

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 52 Prince William Street.
St. John, N. B., Canada.
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Yearly Subscriptions: \$5.00
By Mail: \$4.00
Semi-Weekly: \$1.00
Semi-Weekly to United States: \$2.00
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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1918.

"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.

WAR COMMENT.

It is the opinion of war correspondents that the German thrust in the direction of Paris has now been definitely stopped and some writers go so far as to express the opinion that the enemy will not again attempt to win the way through to the French capital. The cost of such an undertaking, as has been demonstrated, is extremely heavy and the Hun effort has resulted in nothing more than the capture of a few unimportant positions at the price of the heaviest casualties in the war. The view now prevails in some quarters that, after all, the Paris effort was but a feint and that Hindenburg will next attempt to measure strength with the British troops on that portion of the line nearer to the coast and the Channel ports. No matter what the German plan may be there is no need to fear the result of any action that may develop, for the confident belief of the Allied commanders, formed after weeks of the hardest fighting of the war, is that the Allies today possess sufficient force to check the enemy at any point on the line where he may attempt to break through.

Germany's greatest enemy is time. Each day the Teutonic armies fail to come nearer to their objectives makes their eventual defeat that much more sure as American additions to the Allied lines are coming forward more quickly than Germany believed would be possible and those additions must swing the balance of power away from Berlin. It is reported that today there are 700,000 Americans in the line and 300,000 more in reserve. In another two months, at the most recent rate of progress, that number will be doubled, as with all transportation facilities perfected the growth of the new army will proceed at a much more rapid rate in the future than in the past. Therefore, if Germany cannot win her objectives now, she will have no chance at all when the odds against her are still further increased. Predictions are always dangerous, but in view of the failure of the latest enemy movement it is not surprising to find that some of the closest observers of the progress of the war are reviving the view that it will end with the present year.

FARMERS AND THE DRAFT.

An article which Canadian farmers, especially those who object to the draft, should read with keen interest appears in the Atlantic Magazine for June. The writer is an Englishman, Mr. Burnet Smith, and he tells what the women of England have been doing to help the war effort. Among other things she writes:

"Then we have a land army of about half a million women, taking the place of men on the farms. That has been one of our most difficult tasks, because we have found our farmers to be a very conservative body of men, who wanted no changes of any sort; they thought they should be specially favored as food producers and should be allowed to keep all the men they wanted, but they have had to take a certain number of women on the land."

Of course that statement was written some time ago for a magazine article cannot be written and printed as quickly as a newspaper item, and the cables have told of developments in the condition of British farmers since Mrs. Smith wrote. A recent dispatch said the need for men for the British army had become so great that farm laborers to the number of 40,000 had been taken away from the land in England. This condition exists in a country which, unlike Canada, has not grown enough food to feed her own people if the supply by sea were cut off. The Winnipeg Free Press takes up this point and says:

"The argument for very special consideration of the farming population as producers of food is far stronger in Great Britain than in Canada; since food produced there has not to be transported over a submarine-infested sea. But notwithstanding this the physically fit farmers and agricultural laborers had to take their places in the army. There was no alternative to this except the acceptance of defeat and the overthrow of Berlin. They saw clearly in Great Britain that this was the alternative; but here in Canada we cannot or will not see it. If we could, things would be different."

Of course there is another side to the argument that may be advanced by the farmers and that is, that if Britain finds it necessary to take men from the farms in England and send them depend largely on Canada for her supply of foodstuffs, that, in itself, furnishes a reason why Canadian farmers should be kept on the land. Such argument will scarcely meet the case, for it is not the intention of the Government to strip the farms. The Government will consider the demands of agriculture through its regular ex-

amination tribunals, and each case will be determined on its merits. But there will be no exemption of farmers as a class although every effort will be made to see that crop production is maintained as well as can be. The call of the army must first be heeded, however, for, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier once remarked: "If Germany wins, nothing else on God's earth matters."

SOUTH AFRICA FIRM.

