

## The St. John Standard

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## THE COMING SESSION.

The coming session of parliament will undoubtedly prove to be one of the most interesting in the history of Canada. Since adjournment was taken last Spring events of the greatest importance have transpired which have brought about an entirely new set of conditions. Our legislators when they assemble will find themselves redefining their ideas to provide, as a body, complete reconstruction of the existing methods of administration to meet these changed circumstances. Since the establishment of coalition, the Cabinet has been given practically a free hand. This is as it should be. It was felt that circumstances arising from time to time demanding immediate attention could be handled safely enough by members of the Council and that it would be dangerous to delay in such matters for the purpose of summoning Parliament. Hence, the application of the War Measures Act has empowered the Cabinet with what amounts to practically complete authority over all matters of administration and over important questions of policy. This condition has justified to some extent the assertion that Canada has for some considerable time been governed, not by parliamentary resolutions, but by orders-in-council. The feeling has very generally prevailed—and its wisdom has been borne out by results—that this condition was necessary in time of war. Theoretically a state of war still exists, but for all practical purposes hostilities have ended and the era of peace has returned, in spite of the fact that many matters of a military nature yet demand attention and remain of first importance along administrative lines. The feeling dominant now is that peace is here and that restrictions existing during the war are no longer requisite; consequently there will be readjustment of legislation looking to the resumption of pre-war conditions. The coming session will witness the abrogation of many measures provided for the prosecution of Canada's warlike aims, and the substitution of other enactments looking to demobilization, repatriation, etc.

In addition to all this there will be certain criticism of Union Government and criticism of the opposition. Neither party has shown itself to be perfect, but the best thought of Canada today is that Union Government has handled the very serious war problems of the past year with marked success and that the best interests of this country demand the continuation of the present administration for as long at least as may be necessary to deal with those important matters requiring immediate attention.

## THAT HARTLAND BRIDGE.

It really seems a pity, when the Honorable Peter is worrying himself into an early grave over the condition of the Hartland Bridge, that he does not do something more than write letters. According to all accounts, Mr. Veniot has been writing a lot of letters to engineers and doing other things in many parts of the Province in an endeavor to find out what could be done to fix this bridge. And while he has, since March 16, 1918, been giving this famous bridge his closest attention, and nothing else, he should have notified the Government press at Hartland to that effect in order that it might bear with him in his sore trials. The Observer, in its last issue, which was published after The Standard offered a few brief comments on the condition of the Hartland Bridge, has this to say: "Another week has passed and still there is nothing definite as to when we shall have a new bridge. Occasionally a loaded team crosses with the driver taking care to walk some distance behind the load, but traffic from the west side is practically at a standstill. This condition is a serious drawback both to business in town and the country at large. It is a condition costing the businessmen and farmers so dearly that it cannot long be tolerated."

What a shame that a good Fosterite paper should say such unkind things about the paragon of administration who hails from the North Shore.

## A HEALTH CAMPAIGN.

Military authorities throughout Canada, assisted by civil courts, have recently undertaken a campaign for the purpose of checking the spread of venereal diseases. In this effort the United States Government, through its various administrative departments, is rendering valuable aid. For it is recognized everywhere that these various types of disease have been spreading at an alarming rate during the past few years, and that the general health of both countries is threatened. In both military and civil circles in St. John the prevalence of these diseases has been recognized and it has been found—this being a matter of record—that among soldiers more than seventy-five per cent. were affected before enlistment, indicating a somewhat alarming state of affairs in the civil population. So far as has been apparent here the method of attack against this evil is not likely to produce the desired results. Two

women have recently been arrested and found guilty of communicating disease, and have been heavily fined. This will accomplish nothing, for even a couple of years' imprisonment will not cure the afflicted, and the presence in a jail of persons so affected must of necessity be a source of danger to other inmates. And nothing whatever can be accomplished by compelling such persons to pay five hundred dollar fines, for after payment has been made the evil goes on just as previously. There must be some system of segregation or of treating persons so affected, of keeping them away from others, even if it necessitates the establishment of a special hospital, where such cases may receive attention. If this campaign is to be effective it must not rest with the punishment of an occasional offender who may be caught, but must provide as well for the elimination of disease.

