

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1917.

"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.

## FOR UNITY OF PURPOSE.

I WISH THAT, even now, the two right hon. gentlemen who lead the respective parties in this House would consider a moderate proposition. I have stated, taking my illustration from what was said by my right hon. friend who preceded me (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), that an election on the grounds I have mentioned would be a misfortune for the country; I have said that it should not be fought upon the faults of the Government; I have said that it cannot be fought upon a difference of issue as to policy, because both sides pretend to have the same policy. It would be a splendid thing for this country, if, even now, moderate counsels should prevail, and a course of procedure should be decided upon that would redound to the lasting honor of Canada.—Dr. Michael Clark, Liberal member for Red Deer in the Canadian House of Commons.

## UNCLE SAM'S WAR RECORD.

The United States of America entered the war against Germany three months ago, but in that brief time the government at Washington has done much. There is a disposition in some quarters to complain that our neighbor has not gone so aggressively into the war preparations as it was felt that it will be of much service in the operations against the Hun until many months have passed. Facts do not warrant such a complaint.

The United States entered the war with a great advantage in that it had the benefit of the experience of other Allied nations. Consequently, it did not attempt to "raise troops by voluntary enlistment," as it was felt that with the great number required a compulsory system should be employed, as being being quicker, fairer and more businesslike. Under conscription the United States has registered ten million young men for military service and soon those who have been found fit for duty will be in active training.

Contingents for the accommodation of soldiers are being erected all over the country and nineteen training schools are in active operation. Of these sixteen are for officers and three for the training of army doctors.

The regular army has been brought up to the 300,000 mark, and the National Guard to 450,000. A complete little army has been sent to France under General Pershing and will soon be in the trenches. American engineers are now on the firing lines and American engineers are co-operating in the construction of railways in France. Six British base hospitals have been taken over by the American army medical corps.

So much for the army, but in the navy the United States has not been less active. In the three months a powerful flotilla of destroyers has been sent to co-operate with the British and French in combating the submarine menace, and has already been in action with success. The patrol of the South Atlantic has been taken over by American ships, thus releasing French and English war vessels for other work. The personnel of the navy and the marine corps has been practically doubled and gunners and guns have been supplied to all American merchant ships leaving Atlantic ports. All German owned ships in American waters or American ports have been seized and are rapidly being repaired to be used for transport work.

In addition to these things the Americans have successfully floated a \$2,000,000,000 Liberty loan which has advanced \$1,375,000,000 to the other members of the Entente Allies in order to facilitate the purchase of war materials. The United States Congress, by unanimous vote, has appropriated the sum of \$640,000,000 for an airplane building programme. Measures have been taken looking to food control and to the construction of merchant vessels to replace those destroyed by submarines.

It is true that the United States still has many things to do and much organization to perfect before its troops can play an effective part in the struggle against the Hun, but they have made a good start and it is doubtful whether the history of the world records the case of a peaceful nation accomplishing more for war purposes in the same space of time. Beyond a doubt, as the war progresses, the influence of our new allies will be more and more powerful. This is itself affords the very best reason why Canada should strain every nerve to assist the Motherland. When a nation, in no personal danger,

enters the war and deems it necessary to make such far-reaching preparations to continue in the struggle to the finish, how much more vital is it that every part of the British Empire shall leave nothing undone that may work toward a successful termination of the war, especially when upon such termination the very continued existence of the Empire can be said to depend?

## THE RAILWAY SITUATION.

The announcement of Sir Thomas White in the House of Commons yesterday to the effect that the Government purposes to purchase the remainder of the stock in the Canadian Northern Railway, thus becoming the owners of that road, directs attention again to one of the serious problems facing this country, a problem which has practically been forgotten by the public while all thought was turned to our war duties.

The Canadian Northern Railway is much better calculated to become a commercial proposition than the extravagantly built National Transcontinental, which because of the prodigality or worse of the Laurier administration, proved so expensive that the G. T. P., for whom it was intended, refused to take it over and, finally, to save it from utter disaster the Government was forced to include it in the Canadian railway system. Now with the purchase of the Canadian Northern, the Government is placed in the position of having two lines of the same territory and in some places actually compete against each other. At the same time the G. T. P., the western end of the system of which the Transcontinental was to be the eastern link, is in such serious need of public assistance that it is to be kept out of the hands of the Government, to again contribute to its support, a condition that is certain to result some day in Government ownership of that line.

