

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 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.

AN OPPORTUNITY REOPENED.

Mr. J. B. Cudlip of the Cornwall and York Cotton Mills returned to St. John yesterday; the Messrs. Fleming of the Phoenix Foundry are also in the city. Thus, all the gentlemen mentioned by the Telegraph and Times in the charge that the Messrs. Fleming were compelled to pay a commission of ten per cent. to Mr. Cudlip or the Cornwall and York Cotton Mills in connection with a shell contract and that part of this commission has already been paid, are easily available if those newspapers care to accept the Standard's challenge to interview them and publish their statements.

The Standard stated several days ago that the charge was untrue, that there was no commission as alleged and that an interview with Mr. Cudlip or the Messrs. Fleming would prove the truth of the Standard's assertion. The Telegraph and Times, having given publicity to the original charge and editorially endorsed it, of course, refused to give Messrs. Cudlip and Fleming an opportunity of stating their side of the case but, instead, declared the Standard to be "bluffing."

If, in challenging the Telegraph and Times to adopt the only obvious course to prove their statements in connection with one shell contract where the information can most easily be obtained, the Standard is "bluffing," an interview with Mr. Cudlip or the Messrs. Fleming will establish that fact. If, on the other hand, the facts are as the Standard has stated them to be—that there was no commission of ten per cent., as charged—an interview with Mr. Cudlip or the Messrs. Fleming will establish that as well.

It must be remembered that the Telegraph and Times first insinuated the existence of something wrong in connection with this contract and the Standard challenged those papers to substantiate the charge. So far they have failed to do so. Instead, they continue to prate of the necessity of an enquiry into the whole question of munition contracts. That is a very easy course for them to adopt for they know full well that nothing they do might do could be of the slightest effect in bringing about an enquiry or preventing one. That is a matter not to be settled by newspaper controversy. But the Telegraph and Times can hold a little enquiry of their own into this particular contract where the parties concerned are local men and available to representatives of local newspapers. Mr. Cudlip and the Messrs. Fleming are citizens of the best repute and highest standing in this community and there is every reason to believe that any questions touching upon the matter referred to, which a Telegraph or Times representative might fairly ask them would be fairly and truthfully answered. Refusal on the part of those newspapers to apply the test can be capable of only one construction. They are afraid of the information it might bring forth. Mr. Cudlip's return reopens the opportunity to produce that information, but the Standard does not believe it will be embraced.

MR. HAZEN AND ST. JOHN.

All the members of the Board of Trade delegation who journeyed to Ottawa to lay the needs of the port of St. John before Hon. J. D. Hazen and other members of the Borden Government have returned to the city and the Times intimates that their visit was productive of little more than words. The report sent from Ottawa, and which has already appeared in this newspaper, was, The Standard has learned, agreed upon as the official report of their mission and it will be presented to the Council of the Board and later to the Board itself at a time to be arranged.

There is one thing the delegates did learn from their journey to the capital, and it is that Mr. Hazen and his colleagues in the Borden cabinet are fully alive to the needs of this port and not only willing but anxious to satisfy them just as soon as it can be done. It is realized by the Ministers, as well as by the Board of Trade, that the business of this port developed more rapidly than facilities could be provided to cope with it, and it is also well known to them that the trade is limited only by the ability to handle it.

It did not require a visit from the Board of Trade delegation to carry this knowledge to the Government, and now that the Board releases the fact it is to be hoped that pronouncements of officials of that body will be more in keeping with the real facts and less calculated to arouse political animus. Such terms as "way station" should no longer be employed to describe the treatment St. John has received from the Government.

THE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN.

The returns from the campaign for recruits in St. John and vicinity have shown a lamentable slackening. Yesterday eight names were added to the honor roll but in the two preceding days only three were secured. In the meantime the City of Toronto reports a record breaking rush to the recruiting offices. What is the matter with St. John? Those who have attended recruiting meetings during the past few weeks will testify that in the audiences gathered to hear the speakers there have been very few of military age and fitness. Yet a visit to the parks, the theatres and other places of amusement will reveal scores of young men enjoying themselves who should be in khaki.

It may well be asked why this situation exists and if it would not be advisable for those in charge of recruiting to consider the adoption of new methods. The Standard is forced to the belief that as a means of appealing to the class of men it is desired to reach, the recruiting meetings have failed of their purpose. Young men do not attend but, on the contrary, the audiences are largely made up of men who, while young in spirit, have passed military age or are physically unfit. The young men are to be found elsewhere.

In view of the existing conditions and the urgent necessity for speedily filling the ranks of the battalions authorized for New Brunswick it appears to the Standard that it would be well to consider the adoption of new methods, if this province is to do her full share of the work entrusted to her. What those methods should be is a question that has already drawn much thought and earnest consideration from the men on the Recruiting Committee.

It is also regrettable that a larger proportion of business men are not devoting their time and their talents to assisting the work of the committee. This war is not the business of a certain few, or of any special class in the community. It is the most important business facing the Canadian people today and it must be grappled with in earnest, business-like fashion if results are to be obtained.

A PACIFIC COAST VIEW.