## A PAPER MILL STRIKE.

There is a strike at the John R. Booth paper mills at Ottawa, out of which may eventually develop a most peculiar situation. Mr. Booth has refused an increase in wages to a certain number of his employees, as a result of which refusal more than four hundred men in the paper mills quit work. A little later practically all the remaining employees knocked off and the Booth mills, which produce one hundred tons of newspaper daily, closed down. Labor representatives asked for a Board of Conciliation, to which proposition Mr. Booth refused to agree, claiming that he was able to handle his own business and that he would settle with his men personally or not at all. He also explained that he did not care a continental whether the mill ever re-opened. The Booth mills furnish paper to a number of Canadian newspapers, besides shipping to United States. Naturally, being deprived of their supply from Booth's, these newspaper publishers looked around for another source of supply, and so far as can be learned are purchasing elsewhere. As a result of this, the employees of the Booth mills contend that these newspapers should not be permitted by organized labor to secure supplies from other mills, and urge that the strike be extended to all these other mills for the purpose of forcing Mr. Booth to a settlement.

The question of where a newspaper purchases its supply of white paper is largely accidental, but depends to some extent on geographical conditions. In so far as is possible the publisher procures his white paper from the mill nearest him and there is no particular reason why any one mill should be patronized by any one newspaper. Hence it is unfair that Ottawa and surrounding papers which have been buying from the Booth mills should be penalized on that account when they are entirely innocent parties in this strike. It is more ridiculous that other newspapers in all parts of Canada and the United States should be subjected even to the suggestion that they should be involved in difficulties because of some dispute with which they have absolutely no concern and about which they care nothing. The strike is still on, so far as can be learned, but has not as yet been extended to include other paper mills, although this may occur at any time.

## WHAT THEY SAY

**The Churches' Great Opportunity.**  
London Advertiser: The war was waged in the spirit of the brotherhood of man. The churches have a heaven-sent opportunity to capitalize the belief that brave men demonstrated with their bodies.

**Belgium's Heroic King.**  
New York World: The soldier king whose first speech in Parliament after four years of exile is a counsel and pledge of democratization sets a good example to neighbors who aim at re-establishing the old autocracy of birth and wealth or at establishing a new autocracy of anarchy and pillage.

**Must Still Save Food.**  
Buffalo News: The food problem is not diminished and the coming of peace will probably aggravate it. It is therefore imperative that we exercise the strictest economy in food matters and even be prepared for further restrictions and regulations that the inter-allied food council's plans may be effectively carried out and worldwide famine precluded.

**Sauce for the Gander.**  
Baltimore American: One of the submarine officers at the surrender defended the murder of crews of torpedoed ships as a military necessity, as otherwise they would be left to fight. On the same principle we might refuse the aid to Germany she is asking for, as a military necessity, as otherwise she would be strong enough some day to begin another war. It is a poor rule which will not work both ways.

**To Whom Honor is Due.**  
New York Times: Alone and practically unassisted with, Edward laid the foundation of the world's salvation. Germany herself has not hesitated to blame him for her plight. It is not time that a grateful world should accept Germany at her word in this. And if it must erect monuments and victory arches, let it not forget to honor the greatest figure that has completed the stage in the

past century. The man whose elegant and gloved hand outstretched the hand of Edward, by the grace of God the "Savior of Democracy."

**After Life's Fulfilment.**  
Chicago Tribune: Our soldiers have lived swiftly and have felt the supreme emotions. It is not inconceivable that they will be content with their fiefdom, with the sub-conscious knowledge that they have lived more in their year or two than we shall ever live. Those who expect our soldiers will have so relished the taste of battle that home will appear mild and insipid have yet to consider that the human appetite for excitement is "permanently satisfied." Into their days over there they have compressed years. They will be glad to let time catch up with them.