The condition thus created will be a complicated one, in the solution of which it may be necessary to completely revise the relations of the Canadian Government and the Canadian railways. East of Winnipeg the Government will be owning and operating the Intercolonial, the National Transcontinental, and a considerable portion of the Canadian Northern. West of Winnipeg the G. T. P. and the remainder of the Canadian Northern will be under Government ownership and operation, with the Canadian Pacific an active competitor from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

There is no doubt that in time Canada will grow up to her railways, but it certainly looks now as if considerable revision will be necessary before any of the properties forced on the Government's hands by the prodigality and poor business management of the Laurier administration can be made profitable. The Canadian Northern, it is said, has shown a surplus of receipts over operating expenses, but the route has been handicapped by lack of sufficient finances with which to keep it up to the standard necessary to meet competition and handle its business. As a Government owned proposition this difficulty will be overcome.

L'Evenement of Quebec makes this pertinent comment on the National Service census: "From the time National Service was instituted in this country in December, 1916, the whole Liberal press devoted itself to discrediting this patriotic organization in the eyes of the electors of this province. One of the results was that more than half the electors did not properly respond to the Government's questions. Still, the National Service plan, rightly understood and rightly seconded, would have been of enormous value to Canada. If any measure could have prevented conscription that was the one. Unhappily it did not have the success we had a right to hope and today it is necessary to take other means to find farmers, artisans and soldiers."

"The Great War Veterans' Association all over Canada is strongly in favor of conscription. So are the men at the front and their hundreds of thousands of relatives in Canada. So also is every man who believes that it is the duty of this country to continue in the war to the finish no matter what sacrifices may be involved. There can be no political differences in a question of this sort. Either we stay in the war or we quit. The Laurier anti-conscriptionists would, have us quit, but, fortunately, the men of that mind are not in the majority. With a Liberal win-the-war conven-

tion in Toronto this week and a great gathering of Western Liberals called for Winnipeg next week Sir Wilfrid Laurier is likely to receive some forcible reminders during the next few days that he has misinterpreted the spirit and the mind of the Liberal party outside of his own province.

## HE LIVED UNDER SIX SOVEREIGNS

W. H. Best, of River Glade, is Nearly 100 Years of Age—He Carried on Farming at Millstream, Kings County, for Many Years.

Mr. William Henry Best of River Glade has the distinction of being one of the very oldest men in the province. He will if he lives to the 24th of January next, be 100 years of age. He is a native of Kings County, N. B., but has lived for the larger part of the last 63 years at River Glade.

Moncton Transcript has the following sketch of this aged resident. Mr. Best was a son of Richard Best, a native of Cornwallis, N. S., but settled at Millstream, Kings County, N. B., and carried on the occupation of a farmer. His grandfather was Rev. Richard Best, Church of England Clergyman and Chaplain of the British Army. The Rev. Mr. Best came out to this country at the time of the Revolutionary War, his destination was to have been the United States, but he and his party got no further than Halifax, when the war came to a close and their services in the United States were not required. With the same military expedition was the Chaplain's brother, William Best, who was an officer in the army. These men well remember the event. His father at the time was engaged in digging potatoes on his farm; they could see the smoke and the wind carried to their noses the smell of battle. His father leaves from the Miramichi District; the father at once understood that a tremendous fire was raging to the north. His mother had died before this.

Mrs. Best is also living and was 92 years of age, in February last, she was formerly Miss Charlotte Louise Denery. Mr. Best is in particularly good health and thinks he is yet able to do considerable work. Mrs. Best is not so well, although she is quite active for a lady of her age. They have a family of four children, while a fifth died young. The oldest daughter is also dead; her son Mr. Fred B. Isaac, was born in the month of C. B. yard some eleven or twelve years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Best now make their home with their youngest daughter, Mrs. Arthur Sullivan, now of Moncton as his home. Mr. Best was brought up on a farm and a great deal of his time has been spent in that occupation; he has also been engaged in railway building, carpentering, lumbering; for a time he was engaged in a mill on the St. John River, somewhere below Fredericton.

It has previously been stated that the grandfather of Mr. Best was a Church of England Chaplain in the British Army. This is the fact, well known to his descendants, down to the subject of our sketch. Although Mr. Best has been in good health of late years, he has not escaped severe illness during his lifetime. After he had worked on the Intercolonial railway construction, he was laid up for a while. He retains his faculties to a marked degree; he is only slightly deaf and can still read with the aid of glasses, but does not require any assistance for his eyes except when reading. His visit to Moncton, unaccompanied, is in itself quite a thing for one of his years, but he did it easily this week and there is no reason why he could not travel around the world alone. He is an intelligent man and an interesting conversationalist.

Mr. Best comes from Loyalist stock on his mother's side. His mother was a Miss Belding; her parents owned a large farm, well stocked, somewhere between Washington and New York. During the war their stock of cattle was all seized and slaughtered to make food for the American Army. The male members of the Belding family were then told they would have to join the army or leave the country, and as they were Loyalists, they did the latter and came to Sussex, N. B. Residents by this name in different parts of Kings County are descendants of these people. The grandfather Mr. Jasper Belding, was a man of considerable prominence throughout the county, and twice represented Kings in the local legislature.

