The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1918.

THE RECALL MOVEMENT.

The Standard has always been, and is today, a strong advocate of such movements on the part of organized labor as tend to the amelioration of conditions of life of those forming such organizations. Our own is a Union office in which no one is employed, in any mechanical department in which union ideas prevail, who is not a member of one or the other of the unions interested. We have stood by the various labor organizations in this community in the past on every occasion in which the rights of men as regards their personal well-being, and the privileges which labor ought to enjoy, have been involved. And because of this, The Standard deeply regrets that it is compelled to oppose, and oppose strongly, the most recent movement, carried on under the authority of organized labor, in this city, in which there is involved a very important principle, the repudiation of which will not affect in the slightest degree the well-being of the labor party. This movement is the attempt now being made to secure the recall of Commissioners McLellan and Hilyard, and this attempt, should it prove in any respect successful, will inevitably result in an upheaval in municipal government which may produce very serious consequences.

Certain members of the St. John police force formed an organization. Having done so they desired to affiliate with the Trades and Labor Council and thus become a unit in the great labor movement. The commissioner of public safety objected to this, holding—and we consider very rightly so—that those to whom the safety of the city is entrusted should not be closely affiliated with any organization whatever with whom, in the course of their ordinary employment, they might be compelled to come in contact. The police force of St. John must be absolutely independent of all partisan ties of no matter what form. The Standard would object just as strongly to the affiliation of the police force with the Retail Merchants' Association, with the Board of Trade or any similar organization representing business, as it is now opposed to such affiliation with bodies representing labor. Complete independence on the part of the police force must be maintained or confusion will result. The police force has every right to organize for its own welfare. It is indeed judicious that the members should so organize, for many matters arising between the police force and the city government can be more satisfactorily handled when the city deals with a united organization than with groups of individuals.

But such an organization gains nothing in straining its relationship with the city by affiliation with other bodies. Indeed, the very existence of such an affiliation would create a feeling of hostility towards the police on the part of those not associated with labor bodies.

For these and numerous other reasons it is in the best interest of St. John and of the members of the police force themselves, as well as of the great and highly esteemed labor party, that the movement now on foot shall not be successful.

GERMANY'S SHAME.

Never in the history of the world has there been such an incident as that which took place in the cabin of Admiral Beatty's flagship on Thursday of this week, when German naval officers handed over into the possession of Allied governments the greater portion of their navy. There have been wars in the past, wars at sea in which one nation after defeat has been forced to haul down its flag and to deliver into the possession of the victor such ships as were disabled or otherwise prevented from continuing in action. Surrenders after battle have been common, and there have even been instances in which numbers of ships not participating in naval engagements have been handed over to the conquerors because of the defeat of other portions of the fleet. But history nowhere records the abject surrender to conquering powers of a great navy which had been created at enormous expense for no other purpose than to crush the one to whom it was surrendered. And the humiliating part of it to Germany is that this great arm which was to have destroyed Britain has met its disgrace not only without ever having fired a shot, but after four years of cowardice and worse, during which it never even made an attempt to fight. While the German army, with ruthlessness as its motto has desolated Belgium and France, the German navy has contented itself with piratical attacks on helpless vessels and with sudden and unimportant assaults in force on detached groups of the enemy, only when it knew such groups to be very inferior in strength. There has, during the entire term of the war, been only one instance worthy of the name of a naval battle, and in that fight off the Jutland Banks the German fleet was so severely whipped that only enveloping fog and falling night saved it from annihilation. Nor would that engagement in its major phase have taken place at all were it not for the fact that the German command believed itself to be sending its strongest armament against only second class ships. Nowhere in history is recorded more abject humiliation than that which Germany has undergone in the unconditional surrender of her magnificent, but useless, navy.

THE LEARY VACCINE.

Each individual constitution possesses certain powers of resistance. Nature has given to the human body the ability to ward off diseases up to a certain point. Just as a regiment can defend a position against moderate attack, so can it offer more effective resistance when re-inforced. But even with re-inforcements, if the pressure of the enemy becomes too great, collapse must follow. The human body, in its ability to ward off disease, can be assisted by medical science, and hence the natural power of resistance to fever, to smallpox and similar diseases is in the ordinary process of medicine strengthened by inoculation, by vaccination and by similar practices. Inoculation against typhoid is effective, but even those who subject themselves to inoculation fall victims to typhoid if exposure to the germ of that disease becomes too acute and too long continued. The powers of resistance, supported by the antitoxin, are overcome. And what is true of fever is equally true of smallpox. Antidotes may be taken into the system as a precaution against certain poisons, but an overdose of the poison will produce fatal results just the same.

