

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1917.

"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.

NATIONAL SERVICE.

Reports from Ottawa are to the effect that the past few days have witnessed a veritable avalanche of signed National Service cards from all parts of Canada. This is as it should be, and if there are any New Brunswickers who have not yet complied with the request of the Director General of National Service to complete the cards and return them to the Post Office Department they should do so at once.

It is taken for granted, of course, that we Canadians are serious in this war and that when we voice the opinion that Germany must be beaten we also state our willingness to do all in our power to bring about that most desired result. Canadians must recognize the vital necessity of victory, must realize what it will mean to this country should anything occur to prevent the triumph of British arms. Of course we know that a German victory would mean goodbye to British freedom, to British institutions in so far as Canada is concerned. All these things have been taught even to the children in the school room and every adult in this country knows them by heart.

If that is the case, if we are conscious that as between victory and defeat there is a great chasm and that British victory will assure the preservation of Canada as a British country, under the flag of liberty and enjoying a continuance of the benefits we have known since Confederation, while British defeat will make us forever vassals of Prussianism, if all these things are so plainly apparent to us, the question naturally arises what are we going to do about it? Because there are a lot of us in this country who are doing virtually nothing.

National Service brings an opportunity, an opportunity to let the Government know what we are willing and, per contra, not willing to do. It is an opportunity of which every loyal Canadian between the ages of 16 and 65 will avail himself freely and frankly—that is if he is in earnest about his interest in the war and if his loyalty represents anything more than a lip-ped phrase. The Canadian Government requires to know certain things and we can provide the information. We are at war and it is our bounden duty to do everything we can to aid in its successful prosecution. Have we done it? If not do not let another hour pass before filling in and signing that card.

The National Service appeal is possibly the last that will be made; if it fails harsher measures may be necessary and as Mr. Bennett plainly intimated in his address the other night, if they become necessary they will be taken. It is not a time for alarmist rumors but it certainly is a time when there should be the plainest of plain speaking and it is absolutely necessary in their own interests that the Canadian people respond to this appeal. It is of equal importance that the reply should be prompt for the Government desires to secure the information as rapidly as possible.

THE MILK QUESTION AGAIN.

The Standard respectfully directs the attention of the members of the City Council to an interesting circular letter signed by Primecost Farms Ltd., which is published in this morning's issue, and which has already been circulated among producers from whom that concern has purchased milk.

It will be noticed that, despite the statement that the dealers were paying more than 40 cents per eight-quart can for milk, the circular specifically names that sum as the price to be paid after January 1st, or the price that is paid for the milk that firm receives today. The commission's are also asked to note that when agents of the company handle the milk a reduction of one cent per can is made, and this despite the fact that the representative of the city dairymen who stated the case to the council included in his estimate of costs a special charge for handling in the country. The net price paid to producers is 39 cents per eight-quart can.

The Standard has no desire to harass the commissioners but this newspaper contends that they have not

used their best effort to probe the matter of the price of milk to the bottom. They have not fairly tested the power of the Dominion Government's order-in-council framed to deal with such cases. Ten-cent milk has not yet been justified in this city and it will certainly be in the interests of the people for the council to reopen the entire matter, insist upon answers to all the questions asked and that such answers shall be given under oath.

If the council does not care to pursue the matter further on its own initiative the information it gathers can well be turned over to the Dominion Department of Labor. Hon. Mr. Crothers and his deputies have not been slow to act in other cities where similar cases have been presented to them. Why should they not be appealed to in the interests of the poorer classes of St. John? Let the price of milk be thoroughly probed.

MORE HUN PEACE TALK.

Apparently Germany has not yet tired of peace overtures. A despatch this morning quotes a German paper as indicating that the Central Powers are preparing another note to be sent to the Entente and the newspaper forecast of possible terms indicates that Germany is commencing to realize, that perhaps, after all, the war may be like the snowball the boy started to roll down the mountain side, easy to start but difficult to stop as it gathered magnitude and momentum. Germany found it very easy to start this war but it has now gained such size and speed that it cannot be stopped at her bidding, consequently she is baiting her hook anew in the hope that this time she will catch something more than a curt refusal to negotiate.

It is typical of the Hun nation that while the diplomats secretly prepare new proposals the German press continues to berate the Entente for the refusal to consider the first offer and to prophesy with vehemence all sorts of terrible punishment for the men so reckless as to dare to oppose the will of Potsdam. But the time has passed when German threats are regarded any more seriously than German promises. To threaten is one thing, to carry the threat into execution is quite another and while Germany doubtless has the will to perform all the horrors her editors promise, yet she lacks a most important essential—the ability.

At the present time there is no outlook for the Teutonic powers except that of continued war. There will be fearful carnage, as great possibly as the German editors predict, but it will not be confined to one side. The Allies can be depended upon to give better than they receive and at this stage of the conflict they are much better able than Germany to take the hard blows that a continuance of the war will bring. Among all the warring nations Germany can least afford to have the war go on, for from now on she must bear an increasing weight of the burden of the fighting.

German successes of the first year of war were due to superior preparation but that handicap has now been overcome and the Allies are today the superior of the enemy in every department of the fighting. They have the men, the guns, the resources, the money and the disposition to go on while Germany is commencing to feel the pinch in all these factors to success.

We are not able to forget with what energy and lightness of heart the German armies entered upon this war. The whole nation was in a glow of gossamer excitement at the anticipated conquest. The war was to be of short duration and to enthroned Germany as the greatest among nations and peoples. Two and one-half years of war have done much, very much, to disappoint and to defeat this German sentiment supporting the battlefield.

