

## The St. John Standard

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## SOLDIERS' GRATUITIES.

The Minister of Justice, on behalf of Premier Borden, who is unwell, has again replied to the request of the Great War Veterans for an additional gratuity. The policy of the government in this respect is for the second time definitely outlined. It is that Canada will not consent to any further financial allowance, believing, and rightly so, that this country has already acted more generously toward returned soldiers than has any other nation in the world, and in addition presenting for consideration the statement that Canada today is an placed financially as to render any further expenditure in this regard impossible. Hon. Mr. Doherty expresses a good hope that this country will be able to provide every resident of this Dominion, that nothing within reason is too good for the returned man. Canada owes her comparative peace today to those who upheld her honor overseas and who helped so effectively to defeat the Germans. But Canada, even for the sake of those men, cannot afford to become a national bankrupt in the eyes of the world, and this would be the eventual outcome of additional expenditure along the lines suggested by the Veterans' Association. There is more over the well-founded belief that the veterans of Canada, as a body, are not behind this movement. Returned soldiers, those who are sufficiently active to participate in the meetings of the associations at various centres and who are not now in receipt of federal allowances, are beyond question the best men, physically, in Canada today. The very fact that they were accepted under the severe medical tests imposed for service overseas is evidence that they were the fittest of Canada's manhood. And the circumstance that they, who are not now in receipt of pensions or other allowances, have returned and are assuming their previous occupations is evidence that they are just as fit today as at the time of enlistment. A further gratuity to them would mean not only a further evidence of Canada's gratitude. Were this the only thing to be considered, the financial aspect of the case would be the only phase worthy of further thought. But to turn loose in Canada four hundred thousand physically perfect men, enjoying a generous gratuity from the pockets of other taxpayers, these men to enter into competition in industry, in the professions, and in other walks of life with those whose services at home have been of very great value, but who are not recognized as deserving any gratuity, would be to impose a handicap on the remaining eight millions of Canada's population which would lead to endless friction in labor, in industry, in commerce and would create a condition detrimental to the progress of the country. A visitor to St. John on Sunday suggested a compromise in the way of a payment of \$1.00 per day additional remuneration for services overseas. This might be a compromise if anything of the kind were possible, but unless we are prepared in this country to run the risk of national bankruptcy, the decision of Premier Borden must stand, that, despite political advantage or otherwise, no further allowance shall be paid. Premier Borden, of Ontario, who is facing an election, sees fit to make of this a feature of his appeal to the people, hoping thereby to secure the soldiers' votes. Fortunately for Premier Borden he is not called upon to provide the revenue with which to support his declaration. And it is pleasing to note that the Federal Government, undisturbed by his question and by the representations of a few members of Parliament who have permitted themselves to be influenced by the solicitude of veterans' associations to their constituencies, has not weakened in its attitude. A Parliamentary Committee may be appointed to look into the question of soldiers' settlement and to assist in the re-establishment of returned men, but it is abundantly clear that no further gratuities will be paid so long as Union Administration controls the policy of Canada, and, despite opposition on the part of returned men which may be created in some quarters by the thoughtless activity of extremists, it is well, in the interests of Canada as a whole, that a definite answer has been made to this request.

These men did not go overseas for the purpose of earning \$600.00 gratuity or \$2,000 gratuity. They enlisted as a matter of duty and no amount of money can repay them for what they have done. Realizing this to be the case the attitude of those associations which have endeavored to enforce their unfair attitude. They know that the country owes them much, that the country is unwilling to refuse them anything, and in taking advantage of this sentiment they are acting very indecisively. The majority of the men realize this, but having had the proposal put up to them they are with the prospect of securing \$2,000 additional income, and they have not stopped to realize what such a proposal would mean to the nation.

## THE HOSPITAL.

Now that The Telegraph and The Globe have decided to bury the hatchet in the matter of innuendoes and insinuations, the way is cleared for further discussion of the hospital situation. The Telegraph contends that the present system of management is obsolete. The Globe agrees. The Commissioners are still to be heard from, and the majority of them refuse to talk in their own defence. These hospital commissioners are eminently respectable men. They have been residents of St. John for many years. They are of good repute personally and in a business way, and some of them at least have been reasonably successful in the conduct of their private affairs. Possibly they are the fault, if such there may be, is to be found in the system rather than in the membership of the board of commissioners. Certainly wherever the trouble may lie, there has been created in recent years an impression that this public institution is not conducted along lines calculated to meet in the fullest degree the convenience of those who as taxpayers provide for its maintenance. There has been friction in the matter of medical attendance, and a more or less deeply founded belief that restrictions imposed by the board of commissioners upon medical practitioners do not always work out in the best interests of the patients. There is as well the knowledge that hospital accommodation has not been extended to meet the demands of the community. On the other hand, the scale of charges in this institution has been kept within reason, so that staff has on the whole been conscientious and not lacking in efficiency. The commissioners who serve without remuneration have devoted their best abilities to the management of the institution, have rendered themselves subject to criticism and assuredly have not had any particular reason to feel appreciative of the position which they enjoy. They have, it may be believed, acted in accordance with what they believed to be the best interests of the community, hampered as they have been by limited finances and by the supervision of a constantly changing municipal council. If under the restricted authority granted them their policy has not always been satisfactory it may readily be accepted that each individual member of the board will be pleased to retire. They have nothing to gain by a further participation in the management of the hospital, but on the contrary will experience satisfaction in surrendering duties which are not only onerous but thankless. The Standard believes that if, as The Telegraph and The Globe agree, the management of the hospital is unsatisfactory, the fault is to be found in the system rather than in the personnel of the commission.

