

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1918.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—M. M. The King.  
 TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

### THE WAR SITUATION.

Judging from the despatches of last night the Allies on Friday and Saturday made more progress than in any similar period since the outbreak of war. Everywhere the smashing attacks against the German line have been successful and the enemy out-numbered and outthought is sullenly retreating. General Haig's forces are now face to face with the main German army under General Ludendorff and the fighting is heavier than at any time since the inception of the present advance.

Early this morning a despatch was received to the effect that the Canadians had reached the outskirts of Cambrai, the capture of which is now practically nothing more than a matter of hours. The British and French are completing the envelopment of St. Quentin and the Germans will find it impossible to retrieve their lost ground there.

The Americans in the Lorraine, continue shelling the fortifications of Metz and in several local actions have been successful in capturing positions and prisoners. Altogether the situation on the western front, from an Allied standpoint, could not well be improved.

The campaign of General Allenby against the remnants of the Turkish army in Palestine continues to be successful. Since Friday, operating in the general vicinity of the Sea of Galilee, the British have added 5,000 to their toll of prisoners and there is little possibility that any of the Turkish forces opposed to them will escape. In Macedonia the defeats inflicted upon the Germans and Bulgarians have been so severe that the Bulgarian government has sent delegates to the Allied commanders to ask for an armistice while peace terms could be considered. These delegates have reached Salonika on their way to the conference but the request for an armistice has been refused and the military operation will continue even though the conference may be arranged.

It is the opinion that there will be no prolonged discussion over terms with the Bulgarians. Unconditional surrender and the demobilization of the army will probably be demanded by the Allies before any question of terms can be considered. In her present situation Bulgaria must quit and throw herself upon the mercy of the victors, otherwise the Allied forces will continue the operation until Sofia is occupied and Bulgaria definitely eliminated from the war.

Considering the eastern situation in conjunction with the splendid successes of the Allies on the western front it would appear as if the end of the conflict cannot be much longer delayed. The Central powers are definitely beaten and must soon realize it. A continuance of fighting on the part of the Germans but add to the magnitude of their defeat and will gain for them no useful object.

### COMMISSIONER McQUEEN.

With the zeal it always displays when anything, even remotely touching the Foster government, arouses criticism on the part of newspapers not in sympathy with that administration, the esteemed Telegraph takes up the cudgels in behalf of Mr. Commissioner McQueen and claims that the Standard has subjected that gentleman to "a mud-bath."

This newspaper merely criticized what it thought and what it still thinks to be an incorrect ruling and we further submit that the ruling in question, which caused Mr. Taylor to absent himself from the enquiry, plainly shows that Mr. Commissioner McQueen either is lacking in legal knowledge or destitute of judicial fairness, both of which qualities should be possessed in large measure by a gentleman attempting to sit in judgment in a matter as important as that forming the basis of the present inquiry.

We publish elsewhere, this morning, a sketch of Commissioner McQueen in which some attention is paid to his professional and business career and associates as well as to the part he has played in politics. It will be noticed that for years he has been the close friend and associate of Hon. Dr. E. A. Smith, minister of lands and mines in the Foster cabinet. He has been a consistent supporter—one might even say a partisan—of the Foster government and when he was named as a commissioner in the present case occupied the position of Police Magistrate of the town of Shediac—an appointment in the gift of the Fosterites.

Remembering these things as well as the prompt manner in which the Commissioner first refused to permit an adjournment until Nov. 1, A. M. 1919, the Minister in charge of the Agricultural Department at the time of the sale of potatoes in 1918, could be pressed.

ent, and secondly, his refusal to consider Mr. Taylor's objection to the admission of evidence, which objection The Standard is informed, would hold in any court in the country where the presiding judge possessed a knowledge of the rules of evidence, it would appear that when the Foster-Veniot government determined to "get some one" in connection with the potato matter they certainly did not spend much time searching for a non-partisan commissioner to whom to entrust that business.

### CANADA AFTER THE WAR.

The nature of industrial conditions in Canada after the war is a question upon which it is impossible to make any confident forecast, just as, at the beginning of the war, it was impossible to make any sort of accurate prediction as to the conditions that would obtain during the period of hostilities. When the war opened it was expected that during its continuance this country would see exceedingly hard times and in response to that expectation business was poor during the first few months of hostilities. This was natural, in accord with the theory that the nations involved could not long endure the cost of a struggle so tremendous. But, in common with other countries, and, indeed, more rapidly than most, Canada quickly adjusted conditions to meet the situation and, largely as the result of war orders, this country for the past three years at least has enjoyed unparalleled prosperity.