Under the title "A Professional Acuser," the Vancouver News-Advertiser deals editorially with Mr. F. B. Carvell and the address he recently made in the House of Commons. The News-Advertiser says:

"Among members of Parliament who came west on the Canadian Northern excursion Mr. Carvell of Carleton, N. B., alone gave out a partisan interview. His spiteful utterances were the only inharmonious feature of a pleasant excursion. The like insatiable bitterness has now led Mr. Carvell to repeat in the grossest form the imputation of graft in connection with the purchase of submarines by Sir Richard McBride, and even to suggest in the meanest way that the former premier has escaped from the province in consequence of these accusations. Mr. Carvell knows that Sir Richard himself demanded this investigation, and took no action toward retirement until the inquiry had been held and the accusations disproved."

"Mr. Carvell's charges about hay contracts in his county must be considered in the light of his character and disposition. The contractor is one of his political opponents. The man who should have the contract, according to his claim, is a political friend. It may be that the contractor should have sold hay cheaper and paid more for it, but we may be sure that no Tory could pay high enough or sell low enough to escape a charge from Mr. Carvell; and it is equally certain that his political friend could have bought and sold at any price without fear of the member for Carleton. No presumption of wrong is ever established by an accusation made by Mr. Carvell."

"This is not the first time that the Imperial Government has bought hay

in Mr. Carvell's county for war purposes. Similar contracts were made during the South African war. Then as now they were made through the Department of Agriculture. On the former occasion they went to Mr. Carvell's favorite firm. We think that Mr. Carvell himself had an interest in some of the hay contracts. It was then alleged by Mr. Carvell's opponents that the farmer was compelled to sell his hay too cheap and that the middleman got excessive profits. When this question was raised in Parliament, Sir Whittard and his friends took the ground that the House had nothing to do with the matter, since the Department of Agriculture was merely acting as agent of the Imperial Government. This view prevailed. But it does not now influence Mr. Carvell.

"It is not surprising that Mr. Burrell should have wished to avoid a controversy led by Mr. Carvell. Such a discussion could not be fair or dignified. It was certain that such a debate would be full of personal recrimination. Mr. Burrell knew what kind of retorts Mr. Carvell's vindictive party attacks would provoke. He could not help the hay contracts, if there is anything wrong about them, without stirring up a debate full of personal attacks and recriminations. The whole season. But these are not Liberals of the method, record and motives of Mr. Carvell.

"If the Department of Agriculture has undertaken to purchase supplies for the British War Office it has assumed an obligation to buy providently and honestly. This service should not be used for party advantage or for the enrichment of individuals. We are sure that Mr. Burrell would not knowingly depart from this principle, and that he has tried to buy for the War Office as prudently as he would buy for himself. Whether he has been successful in the Carleton County hay contracts may be ascertained. But Mr. Carvell's discussion is calculated to produce more heat than light."

COL. M'LEAN, M.P. APPOINTED

Understood He Will Have Charge in New Brunswick, Which Becomes Separate Military District.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Feb. 4.—It is understood that New Brunswick has been made a separate military district and the man



COL. H. H. McLEAN, M. P.

appointed to take charge is Col. H. H. McLean, M. P. Col. McLean has been identified with military matters all his life and will bring to the office a wealth of experience and ability to do things that should result in a big improvement in the near future. The old plan whereby everything had to go

Many Women Suffer FROM EXCRUCIATING PAINS IN THE BACK.

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Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Well, mother, do you want to hear a good one, pop sed to ma after supper yesterday. If its sensibill, sed ma. Lissen closely, sed pop, if a Mexikin general had 49 soldiers and ony 48 guns, how cod he fix things so that each soldier had a gun. Goodniss, I dont no, how, sed ma. Make apple sauce, sed pop. Do wat, sed ma. Make apple sauce, sed pop. Theres no sents to that whatever, sed ma. I admit it, sed pop, but nevertheless its funny jest the same, you see the point, dont you. Theres no point to it, sed ma. Sertens thers is, sed pop, you no the old riddil about making apple sauce to divide 15 apples equally among 20 children, dont you, Sertay, thers sum sents to that, sed ma. Granted, sed pop, well, the point of my joak is, you ispekt me to say, Shoot one soldier, or sumthing sensibill like that, and instead of that, wat do I say, wy, I say, Make apple sauce. Well, and wats the point, sed ma. The point is its very lack of point, sed pop. Well, I may be dents, but if thats supposed to be a joak Im glad I am, sed ma. Thats the grandest peeces of optermism Ive herd sints Mrs. Wiggs of the cabbage patch, sed pop. And he puffed on his segar and found out it wasent lit and lit it and started to red the paper.

out of town resulted in delay and loss. With the man in charge on the ground and thoroughly conversant with local conditions much better work can be done and no better choice could have been made by the authorities than Col. McLean.

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U. S. SENATE PASSES BILL GIVING INDEPENDENCE TO PHILIPPINES

Washington, Feb. 4.—The senate tonight passed the Philippine bill which would grant independence to the islands within four years and provide for immediate enlargement of their powers of self-government. The vote was fifty-two to twenty-four. The bill has not yet passed the house.

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PLEDGES TO AVOID WAR

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