

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1919.

VETERANS AND POSITIONS.

The Standard has not always endorsed the attitude of the Great War Veterans' Association. That organization has at different times adopted resolutions and made requests which this paper could not conscientiously support, largely through the belief that the Veterans, pending the return of all our soldiers, are inclined to ask more than the civilian population of Canada are prepared at this early stage to willingly grant. In this connection it is of course possible, and altogether probable that during the process of demobilization Canadians as a whole will come to appreciate even more strongly than they do at present the magnificent efforts of our men overseas, and will be inclined to comply more freely with such requests as the soldiers may in fairness make. The inclination is, of course, to do all possible for the returned men, not merely through gratitude, but as an actual obligation, but compliance with some of the requests involves considerable change in existing methods of business, a change which cannot be accomplished immediately, but which must be brought about through persistent education. It is the business of the soldier to see that this change is brought about, and no doubt at a later time requests which may at present appear rather revolutionary will be looked upon as fair and reasonable.

There is one point, however, upon which the Standard can very readily agree with the requests of the Veterans and this is outlined in a resolution unanimously adopted at the general meeting on Monday evening. In this resolution it is set forth that:

"Whereas there has been published in the public press a copy of a list submitted to the House of Assembly by the Premier, of the names together with the salaries paid to members of the Compensation Board and its staff, the salaries of the male appointees ranging from \$900 to \$4,000 per annum."

"And whereas none of the Board are returned soldiers."

"And whereas there are at present in this Province a number of returned soldiers out of employment capable of filling these positions."

"It is therefore resolved that this branch of the Great War Veterans' Association emphatically protest against this ignoring of legitimate claims of returned soldiers to preference in appointments to positions in the gift of the Provincial Government."

"And further resolved that the Government be requested to cancel these appointments and fill the vacancies with returned men."

The spirit of this resolution embodies the principles of justice and fair play. Perhaps the Association is not wholly justified in requesting the appointment of its members to the exclusion of all others for there must be in any such administrative department some men with a knowledge derived from a study of present day conditions, and it is of course questionable whether this efficiency could be secured by the appointment of returned men alone, who have got the opportunity of closely following the development of public affairs at home. But that overseas men should be entirely ignored in a matter such as this is beyond the bounds of decency and the Veterans are perfectly right in complaining as they are doing and in calling upon the Provincial Government for fair play.

TARIFF TALK.

Thursday of this week has been set apart by members of the Unionist party for consideration of the tariff. It has been thought best to adopt this plan than to permit desultory and incomplete discussion of this important subject at other caucuses which have already been held, and while there is no expectation that a settlement of action will be agreed upon during the present week, still an impression prevails that the diverse interests represented in the Unionist Party have their ideas now sufficiently crystallized to permit their presentation in a concrete form and to enable the party as a whole to reach an early solution of this difficult problem.

In view of the fact that despite differences of opinion on the subject of the tariff, these opposing groups are strongly in favor of the continuation of Union Government, it is anticipated that a satisfactory compromise may be reached. Possibly when the matter is talked over it will be found that the distance separating the Western low tariff faction and the high protection Easterners is not so great as at present appears. Doubtless both sides will be willing to make concessions but whatever the outcome of the caucus may be, it is gradually becoming apparent that the subject of the tariff is the one great issue before the country today. Until it is settled, plans for reconstruction cannot go forward as all desire. Manufacturers, farmers, everyone with capital invested in the country, or employing labor demand the establishment of conditions which will continue for some years at least, for until there is a certainty as to what our tariff policy will involve there can be no really effective effort towards reconstruction. Yet the tariff in itself is only one of the many issues in which a declaration

tion of policy must be made. If the Union administration has a real desire to maintain itself as an active organization, it must of necessity take early action towards the preparation of a platform upon which it may face the country. Unless this is done it will find the Laurierite Liberals to the front with a clear cut policy in which, beyond doubt, the fullest possible advantage will be taken of existing weaknesses of Union.

THE McQUEEN REPORT.

The McQueen report on the patriotic potato transaction, which was presented to the Legislature yesterday, occasions no surprise. It is what it was expected to be, a political pamphlet of some twenty-five thousand words. It was made abundantly clear by the attitude of Commissioner McQueen during the course of the enquiry that his purpose was to make political capital against prominent members of the Opposition, and in his lengthy report he has laboriously arranged his evidence to support his conclusions, which were determined on in advance. Even at that he bases many of his conclusions which are scattered through the body of the report after the fashion of a pamphleteer, upon premises which he himself finds it necessary to qualify. And to arrive at the conclusion that the province lost money on the potato transaction he finds it necessary to confuse his investigation with that into Valley Railway affairs, and to claim that certain sums which Mr. Tennant secured from the Nova Scotia Construction Co. to make good the deficit on the potato transaction and for campaign purposes, was taken from the province—a claim that has no foundation in fact.