**A Broader Vista Opens Up.**  
Boston Globe: We have been provincial in the past in thought and utterance, we Americans, and it matters little because we were also provincial, isolated beyond the oceans, in fact and interest. If we filled the world to ourselves, we had a separate world of our own to fill. Now we have become part of the larger world, and the human appetite for excitement is "permanently satisfied." Into their days over there they have compressed years. They will be glad to let time catch up with them.

**A Model By a Master.**  
London Daily Chronicle: Unlike Napoleon, the "King of Prussia" is not likely to have the chance of abdicating more than once. If in penning his abdication the Kaiser finds it difficult to express his views on the "defensive" war he has lost, he might do worse than use the final valediction of Napoleon after substituting "Germany" for "France." When he began this war, wrote Napoleon after losing Waterloo, "to uphold National Independence, France may count on all efforts, and on the co-operation of all national authorities. I was justified in anticipating success, and I braved all the declarations of the Powers against my person. Circumstances seem to have changed. I offer myself as a sacrifice to the hatred against France. May your enemies prove sincere, and may it appear they wage war against me alone. My political life is terminated."

## A BIT OF VERSE

**THEY WILL RETURN.**  
They will not come in swinging line,  
They will not march along the street,  
But they will see each tender sign,  
We make for those we long to greet.  
They'll see the tears in gentle eyes  
That watch the broken ranks go by,  
They'll hear the mothers' sobs and sighs,  
And understand the reason why.  
The missing brave for whom we yearn  
In victory's hour will all return.

Because his comrades left him there  
To sleep 'neath Flanders' poppy rows,  
Think not that he will fail to share  
In all the praise the world bestows.  
Think not that he will fail to hear  
The music and the shouts of joy.  
He will be always hovering near,  
Oh, mother of each missing boy,  
He'll know, across the dusky rim,  
That all your smiles are meant for him!  
When they return to sound of cheers,  
And all their comrades are at hand,  
The shouts the living soldier hears  
Will also reach the absent one.  
When all the battle flags are furled  
And peace has come to every land,  
The joy that reigns throughout the world  
The dead will know and understand.  
They will be near to hear and see  
And share in victory's jubilee.

## A BIT OF FUN

**That Sick Friend.**  
Jock—"But my wife handed me a big surprise."  
Harry—"What was it?"  
Jock—"I told her I was going to stay up with a sick friend and she said she hoped I would hold as good hands as he did in the game."—Boston Globe.

**Why I Like June Brides.**  
J. B. (at home)—Will you please take my fruit order right away?  
Me—Yes'm.  
J. B.—Please send me two heads of lettuce, one quart of pickles, one cucumber and a box of parades.

**Effectual; Possibly Official.**  
Puzzled Income-Tax Collector—And is the separation from your husband an official one?  
Munition Kate—I dunno about "official." All I know is that when 'e comes to our 'ouse we call the police and they chuck 'im out.—London Punch.

**Where He Belonged.**  
Sergeant—Now then! Line up alphabetically for pay. What's your name, my lad?  
Private—Phips, sir.  
Sergeant—Well, what yer doing up here? Get back among the F's at once.—Pearson's Weekly.

**Stopped on the Way.**  
"This morning I dropped my watch on the floor."  
"Did you watch stop?"  
"Certainly. Did you think it would go through."—Exchange.

**High Wages.**  
Salesman—I suppose you require a grand plan, madam?  
Mrs. Mervish—Grand! I want a magnificent one.—London Opinion.

**Odd.**  
Here are two facts as singular as well can be desired:  
Fast colors do not run at all.  
And wheels run best when tired.

**In the Jungle.**  
A party of sportsmen had been out all day big game hunting, and as they rested after their day's labors they began to grow hungry.  
"Last time I was out here on this game," said the quiet man, "I met a magnificent lion almost face to face."

## Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

I was doing my homework on the sitting room floor and wishing people could hire schoolboys to do their homework for them, and all of a sudden I heard yelling outside like fellows enjoying themselves, and I said, G. pop, there the fellows.  
How interesting, said pop.  
Do you hear them, pop? I said.  
Everybody that didn't hear that crew would have to be deaf, blind, paralyzed, and unconscious, said pop. Meaning they were making a fearful noise. Wich they was, and I said, Can I go out with them, pop?  
Have you finished your homework? said pop.  
Not quite, about half, I can get up early and finish it, I said, and pop said, The picture of you getting up early is very affecting, but I am a man of reason rather than sentiment, and unless you can prove to my satisfaction that going out to play with the boys is more important than finishing your homework, you'd better finish the aforesaid homework.  
Well G. pop, I can prove it, I said.  
The burden of proof rests on the victim, said pop. Meaning go ahead and prove it, and I said, Yes sir, its more important to go out and play because peoples brains dont work rite unless they get exercise every day.  
Didnt you tell me you were late for supper because you were playing ball in the park till after dark? said pop.  
Yes sir, I said, and pop said, Well then your brains has had enough steam for one day, and I said, Yes sir, but if I stay here and study, im afraid I mite keep thinking of the fellows and prevent myself from doing my lessons rite.  
Yes, but on the other hand, if you were out playing you mite keep thinking of your homework and ruin the game, said pop.  
No sir, no sir, I said, and pop said, Do you promise? and I said, Yes sir, and pop said, Very well then.  
And I went out and got in a game of prisoners base and didnt even think of my homework once.

With a terrible roar, the beast sprang at me, but just missed his aim by jumping two feet too high. Disappointed, it dashed away into the woods. The next day we set out to track the beast down, and at last came upon it in an open space in the jungle—practically low jumps.

**Heading Him Off.**  
"This law is a queer business."  
"How so?"  
"They swear a man to tell the truth."  
"What then?"  
"And every time he shows signs of doing it some lawyer objects."

**Its Usual Name.**  
"What a narrow street that is!" said the visitor being shown about the suburban town by a citizen.  
"Yes, it's narrow," replied the citizen.  
"And in wretched condition. See the holes in the pavement?"  
"Yes, it looks bad."  
"And dirty everywhere. What is the name of that street?"  
"Grand street."

**Cupid Gets a Black Eye.**  
"Hello! Willie. Is your sister engaged this evening?" asked young Mr. Goox, affably.  
"Not yet," replied Willie, "but she said if she didn't land you tonight she might as well give it up as a bad job."

**His Exact Feelings.**  
"How do you feel on getting over the gripe?"  
"Like a two-year-old."  
"I thought the gripe left you weak."  
"It does. I feel about as strong as a two-year-old kid."

**A Harder Thing.**  
Grey—How are you getting along in the stock market?  
Green—Well, I'll tell you. I traded a lot of money for experience and now I'm trying to reverse the process.  
"What! Didn't you catch anything at all?"  
"Yes, I caught a dozen big ones, but they were stolen from me on the car."  
"Well, never mind, old man; you've brought home a new story at any rate."

**Unconditional; Not Unconditional.**  
The Wisdom of Bennie.  
"My boy Bennie is lazy, but I must say he is smart," said the musician.  
"Is he going to follow in your footsteps?"  
"No. I learned to play the trombone and I've got to march about eight miles every time there is a parade. Bennie is learning the harp, so they will have to let him sit down."

**In Trouble.**  
"What's in the mail from your husband today?"  
"A couple of needles. He wants me to thread 'em and mail 'em back to him. Got to do some sewing, he says."

**Where He Was.**  
Michael—Yis, mum, I wuz in the charge, but a bullet hit me.  
Old Lady—Were you incapacitated?  
Michael—No, mum. I was in Flanders.

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