

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1919.

MORE ABOUT OFFICERS.

Very few men who enlisted in New Brunswick for service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force did so with the intention of remaining permanently in the service. It may be that an occasional one here and there felt so inclined, but these were rare exceptions and it can safely be said that practically all of our volunteers joined the army for the period of the war and for six months thereafter. It is equally true that by far the greater number desired at the time of enlistment, and still desired to obtain their release from duty as soon as their duty had been performed, or at least as soon as they feel capable of returning to their former occupations. In pointing out the injustice done to New Brunswick in filling military positions in this district with men from outside points, The Standard did not wish to suggest that these positions should have been filled by persons who would come to regard them as permanent jobs. The true purpose of such employment should be to give opportunity to returning soldier or officers to look around and adjust themselves to new conditions under which they might satisfactorily re-enter civilian life. And this opportunity should be available to the greatest possible number of men. It is not exactly fair that one who returned from overseas two or three years ago after a very short period of service and who was given a position at home should insist upon retaining, or should endeavor to retain, that position to the exclusion of others who are now coming home. Nor is it fair that he by and able-bodied men should fill positions which do not call for any great physical strength, while others who are suffering under disability from wounds or sickness, but are otherwise competent, are deprived of the chances of such employment. Engagement on the staff or in any departmental work connected with this district should be only for such time as may be necessary to enable the returned officer or man to arrange for the resumption of civilian employment. It is right and proper that men who have to leave their positions to go overseas should, on coming home, be aided in every possible way until such time as they can procure new positions. But it should not take years for such men to accustom themselves to the idea of re-entering civilian life when their absence from it has been of very short duration. Hence among officers now returning and among those who have come back since the cessation of hostilities there is a feeling that jobs at good salaries for two or three years, have enjoyed all that they are entitled to, and that these men should now get out and make room for others not so fortunate as they. There are not enough positions to go around if everybody is to be employed at the one time and the only way to solve this problem is by giving the officers turn about, at the same time keeping them advised that the employment to which they are put is only of a temporary nature, provided for them until they can fit into their old grooves in civilian affairs. Without in any way forgetting the fact that many more officers from outside points are employed here than in our own town, the fact must not be lost sight of that there are numbers of our own men also employed who have remained in the service far longer than they originally intended who are doing so because they are drawing more money than they could make and than they have made in civilian life, and who should, in justice to their comrades, give up these positions and make room for their equally deserving friends who are now coming back.

MR. DYKEMAN'S IDEA.

At a meeting in the Board of Trade rooms on Monday evening last Mr. Fred A. Dykeman expressed the opinion that insurance rates in this district would be materially reduced if our Fire Department were placed on a modern basis and that, while this improvement in the department might cost a few hundred thousand dollars, it would be an economical move in view of the saving on insurance. Mr. Dykeman may be quite right at the present time in his contention, but the experience of St. John has not led us to believe that this would be the case. Some years ago when our water supply was not what it should have been the same argument was put forward by interested business men. The announcement was also made by the board of Fire Underwriters that unless action were taken by the City toward the installation of a better water supply insurance rates would be materially advanced, and these rates were advanced and remained in force for a time until the present Loch Lomond service was completed. Then the excess charges were removed, but there was no general reduction in the rates. That new water supply cost St. John hundreds of thousands of dollars and it has not resulted in any saving to property owners other than that it has prevented the continued payment of the additional rates demanded by the Underwriters. At a later period estimation was made of the likelihood for work done in 1918, which will undoubtedly happen unless bonds are

certain new apparatus was secured. The apparatus in question was secured, but the rates continued as usual, and while there was no saving through any reduction to property owners, there may, as in the previous case, have been a saving through the avoidance of increases. A year or so ago this whole district was re-rated with the result that charges for insurance were materially advanced in many parts of the city, while the reductions were negligible. This was not due to any demand on the part of the Underwriters for improved equipment or water services, but arose from the fact that the companies doing business here did not consider their net returns to be sufficient. Mr. Dykeman believes, according to his statement, that an expenditure of \$200,000.00 or so for departmental equipment and \$300,000.00 more for extensions and improvements in the water system would mean a big reduction in insurance rates. If Mr. Dykeman can obtain from the New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters a definite pledge to the effect that on completion of such improvements as he suggests reductions will be made in existing insurance rates, effective over a reasonable period of years, then the people of St. John will have actual facts to consider and will be able to ascertain for themselves whether the saving to property owners in reduced insurance would justify the outlay now suggested. The record of the past has not borne out this contention, but different conditions may exist today.

THE CASE OF HELEN LOBB.