The commissioner's main findings are not of a very definite character, and his conclusions will doubtless be accepted by the public at their real value. After all the men who are attacked in this patently partisan manner, are men of repute in the public life of the province, and the attempt to discredit them is not likely to achieve its purpose.

The commissioner's report will doubtless be the subject of discussion in the House, and when the conclusions and evidence are reviewed the fair-minded public will be different from the impression which has so laboriously sought to convey.

WHAT THEY SAY

Cruelty to Animals.

New York Herald: "The hundredth anniversary of Germany's appearance in the world of nations is being celebrated in a manner calculated to evoke even a horse laugh."

A Worse Punishment.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: "Who would have thought five months ago that the official representatives of the allied nations could not agree upon punishment for Wilhelm II?"

Not Regretful.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Herr Erzberger says that the taking of Belgian machinery to Germany 'created a deplorable impression.' He doesn't say it was wrong. He was not noticed—merely says it looked bad."

An Ample Margin.

Springfield Republican: "If General Ludendorff is right in thinking that not in a hundred years will the German military power of 1914 be restored the peacemakers should enjoy an ample margin of time in which to get the world's peace strongly fortified."

Very Probable.

New York Herald: "The hundredth anniversary of the first transatlantic trip under steam, made by the American ship Savannah, will be celebrated here on May 22. From present indications it is even probable that that anniversary may mark the first transatlantic trip made by an aeroplane."

Grant Its Request.

Nashville Banner: "Brussels wants to be the International seat of government after the formation of the League of Nations. The brave and unfortunate capital of Belgium ought to be given anything within reason that it asks. We take it, too, that President Wilson will not object to its climate and living surroundings."

One Striking Feature.

Alliance Review: "One of its striking features of the experience of government operated railroads during the first year is the fact that one great railroad system added 40,000 men to its payroll to do less work. The traffic handled was less than in 1917. Whatever comfort friends of government operated railroads can get out of such a serious situation they are entitled to. It will be very scant."

They're Awake Now.

Kansas City Star: "A lot of folks who never really awoke to the announcement that it will take twenty-five years to pay for it. Many had regarded it about as they would regard buying a photograph on the installment plan, but the idea that might be as serious as a piano had never occurred to them before."

The Notable Arm of Straphangers.

London Daily Express: "Have you ever noticed what individually there is in straphangers? There is the elderly resigned lady who clings with the smile of a martyr, the fierce colonel who hooks his stick on the bar along the side of the carriage and stands at attention, the careless youth who lodges with a needle air, and the girl who clutches the strap with both hands. Monkeys are really the only graceful straphangers."

A BIT OF VERSE

Trees.

(Written for the London Free Press by Robert Norwood.)

I went riding through the rain
Down the wet rails on a train
While upon the misted pane
Pictures of the lonely trees—
Moving pictures of the trees—
Films of fancy, leafless trees—
Miracles and mysteries—
Grew as I rode through the rain.

Past the pools and little streams—
Blurs and blotches, twinkles, gleams—
The drowsed I, until the dreams
Grew to great realities;
And a miracle of trees—
Transformations of the trees—
Happened with the harmonies
Of the rising wind and rain.

For I found that long ago,
Ere this earth was white with snow,
God the Lover loved it so
That He made the trees to grow
Of His angels and the best
To obey His high behest,
And so down to earth as trees,
Lest I lose His harmonies.

They went laughing down the sky
And were trees; that you and I
When we want to weep and cry,
Might know laughter such as these
Who are shut within the trees
To conduct the harmonies,
Lest we lose through grief and pain
Soul to sing against the rain.

A BIT OF FUN

Just Waiting.

In speaking of laziness, Mark Twain refers to a boy he once knew. The latter's name was Jim Black, and one summer morning he was lying under a tree beside a river.

"Well, what are you here for?" Mark asked.

"I'm here," said Jim, "for to pile them bales on the wharf."

"Oh, and now you are resting, are you?"

"No," said Jim; "I ain't resting, because I ain't tired. I'm just waiting for the sun to sink behind that hill, so's I can know of work."

They Had Gone.

A man entered a hatter's shop with a little boy, and tried on a new hat, the price of which was a guinea. Turning to the boy, the hatter said:

"How do I look in this hat?"

"Like a thief," the boy made answer.

"No," said the hatter, "that's not the way to answer me. The man, who, however, rushed out of the shop to save himself. The man, in a perfect fury, leaving his purse, which was on the counter, rushed after the youngster into the street.

