

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JULY 12, 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.

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS.

Those anti-Unionist newspapers in this province which, during the last Dominion election campaign, vigorously espoused the cause of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and opposition to the Military Service Act, and which, since the election, have contended that the Unionist government, so handsomely sustained at the polls, had not lived up to its pre-election promises, have been given the opportunity to chew the cud of bitter reflection on more than one occasion. One of the planks of the Unionist party was the abolition of patronage and that the Government meant to implement this pledge was shown when the deputy postmaster of Toronto was promoted to fill a vacancy caused by the death of his immediate superior. But there was another evidence of the Government's bona-fide in this regard in Fredericton yesterday when Mr. Bedford Phillips, who, for many years, has been connected with the Post Office Department of that city, was promoted to fill the position of Postmaster rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Lewis H. Bliss. Mr. Phillips is a popular and competent official and his appointment has been well received.

But the promotions in Fredericton and Toronto represent more than two isolated instances where precedent has been ignored and officials who had spent years in the public service advanced because of competency rather than pull. In this there is encouragement for all civil servants that fitness and attention to duty may be rewarded by appointment in time to the highest positions in the service in which they are engaged. Such a prospect is sure to make for better service and, therefore, the abolition of all patronage appointments is to be commended.

It may not be generally known that under the new civil service act young men and women can train for the civil service the same as for a life work in any other profession or calling. They will be appointed on passing competitive examination for the position they desire, and may be assured that faithful service and attention to duty will merit promotion as it does in any private employment. This is a measure of justice long delayed for it is not too much to say that for years the custom has been to appoint to the more important offices in the public service of Canada men whose qualifications were largely political. As a consequence in all the departments are to be found men who entered the service in minor stations, advanced through various grades to become chief clerks or deputy superintendents and remained there year after year until supernumerated, while positions above them, for which they were eminently qualified, were filled by the appointment of men who had never had experience in public employment but who had been useful members of the political party in power.

That system was all right until something better was demanded. No one party can be blamed for its continuance, for it persisted under all of them. But to Sir Robert Borden and the Unionist party must go the credit for the commendable fact that, at last, it has passed out of existence and future appointments to the civil service of Canada will be made on the basis of merit alone.

Now that the Dominion Government has adopted this system it would seem to be a good time for the provinces to follow suit. We can name, if desired, any number of offices in the gift of the Foster government where a good beginning could be made on the new system.

## AVIATION.

An officer of the Flying Corps, now in St. John, expresses the opinion that The Standard's remarks yesterday touching on accidental casualties were not entirely justified. This officer, who has had long experience in aviation and who should thus be in a position to speak accurately of his own knowledge, states that as a matter of fact the proportion of accidental casualties is not more than two per cent. He feels that this is very small in view of the risky nature of the work, and that opinions such as expressed by The Standard will tend to increase the feeling of uneasiness on the part of friends of the boys engaged in this branch of the service.

It is gratifying to learn from one so well qualified to speak, that all known precautions are taken against accident, that the motors and planes are as nearly perfect, mechanically, as they can be made with present knowledge, and that the great majority of accidents are due altogether to a spirit of over-confidence displayed by the young men undergoing instruction. The assurance that those in charge are doing the best they know is comforting. But after all it does not get away from the fact that this branch of the service is highly dangerous, that the proportion of those coming unharmed from long service is small indeed and that the precautions against accident are not sufficient to prevent what certainly seems to be a really heavy casualty list.

## CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.

While Canada has done well in the matter of war loans yet when population and wealth are considered her contribution to the Empire's war chest has been small in comparison with that of Australia. The Australians, with a population of 4,500,000, have taken up six war loans aggregating more than \$720,000,000, or an average of \$160 for every man, woman and child in the country. The Australian loans paid four and one-half per cent.

The Canadian loans proved a much more remunerative investment, yet with 7,750,000 people Canada subscribed to but \$767,000,000 or considerably less than \$100 each. And the Canadian loan paid on an average of five and one-half per cent.

From this showing it is evident that the people of the Australian commonwealth have achieved far more than Canada as they have raised more per capita and at less cost to the state.

Canada, says an exchange, is much richer than Australia. There is much more money in the hands of the people of this country. Australia has been isolated by war conditions, so that her products have not found a ready market as those of Canada have. For instance, 60,000,000 bushels of Australian wheat were held up at ports of that country for over a year for lack of shipping facilities. Canada's financial efforts in the war have been lauded, but how much more should Australia's achievements be commended.