The father of Mr. James Best, of Moncton, was a cousin of the subject of our sketch—Sussex Record.

## PERSONALS

Mrs. C. W. Wanamaker left last night for Valcartier. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis P. Hanson, who have been spending their honeymoon in the city left last night for their future home in Fredericton.

Norwegian Sunk. Bergen, Norway, Aug. 1.—The Norwegian steamship Cavis has been torpedoed at a point twenty miles to sea from Holmraas. One passenger and one sailor were killed. The crew of the vessel has arrived here.

## Little Benny's Note Book.

The Park Ave. News.

Big Mistake. Sid Hunt was sleeping with his quiet little cousin Joe last Friday night, and Joe's father found all his tobacco undumped in Joe's train of frate cars for frate, and he came up and licked Sid in the dark by mistake, and the next morning he gave him 3 cents dandiges, which Sid gave Joe one of them for not having woken up and spoiled it.

Sports. A contest was held last Saturday afternoon on Sam Crosses front steps to see who had the strongest stummick. Puds Simkins winning by scraping some plaster from between the bricks on the front of the house and eating it raw.

Short Story.

The End of a Perfect Cipher. A figure 9 was rolling a little cipher for a hoop. All or a sudden its rim came off. The end.

Sisley Notes. While giving an exhibition to Miss Mary Watkins and Miss Maud Johnson of how high he could kick above his head last Sunday, Mr. Sid Hunt went over backwards, landing on a impolite part of him with a fierce bang. Among those present was Mr. Benny Potts, Mr. Arlie Altzander, Mr. Algerin (Shimmy) Martin and Mr. Leroy Shooster. Intriguing Facks about Intriguing People. Sam Cross has 2 back teeth filled with gold, being very modest about them and never showing them unless somebody asks him.

## STEAMER FROM N. B. SUNK BY U-BOAT

The Thorsdale from Newcastle with Spoolwood Torpedoed.—Crew Saved.

The steamer Thorsdale, Capt. Paterson, which sailed from Newcastle, Miramichi, on July 12 for a British port is reported to have been torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk. The crew was saved.

## MOUNT ALLISON MAN FOR BANGOR CHURCH

Rev. W. Quinton Genze Appointed to Important Maine Congregation.

Rev. W. Quinton Genze, a graduate of Mount Allison University, Sackville, has been appointed pastor of Grace Methodist church at Bangor, Me. Mr. Genze was connected with the Charles St. Methodist church, Halifax and St. James Montreal. He spent five years in Bermuda and has been the officiating chaplain to the Wesleyans in the British army. He was pastor at Danforth, Me., East of the city. Mrs. Genze was educated at Mount Allison Ladies' College.

## IMPORTANT HEARING BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE

Merchants Bank Case Comes Up on Application for Judgment—Kennedy and MacDonald Defendants.

An important chambers matter was heard before Chief Justice McKewen yesterday afternoon when application was made for judgment in the case of Merchants' Bank vs. Kennedy and MacDonald. M. G. Teed, K. C., appeared for the plaintiffs and F. B. Carvell, K. C., for the defendants.

Promissory notes of the defendants were discounted at the plaintiff's branch office in this city, and the defendants now raise the point that there was no consideration for the payment of the notes and that the notes were signed by the exercise of duress.

F. J. Shreve, manager of the local



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## ST. JOHN DESERTERS CAPTURED IN KENT

Two Home Guardsmen Left West Side Quarters Without Leave.

It was learned last night that two men attached to the Home Guard at the immigration building, West St. John, who left their quarters and the city without leave a few days ago were rounded up yesterday at Buctouche. The deserters were taken to Moncton and locked up for the night. The Moncton authorities will hold the men until some person is sent to bring them back, and it is probable they will arrive here tonight.

branch, was on the stand yesterday and was cross-examined by Mr. Carvell. The matter stands over until August 12th at the request of defendants' counsel.

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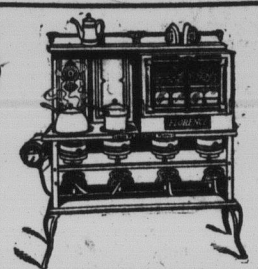
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FUNERAL.  
The funeral of Mrs. Isabel Scammell, widow of Dr. J. H. Scammell, died in Newcastle and whose body was brought here for burial took place yesterday afternoon from Trinity church. Services were conducted by Rev. Canon Armstrong. Interment was made in Fernhill.