During the past few months the Leary Vaccine has made its appearance. In medical circles it has its advocates and it has its opponents, but generally speaking it is regarded as an experiment which has not as yet received a proper and comprehensive test. It is looked upon as a reasonable preventive measure, but as yet no one knows sufficient about it to state positively that it is a success or otherwise. It is very gratifying to note, however, that after the experience of New Brunswick during the past month or six weeks the Leary Vaccine has justified itself in the eyes of the medical profession. While detailed reports of its use and its effects are not available with sufficient finality to warrant a decisive verdict, yet sufficient is known to indicate that the percentage of those subjected to inoculation who later on contracted influenza is very small indeed. And it is equally pleasing to be told that such cases as have been watched are found among people who have been constantly and very closely exposed to the influenza germ. In spite of their own natural powers of resistance and the augmented vigor given by the vaccine, their defence has been overcome by a powerful outside pressure whereas under ordinary circumstances the contagion would not have affected them.

No one can say that this vaccine is an absolute preventive of disease, but from reports all over this province, it is clearly evident that it possesses a very distinct value, and that its use is of the utmost importance in communities and among people where the disease continues to make headway.

Dr. W. S. Carter, Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick, has refused to renew a money grant of two hundred dollars to the City of St. John for the operation of a technical school. The same Dr. W. S. Carter is now in Ottawa, according to despatches received, appearing before the government as a delegate to request federal assistance for technical education. Either the superintendent believes in technical education, or he does not. If he does, why not assistance to St. John? If he does not, why the appeal to the Federal Government?

Well! Well! Well! Ernest W. Stuart, of Garnett Post Office, has done it. We thought better of you, Ernest. Why did you send those dandelions? Don't you think we have had enough? If you could see our janitor with pails and brooms and a wheelbarrow—but that is enough! Please never do it again. We don't care whether you pick them in a haystack or in your mother's parlor. We know there are dandelions at Garnett, and there are dandelions everywhere; the country is full of them, and we have enough for all necessary decorative purposes.

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

FEEDING THE GERMANS.

Editor of the Standard.

The writer has interviewed the man in the street as to whether we shall feed the Germans, and the reply has invariably been that the average resident in these parts has enough to do to feed himself without bothering about the Hun. Before venturing an opinion it would seem to be necessary to know exactly what is meant by the expression, "Shall we feed the Germans?" If the average working man has all he can do to feed himself and family (considering market prices) who are the "we" referred to? It is certain that the ordinary wage-workers are not going to feed the hyenas" at least not directly, and it would be illuminating to know whether it is contemplated forwarding foodstuffs free or for price and profit.

QUIZ.

Mr Editor: You have invited New Brunswickers to give their opinion about feeding the Germans. Here's mine—

Among the prisoners taken by the Germans at the battle of Ypres was a poor Irish lad, horribly wounded in the body and head, one eye blown out and lying on his cheek. The poor fellow was moaning piteously and his fellow prisoners were tenderly caring for him as best they could, while his life was ebbing away.

A German officer came along, and seeing the poor helpless prisoner, caught hold of the eyeball and tore it from its socket and fed it to his dog. And the German women standing by called out, "Bravo! officer!"

Would I feed these vampires. No, I would deny them even the vomit of a dog.

Yours truly,
A. W. Hay,
Woodstock.

The Editor of St John Standard:

Sir,—You ask for expressions of opinion on the question whether or not we shall send food to the Central Powers. In deepest seriousness, from a heart still yearning for certain young lives laid down in France and Flanders, and burning with indignation because of the hellish inhumanity of our enemies, I maintain that the Allies, as Christian nations, have no option in the matter. The Bible contains what the great Duke of Wellington called our "marching orders," and therein we find explicit instructions bearing directly upon the present case. "If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink."

The German claim to the title of superhuman has been discredited for all time; but we may aspire to it, and by Divine help attain it if we rise above all those perfectly natural impulses, born of the wrongs we burn under, to retaliate to deal without mercy with those who have so wantonly deluged the world with woe.