Canada has prospered as a result of the war as no other nation, but the United States has done. If Australia has raised \$720,000,000, Canada should be able to raise \$1,500,000,000. This autumn the Dominion Government may want \$500,000,000 in the way of war loans from the people. The Canadian people can do at least as well as the Australians.

## FUEL CONSERVATION.

A news despatch from Washington says in relation to the possibility of coal shortage next winter:

Householders will be allowed only the amount of coal necessary to heat their homes to a temperature of 68 degrees and it is announced that those who fail to observe conservation rules and eliminate waste will have only themselves to blame if they are without fuel before cold season ends.

That is putting the matter pretty directly up to the individual consumers of coal. It won't help the situation any for householders to realize after a shortage occurs that they, themselves, are responsible, but if they can be brought to a realization of it in advance it will do a lot of good. Many measures are being taken officially in the United States and Canada to provide against a fuel shortage next winter. The sale and delivery of coal are being regulated and substitutes are being provided. But, a great deal can be done by the consumers themselves, particularly in the way of conservation. While the war continues the shortage of fuel will prevail. People must realize that the waste of heat when their coal bins are full means scarcity later on. The Washington warning should be kept in mind in the fall and early winter when so much heat is wasted in private homes.

## A BIT OF VERSE

### OUT IN FLANDERS.

Hold the line, you dogged Britons! Hold, brave France, as oft before, We are coming, gritty legions! Hold, like hell and that much more!

Out in Flanders where it's hottest Every noble soldier stands! Overseas our ships are speeding To your bruised and bleeding lands.

Give the Hun's fill of gassing, Slash 'em with your blades of steel; It was they who chose the weapons; Hurl 'em back with righteous zeal!

We will slay the beast who'd ravish Justice, Law, Humanity; Everything that man holds dearest—Now and in the days to be.

We will fight, though fight be endless, Come what may, though nations fall; They but die to save creation, Justice lives! Or shame ends all.

—John Hansen Rhoades.

## A BIT OF FUN

**A Little Shaky.**  
He went to dine with a bachelor friend who prized himself that his few pictures were good. After having enjoyed themselves well—too well, in fact—at dinner, they adjourned to the picture gallery, where the host pointed out to his guest a landscape, saying:—"What do you think of that boy—eh?" The following reply was uttered rather than spoken:  
"Beautiful, old chap—very fine—awfully good! Trees were 'bout so tall—by!"

**Next!**  
The barber was finishing lathering a customer, and was talking volubly as usual.  
"Yes, sir," he said, "we have to mind what we're about here. Every time we cut a customer's face we are faced a 'tanner,' and if we make an ugly gash it costs a 'bobi!' Then, picking up and brandishing a razor, he added: "But I don't care a hang today, I've just won a 'quid!'"

**Caught the Wrong Fish.**  
Mrs. Wooby-Young: "You wouldn't suppose that I had a son at high school would you?"  
Mr. Blunt: "No, indeed. I had an idea that all your children must be through college by this time."

## FUEL QUESTION DISCUSSED AT CITY COUNCIL

**Mayor Hayes Appointed Local Fuel Administrator—Vehicle Tax Laid Over For Full Board.**

The fuel question was under discussion at the committee meeting of the council yesterday and Mayor Hayes was appointed fuel administrator for the time being, as this would enable him to get reports from the local dealers as to the situation.

Mayor Hayes presided and Commissioners Bullock, Hilyard and Fisher were present.

Commissioner Fisher said he had received a communication from the C. P. R. regarding the tracks on Germain street West, but it was decided to delay consideration of this and the vehicle tax matter until a full board was present.

Commissioner Bullock brought up the matter of fuel supply and said he had been informed that tonnage was available to bring hard coal here if the coal could be obtained. Vessels were coming here light and he thought arrangements should be made to have them go to Philadelphia or some other port and bring coal here.

Mayor Hayes said he had wired Hon. F. B. Carroll to use his influence to secure vessels to bring coal here and had been told in reply that the minister was doing all he could, which reply he did not consider satisfactory. He also contended that St. John was being discriminated against in the matter of prices.

Commissioner Hilyard said good soft coal was being shipped to the United States but could not be brought here and this should be stopped.

Commissioner Bullock thought the city should get anthracite regardless of price, and moved that the mayor be authorized to order up to 5,000 tons.

Mayor Hayes said the coal brokers would not sell coal to cities or corporations.

The city had 100 cords of wood on order for shipment in September and one man had informed him that he might be able to provide up to 4,000 cords. The Canada Fuel Board had authorized the appointment of local fuel administrators and he suggested that he be appointed to this position for the present and this was done.

Commissioner Fisher asked that he be allowed to repair the Ashburn bridge by day's work instead of calling for tenders but this was laid over until Monday.

