charge of the army when, about midnight, the orders were given to "fall in." The good soldiers, who were sound asleep in their bunks, tumbled out and hastily donned their uniforms. Officers who were stopping at uptown hotels received hurried orders to report at the Army immediately and lost no time in getting on duty. Some persons who saw the officers making all haste to the Army without giving any reason, and not even knowing what the sudden call meant, took it for granted that the soldiers of the 26th were leaving for the front.

At 12.30 o'clock the first company of soldiers carrying rifles and cartridge pouches were seen to march from the Army along Carmarthen street as far as Brittain, thence to Prince William and towards the North End. Some of the boys called out good-bye and these were speedily rebuked by an officer and then quietly reigned supreme.

Immediately after this company came another detachment under command of Captain Keefe, and this lot continued up Carmarthen street. Like the former lot there was considerable laughing among the men and a few called out: "Good-bye, we're on our way."

Then came another detachment by the same route as the first, along Prince William street. This company was far from being quiet and for many blocks away they could be heard cheering, while the songs, "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," "Down on the Farm," and other marching melodies rang from hundreds of throats. Then came the call "What's the matter with the signaller? They're all right; who? The signaller."

As they passed along Prince William street, a citizen, who thought the boys were leaving the city, gave them a cheer and in answer the soldiers cheered as only a few hundred soldiers can cheer. Away up Dock street the soldiers marched, singing and cheering. For a bunch of men who were being punished by an all night march this crowd did not appear to mind it. In fact there was plenty of laughing and joking among the majority of men who were out on the march.

One soldier stated early this morning that he had been expecting something like this to happen for some time as there have been members of the Battalion who have not been acting right. As in the majority of cases, it has been hard to find out who the culprits are, the whole battalion had to suffer for the actions of comparatively few.

Perhaps the long march out this morning and the lack of a good sleep may tame the few bad ones down, for generally the discipline and behaviour of the 26th has been good.

ASK IMPROVED FERRY SERVICE AT PERRY POINT

Messrs Lamb and Whelpley Will Interview the Government on Matter.

S. T. Lamb, of Perry's Point, and E. A. Whelpley, of Kingston, were in the city last evening on their way to Fredericton where they will meet with members of the government in connection with transportation matters at Perry's Point. Since the bridge went out five years ago the people of that district have been served by a sail scow ferry, which, of course, is not in every way satisfactory. There has been some prospect of a new bridge being built for the use both of the public and the Valley Railway, but at the present time plans for this are not in a very definite shape, and the people in that part of the country are desirous of having an improvement in the ferry service until such time as something more definite can be arranged. The delegates will also ask, and this is really the important point of their business, an additional subsidy for the steamboat service between St. John and Hampton, making all the usual calls on the Kennebecasis, both above and below Perry's Point. The steam-

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

G ma, wat do you think, I sed to ma wen I caln boam to luntch from skool today.
Wen youve got anything to say to me, wy do you awlways start by asking me wat I think, sed ma.
Well, wat do you think, sed I.
I think yure a simpliton, sed ma.
The teetohir sed Id half to bring a note from you wen I caln back this afternoon, I sed.
So thats it, is it, and wat have you bin doing now, sed ma.
I got awl my arifmetick rite this morning, I sed.
Well, and is that wy you cant go back to skool without a note, sed ma.
Yes main, I sed.
Do you meen to say that Miss Kitty is angry at you because you got yure trampels rite, sed ma.
Yes ma, I sed.
Is he kumpleetly krazy, sed ma.
I dont no, I sed.
I nevvr herd of stich a thing, I dont no wat the publick skools are kuming to, sed ma.
Sit Hunt got awl his rite, to, I sed, and ma sed, And dux he half to bring a note, to, and I sed, No mam, and ma sed, Well, if you do, wy duzent he. He sets rite notx to me, I sed.
Wat awn ertth has that got to do with it, sed ma.
Miss Kitty cawt me copying awl of his papir, I sed.
And ma gave me the note, giving me sumthing elts ferst, beeing to panelli to rite about.

er Hampton, which had been performing this service for several years, was in receipt of a subsidy of \$500.00, but the owners would not operate her last season for this amount, feeling that they could not do so profitably. The delegates will ask the government to increase this allowance to \$1,000.

YOUNG-ADAMS CO. IN UNDER TWO FLAGS

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Berkley Cecil, his younger brother, Wm. Loker
Lord Rockingham Harry W. Lyon
Baron, a money lender John Gregory
Ben Davis Al. White
Rake, Bertie's valet Jas. H. Rowland
Col. Chateauray, "The Black Hawk" Ben Hadfield
Lady Guinevere Clara Rose Hubner
Lady Venilia Hazel Stevenson
Nora Marie Le Clair
Little Venilia Marguerite
Cigarette Marjole Adams
Pierre Matou Wm. Loker
Picpon John Gregory
Chasseurs, Soldiers, etc.

The Young-Adams Co. scored another hit in the Opera House last evening in the presentation of "Under Two Flags." The piece was well staged and the work of the members of the company was highly satisfactory.

The play was in four acts, which were run off with due regard for the theme of the story. The drama has been produced before in St. John and the Young-Adams Co. handled it well.

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