We cannot doubt what the verdict of posterity will be concerning Germany; she has definitely given the lie to all her professions as a Christian nation. Thus far, in both policy and practice, we have stood the test; but a sterner test is before us, and it is for us now to determine what place posterity will give to us.

We have, by God's help, conquered Germany; now we must conquer ourselves. Stern justice for those responsible for the war and for all the crimes committed throughout its course; but a general policy of mercy towards the peoples who, even though not unwillingly perhaps, were led by them.

Our conception of Christianity as opposed to Germany's is now being tried by fire; God grant that it stand the test.

PILGRIM.

EDUCATION.

To the Editor of The St. John Standard:

Dear Sir,—I have read with some consternation in your issue of today a report of the altercation which has taken place between the Moncton School Board and the Provincial Board of Education, which is, of course, W. S. Carter of Fredericton, as all the other members merely attend the meetings to receive his instructions.

Considering the importance of the work of teachers and considering the fact that teachers are worse paid than any other public servant in the country (for example the average salary of New Brunswick third-class teachers, which is by far the greater majority in the province is $262.00 per annum, see Canada Year Book for 1917) it is altogether contrary to the canons of common sense, fair play and ordinary honesty that Moncton teachers should be robbed of a portion of their emoluments for something that they could not possibly avoid. Moreover they were carrying out instructions and could do nothing but obey. Even without any such threatened reduction the salaries which teachers receive in this province are a disgrace to New Brunswick. One lady teacher last summer after receiving her salary cheque and paying her board expenses had only five dollars left, not enough to buy transportation to her home town. Another lady teacher had not even enough to pay her expenses, and had to send home to her parents for extra funds in order to enable her to pay her boarding house keeper. The province is full of such cases. In spite of this well known state of things we now hear that a number of teachers in Moncton are for no fault of their own deprived of emoluments on which they rely in order to meet even their extremely modest engagements.

This is not by any means the first time that there has been open hostility between the chief superintendent of education and the general public. Only this month the St. John School Board are informed that they will not in future receive the grant to enable them to conduct free evening schools. This matter is going to be contested with the government and, in spite of the opposition of the principal educational authority, the schools in question have been opened and will continue to do the same excellent work that they have done in the past.

The St. John School Board last winter were again at daggers drawn with the chief superintendent who threatened to refuse to pay the day school teachers their ordinary grant. But as soon as he received a little extra instruction in the published Provincial School Act, he found that he had to climb down. This kind of thing has gone on too long. It is responsible for the almost universal discontent among the teachers. It has driven many of our best teachers from the province and no one can blame them. Unless something is done to put a stop to it, it will plunge New Brunswick still further and further into the abyss of ignorance and incompetence, and will finally result in the commercial and economic ruin of the province.

We have now come to the most crucial period of our country's history. Never in the memory of man was greater responsibility attached to the work of our schools. The school teacher has the future of the country in the hollow of her hand. Throughout Canada we have constantly heard our leaders say "Look to your schools. The prosperity of the whole country now depends upon the work of the elementary teacher." This is absolutely true, We are just about to see a great international contest for economic supremacy and those nations will win who have the best reserve forces of well trained men and women. That training depends upon the schools. The teacher is the most important servant of the state. In New Brunswick the teacher is badly paid and often harshly and contemptuously treated. This kind of thing must stop or New Brunswick will surely sink lower and lower until it holds no place whatever in the world's affairs.

Education in this province has been getting worse and worse during the last few years, until it is now at a very low ebb indeed. Even the published details (see Annual Report for last year) reveal an appalling state of mismanagement and maladministration. Teachers are working in woodsheds and barns. They complain that they cannot have even necessary implements for their work. One teacher even organized a concert (see page 11) in order to raise funds necessary for school purposes. In some of the districts many of the schools were not opened at all and the children were allowed to run wild. In the north of the province there are wide areas where the children are growing up in absolute ignorance and illiteracy. And where there is such lack of education, crime is bound to follow, as is evident from the record of published convictions. We have a Compulsory Attendance Act, but it has been allowed to devolve into a farce. On page A 8 the report gives particulars of the attendance throughout the province of all the children in the several grades, I. to VIII. of the public elementary schools for the term which closed on June 30th, 1917. In Grade I. there are 16,002 children. In Grade II. there are 10,561. As we follow the figures through the higher grades there is a gradual falling in attendance until we see in Grade V. there are 7,983 scholars. There is then a sudden drop and we find that in Grade VI. there are only 2,862 pupils, in Grade XI. there are 343 and in Grade XII. only 7 remain out of a total of about 65,000. This shows clearly that the Compulsory Attendance Act is not enforced and the educational officials are indifferent to their duty.