On November 22nd, Helen Lobb, aged eighteen, a resident of Millford, was arrested on suspicion of the military authorities as a result of sworn information made by a soldier, charged with communicating disease to soldiers. She was taken to the jail and on that same day was examined by the jail physician. This official entered on the records, open to anyone interested in the case, the following report: "I have today examined the prisoner, Helen Lobb, and fail to find any symptoms whatever of any venereal disease—G. O. Baxter, M.D., Jail Physician." On November 28th, the prisoner was visited by a medical man attached to the military organization, who advised that on the following morning he would attend to examine her. He did not do so, but on the morning of November 29th, the prisoner was taken to Fairville for trial, and was there arraigned before Magistrate Atkinson. As a result of that hearing she was declared guilty of the charge and was returned to the city jail, where she has since been serving a sentence of one year's imprisonment imposed by that magistrate on commitment dated November 29th. On February 5th, Magistrate Atkinson made the following statement: "The Standard: I have always felt that there was a very serious weakness in that Lobb case. But I sensed the girl at the request of the military authorities, and believing such a course to be for her own good. When her people came to me I advised them to secure a physician. They did so and he reported that she was not suffering from any disease. I did not accept that report, not considering it sufficient, but I did think that the military who were conducting the prosecution should have presented evidence touching the girl's condition. They failed to do so, for, although they had a doctor present to testify, his evidence did not in any way relate to the prisoner. Yet in view of all the facts and at the insistence of the military prosecutors I sentenced the girl to one year in jail. I made no notes of the evidence at the trial, as the military brought a stenographer, who took everything in shorthand. I was promised a copy of the evidence as soon as it could be transcribed, but although the trial was on November twenty-ninth, and although I have on different occasions asked for that evidence, I have not yet received it." In this matter there are only two possible conditions. Either this prisoner is diseased or she is not. If she is, the sentence of one year in jail is unwise, as she is not receiving treatment, due to the fact that the jail physician has reported her free from disease. If she is in good health, then the charge against her was an unjust charge. She is thus either an innocent of the accusation, or on the other hand she remains in confinement, without the medical attention she should have, and a menace to the health of all others in the jail.

ANOTHER BOND ISSUE?

The Foster administration was anxious to begin business without any outstanding liabilities, and bonded bonds covering—of course with a nice margin of \$250,000.00—the liability found to exist at the time it came into power. Assuming that the plan of making each year look after itself is a wise one, will the Foster Government issue bonds for the outstanding liability as at October 31st, 1918? It would be extremely injudicious to have the operations of 1919 adversely affected by the payment of accounts for work done in 1918, which will undoubtedly happen unless bonds are

issued to cover the many thousands of dollars owing by the various departments at the close of the fiscal year, which accounts are not included in the annual statement of expenditures.

THE LANCASTER HOSPITAL.

In a paragraph in The Standard yesterday, touching the Lancaster Military Hospital, this paper stated that the paid staff consisted of fifty-three persons. The Globe last evening was asked, presumably by the military authorities, to contradict this statement and to say that the hospital staff consists of only nineteen persons. As a matter of fact there are employed, under pay at the Lancaster Hospital, the superintendent, Major Thomas, the adjutant, Captain Sturges, Captain Colinet, in charge of medical work; Lieutenant Leathers, in charge of surgical wards; Matron Edith Hegar, two night and five day nursing sisters; one Sergeant-Major, A. Westrup; Q. M. Sgt. Belyea, A.M.I.; Staff Sgt. Welford; four sergeants, four corporals and thirty privates. This is the establishment announced on Saturday last, and this list was confirmed last night by The Standard on the best military medical authority.

WHAT THEY SAY

A Peculiar Institution.

Springfield Union—We have no disposition to quarrel with any prohibitionist over his contention that the saloon is an unlovely institution; in fact, we are in complete accord with him to that extent, but the saloon has existed largely because of public sentiment, and also because in the agitation against it no serious attempt has been made to find any other solution than that represented either by its existence or abolition.

The Mark of the Beast.

London Daily Chronicle—It would be well to consider the advisability of eliminating the Deutscher's Head emblem from the badge of our 17th Lancers. The motto could remain, "Death or Glory"; but there is little glory in sharing a symbol with the crown Prince Wilhelm and the Prussian Death's Head Hussars. A figure of General Wolfe in the moment of glory death would perpetuate his name much better than the pirate's emblem is supposed to do.

"Dry" England.

London Daily Mail—The Americans call a State wherein the consumption of alcoholic liquors is interdicted a "dry State." Great Britain is becoming a "dry State" owing to the rampant profiteering of the liquor trade, licenses, and restaurant keepers, and owing to the detestable quality of most alcoholic liquors. To whatever alcoholic refreshment the "dry" Briton turns he is confronted by a wall of steep prices that surrounds an alleged shrunken reservoir of supply. Long, long ago the government promised the beer-drinker more beer, but he has not had it. The promise has not matured.

Better Call a Spade, a Spade.

San Francisco Chronicle—Bolshevism is or will become a world peril unless it can be stamped out at least in Germany. In Russia it has a more favorable soil and may continue to have it, just as certain malignant diseases flourish in Oriental countries. It is far more necessary to establish proper quarantine legislation against Bolshevism than against smallpox. Better the plain straight-forward word for the unlovely thing, for we cannot afford to have politeness mistaken for fear.

The Doggie.