In an interview in Montreal a few days ago Baron Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, expressed the opinion that there need be no fear of an industrial slump after the conclusion of hostilities. For a time there might be, he thought, a certain slackness but it would not last and manufacturers would quickly revert to peace time conditions and peace time activity. Baron Shaughnessy's opinion cannot be taken as irrefutable but it is the expression of an astute business man of great experience and with a vast knowledge of Canadian conditions. When the production of war supplies ceases, and until the industrial machinery of the country can be re-gauged to civil occupation, it is impossible that there should not be a certain depression, but as the war has progressed long enough to create a shortage of practically everything produced in peace times it is equally certain that just as soon as Canadian manufacturers can get around to supplying that demand they will find a ready market for all they can produce.

It is well to remember that instead of being pauperized by the war the people of the Allied countries have acquired means far greater than they ever thought to possess. The fact that during the war they have been deprived of many things to which they formerly were accustomed will create a very lively demand for those things when conditions permit of their supply. This renewed demand naturally will mean increased orders for the revived factories and a consequent stream of business which will do much to offset the loss of the war orders.

The work of restoring the areas devastated by the war will be commenced at once and this will provide labor and a demand for supplies of all sorts. It may be that the national exchequers of the nations participating in war will be sadly depleted when the war is over but that cannot prevent the work of restoration even if it becomes necessary to increase borrowings to provide the capital with which to carry it on. These restored areas, with their populations returned and their productivity brought back will help to regain the Allied prosperity which in turn will pay for the cost of the war.

On the whole there is nothing at the present time to justify a pessimistic outlook. A temporary dullness there is bound to be while the industrial life of the country is undergoing readjustment but it may be said that some preparation for that period is already being made and the expected dislocation of business may not be as great as expected. While, as stated, no one can be certain in making a forecast, Baron Shaughnessy, by virtue of his position, his experience and his knowledge, is more than ordinarily qualified to gauge the situation and his conclusion has much foundation in reason.

### A BIT OF FUN

#### Thrift.

She was comely and a widow, and, moreover, she was Scotch. She married MacIntyre, her late husband, for eighteen months, and then from a crowd of suitors she chose the most homely MacIntyre for her second.

"I'm no gude enough for ye, dear!"

he whispered. "What for did ye choose me out o' sae many?"  
 "Ah, weel, ye see, your name's MacIntyre."  
 "Yes, but—" began the bewildered suitor.  
 "An' ye ken," finished the widow, "all my linen's marked 'Mac'—that's why, Donald."

Necessities.  
 Former Speaker Cannon tells this story of his early impetuous days: "One of my friends was a struggling physician. Neither fame nor fortune had come to either of us, but we were always hopeful. The years had weighed heavily upon my friend, however, for he soon lost his hair, being quite bald."

"One day I greeted him with a beaming countenance and exclaimed: 'What do you think, Henry? I have just bought an office safe.' Then 'Joe' said he, with the utmost gravity, 'I shall buy a hair-brush.'"  
 —Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

He Wanted It Decided.  
 "Ma! Ma!" bawled Freddie, as the usual morning wash was going on, "do my ears belong to my face or my neck?"  
 "Ma temporized.  
 "Why, what is the matter?" she asked.  
 "I want it decided now. Every time I look in the mirror I see my face or my neck washes my ears, too."  
 —Exchange.

What Marriage Did.  
 Cuplet: Father-in-law—What all you, George? Since you have married you seem to have lost all your ambition.  
 George—Well, you see, sir, I reached the height of my ambition when I became your son-in-law.—San Francisco Chronicle.

### A BIT OF VERSE

CHARGE OF THE TANK BRIGADE.  
 Vilda Savage Owens, in the New York Times.

(Shade of Tennyson, forgive!)  
 Half a league, half a league,  
 Half a league onward,  
 Move like a force of Death  
 Tanks, by the hundred,  
 Boche bullets harmless glide  
 Down from their metal hide,  
 While from their turret Hell  
 Showers of shot and shell  
 Volley'd and thunder'd.

Was there a Boche that stayed  
 To see the tanks made?  
 Not when each Fritz felt  
 His hours were numbered.  
 Theirs not to peek and pry,  
 Theirs not to wonder why,  
 Theirs but to do, or die,  
 Straight to Berlin they fly,  
 Huns by the hundred.