Another year of war upon a scale the contemplation of which is appalling confronts Germany. If her war-like ambitions have already defeated themselves; if they have brought hunger, shame, remorse and death where only victory, prosperity, and a new sense of life had been looked for, what must be the fruits of another year in a contest that has become un-

"SNIPING" AT BORDEN

(Montreal Star.)

A local Liberal paper saw fit, some days ago, to charge that the calling of the Premiers of the Overseas Dominions to the War Councils of the Empire, was a conspiracy between the Tories of Britain and the Tories of Canada. So supremely absurd a slander would not be worth mention if it were not at a time vitally necessary that not the smallest misunderstanding be permitted to slacken the arm of even the most inconsiderable section of our people—and it must be an inconsiderable section which would swallow so fantastic a creation of furious partisanship.

Of course, the Laborite Hughes of Australia and the Boer Botha of South Africa must be in this "Tory" conspiracy. But the journal cynical enough to launch such a story, would be insultingly scornful enough of the intelligence of its readers to believe that they would know neither Hughes nor Botha. And they would know Borden. And it was Borden that this malevolent and envious partisan sought to embarrass.

Any person who has known of the ceaseless and self-sacrificing efforts put forth by Sir Robert Borden since the war opened to make good Canada's promise to stand by the Empire and the cause of liberty to the last man and the last dollar, will be indignant at this or any attempt to increase his already tremendous burdens. TO STAB BORDEN IN THE BACK IN THIS FASHION, AS HE STANDS FACING THE ENEMY, IS TO "SNIP" AT OUR FIGHTING MEN FROM BEHIND THE BRITISH LINES. Sir Robert has put his whole soul into this fight, to the plain and most regrettable injury to his health; and he is still working under enormous pressure to meet all the demands that crowd upon him. It is no light task at this moment to meet Parliament and then hurry away to join in the Imperial Conference; but he is preparing to do both without a thought of shirking either.

Sir Robert Borden can only accomplish the maximum of his ambitious plans for the honor of Canada and the safety of the Empire if he is loyally supported by the whole Canadian people. If ever man deserved that loyal and unanimous support, it is the present Prime Minister. He has flung possible party advantage to the winds. He is not playing the party game at all. He is simply, sincerely and with a single eye devoting his energies to winning the war. And loyal Canadians cannot express themselves too strongly in condemning this and any other attempt to distract his attention by firing at him from behind.

equal, and that with every passing week and month of war widens the disparity against Germany? May we not expect a setting up in the mind of the German populace of a new sentiment when the chastisement of conflict has been completed—a sentiment that will not again brook the name of war?

Wild Life in France

By H. Thoburn-Clarke

Here on the banks of a river, somewhere in France, we are in an ideal country for studying the wild life of the district. Nothing appears to have been cultivated for at least a couple of years, and thus everything is growing wild. In the field close beside our gun-pit, wheat, rye, and oats are in splendid ear, but are all mixed up while in every direction the flaming red of the poppies makes bright patches of vivid color. Further on, the blue of the cornflower and a kind of thistle with bright blue flowers present a contrasting tint, while the air is scented with masses of mignonette.

Hundreds of butterflies, of every color and size, flutter about; a red admiral is sitting on a waving piece of grass, while seven white butterflies are dancing a fairy measure up and down, in the sunlight. They remind me of the orchard at home. The dragonflies are equally gorgeous and there are hundreds of the dainty damselfly kind, of the palest blue color, flying backwards and forwards over a marshy pool. Near us is an old engine shed, and early in June I constantly saw a hedge sparrow flying about it. If I searched once for her nest I searched a hundred times, but could not find it for a long time. I knew I was near it several times, but however quietly I approached, the mother bird was too sharp for me. She had eyes like a hawk. She would make all sorts of feints to lead me from the spot, or else fly deliberately into holes and pretend they were nests.

At last I went in exactly the opposite direction, and the mother bird made the most dreadful fuss. Then I got within earshot of her when she was carrying some food for her youngsters. The little birds were evidently very hungry, for although she raised the alarm they squealed all the louder, and I found the nest between the cogs of a couple of large wheels with a covering over them.

A day or two later I saw another hedge sparrow feeding a young cuckoo in a nest made in an old disused truck.

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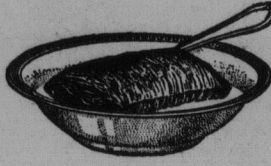
S. Kerr,
Principal

a quail calling! I have seen birds rise in a cloud from a sheltered house, only to settle back again in a few minutes. Of course, both birds and animals get wounded by shell fire very often, though you come across the traces of this but rarely.

Unperturbed

Today a shell burst near this place, and a piece of shrapnel struck a mole and left a great wound in its back. I put it under a bush and left it to nature. A short distance further on there was a great rat, measuring eighteen inches from tip of nose to the end of the tail. This had been killed by shrapnel. Yet in a tiny marsh near by a couple of moor hens were feeding placidly, paying not the least attention to all the clamor and crash of guns going on around them. A little brown rat was walking along a bush half out of the water, while another was climbing leisurely into a tree that had been shattered by a shell. Every part of the trunk had been splintered until it resembled a gigantic brush, and the little brown rat evidently found something he liked among those splinters, for he climbed in and out of them and nibbled here and there with keen enjoyment, oblivious of the tornado of hate which still raged round him.

Don't say "Breakfast Food"—say "Shredded Wheat"—for while you no doubt mean Shredded Wheat, you may get one of those mushy porridges that are a poor substitute for the crisp, delicious shreds of baked whole wheat—that supply all the nutriment for a half day's work. Two Biscuits with milk or cream make a nourishing meal at a cost of a few cents.



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