Philadelphia Ledger—A Chicago man has donated \$10,000 for the erection of an Hotel de Canine for homeless and disabled dogs. That there is a demand for such an institution is indicated by the fact that the animal ambulance responded to 3,000 calls last year. Eight hundred and ninety cats were brought to the society's free dispensary and 300 dogs and seventy-six cats were provided with happy homes. Seven hundred and ninety cats were brought to the society's free dispensary and 300 dogs and seventy-six cats were provided with happy homes. It's a "dog's life" living in a great city.

A BIT OF VERSE

The Vision of Hope.

Behold! The dawn of the New Era glows,
It glides the peaks of human hope,
The longing, rooted deep, that earth's
May blossom as the rose, and gracious
rain,
Descend from God its roots to nourish
well
Its flowers charge with sweetest tint
and smell,
Its leaves refresh with softest morning
dew,
That righteous fruit it yield for God
to view;
As once on Paradise he looked and
smiled
Before the tempter first mankind be-
guiled.

Though distant lie the mountain tops
away;
No dawn as yet has failed to fetch the
day,
These longings in the human heart
deep down,
No idle dreams are they which floods
may drown,
Which time's vicissitudes obliterate,
Or newer knowledge make discon-
solate,
These lofty aspirations in man's
breast
Upon the bed-rock their foundations
rest,
Eternal truth they grasp, they grip
To John revealed at Patmos by the
Lord.

—(Rev.) H. Caplan.

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Yesterday afternoon as I was playing a game of kick with Skinny Martin's foot ball, and I took my coat off on account of my red sweater being warm enough by itself, and put it on the back of a wagon, that was standing there, and kept on playing, and the first thing I knew, the wagon wasn't there any more and I had lost my coat, and I was surprised.
G. I said, how will I get my coat, Jack?
You want, sed Leroy Shooter.
Did anybody notice the name on the wagon? I sed, and Pads Stinkins sed, I noticed the color of it, it was red, and one of the horses had a habit of looking around.
Aw, wat the heck goods that? I sed. And I went ohme, thinking, G, I better brake the news to ma gradual. Which I did, the first thing I sed being, Ma, wats you think, I lost a button off of my coat.
I cant say im surprised, sed ma.
I lost 2 buttons off, ma, are you surprised? I sed.
For goodness sake, why didnt you let me know them all off while you were about it? sed ma, and I sed, G, ma, I did.
Benny Potts, are you fooling me? sed ma.
No mam, im trying to brake it gradual, I lost the hole coat, ma, I sed. I layed it on the back of a red wagon and the first thing I knew the red wagon had went and so I had the coat, sed ma.
Your father will be surprised, all rite, sed ma.
Which he was, to my sorrow.

A BIT OF FUN

Before marriage men and women argue, after—they dispute.
When a man complimented a woman she always admires his frankness.

Modern Method.

"You say your jewels were stolen while the family were at dinner."
"No, no! This is a serious theft, officer. Our dinner was stolen while we were putting on our jewels."

An Involuntary Truth.

Shapeleigh—I cant stand your extravagance any longer.
Mrs. Shapeleigh—You're most un-reasonable, my dear. No one could get along with fewer clothes than I wear.

The Market Value.

"I will pledge you my honor to repay a loan—"
"Oh, your honor is security, is it? How much do you want? Thirty cents?"

Though the auto's good for sporting, when
With airships we can climb
Like wild geese among the clouds, oh, then
We'll have a high old time.

Heard in the Row Behind.

"Why did Maud go out; didn't she like the film?"
"Yes, but a sea storm is coming on and Maud's an awful poor sailor."

No Wonder.

Doctor—You are considerably under weight, sir. What have you been doing?
Patient—Nothing. But I am a retired grocer, Doc.

Why, indeed?
"Huband," said a loving wife, "I have bought you a dear little silver pig for luck; it's charm, you know, dear, to bring happiness to a house."
"Ah, how kind of you darling. But why should I need a little pig to bring me luck when I have you still?"

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

To the Editor of The Standard:
Dear Sir—In your editorial in today's Standard entitled "A costly hospital" the writer says that a staff of fifty-three was engaged in looking after twenty patients at the new Military Hospital, Lancaster Heights. There are today in the hospital sixty-five patients and the staff is thirty-five, made up of officers, nursing sisters and N. C. O.'s, any of whom must at all times be ready to meet incoming steamers and accompany outgoing military trains, a staff almost inadequate for the ever increasing duties necessary to cope with the prevailing conditions. The Mar-tello Hospital has, at present, thirty patients and a capacity of fifty with ten attendants. The St. James and the Pitt streets hospitals are at present closed, but may have to be opened at a moment's notice in case of epidemic and as we experienced last summer when 120 patients were treated at the one time at these institutions.
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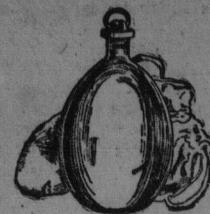
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CAR

will

Dick-Secord.

The marriage took place last evening at the residence of the Rev. H. C. Fraser, 64 Coburg street, pastor of the Knox Presbyterian church, when Miss Elsie W. Secord was united in marriage to Harold Dick, the popular and efficient time-keeper of Grant and Home Construction Company, Limited. The ceremony was of private nature, there being only a few friends th

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When what you

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The moment Pa

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Costs so little—A

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