The spirit of all the Allied peoples is reflected in the recent statement of General Botha when he expressed full confidence in the Allied cause and declared that, even should the Germans be successful in their drive on Paris, "we shall not cease because we cannot surrender our faith or our freedom." The words are significant in themselves but become more so when spoken by the one-time commander of the Transvaal Boers who fought against Britain in a cause to which Germany gave moral if not material support.

The action of Britain's former enemies from Africa is one of the finest testimonials to the freedom of British institutions that could be written. Splendidly that colony has rallied to the colors under the command of men who formerly fought against the flag for which they are now willing to die. Botha has done wonderful work in raising and commanding South African soldiers and his services to the Empire will not soon be forgotten. His task in bringing the Boers to the side of Britain has not been easy, for he has had to combat a nationalist republican propaganda which is still being carried on under the direction of General Hertzog, but which does not seem to be making much progress. However the movement for a republic is there and a few weeks ago, in an address before the South African Party Congress, General Botha took occasion to warn his former associates that only by force of arms could such a republic be established.

According to the small quantity of news, which trickles through to Canada, from South Africa, Hertzog is following a practice with which Canadians are not wholly unfamiliar. When campaigning through the country he preaches out and out nationalism, but when taken to task in the South African Parliament he explained that his desire for a republic was theoretical only and not intended to be put into effect. It is, of course, possible that Hertzog may do some harm but it is not to be believed that he will succeed with his propaganda. Rather is it likely that the British Empire will continue to receive the support and affection of what General Botha aptly terms "a great South Africa, contented and prosperous under British rule."

A START AT PRICE CONTROL.

Gradually, but none the less effectively, the Canadian Government is commencing to control the prices at which articles of daily use may be sold in Canada, and the profits to be made from such sale. Only recently an order in council was passed restricting the profits of wholesale provision dealers to ten per cent, above the purchase price. Another order provides that jewelry and silverware shall not be advanced beyond the price at which it sold at the date of the order restricting the importation of such articles. This, of course, is to prevent dealers from advancing prices on jewelry and silverware they may have had in stock prior to the forbidding of the importation. The order in council prohibiting the importation of certain luxuries and non-essential articles goes into effect today and while it will naturally cause a little inconvenience at first and may embarrass merchants whose business is in articles of that class, yet it will generally be found to work out well.

By degrees the people of this country will come to understand that the country is being organized on a basis that would have been unbelievable before the burning of the war clouds in Europe. A brief retrospective glance at the measures passed during the last year or so will suffice to show the extent of this movement. Food has been regulated, profits are being taxed, large incomes are subject to taxation, travelling has been curtailed, industries are being brought under government regulation, the standard of our flour and bread has been fixed, the quantities of foodstuffs householders are permitted to buy have been limited, non-essentials have been placed in a class where they will soon be unobtainable and the prices at which certain articles shall be sold have been set by law. Beyond doubt these regulations will be increased as the necessity for such action grows. And the people will cheerfully obey all of

them because the people realize that they are necessary. At the same time let any Canadian ask himself whether a government formed on old party lines could have successfully carried out such a programme. The obvious answer will be the best sort of justification of the Union administration that now rules at Ottawa, a union formed for a special purpose and which is achieving that purpose in a way that even its enemies must admit to be successful.

AN AIR RECORD

Lieut. Fonck, the French airman who in an hour and a half on May 9 brought down six German aeroplanes—two in ten seconds and three in ninety seconds—has now an official record of forty-two "bags."

This means, however, that he must have actually accounted for at least sixty German machines, for the rigid French registration system allows the pilot credit only for those enemy machines the destruction of which has been confirmed by French observers.

A semi-official note, describing Lieut. Fonck's latest feat, says that the French aviator was flying a "Spad" aeroplane, armed with two machine-guns, and continues:

"On the morning of May 8 Lieut. Fonck ascended on patrol duty, with two companions, in the Moréuil-Montdidier sector, and, observing three German biplanes approaching him at great speed, he started the foremost, which fell in flames at his first burst of fire. "By a clever manoeuvre Fonck immediately descended, and, covering three German biplanes approaching him at great speed, he started the foremost, which fell in flames at his first burst of fire."