The shopman was much amused at the whole scene, but when the instant returned, he examined the purse. It was old, and contained nothing but some buttons.

The man, the boy, and the new hat were gone.

Too Academic.

Sometimes to be sure, the opening is so unfortunate as to incur instant resentment and positively invite refusal. Take the case of the diminutive man of kindly appearance who was accused by a seamy purist with the words:

"Sir, I am looking for a little success."

"Well," snorted the wearer of the size 13-12 collar, "do I look like one?"

BARCELONA STRIKE IS SETTLED

Madrid, March 18.—The general strike at Barcelona has been settled. An agreement between the Canadian company, one of the main public service corporations in Barcelona, and representatives of all the unions concerned in the strike, which began among employees of the Canadian company, will be signed immediately.

The new building will cost at least \$50,000. It will be modern in every respect and will be erected on a new site on the college grounds.

Appreciative reference was made during the course of the evening by the Rev. J. J. Pinkerton, the popular pastor of St. Louis' Methodist church, in giving the shelter of his home to several of the students on the night of the fire.

Such, however, is not the case. The Immigration Act of February 5, 1917, was not passed as a war measure. It is still operative, and the United States Immigration Law and regulations are in full force and effect, along the Canadian border, as are the provisions of same relative to the assessment of the head tax, and exclusion of certain illiterate aliens.

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The prescription can be secured from the broken lens, or if you bought the glasses here it is already in our files. Phone us and we can place the order in work, saving you a trip to the store.

We guarantee all our work to be satisfactory.

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Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Yesterday I met pop down town so he could buy me a new suit. Which he did, being a kind of a brown suit, and I went home alone in it, thinking, G. H. go around and surprise Mary Watkins.

And I went around, and Mary Watkins was skating up and down in front of her house, being pretty good of a skater for a girl, and she stopped skating and stood still on her skates, saying, My goodness its cold today, isn't it, Benny?

I thwot it was warm, I was just going to take off my overcoat, I sed. Which I was, so she could see my new suit, and she sed, Warm, my goodness, wy you can see your breath plane as anything. With you could, and I kept my overcoat on for a while and then I sed, Well, im warm weather it is or not.

And I took off my overcoat and stood there in my new brown suit, and Mary Watkins didnt say anything, and I sed, I was down town today.

Was you? sed Mary Watkins. And she kept on standing there on her skates, saying, It sertenly is cold today, my goodness, im glad I got on this coat.

I dont feel cold, this brown suit is pritty warm, I sed.

Is it? sed Mary Watkins without looking at it, and I sed, Yes, you wouldnt think so to look at it, would you?

That He sed Mary Watkins sed, I dont look at it. And she stood there a while longer on her skates and I started to begin to shiver on account of not having any overcoat on, thinking, G. H. its going to notice it she awt to of noticed by this time.

Which just then Mary Watkins sed, Benny Potts, I bin standing heer all this time and you never even noticed by new spring coat. I think youre horrid, so there.

And wat did she do but skate up the street fast and tern around the corner and stay around, and I put my overcoat on again and went home, thinking, G. H. wat do you think of that?

Proving the more you think about yourself the less room you have to think about sumbdy else.

NEW COLLEGE BUILDING TO BE ERECTED

Larger and More Modern Edifice to Take Place of St. Thomas' College, Recently Destroyed by Fire.

Chatham, March 17.—At a largely attended meeting of Catholics in the Knights of Columbus Hall, Sunday evening, it was unanimously decided to erect a new college building to take the place of St. Thomas College, recently destroyed by fire. A strong committee was appointed to institute a drive throughout the diocese which embraces all of Northumberland, Gloucester, Restigouche, Madawaska and part of Kent County for the purpose of raising \$25,000. The support of the diocese of St. John will also be asked, thus making the drive province-wide. It is felt that the amount can in this way be easily raised. With the insurance on the burned building, \$27,000, and the proceeds of the drive on hand, the Bishop will go ahead with the work of construction. The work would be immediately commenced. The circumstances of the completion of the upper part of the Cathedral (interior) is in progress, calling for the expenditure of about \$60,000 on contracts already let for which about half of the amount is on hand and provision will have to be made for the balance. Under the circumstances the completion of the Cathedral calls for first consideration. The raising of the funds for the new college is entirely in the hands of the laity, as the Bishop does not feel, in view of the large amount required to finish the Cathedral, he could conscientiously ask his priests to assist in raising funds for a cause that is not exclusively church work.

The new building will cost at least \$50,000. It will be modern in every respect and will be erected on a new site on the college grounds.

Appreciative reference was made during the course of the evening by the Rev. J. J. Pinkerton, the popular pastor of St. Louis' Methodist church, in giving the shelter of his home to several of the students on the night of the fire.

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