Tanks to the right of them,  
 Tanks to the left of them,  
 Tanks back and front surround  
 Fritz, Hans and Herman,  
 Rolling the wires straight,  
 On to the wire they go,  
 Crushing each creature that  
 Smells like a German.

What is that yellow streak  
 In the dim distance? Speak!  
 Is it a circus freak?  
 Ha! Nature blundered!  
 Hush! 'Tis the Kaiser's kin  
 Trying to make a dash for it,  
 Vain his retreating chin,  
 Small blame you wondered.

Honor the Tank Brigade,  
 Honor the fleet that made  
 Every last Boche afraid  
 Prussia was smother'd!  
 End all the sin with them,  
 Help us to win with them,  
 On to Berlin with them,  
 War-Lord, who blunder'd!

### SPIES IN MELLE'S OWN HOUSEHOLD TO WATCH EVERY ACT

His Daughter Katherine Keeps Tabs on Governess—Cipher Reports Sensation of Case

Pittsfield, Sept. 25.—Charles S. Mellen of Stockbridge was on the witness stand all day in the proceedings in his separation suit in the Berkshire Probate Court today. He is seeking an order from the court not only for separation from his wife, Katherine Lloyd Livingston Mellen of New York, but for the right to convey real estate, as if he were a single man.

Reading Mrs. Mellen's letters, purporting to have been written by her to H. Douglas Brown, assistant manager of the Vanderbilt Hotel, New York, continued today. These form the foundation of Mr. Mellen's case. Objection has been made by attorney Milton B. Warner for Mrs. Mellen on the admission of all of these letters. Also attorney Warner argued against admitting a letter written by Mrs. Mellen following Sept. 16th, 1917, to her daughter, Miss Kathryn Mellen, who was then in her father's home in Stockbridge.

It was shown that after Mrs. Margaret B. Brown, the wife of H. Douglas Brown, placed in Mr. Mellen's hands the bundle of letters, which have been read in the Pittsfield court, Mr. Mellen gave an order that all mail arriving at Stockbridge for the family should be put in his hands. One letter received was from his wife to his daughter. Miss Mellen is 21 years old. As she was not a minor child, Mr. Warner strongly objected on the ground that the letter had been illegally intercepted from the mails and that that act was a possible violation of the postal laws.

John W. Crim, for Mr. Mellen, maintained that it was no violation of the law for a father to open mail addressed to a daughter under his own roof and protection. Judge E. T. Slocomb admitted the letter as evidence.

Instructed to Keep Eyes Open  
 This letter was put in to show that Mrs. Mellen had placed her daughter in her father's house to report to her what was going on in the Mellen villa at Council Grove, the Mellen estate in

### Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.

Houses are the places that people live in and where their lives are delivered at, and different things, and are the most important things on earth.

Houses start at the cellar and don't stop till they get to the roof, the ones with the most stories having the farthest to go. People that live in 3 story houses ain't any better than people that live in one story houses, only they are much cooler in summer. Some houses ain't even got a back yard in back, while others have a automobile in front.

The rooms of a house are on the inside. In an empty house it is hard to tell what rooms are in the different ones, but in a full house the furniture generally gives you a pretty good idea of an idea.

The dining room is one of the most important and enjoyable. It is generally on the first floor so as not to be too far away from the kitchen. There is a gallery of pictures of fish hanging up by their noses and different kinds of fruit on the walls, to remind people where they are at in case they get absent minded. If it wasn't for the dining room, most people wouldn't hardly know where to eat.

The parlor is the room where you entertain company and keep your feet off of the rungs of the chairs if you think of it, and the setting room is where all the rest of the family is if they ain't anywhere else.

The ordinary way to get in a house is by the front door, and the ordinary way to get out is by the same way, but some people prefer the windows in case of fire.

Stockbridge. She wrote to her daughter:

"I suppose the new bunch has arrived. Now, dearie, you do just as you said. Keep your eyes open, and keep a close watch on the children. You don't know who she is, either head or the blonde got her, and both of these women can't be trusted one minute. You are doing wonderfully well and I am proud of you. My friends are using with me. Uncle Charley and Aunt Sadie are both with me and Uncle Charley is terribly mad at your father as I don't have a thing to do with him. He had told me so. 'You can help by staying up there and keeping your eyes open about this new woman. You don't have to be with him. You just stick up there and show them all they can't bulldoze you.'"

"Just show them and stick. That will make them madder than a hatter my dear. They are meeting many snags now. Another snag will be your staying up there and keeping an eye on the women who is she, anyhow? I guess before you get through with it you will find out. They are a dirty lot."

