

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1918.

## UNFOUNDED CRITICISM.

It is admitted that one of the legitimate functions of the Opposition whether in parliament or in the country is to criticize governmental action or lack of action where reasonable ground for such criticism exists. But some of the pro-Laurier snipers, who have been gunning for the members of the Union Government, have failed to insist upon the ground before rushing into criticism of the most denunciatory character. It is not surprising that in such cases the critic does little more than attract attention to his own partial ignorance. One of the worst of the offenders of this sort is Honorable Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior in the Laurier administration and he has not yet recovered from the shock of defeat administered on December 17th of last year. This western paragon of virtue and knowledge owns a newspaper in Edmonton and occasionally, when business in his other interests is slack, he devotes some time to telling its readers how badly the Union Government has administered the affairs of Canada. His editorial attitude has never changed. Blame Borden is the text from which he preaches and he never rings an alteration on it. If a western crop is injured by unfavorable weather the Union Government in some way is responsible. His latest effort along these lines is to blame the authorities at Ottawa for the epidemic of Spanish Influenza which swept over the land and took as great a toll of Canadian lives as the European war. Mr. Oliver contends that all could have been prevented if the government had been alive to its duty and had insisted on a strict quarantine of vessels from Europe. Edmonton, of course, is an inland city. Mr. Oliver a prairie product, consequently it is to be expected that he should not be informed on many matters with which residents of these seacoast provinces are thoroughly familiar. But even the lion of Edmonton should know that the Spanish influenza did not come to Canada by the water route. It found its way across the line from the United States, where it had raged for weeks, before the first case was discovered in this country, and it came into Ontario first. The Maritime Provinces were among the last sections of the country to suffer from it, and it is gratifying to be able to say that its ravages here were less severe than in central or western Canada. Not a case of the "flu" reached this country directly from overseas, except in the case of some returned soldiers who were always strictly quarantined until danger was gone. Mr. Oliver's statements to the contrary are absolutely without foundation. It is not to be supposed, however, that this fact worries him in the least. Blame Borden is his text and the only one he knows. Simply because the facts do not furnish material to preach from it, has no effect upon the willingness of the preacher to spread the doctrine of pernicious partisan falsehood. The Laurierites all over the country are organizing in the effort to present a united front when the next appeal to the people is made. The Oliver articles are merely intended to form a link in the chain of propaganda with which it is hoped to again blind the people to the wear of the white plume.

## WHO'S SATISFIED?

Is there anyone at all satisfied with his lot in life nowadays? Is there a man Jack of us who thinks that his services are being adequately rewarded in hard cash? We say in "hard cash" for who cares for any other kind of payment for services rendered? "Fine words butter no parsnips" we are told and sure enough "It's money that makes the mare go" as the old adage has it. One cannot open a newspaper without being confronted on the first page with this story in one form or another and on every succeeding page the chorus from many different corners of the world theatre is tuned to the same note. We all grow tired of it, yet we all join in the song and by our voices add to the general wail or dirge or whatever you care to call it, for you can scarcely dignify it by any other term. There is scarcely a city throughout our land in which the average worker is content with his wages and the case, it would appear with the farmers, is in nowise very different. The commercial metropolises of Canada has recently emerged from a strike of its police force and firemen, with damages wrought by hoodlums, during the time the police were off duty to the sum of some \$300,000. Then the Toronto police force followed suit. And what these forces have done is quite the fashion. At present there is assembled in the latter city in the hall of the provincial university a great representative gathering of the farmers of Ontario in annual convention. They too according to reports and in the present condition of things not a little to criticize and complain about. However, in all this unrest there is no reason for undue pessimism, perhaps indeed quite the reverse. It must be apparent to everyone that

and health of all countries. The Allies know that the peace of the world depends upon their retaining the confidence of the world, and the every country cannot their administration is a menace to the peace of the world.

## Germany's Doom.

(Philadelphia Record.) If England shall not recover Heligoland from Germany, to which she ceded it "from love and affection," and as an evidence of goodwill, in 1900, it must be because England does not intend to leave Germany in a position to have a formidable navy within the next half century. If England imagined that it might ever be necessary to fight Germany again it would hold that island which commands the mouths of the Elbe, Weser and the Kiel Canal.

## The Widow's Mite.

(Christian Science Monitor.) The poor woman's mite was well illustrated during the last Food Guns campaign in London. The story is told that while the Mayor of Shoreditch was standing one day in the street holding in his hand a cheque for £21,000 sent to him by a war factory, a poor woman gave him a shilling. "It is all I have," she said, "but you are welcome to it to feed the guns and help the boys." The Mayor accepted the shilling, and the papers published a notice to the effect that if the Mayor would call at the Shoreditch Town Hall she would be provided with a War Savings Certificate. The actual shilling, however, is being mounted to be kept at Shoreditch as a token of the patriotism of its people.

## A BIT OF VERSE

### THE JOY OF BEING IN IT.

Oh, it's I that's glad I'm in 'an' a sharin' in the fight,  
An' the blood o' me is tingling with the rapture o' delight.  
For the little tasks of peace times didn't wake me open-eyed  
An' the safe an' easy pathways left my soul unsatisfied.  
Then I heard the call to service an' I heard the clash o' steel  
An' I'm here at Chateau Thierry doin' something that is real.

