

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1916.

"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.

THE MILK DEALER'S COSTS.

In the campaign against ten cent milk The Standard yesterday morning had occasion to deal to some extent with the estimates of cost of delivering milk which were submitted by W. H. Bell on behalf of the Milk Dealers' Association. Mr. Bell's figures were accepted by The Standard as a basis of computation, and it was shown that if his statement was correct milk dealers had been doing business at a distinct loss, and that moreover the proposed increase was not sufficiently large to give them a decent profit.

The Standard has made every reasonable effort to verify the figures submitted by the representative of the Milk Dealers' Association as to the cost of doing business, and after careful inquiry from men in a position to speak with knowledge of the different items included in the statement this newspaper now has no hesitation in saying that either the costs have been overstated by the association, or the men doing business with the Milk Dealers have understated their receipts.

Mr. Bell estimates the cost of handling and delivering milk at whole sale as follows per eight quart can:

Freight	.....	.03
Handling in country	.....	.02
Ice	.....	.02
Feed for horses	.....	.02 1/2
Wages	.....	.07 1/2
Washing sterilizing cans	.....	.01
Loss in measure	.....	.02 1/2
Bad debts, depreciation	.....	.01
Depreciation in cans	.....	.01
Paid to farmer	.....	.40

The items for freight, icing, washing and sterilizing cans, loss in measure and depreciation in cans The Standard is prepared to accept as fair, while the price paid to farmers, 40 cents per can, is also correct in cases where the farmers handle their own milk.

The charge of two cents per can for "handling in the country" The Standard cannot locate, although inquiry was made of men who supply milk to the dealers. The statements of these gentlemen are published elsewhere in this issue and should be read as they are decidedly interesting. In effect they say that although they have been supplying milk to the St. John dealers for some time they knew of no reason why a charge should be levied for handling against the consumer. In most cases the farmers handle the milk themselves.

WHERE THEY DO NOT SO HANDLE IT ONE CENT PER CAN IS DEDUCTED FROM THE PRICE PAID TO THEM AND THE RESULT IS THAT SUCH FARMERS RECEIVE BUT 39 cents per can net instead of 40 cents, the figure quoted. In consequence of these statements it is probably fair to eliminate that item.

The item for feed, 2 1/2 cents per can, is too high, according to the view of men in the boarding stable business. Several such men seen yesterday said that \$18 per month would be a profitable figure for boarding and shoeing a milk delivery horse. Mr. Bell allows \$26.25 per month for a thirty-five can route. The difference, say \$8.00, will allow of a reduction of one-half cent per can from the cost estimate.

The items for labor and bad debts are also too heavy, and The Standard believes can be shown so when an investigation is held. One-half cent per can can be deducted on these charges and still leave sufficient to bear the actual costs fairly chargeable to them.

Thus there is a total reduction of at least three cents per can from the cost of wholesale figures, which places it at 59 1/2 cents, instead of 62 1/2. This will similarly reduce the retail estimate to 66 1/2 cents.

Even with the reductions named The Standard believes the estimate is still higher than warranted as even at 59 1/2 cents per can milk dealers have done business at a considerable loss in the past, and it is not reasonable to believe that such is the case. The differences already shown between the figures supplied by Mr. Bell and those which producers and others say would be ample to cover

all costs are so considerable as to afford strong ground for an investigation into the whole matter. If the price demanded by the dealers can be justified, and The Standard does not believe it can, unless the producers insist on an increase, as it is reported they shall do, then the people must pay it or cut down their milk orders. If there is no legitimate reason for ten cent milk then the city council must lose no time in making that fact very clear, and preventing what would be a great injustice to the residents of this city, and a positive hardship to the poorer classes.

THE MILK SITUATION.

There were two outstanding developments in the milk situation yesterday. One, and the most important, if this ten cent milk scheme is to be beaten, was the decision of a number of citizens to reduce their purchases of milk if the advanced rate is insisted on, and the other, the meeting of milk producers in Norton at which the matter of raising prices to dealers was considered and, it is reported unofficially, practically decided upon. While the producers claim the cost of producing milk has risen to such a degree that they no longer find a profit in selling at 40 cents per eight quart, the rate paid to those producers who handle their own product, there is no doubt that the advance which local dealers have arbitrarily insisted upon has contributed largely to the decision of the producers to get all they can "while the getting is good." In any event the consumer pays the bills which is the point giving the people of this city most concern at the present time.

While the advance of two cents per quart may not seem a heavy burden considered in individual cases, as, for the family of five people using one quart of milk per day, it amounts to but \$7.30 per year, yet when it is considered that at the same rate the total daily consumption of milk in this city is in the vicinity of 10,000 quarts, it can be seen that the extra expenditure for a year will reach close to \$75,000. Surely this sum is worth saving to the people of St. John if such a result can be effected by the action of the city council or any other body.

The people will await with more than ordinary interest the action of the council at its meeting on Monday. If the advance cannot be stopped by the constituted authority under the legislation provided by the Federal Government for just such cases then other measures must be taken. From expressions of opinion which have reached The Standard it is evident that citizens are thoroughly aroused in their determination that the ten cent milk must go.

S. OF T. WILL MEET NEXT AT CORNHILL

Special to The Standard.
Moncton, Dec. 1.—The Grand Division, Sons of Temperance, resumed at 9.30 this morning.
Grand Scribe Robinson's report was in part as follows:
"Since our last annual meeting great advance have been made in the world of moral and social reform. Progress that few dreamed of, and none thought of realization within so brief a time. The liquor element is downed, public opinion has condemned it, the work of our temperance orders is bearing fruit, and soon our world will be free of the legalized liquor traffic. Every province in Canada but the Province of Quebec has a prohibitory law. Our own province of New Brunswick will come under the actual working of such an act on May 1st, 1917."

