

# The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 33 Prince William Street,  
St. John, N. B., Canada.

**H. V. MACKINNON,**  
Managing Editor.  
**ALFRED E. MCGINLEY,**  
Editor.  
Yearly Subscriptions: \$5.00 Do not enclose cash in an unregistered letter. Use postal notes, money order, or check.  
By Mail: 2.00 per letter. Use postal notes, money order, or check.  
Semi-Weekly to United States: 2.00 mailing.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 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.

## BRITAIN'S LIQUOR PROBLEM.

English newspapers forecast that the new government will take pronounced action in the matter of the liquor problem, either by buying the traffic or enforcing important restrictive measures concerning the sale of liquor. In his recent statement to the British Commons the premier made no announcement of his policy but there is no doubt that drastic action will speedily come.

In the recent parliamentary agitation for the elimination of the larger evils of the liquor traffic Mr. Lloyd George took a prominent part, and the world clearly remembers his striking declaration that liquor was a greater curse to Great Britain than the armies of the Teutonic forces. Already the Board of Liquor Control has been formed, in munition areas, no-treating, limited hours of sale and no credit. In some munition areas and dockyard centres all the licenses have been taken over and the bars are now operated under government control. So far as the communities affected are concerned these restrictive measures have made a great improvement but the general license situation in Britain is still far from satisfactory.

For instance, as an exchange point out, the breweries required for the year ending last September 1,224,000 tons of barley, 305,000 tons of other grains, 65,000 tons of rice, maize and by-products; 119,000 tons of sugar, and 47,000 tons of molasses. That is a total of 1,708,000. When foodstuffs are scarce and high in Britain, and labor is short, and economy by every one absolutely imperative, the spending of \$800,000,000 a year on drink naturally is singled out for attack. The grain used by the breweries is mostly home grown, but if it were available for other purposes the country would need to import so much less. Official figures put the saving in tonnage from the diversion of this grain and other materials to proper uses at 1,000,000 tons net of shipping. This represents about one-thirteenth of the net tonnage of the marine.

The newspapers are forecasting strong action by the new Lloyd George government, and conditions in all respects are such that there will be the least possible opposition to a prohibitory enactment, or something closely approaching to it.

## THE DUTY OF THE NEW YEAR.

Today a new page is turned in the book of life. What will be written on it during the year of 1917?

The dawn of the year finds the Empire still at war, but with the prospect of victorious peace growing daily more certain. How long the struggle will continue is a question beyond the power of ordinary men to answer. A year ago it was thought it would have finished before today, but the ferocity of the fighting has not abated, and while the Allied armies, numerically and in point of ability, are believed to be superior to the enemy, the struggle has not reached a point where the defeat of Germany can be said to have been accomplished.

For the men in the trenches, therefore, the new year holds hard work, hardship and danger, but they will meet it as they have met the difficulties and perils of the past twelve months.

What does it hold for those at home?

It should hold remembrance and recognition; grateful, proud remembrance of the sacrifices made in our behalf by the men who have donned the khaki and gone overseas to fight our battles; recognition of the duty we owe to them, to their dependents, and to our country. For those who have been bereaved there should be loving kindness and tender condolences; for those to whom the days bring burden of anxiety and longing, anxiety for loved ones absent from the family circle, longing for a cessation of hostilities and the return of the soldier boys to the home, there should be sympathy and tangible appreciation.

To every heart and mind the duty of the new year should appeal with compelling force. We should so live as to be worthy of those who are facing our dangers for us, who are bearing the burden in the heat of battle that our homes shall continue invio-

late, our security unimpaired. This is the message of duty the new year brings to each one of us.

## THE ENTENTE REPLY.

There can be no mistaking the tenor of the reply of the Entente Powers to the peace suggestions of President Wilson. Great Britain and her allies will end hostilities against Germany just as soon as the enemy announces her willingness to pay the penalty for her misdeeds and provides guarantees for the faithful performance of her pledges. On any other basis peace proposals from Germany or from any neutral, no matter how well intentioned they may be, represent simply a wasted effort.

The whole record of the Teutonic powers from and before the outbreak of war has been one of broken pledges and violated agreements. The Teutons were the first to break the peace and it is not for them to say how or when it shall be restored. As the Allied note states "It is not upon the word of Germany after violation of her agreements that the peace, broken by her, may be based." And in conclusion, referring to the German peace proposal, the Allied note puts it thus: "The Allied governments, closely united to one another and in perfect sympathy with their peoples, refuse to consider proposals so empty and insincere." In no other words could the German story be so well told. It is altogether natural that the Entente reply should be just what it is.