"Lieut. Fonck, pretending to give up the pursuit of the German aeroplane, proceeded towards the French front, but, suddenly turning round, brought his enemy down by a burst of fire almost at the same place as his first victims."

"This fight against the three German aeroplanes lasted twenty-two seconds, in which Fonck fired twenty-two shots in all. "After resting for three-quarters of an hour, Lieut. Fonck ascended, and while over Montdidier attacked an observation biplane, which fell in flames. Lieut. Fonck then saw four Albatrosses, protected by five French fighters, charging towards the French trenches."

"The French airman attacked the monoplane in the rear of the group, which fell to the ground. Then, although surrounded by two Pfalz machines, Lieut. Fonck brought down the leading monoplane, which crashed to earth in a nose-dive. "His remaining seven enemies were waiting for him, but Lieut. Fonck outwitted them, and returned to his aerodrome. "In recognition of this achievement the General Commanding the army conferred upon Lieut. Fonck the Cross of Officer of the Legion of Honor. "It is a wonderful fact that in all his air fights Fonck has never been wounded. Even his machine has never been touched. Young as he is, he has been flying eighteen months before the war."

A SUGGESTION

"Get away from that desk. In the name of better business, study this suggestion. Get away from where woody banks of a stream curve cool and sweet—where birds forgive you having missed their melody so long. Get away to where black bass hug the rock shelves and trout flirt with your floating flies, or to cool lakes where pickerel play havoc with tangled lines among lily-pads. Get away to where the drone of bees and halcyon breeze lures you to loaf in lush grasses and to day-dream or drowse awhile—where the nursing lap of Mother Earth soothes the ache of busy brain. Waive in the water, else you miss a joy. Get wet, get hungry, get tired—and grow happier. And, before you turn your back on the sun, cover the fish in your creel with green tree leaves and pick a couple of handfuls of the wistful wild-flowers that hide behind logs, graining the sun and the ferns of the larch-like ferns, and take them home to HER. They will make her happier than a gem from Araby. You'll be a better man, even muscle-bound—but, oh! man, watch the next week's work! For the sake of efficiency—get away from the desk for a day. It'll make you a better fighter in the battle of business that is so vital in the stern struggle of Boche-baiting."

WONDERFUL SURGERY

A soldier had lost his right thumb from the wrist. He was willing to have a finger from the other hand transplanted in order to form a new thumb. The stump of the thumb was dissected and the ends of the tendons were joined. The ring finger of the left hand was then amputated and the tendons attached to the thumb. The finger was attached and stitched to the stump so that half of it was supplied with blood from the right arm and half from the left. As the borrowed circulation began to feed the new thumb, it was, stage by stage, separated from its original side. Now its finger, wholly detached, is moving, in the same way as the original thumb and is performing the functions of a thumb. The foregoing paragraph is taken from the magazine Recalled to Life, edited by Lord Charnwood.