## COLD STORAGE.

The new Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Doctor Tolmie, is not an opponent of cold storage. He recognizes the great value this method of preservation of foodstuffs has been in the past as well as its possibilities for the future, and he proposes to aid in every reasonable way the extension of this system. Yet Doctor Tolmie does not intend that cold storage plants shall be utilized by food speculators to further their own selfish ends. Rightly or wrongly there has been created throughout this country an impression that the prices of foodstuffs have been advanced largely on speculative grounds by means of the cold storage facilities open to all, that the natural law of supply and demand affecting many commodities has been thrown out of gear and the market manipulated in favor of the profiteer. No doubt there is some foundation for this belief, for there will at all times be found persons capable of adapting to their own personal gain such facilities as may be provided for public convenience, and the cold storage system of Canada has undoubtedly at times been utilized for the purpose of speculation in foodstuffs. But Doctor Tolmie while advocating the extension of the storage system couples with his announcement the provision that hereafter an accurate record will be kept of all goods placed in storage, that speculation will be checked, and that a more definite control over food supplies will be maintained.

In the United States efforts are being made to prevent altogether the storage of certain foodstuffs. Veal and some kinds of fish will not be permitted to be placed in storage hereafter in a number of states. Beef, on the contrary, improves if kept for a reasonable time. Eggs may be better preserved by the old-fashioned water glass method at home, and should not in any event be held in cold storage for more than a few months. Steps are now being taken by means of federal legislation to provide that all goods entering cold storage warehouses shall be ticketed with the date of entry and that regular reports of the Department of Agriculture shall be submitted showing what articles are held in storage at the date of such reports, together with the date of their receipt. In possession of such information the department may force upon the market commodities which it has reason to suspect are being held for speculative purposes and thus check in some degree at least the tendency towards market manipulation.

## WHAT THEY SAY

**Making Prison a Reality.**  
Baltimore American—A Cleveland grand jury urges jail terms for profiteers. If prison were a condition and not a theory confronting speculators in food, the high cost of living would make a nose dive to terra firma.

**Democracy at a Distance.**  
Hong Kong News—There is a tendency in some quarters, we are afraid, to regard democracy as something of a very questionable character in which up-service may be paid in post-prandial speeches so long as it is kept at a comfortable distance of twelve thousand miles. It must be noted that the citizens for the most part are unaffected by the new spirit which is abroad.

**The Ballot in China.**  
Canton Times—Practically every Chinese has a right to vote, but they do not care to do so, and candidates have found it easier to bribe the registration commissions and bureaux of elections to have their names declared elected than to appeal to the voters for their votes. If the professional politicians are able to control the legislature through their cliques and allies with the corrupt officials, it is the ignorance and indifference in public affairs.

**Nationalism in South Africa.**  
Johannesburg Times—The racial issue was fast dying out in this country before the Hertzogites revived it. The speeches of 1908 and 1910 through and through and find no trace of it save in the utterances of a handful of extremists in both camps. And if the people are left alone there is no race animosity. Why should there be? Most of them are Afrikaners by birth. It is estimated there are in the Union today 1,470,000 of them. But only about 125,000 of them were born in England! The vast majority of the white people in South Africa at the present time are Afrikaners by birth. It is absurd to try to divide them up into British and Dutch. Only the racial fanatics would do it, because they are silly enough to attempt anything.

## Food Cards Again.

London Daily Express—Ration cards this winter will remind us, if we were not reminded by the rationing of foodstuffs in the United States, that we have not long passed through a time of war. They may be an unwelcome reminder, but we believe they are a wise and beneficent one. The control of meat, sugar and butter we believe to be essential as well as just. It will help to defeat the profiteer and to comfort the poor. It will, at the cost of trifling inconvenience, make equitable distribution of food not only possible, but fairly easy, and the man of slender and moderate means will not need to go short while the rich man goes to excess. We have learned to face worse troubles in the past five years, and for the sake of being able to get quite as much food as we are able to consume. That amount is very likely more than is good for us.