This war must and will go on until it can be ended on terms and conditions that make it certain that never again shall it be necessary to repeat the experiences of the past two and one-half years.

1916-1917.

Old year good-bye  
No doubt you did yer best,  
We're a bit frail.

A braw chiel's comin' tak  
Yer time and rest,  
To him—all hail!

## THE DURHAM RAIDERS' DOOM

Spectacle Witnessed by Many Thousands.

(Manchester Guardian.)

A Town in Durham, Nov. 29.—Last night, just before midnight, a Zeppelin ventured to pass over this dark and sleeping town. It was returning from an inland journey to the sea on its way home, and as it passed across the country it dropped bombs promiscuously, as if it was getting rid of a troublesome freight.

When the airship arrived over here it was discovered by our defensive searchlights, which held it and would search this way and that, convulsively endeavoring to escape their stinging light, and its manoeuvres made it appear rather like a rising fish speared by silver prongs. There were guns ready, and they opened fire on the monster thousands of feet up in the clear sky. Invisible aeroplanes, patrolling the air, were also directed to their quarry by the broad, steady beams which were thrust towards the stars.

In a last panicky effort to lift itself clear of the enveloping dangers, the airship let fall all its remaining explosives, and they dropped upon this town. Guns were firing and the bombs were falling simultaneously. Houses were being wrecked, and the noise was nearly as terrifying as a naval bombardment, though fortunately, no one was hurt.

Red Glow Reveals the Aeroplanes. Shells were seen to burst like deadly fireworks about the Zeppelin, and the expectantly anxious watchers grew increasingly keen. Suddenly, as if at a given signal, the firing ceased. The now wakeful inhabitants, if they were not already in the streets, looked from their windows and doors, and saw on the long grey body overhead a spot of red near the stern. The spot widened into a glow, the glow grew to a flare, the flare ran from end to end of the Zeppelin, and the whole earth and sky were lit up with an intensely brilliant light.

In that light far away up a solitary aeroplane was seen circling down to earth again. It was seen but for a moment and then almost forgotten, and afterwards it came to be wondered

whether the guns or the aeroplanes had brought about the night raiders' destruction. We know now that it was that little machine that had done the Goliath to death.

But at that moment the appalling spectacle of the giant airship falling headlong in flames engrossed every eye. It fell nose forward at a sharp slant. It fell faster and faster, and the blazing gas streamed in ribbons far behind and above it. Tremulous tongues of flame broke out and gleamed in weird detachment for a moment before the darkness blotted them out. The town grew bright in every part, and light was reflected from innumerable windows. People who have come into the town tell of how they saw that light from twenty miles away.

## Swallowed Up By the Sea

In its fall the Zeppelin broke in two, the larger part dropping the smaller quickly and blazing the brighter until it plumped, hissing into the sea, followed immediately by the lesser part. For half an hour after it fell, I have been told, flames were seen lifting and falling in the gentle sea. When an examination boat arrived at the spot, not a trace of the airship was visible. The sea had swallowed it up. Some say that the Zeppelin took a minute to fall, others say three minutes. The fact is that no one was so unconcerned as to mark the time. One man who was in the street went to the house for a pair of glasses and was back in the street in time to watch the greater part of the fall. Another aroused his wife that she might share the thrilling spectacle, and they also were in time to see the fall, so probably the estimate of three minutes is the more correct. But from first to last, from the sound of the earliest bomb to the falling of the Zeppelin into the sea, there was a space of not more than five minutes.

## Damage in the Town

The damage in the town is considerable, but much less than might have been expected. The structural damage is almost entirely confined to a house in a working-class residential district. The wreckage of windows has spread in a curious way to quite distant streets. Eighteen bombs have been accounted for. Six of them fell in the neighborhood of a village five miles inland. Four fell between that village and this town; two fell in a public park, and six in the town itself.

A woman has died of shock and thirteen persons have reported injuries, but only seven have been detained, and of these seven only two are in a serious condition. The greatest damage has been caused by a bomb which fell in a back street between two rows of houses. The force of the explosion was more to one side than the other, and the houses of one row were shaken and broken, windows being blown out, slates lifted, and doors burst open. Houses on the opposite side of the street were by this same explosion stripped of all their glass, and from one house the front row of bricks was knocked out, leaving the inner row standing.