This inefficient educational administration throughout the Province of New Brunswick has been getting worse instead of better until the number of inhabitants five years of age and upwards who cannot read or write has in several parts of New Brunswick reached the appalling figure of 35.60 p. c. (See Official Record, p. 467.)

We have been short of teachers. Our best instructors have left the province because they refuse to work for the salary offered or to tolerate the treatment which is accorded the profession. Therefore the Board of Education have recently adopted the worst possible policy in order to meet this demand. They have reduced the minimum age for entrance into the Normal School to sixteen years. Consequently in 1919 a large number of undeveloped children, uneducated and badly trained, will be launched into New Brunswick as teachers, and just at a time when our schools and children should be under the care of the best and most capable men and women that the country could possible hire.

The provincial government have recently passed an act dealing with vocational education. Although it does not go far, nevertheless it is an excellent start and would lead to great things. Yet what has been done? There is neither energy nor executive ability to administer. It should not have been difficult to rouse the enthusiasm of the people and make them see the wise business policy of investing the money that would be required locally to pay half the necessary expenses. Nevertheless the act has not been a success and the sums already spent in investigation and administration are to be wasted because we have not competent educational officials.

This is a most serious matter, Mr. Editor, and it vitally concerns the future prosperity of this province. It ought to be brought very prominently before the notice of our leading men. Surely there are enough public spirited men in New Brunswick who are willing and prepared to take this matter up before it is too late. Merchants in this province have already declared on more than one occasion that it is extremely difficult to hire a boy who has brain enough to intelligently understand even the simplest instructions. Mr. Editor, that is a slander to the boys. They have the brain but it is not developed. It is not the boys' fault; it is the fault of the system which is bad. What we need is an axe and a new broom, and these two instruments should be wielded without hesitation or sentiment. That is the only means whereby New Brunswick can be saved before it is too late.

Thanking you for your courtesy in allowing me to express myself at such length,

Yours very truly,
ONCE A TEACHER.

Nov. 21st, 1918.

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

We had dinnir about haff past 2 last Sundey, on account of everybody getting up so late on Sundeys. We asked ma to have it late so we would have time to get hungry and appreciate it more, wich wile we was eating it ma sed, Now, remember, everybody, you cant ixpect to finish dinnir after 3 oclock and then have suppir, too. Nora is going out this aftirnoon, and Im sure Im not going to bother with a regular suppir immeeditly after giving you your dinnir so late, so enybody that wunts a bite to eat tonite can jest help themselves to some bred and jam or sumthing.

Goodniss knows Ill not wunt eny suppir after all this chickin and mash potatoes and pudding and everything, sed my sister Gladdis.

Persinlly, I doubt weather Ill ever eat agen, sed pop.

I wont be hungry agen before tomorrow, enyway, I sed.

And about 7 oclock we was all setting in the setting room, and I started to get jest as hungry as if I hadent had eny dinnir sints brekfist, and I looked at pop and he was looking at his watch and then looking at ma nitting and then looking at his watch agen, and I looked at Gladdis and she was looking at pop looking at ma, and I thawt, G, I wish sumbody would say sumthing about suppir.

Wich nobody did, and I started to get so empty it was fearse, saying, Are you hungry, ma?

You know what I told you about suppir, sed ma, and pop sed, Well, mother, if the boy is hungry dont you think he awt to have a little suppir? and ma sed, Willyum Potts, I reely bleeve youre saying that for yourself.

Well, now that you bring the subjeck up, I wouldent refuse a cupple of fried eggs and maybe a little cold chickin or sumthing, sed pop.

Well I declare, sed ma, and Gladdis sed, Im not hungry myself, after all that late dinner, but if the rest are going to have suppir, I mite as well go down.

Wich she did, eating more than enybody except me. And after this we're going to have Sundey dinnir the same time we always did.

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