The woman referred to in the letter was a governess Mr. Mellen had his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Graham K. Mellen, engage to take charge of his children, Candace and Priscilla Mellen.

#### Reports Written in Cipher.

With this letter in evidence, Mr. Crim produced about a dozen letters which it is charged were reports to Mrs. Mellen written by two of her alleged agents, Abdul Hamid and his wife, Frances Cudat of New Haven, who have been described by Mr. Crim as "astrologers."

Reports written in cipher, Mr. Crim stated, were sent to Mrs. Mellen, and had to do with the engagement and reports of the New Haven pair. In watching the movements of Mrs. Margaret B. Brown at the Cumberland Hotel in New York.

He said the deciphering of the letters would show that the "astrologers" were in the employ of Mrs. Mellen, that they had received presents from her and were sent to the Cumberland Hotel to report what came to their attention.

Mr. Crim said the admission of the letters would show that these agents were engaged in a criminal scheme and that an attempt was made to set the letters written to Brown away from the Mellen home.

It was admitted that the letters were obtained from Mrs. Mellen's private box in the house safe.

Mr. Crim said the cipher of the letters was plain and that the reports could be read by taking every third word in the reports.

The reports look like a school-girl's copy of a spelling lesson. Three lines of words are parallel on a page. After long arguments on both sides, the court ruled late this afternoon that the letters might be admitted as evidence and the ciphers and their translations will be read at the opening of the court tomorrow.

Mellen Tells of Effect of Letters.  
 At the morning session of the hearing Mr. Mellen was asked the effect the discovery of the Brown letters had upon him.

"I went through all the gyrations and humiliation that my vocabulary can express," he replied. "I felt bitterly disgraced that the utmost confidences of our married life should be betrayed."

"The physical effects have been serious. I have since been under the care of a physician. For forty years previous I never had required the attention of a physician except for the treatment of a cold."

Miss Kathryn Mellen and her uncle, Charles L. Livingston, arrived at a hotel here today.

Mrs. Mellen has left New York and is expected to arrive here tonight. After the reading of the astrologer's letters tomorrow and the presenting of other documents, declared to have been written by Mrs. Mellen, the case for Mr. Mellen will have been presented.

Attorney Warner, counsel for Mrs. Mellen, said today that he would cross-examine Mr. Mellen at length, probably the greater part of tomorrow.

THIS FARMER WAS CONTENT.  
 (From The Outlook.)  
 A wealthy farmer in Platte County, Missouri, held about six thousand bushels of wheat; the market price was \$2.65 per bushel. He was advised to

sell at once, and was told that the Government intended to fix the price of wheat, and that the new price would probably be near \$2 per bushel. He claimed to be too busy to haul the wheat five miles to the elevator, and declined to sell. In due time the price was fixed, and the price at the elevator fell from \$2.65 to \$2.15. Well-meaning friends remonstrated:

"Uncle Frank, do you know that the government has fixed the price of wheat at \$2.15?"  
 "That so? Well, I guess it's all right."

"But why didn't you sell before the price was fixed?"  
 "I never stop my plowing for anything. Time to plow is when plowing is good, and I couldn't leave that to haul wheat."

"But you've lost right near \$3,000 by holding on."  
 "Can't help it; never risk your coming crop when the time is right for getting the ground ready. Anyway, two dollars is all it's worth."

Within the past week the record of two wheat crops near Kansas City has appeared in The Kansas City Star. The F. F. Marty farm, near Bucyrus, Kansas, yielded an average of nearly 35 bushels to the acre. The crop was sold at a gross return of over \$76 per acre. The Scott farm, near Merwin, Missouri, reports a yield of an average of nearly 33 bushels per acre, which, at the present rate, would show a gross return of over \$116 per acre.

ANOTHER RECORD MADE AT FUR SALE.  
 Special to The Standard.  
 New York, Sept. 27.—A third high record price for raw skins in this country was set at the fur auction here today. This time Wolf scored with a high figure of \$29.50. The total for the five days' selling was placed tonight at \$2,700,000. All of today's furs brought full April prices or above. Average prices for Northern Wildcat were sixty per cent. higher than those paid at the spring sale. Other percentage advances included Southwestern Wildcat, forty, American Opposum, thirty-five and Australian Opposum, fifteen. The auction will end tomorrow with Muskrats the chief offering. In view of their scarcity and the great demand for them the establishment of a fourth American record price in four days is expected.

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