## Off Norfolk Coast

The East Coast, Nov. 29.—I am writing this from a port on the east coast which has had a good many alarms during the war. Today, however, it finds ample compensation for all its troubles. Early last night there were indications in the town that something unusual was happening and that naval and military men were unusually busy. Many people spent the night watching for something to happen, but nothing occurred until about six o'clock.

Many were awakened at that hour by hearing explosions. One of my informants said that as soon as she heard the explosion she thought there was a bombardment, and hurriedly got up. She was afraid to light the room lest it should be seen from outside, but the flashes in the sky were so brilliant that the room was as light as day. By the time she got into the street the whole of the place seemed to be out of control in intense silence. Every available searchlight was now in action, and very soon they were holding the airship firmly, while a

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number of guns from various directions seemed to be making excellent work. The morning was fine, but there was some mist over the sea, and there was great excitement as it was seen that the Zeppelin was trying to hide in the mist and get away to sea. Meanwhile the land defenses were making excellent practice, and it was thought that at least one hit was scored, but the Zeppelin was getting further and further away, and it was soon impossible from the shore to make out what exactly was happening.

After an interval of a few minutes the sky was suddenly lit up with a huge crimson glow, familiar to those who have seen Zeppelins brought down before. The spectacle was a very curious one owing to the fact that the flames were seen through a mist. The Zeppelin came down zig-zag fashion, cutting a path through the mist till it touched the sea, but for some time later there was a curious corkscrew line of smoke reaching right down to the sea from the point where it was hit, about 8,000 feet up.

Official reports describe the attack by aeroplanes, but few people on shore, with glasses, could see anything of these. Nor was it possible to see any sign of wreckage. The Zeppelin disappeared completely.

In the town the excitement was prodigious. One sober citizen said to me that the entire population seemed suddenly to have gone mad. People were dancing in the streets like children, and the cheering was tremendous. They turned out in all sorts of costumes, quite regardless of the bitter cold. The sight, they said, was quite enough to keep them warm.

## A Fight in the Air

An east coast correspondent states that as the Zeppelin slowly sank in flames the crowd on shore cheered with might and main, while the sirens of steamers hooted out in triumph. Four aeroplanes were seen making their way northwards, and as they came in sight well out to sea the crowd gave another mighty cheer, and then went home to breakfast, well satisfied.

It was afterwards learned that before the Zeppelin was destroyed there was a regular duel in the air between the Zeppelin and the aeroplane men. Those on the airship fired again and again, and our aeroplanes replied with interest. This went on for quite fifteen minutes, and then the finishing stroke was given.

Steamers were sent out to search for the wreckage, but nothing was found except black scum and floating oil. The Zeppelin is described as one of the latest type, very long, with two iron crosses painted upon her.

Another correspondent says that after the Zeppelin's fall into the water a large crowd gathered on the beach and descended on the coast. He was given a tremendous ovation. Townspeople carried him shoulder-high through streets crowded with cheering people, while the sirens of the shipping shrieked triumphantly.

At a Yorkshire Town  
An Inland Yorkshire Town, Nov. 29.—A warm welcome was given two Zeppelins which appeared over an outskirts of this inland Yorkshire town last

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night. Their stay was short and not agreeable, for it is believed that one of them was hit two or three times. Nor did the visit appear to be worth the risk, for no loss of life or accident occurred, and a few small damaged houses in a quarter of a mile area represent the result of the dropping of a dozen bombs. In all three houses were damaged and one destroyed. There was no military damage.

The first Zeppelin sent out two bombs, but, evidently alarmed, it sheered off in three minutes towards the coast. Later its fellow appeared by the lights. The anti-aircraft guns speedily got into action, and shot after shot was fired. The night was clear, bright, and starry, and every motion of the enemy could be seen. An ample warning had been given, there were thousands of people in the streets, who cheered every shot, crying "Go on, go on," as the gunners got nearer to their mark, and it was the general opinion that the two last shots got home. The Zeppelin dipped, and then receding rose rapidly and disappeared after a few minutes.

One bomb dropped at the junction of two thoroughfares in an outlying district, demolishing a dwelling-house, which had been vacated just in time, and making a large hole in the road. Two incendiary bombs fell into a small lock-up grocer's shop, but caused little damage. Others went into some gardens and a football field.

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