Renewal leases were granted to Mrs. Ellen F. Merrill of a lot in Orange street and Mrs. Jennie Hagerty of a lot in Lancaster.

## CROPS ARE GOOD BUT FARM LABOR SCARCE

**Bloomfield Man Speaks of the Outlook in Kings County—Green Stuff Coming Along Well.**

George White, a prosperous farmer of Bloomfield Station, spent yesterday in the city on business. Asked how crops were looking, and the expectations he replied, "I never saw green stuff looking better than it does now." The hay crop, he said, was light, but recent rains had done a world of good to it since they started the undergrowth grass.

Potatoes were excellent and many were in blossom.

Regarding strawberries he said the rains had done much damage as the product could not be gathered. Other berries would be a fair crop.

Regarding help he said he believed farmers would bring out very few this summer in gathering the crops, as labor was scarce, and many unable to hire it, at the figures asked. Farmers would in all probability pay \$2 to \$3.50 per day in haying season for help and this coupled with the increased price of farm machinery would make it difficult.

## HOLIDAY IN OLD YORK

York, England, July 11.—This city today observed a special holiday in honor of American troops, 500 of which paraded through the main streets.

The Lord Mayor read a letter from the American embassy conveying President Wilson's thanks for the helpful visit of the archbishop of York to the United States last March.

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I found a dime on the front step this afternoon, thinking, G. I found a dime. And I put it in my pants pocket and started to wonder what to buy with it, and then I thought maybe it mite belong to somebody, thinking, G. wat if it belongs to somebody?

And I went in and pop and ma and my sister Gladdie was in the parlor, and I sed, Did anybody lose anything? I lost a bet at lunch today, confound it, sed pop. Being supposed to be a joke, and ma sed, the dining room clock lost a hour today, hee hee. Being supposed to be another joke, and I sed, Well, I found some money on the front steps and it don't belong to anybody so it belongs to me.

Its mine, sed Gladdie. You're krazy, I sed. Benny, sed Gladdie.

Well how does she know it belongs to her? I sed. Because I dropped my pocketbook on the front steps, smarty, and I didn't find all the money, sed Gladdie.

Well if you're so sure this is your dime, wats the date on it? I sed. How in the world do I know, do you know the dates on all your money? sed Gladdie.

Yes, I sed. Which I generally do, not having much to know it on, and Gladdie sed, Well I don't.

Then that proves it ain't your dime, I sed. You better hand it over, sed Gladdie.

Tell me the date on it first, I sed. O. 1889, sed Gladdie. And I took the dime out of my pocket and looked at the date, and wat was it but 1889.

No sir, no fare, your jest jesed it, I sed. Benny, be a good loser, sed pop I trust it shall never be sed that a son of mine is no sport.

Yes sir, I sed. And I gave it to Gladdie and she gave me 2 cents, being better than nothing, and I went out agen and hunted on the front steps to see if there was any more she hadn't found, which there wassent.

and pro-Irish sympathies, for which he is charged with having conspired with Germans and Sinn Féin sympathizers to destroy British ships.

He said that as editor of Bull he had devoted his time and talent to the Irish question because he wished the United States to assist in freeing Ireland. He insisted he was a loyal American, had no hatred for Englishmen or women, was opposed to German imperialism and believed in an efficient army and navy, but only to defend the United States.

The regular meeting of the Government opened last night and will continue tomorrow. A number of delegations were heard and this afternoon the Board of Education met Charles Burhill, of Halifax, representing the Nova Scotia Construction company who is here. That company which has the contract for the construction of the remainder of the St. John and Quebec Railway, is to be permitted to finish the contract, if sufficient guarantee can be given that the work will be completed this autumn.

The government will appoint all road supervisors, subinspectors, under the motor vehicles act, in order that better supervision of motors can be obtained.

H. A. Powell, K. C., appeared before the government and made a request with regard to the Beersville Railway and other matters.

Hon. P. J. Venot has placed his report on the Gloucester road charges before the government, and a statement will be issued probably tomorrow.

A large delegation of the North Shore Lumbermen's Protective Association appeared in regard to the realignment of crown land licenses.

## JEREMIAH A. O'LEARY GOES ON THE STAND

New York, July 11.—Jeremiah A. O'Leary indicted for conspiracy to commit treason, took the stand as a witness for his brother at the trial of John O'Leary on the charge of aiding Jerry to flee from justice. The witness was questioned by the prosecution as to his alleged anti-British

values.

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FUNERA

The funeral of Mrs. nedy took place yesterday from her late residence street, to the Cathedral mass of requiem was