A BORN FIGHTER

At the supreme moment of the battle of the Marne, when victory seemed to hang in the balance by a feather weight, a corps commander hurried to General Foch with anxiety and despair written all over his face. "My men are tired out and at the last gasp," he reported. "They can fight no longer." General Foch wheeled upon his corps commander almost fiercely. "So are the Germans," he snapped back. "You are to attack at once!" That attack ended the famous Prussian Guard of the German centre, and compelled the German right to beat an overnight retreat—Boston Post.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Last Sunday granpop bawled his camera around to take my picture with it, being a big camera on legs with a green cloth for granpop to put his bed underneath of while he is looking throo the camera, and me and pop and ma and granpop went out in the yard for me to get my picture took, and I stood next to the fens with my arms crossed like Napoleon, and granpop put his bed underneath of the green cloth and aimed the camera at me, saying, Look as cheerfill as possible, are you ready? Yes, sir, I sed. And all of a suddin granpop stuck his bed out from underneath of the green cloth and looked erround from in back of the camera as if he thavt me and him was playing hide and go seek, and I started to giggle like anything, granpop saying, Heer, heer, dont do that, I was jest going to squeeze the bulb. Now Benny, its all rite to look cheerfill was youre told, but theres no use going to extremes, sed pop. Try control yourself, sed ma. Tell us wasd funny and maybe we will all laff, sed granpop. Me not telling him on account of being too polite, and after a while I stopped giggling and crossed my arms agen, granpop saying, Now ill haff to get you back in focus agen. Meaning he wood haff to find me in the camera, and he stuck his bed underneath of the green cloth agen, saying, now look cheerfill, not too cheerfill. Which I did, looking jest about as cheerfill as a perin having their picture took, with I cood of stayed that way fime if granpop hadnt quick stuck his bed erround the back of the camera agen, saying, Heerdy? And I started to giggle werr than the first time, and granpop looked diskaisted, making it even funnier, and pop and ma started to laff on account of me laffing, everybody laffing except granpop, and he tried 2 more times and then stuck his camera home, saying he wasent a animal fotographer and didnt take munnies pictures. Meaning ma.

A BIT OF VERSE

SLACKER AND WARRIOR
The City was crowded to watch the parade,
For news of a victory came,
And the band stirring music as usual played
The success of our troops to proclaim.

There were some in the ranks who'd borne part of the brunt,
Maimed, bullet and bayonet scarred;
The first volunteers who went to the front,
'Gainst the tyrants oppression to guard.

And among them were some who had not been across,
And never intended to go
While they had the friends and political boss
With favor on them to bestow.

Swaggering along just outside the line
Was a slacker, in uniform bright,
A warrior bold, of the stay at home kind,
Ogling the girls all his might.

A minor's commission and a gold headed cane
Were the principal stock of his kit;
As 'twas drawing room conquests that busied his brain
He thought that he had quite an outfit.

In the crowd on the sidewalk was standing a man;
A soldier, who didn't salute.
The officer noticed and up to him ran
Saying, "What do you mean, you galoot?"

Up went two empty sleeves, which made him withdraw,
And the veteran calmly did say
"Run home to your mother and tell her you saw
A genuine soldier today."

N. A. WITHERS.

A BIT OF FUN

Good Reason.
Brown—I have just one aim in life.
Hekkers—To acquire a couple of millions.
Brown—No; I want to live so that my old sweetheart will say, "There goes a man I might have married."

Thoroughly Thrashed Out.
During the dinner-hour at a Tyneside foundry a number of shop-stewards were having a heated argument about certain clauses in the manpower bill.
A deadlock seemed to have been reached when one of the disputants, a stout, middle-aged man who had remained silent during the whole debate, remarked:
"Wey, Tom, what's yer opinion? Diverent to think that Ireland should have been included in the bill!"
"Aa's not gannin' to say," replied Tom, reluctantly. "As thrashed the matter out afore w' Dicky Dunn."
"An' what did ye arrive at?" eagerly inquired the other, hoping to entice Tom into the fray.
"Wey," said Tom, solemnly, "seem' ye want to knaa, Aa'll tell we, Dicky arrived at the doctor's slightly damaged, an' Aa got bound over to keep the peace."

His Version.
Does Scotland stand where it did in Biblical knowledge?
A school inspector recently asked the head of a class, "What did the father of the prodigal son say to him when he returned?"
"Come aw' in, ye fatheaded calf," was the prompt reply.

Wrong Order.
Mrs. Brown—"Yours' come on leave, then, Mr. Jones. Did you meet my old man up the street?"
Private Jones—"Just left 'im up at the King's Head. He's getting stout, I notice."

Their Pride.
"Arry—"Did you read the list of presents Ann Smith had for her wedding?"
"Arry—"Yes, I did. The hidea for such as them 'aving the wedding' put in the paper! They might be bloomin' harlots!"
"Arry—"Fancy her mother giving

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