Here's the biggest job that's happened since the human race began,  
Here's a battle with a goal.  
We are makin' this world over as a decent place for man;  
Here's a struggle with a purpose, here's a chance for every fellow to get out and prove his soul;  
An' I'm mighty glad I'm in it—Glad I wasn't born too early, glad I didn't come too late;  
An' I thank the God who made me that He sent me down to earth  
At a time when men were doin' something real to prove their worth.  
Now I'm here at Chateau Thierry where the tides o' battle rage  
An' I'm helpin' in the writin' of our

## A BIT OF FUN

### Big Talkers.

Orville Wright, at a dinner in Dayton, talked of his early struggles. "We had, my brother and I," he said, "lots of oral encouragement, but no financial encouragement. People talked big, but they would put up nothing. With their mouths full of millions and their empty hands they reminded me of a barber I once knew. This barber said one day as he shaved me: 'That's a fine pup of Wilberforce's. I'd give anything for it.' I asked mother, 'Oh, what's that?' 'I had French beans and German sausages at auntie's yesterday, and now they seem to be fighting along my whole front.'"

### IMMACULATE TIDINESS.

A spinster in a certain city was a most notable housekeeper, and the immaculate neatness and order pervading every room had made a deep impression upon her small but observant niece. One day the little girl returned home after a tea party at Auntie's and in an awed tone said: "Mother, I saw a fly in Auntie's house, but," after a second's thought, "it was washing itself."

### WHAT WAS THE MATTER?

Johnny was feeling peevish and it was most unusual for him to be out of sorts. Mother was anxious to know what the matter was. "I—I feel awful inside!" groaned Johnny. "What do you think it is?" asked mother. "Oh," wailed Johnny, "I had French beans and German sausages at auntie's yesterday, and now they seem to be fighting along my whole front."

### NO FUN STOPPING.

"In thinking of neutrals," said Governor Whitman of New York, "I can't help thinking of two boys who stood the other day and watched an enormous safe being raised up to the twenty-sixth storey of a skyscraper. The boys watched the safe rise slowly, clanging at the entry of its wire rope, and when it reached the twentieth storey the older lad turned away in disgust. 'Come on, Joe,' he said. 'We might as well move on. They ain't a-goin' to let her drop.'"

### JANET'S BREAK.

Janet, aged nine, was taken by her

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## PROOFS.

You are libel to find fruit in pie, pudding or fruit salad, but never in stew or gravy unless its by accident, proving that fruit is more of a desert than what it is of a vegetable. People are like people in 2 ways, first because they all have skin around them to protect their insides and make them look better, and second because they are all sorts of shapes. The skin is also used in seven fruits to attach one end of the stem on to. The politest way to eat fruit is to take the skin off first, only most people only do it when there's company, except bannanas. Even the most ignorant people don't eat bannanas with the peel on, first because bannanas are much tenderer by themselves and second because they are much pleasant to peel. Most fruits grow loose, but bannanas grow by the dozens. The fruit with the most loose in it is the orange. If you open a crinoid too sudden it is libel to squirt juice in your eye and surprise you. If you took the skin and the juice away from an orange it would be the most unimportant looking fruit there is. The main difference between a grape and an apple is that if you ate 5 apples you would start to feel satisfied.

with no intention of making a purchase. "Won't you buy a cigarette?" said she, detaching him. "No thanks! I don't smoke!" "Or a penwiper, embroidered by me?" "I don't write." "Then do have this nice box of chocolates?" "I don't eat sweets." Her patience was exhausted. Holding out a cake of soap she cried: "Won't you buy this?" "I don't!" But this time Percy made the purchase.

MERELY CANON FODDER. Prussian Minister (on new propaganda stunt)—Our losses are surprisingly light. We have lost far fewer officers than the enemy. "But what about our men, Excellency?" Prussian Minister—Men? What men? Don't you know that human beings only begin with lieutenants?

WELL MATCHED. "I was a fool when I married you," "Everybody remarked how well matched we were."

OFTEN THE CASE. "That man says he wants an investigation. 'I don't blame him,' replied Senator Sorghum. 'Sometimes the best way to cause people to forget all about you is to be investigated.'"

DANGEROUS BEASTS. The teacher had been telling her class about the rhinoceros family. "Now name some things," she said, "that are very dangerous to get near to and that have horns." "Automobiles!" promptly answered Johnny—Harper's Magazine.

WOULDN'T TAKE A CHANGE. "Why don't you get out and hustle? Hard work never killed anybody," remarked the philosophical gentleman to whom Rastus applied for a little charity. "You're mistaken, dar, boss," replied Rastus; "The last time I hustled my pink socks and all swaggared past the sweet young thing's stall, evidently."

THE SAVING GRACE. Everything was going swimmingly at the Red Cross bazaar, when Percy, pink socks and all swaggared past the sweet young thing's stall, evidently.

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