## The Result of Short Hours.

Indianapolis News—Practically every successful man in the country—be he in the trades, in business, in the professions or in public life—has burned the midnight oil or he burned it beyond midnight. In short, he dug without thought of a schedule, for he had his way to make and too much play time would have defeated his plans. Thomas A. Edison frequently works eighteen or twenty hours a day to discover something new for the benefit of mankind. The ordinary shift of eight hours for work, eight for sleep and eight for recreation throughout the country, as a good division of the day. The thought now, however, is to limit further the hours of production, thereby slowing up industry throughout the country. As production decreases the cost of living increases. What will be gained by the shorter hours day is hard to determine.

## A BIT OF VERSE

## INDIFFERENCE.

Over my garden  
An airplane flew;  
But nothing there  
Either cared or knew.

Cabbage butterflies  
Chased each other;  
A young wren cried  
Seeking his mother.

Gay zinnias  
With heavy heads  
Flashed yellow,  
And mauves, and reds.

A hummingbird,  
On the late larkspur,  
Never knew what  
Went over her.

Crickets chirped,  
And a blinking load  
Watched for flies  
On the gravel road.

They don't care  
How smart men are—  
To go through heaven  
In a flying car!

To a yellow bee  
On a marigold  
The adventure  
Seems a trifle old.

—Louis Driscoll.

## A BIT OF FUN

A clerk in an automobile sales place sat at the window all day. He noticed every woman who passed seemed to stare at him. "Fitting," thought he as he peered his cowl down and stared back. His wife passed. She

## Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

The Park Ave. News.  
Weather. Mothers looking in closets to see if any moths have got in your winter clothes, wish some properly hatched moth to be sent to them. Wendy, Miss Mary Watkins dreamed she went to the theater last Wednesday night, with the play was so fine she wishes she could remember what it was about.

Pome by Skinny Martin.  
I was sent Rita Back.  
I couldn't find my other shoe.  
So I went down to breakfast without it.  
Which I did at eight some time.  
But on the other hand, I doubt it.  
Ruddy Merty Almost Found a Bysickel. Last Wednesday Ruddy Merty found a bysickel leaning against a fence up an alley, and he was just feeling its tires to see if they were punkered or anything, when a kid belonging to him, with it properly did.  
(Advertisement) Why be annoyed because your door bell don't ring? For 6 cents we will take up a hand painted sign saying on it, "Tackling Company." The Lew Davis and Ed Vernick Sign Tackling Company.  
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Lost—Nothing.

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stared too. "Your window makes a perfect looking glass," she said when she entered the store.

Wanted to Know.  
"Just one more question, uncle."  
"Well, what is it?"  
"If a boy is a lad and has a step-father, is the lad a stepfather?"—Boston Transcript.

To Be Envid.  
Bix—I don't seem to have much appetite this summer.  
Dix—Lucky dog!—Boston Transcript.

"When water becomes ice," asked the teacher, "what is the great change that takes place?"  
"The greatest change, ma'am," said the little boy, "is the change in price."

Balance.  
"Dad, what's a social scale?"  
"Well, generally speaking, old man, it's a place where money is weighed."—London Bystander.

His Melancholy Moods.  
"Do tubercles remind you of funerals?"  
"Some," replied Uncle Bill Bottletop, "though I must admit my wife's flower garden never brings around such subdued and melancholy moods as my own little old mint patch."—Washington Star.

## THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Note in your issue of today "An Experience Contributed by an American Returning to the United States," in relation to his experience at the border. He is evidently laboring under a misapprehension and I think you should point out to him that the result of Canadian and American officials. I do not think the Canadian official had anything to do with it. It will, at the cost of trifling inconvenience, make equitable distribution of food not only possible, but fairly easy, and the man of slender and moderate means will not need to go short while the rich man goes to excess. We have learned to face worse troubles in the past five years, and for the sake of being able to get quite as much food as we are able to consume. That amount is very likely more than is good for us.

I trust you will see that this impression on his part is incorrect, and I think you should see to it that there is some notice taken of the incorrect manner in which he has presented his case by publishing some item as early as possible in your paper in regard to the matter. I further feel that you would be well advised if you would make an endeavor to draw attention to the direct unfriendliness manifested by Americans toward Canadians in regard to the collecting of the head tax in Canada against the Canadians. We do not collect any such tax in relation to United States citizens coming into Canada, and we are very confident that there is no greater danger of their receiving the undesirable from Canada than our receiving the undesirable from the United States.

Appreciating what I believe will be your attention to the above.  
Yours truly,  
J. HUNTER WHITE.

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