Alderman Stuart.
Ald. H. H. Stuart, district scribe, reported for Kent and Northumberland District Division as follows: There were on Sept. 30, 1916, 16 active divisions—10 in Northumberland, 6 in Kent. Of these three—Redbank and Bay du Vin in Northumberland, and Haverhill in Kent, had not reported. The committee on the state of the

order reported: "We again note with approval the granting of a prohibitory law for the province and recommend that our order, as it has been active in securing that law, be equally active in supporting it." Should there be any features not altogether satisfactory we trust that such in time may be perfected.

"We recommend the work of the N. B. branch of the Dominion Alliance and hope our members will attend the coming meeting of that society at Sussex during the coming week."

George N. Clarke of Rexton, ex-liquor license inspector for Kent county, wanted to know when his promised investigation was to be held. Grand Scribe Robinson replied that the government would meet Mr. Clarke in St. John on December 8 to investigate the matter.

The next semi-annual meeting will be held at Corn Hill, Kings county, on the second Thursday and Friday of July next.

The next annual meeting will be at Newcastle on the last Wednesday of November next and following day.

The New Brunswick prohibition law was thoroughly discussed with consensus of opinion in its favor.

RECEPTION FOR THE SOLDIERS IN THE NEW Y.M.C.A. ARMORY

The official opening reception to the soldiers was held in the Y. M. C. A. quarters at the Armory last night. There was a representative number of the officers present and between four and five hundred men proved one real night of enjoyment for the Tommies, and is only one of many such enjoyable times that is to be given there this winter, with the sole purpose of entertaining the soldier boys who are training in St. John, and who are far away from their homes.

H. H. Titus, the military Y. M. C. A. secretary, opened the reception with introducing His Worship Mayor Hayes, who was received with loud applause. The mayor made a brief but interesting address to the soldiers, in which he said that everything that could be done would be accomplished to make their stay in St. John a pleasant one.

The orchestra of the 16th Battalion rendered a number of selections. Sergt. Jacharest was heard in a French vocal solo; Major Legere and Captain Chaplain Gaudet, gave short addresses; F. Maguire was heard in a recitation. Miss Gallivan sang most acceptably, and Corporal Cormier

THOUSANDS OF SERBIANS, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, HOMELESS AND HELPLESS.—HON. MARTIN BURRELL MAKES AN APPEAL TO CANADA.

The movement to assist the Serbian people in the tragic distresses which have come to this small nation is one that makes a special appeal to a country such as Canada. Both countries are vitally interested in agriculture and the successful development of rural life. With an area less than that of one of our smallest provinces such as Nova Scotia, Serbia had a population of nearly three million people. In this mountainous, inland country nearly half its area was unproductive and yet, owing to its community system, the passionate love of its people for the soil, and its intensive agriculture, Serbia possessed a greater number of sheep than there are in the whole of Canada, and relative to its population a great number of both sheep and swine than other countries in Europe. Corn was its principal crop, and formed the chief diet of the country people. It exported a large amount of wheat, live stock and fruit.

A proud, simple, home loving people, living under a constitutional monarchy, with the same liberty loving ideals as our own, this small nation was set as a fine picture amongst the warring elements of the Balkans.

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Ask for HUMPHREY'S Footwear.

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Little Benny's Note Book

Us fellows was standing around the lamppost talking about Indians and Chinese laundry men and different things and Reddy Merly sed to Skinny Martin, Hay, Skinny, don't forget you sed if you got new ice shaves for Krisimus you wood give me your old ones.

Wich before Skinny had time to say anything Sam Cross sed, Wen did I say that?

Wat, whose talking to you? sed Reddy Merly.
Who, me? sed Sam.
Yes, you, nobody sed anything to you, sed Reddy.
I didn't say they did, I didn't say anything, that was Skinny that jest sed that, sed Sam.

Wats the matter with you, are you bughouse, sed Reddy, and then he sed to Skinny, Now don't forget, Skinny.

All rite, I wont, sed Sam Cross.
Hay, look a heer, you keep out of this if you aint looking for trouble, sed Reddy.

Who, me? sed Sam.
Yes, you, and its the last time Im going to tell you, to, sed Reddy.
Wy, I never sed a word, sed Sam, Ill leave it to the fellows, did I say anything, fellows?

Yes, everybody sed.
Aw, darn that book, sed Sam.
Wat book? sed Feds Simkins.
I bawt a ventriloquism book for 10 cents, and it ses on the cover you can lern ventriloquism out of it in 3 days, and Iye had it 4 days and wat good is it? sed Sam.

And he jest kepp on lisening without trying eny more ventriloquism.

gave a violin solo.

"Military Secretary Titus gave out a few announcements, one being that the ladies gave him permission to state that they would be present every fortnight with a programme of entertainment for the soldiers."

Mrs. Comeau and Mrs. Lawlor, with the assistance of about sixty young ladies served refreshments, while the orchestra rendered a number of selections.

It is the intention of Secretary Titus to have an entertainment in the armory every week in addition to short lectures.

BRITISH NAVY NIGHT.
It is stated that the British Navy needs 500 men from this section of the country. The citizens who attend the Imperial Theatre Sunday night will be given a chance to hear good music, witness excellent navy pictures, and listen to stirring addresses.

The programme follows:
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Chairman's address, Col. E. T. Sturdee
Address
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Songs:.....S. Herbert Mayes
Address—
Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, attorney-general
Solo—"The Cross," Mrs. L. M. Curren
Address.....H. A. Powell
One reel Naval Pictures
Closing remarks.....Lieut. Wood
God Save the King.

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