

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 21 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.
M. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor.
ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.
 Yearly Subscriptions: \$3.00
 By Mail: \$3.00
 Semi-Weekly: \$1.50
 Daily: \$1.00
 Sent Weekly to United States: \$3.00
 ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 8, 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.

THAT SEED FIASCO.

Mr. Tweeddale's report for the Agricultural Department for the fiscal year closing October 31st last has been distributed in the Legislature and the members by this time have had an opportunity of seeing what a poor business the Minister has made of the administration of his department.

The report is less entertaining than it would be if the Minister had taken the public into his complete confidence and revealed all the details of his departmental activities. There are many things he does not tell but which the public should be informed upon. For instance his notorious fiasco in the purchase and re-sale of seed is not told of in anything like the detail it deserves.

When Mr. Tweeddale was questioned last year on his plans for the sale of seed he launched into a glowing description of the methods by which he expected to supply the very best seed to the farmers of this country and all without one cent of expense to the public. The government would buy the seed; the eager agriculturists, all agree to secure the bargains, would rush to the cars with cash or approved commercial paper and purchase what they required. Those who had the cash would pay on delivery but those who lacked that useful medium of modern exchange—and here is the most beautiful part of the plan—would deposit their approved paper and before October 31st would liquidate their debt to the province. The net result would be that the farmers would have their seed, the province would be paid in full and Mr. Tweeddale's name would go in the provincial hall of fame as the most wonderful Minister of Agriculture in captivity.

But something slipped. The government purchased the seed, the farmers in turn obtained it, but the alleged plan of payment did not work out as expected. The sad fact was that when the due date for the payments came around the payments did not, and this session the doughty Minister was forced to admit that his department had lost thousands of dollars on the deal.

Now the farmers of New Brunswick are not dishonest; neither are they unable to pay their bills. Therefore the fact that they did not pay is due either to unpardonable laxity in the agricultural department or possibly an understanding existed that where political services had been rendered to the government of which Mr. Tweeddale is an ornament the seed would apply as a sort of payment on account. It should be understood that the people from whom the government purchased the seed received their money but the government itself was less fortunate. That is why in the public accounts for the year ending October 31st, 1917, the seed wheat account stands like this:

Purchase of seed by government \$30,442.17
 Sale of seed by government 18,891.68
 Government's loss on the transaction \$11,550.49

Oh yes, the Honorable J. Fletcher Tweeddale, Minister of Agriculture, is certainly the most wonderful specimen of the kind in captivity.

"SOLDIERS OF THE SOIL"

To obtain the necessary labor for farm work in Canada during the present season an effort is being made to enlist 25,000 boy volunteers to be known as Soldiers of the Soil. The demands of war have made such demands upon the man-power of the nation that in no other way can the requisite labor be secured and those in charge of the Greater Production Campaign are straining every nerve to make the new plan the success it must be if we are to produce anything like the required quantity of food-stuffs.

The urgency of the call for help may be more readily appreciated from the statistics in the following table showing the requirements of the different provinces in Canada:

Alberta—6,000 more men needed for spring and summer. 7,000 more for the harvest.
 Saskatchewan—10,000 more men needed for spring and summer. 15,000 more for the harvest.
 Manitoba—7,000 more men needed for spring. 10,000 more for the harvest.
 Ontario—7,500 more men needed for the spring and summer. 12,500 more for haying and harvest. 15,000 boys and 5,000 women.
 Quebec—10,000 more men needed.
 New Brunswick—1,500 to 2,000 more men needed.
 Prince Edward Island—Barely enough.

British Columbia—Men scarce.
 Nova Scotia—2,500 more men needed.
 It is necessary for this and probably the next two years that Canada shall supply a still greater proportion of the foodstuffs to be imported by Britain, France and Italy and the extent of this demand can be realized by a comparison of the import requirements of the countries named in the five great cereal crops, wheat, barley, oats, rye and corn. The season's requirements in these lines compared with the pre-war imports of the countries named are as follows:

	Pre-war.	1918.
Wheat	312,684,000	525,085,000
Barley	54,000,000	69,000,000
Oats	97,000,000	171,000,000
Rye	5,549,000	28,271,000
Corn	115,048,000	151,135,000

Thus it can be seen that Canada's task is to raise larger crops with fewer helpers than before. And in that direction some of the most effective sort of war service can be done. Canada requires men to reinforce the lads so bravely fighting in France and Flanders but she also needs willing, stout-hearted volunteers to till the acres at home and thus help to keep the home fires burning and prevent the possibility of famine becoming a dread reality for our overseas allies.

The facts being as they are the movement to enroll boys for work in food production should receive every encouragement. The "Soldiers of the Soil" have a part to play in this struggle the importance of which cannot be over-estimated. In New Brunswick the work of enrolling the army will commence on April 28th and it is absolutely necessary that the undertaking shall be successful.

SALARIES OF PUBLIC MEN.

Noting that the salary of the Premier of Ontario has been raised to a figure equivalent to the sum paid to the Prime Minister of Canada, an exchange suggests that the remuneration of Sir Robert Borden should be substantially increased. It is not at all likely that Sir Robert would develop any degree of enthusiasm for such a proposal. A wealthy man, he does not need the money, and if the idea is to recompense him in accordance with his service to the country—it can't be done. The patriotic statesmanship of such a public man as Sir Robert Borden is above price. It is not to be expressed in terms of dollars and cents.

There might be something in a suggestion however that the seasonal indemnity of members of the Dominion Parliament might be increased, although it is doubtful if the Government would support such a movement. At the same time it should be remembered that not all public men are wealthy, and while it may be said that when they accepted nomination they understood the remuneration attached to membership in the House of Commons and should have had a reasonably accurate conception of the expenses it would involve, yet the fact that a man is a member of the Canadian parliament will not serve to reduce the costs of living and at the present figures a six months' residence in Ottawa must be a hardship to many of them.

EDUCATION IN MANITOBA.

Educational workers in the Province of New Brunswick who fancy their lot is cast in difficult places are still free from many of the obstacles under which teachers in the western provinces labor. An indication of these obstacles is furnished by Hon. R. S. Thornton, Minister of Education in the Manitoba government, when, speaking before the Legislature, he gave a summary of the methods adopted to improve the school facilities in certain non-English districts of that province.

Within a triangular district of about ten miles to each side not far from Winnipeg were many sections where the school buildings were old and greatly lacking in proper accommodation. Other sections had no school buildings. Everywhere there was difficulty in securing teachers, because no suitable boarding places were available.

The department grappled with the problem by putting the official trustees in charge. Since 1915 he has been instrumental in building 112 new schools, each accommodating fifty children. The enrolment now includes about 4,200 children, of whom 3,400 were heretofore without school accommodation. Forty-five teachers' residences have been built, each with three airy rooms and a sun porch. Teachers are available for every district with a real desire. The teacher comes with her mother or sister and establishes a

Canadian home in the midst of a Russian or Polish settlement.

Frequently she starts work with 30 or 35 children of assorted ages, none of whom can speak English. Within three months they have a fair English vocabulary. They soon become intensely interested not only in the school work, with its manual training, its domestic science, and its school garden, but in the practical "settlement" in full operation in the teacher's residence.

From Mr. Thornton's summary it can be seen that education problems in Manitoba are really difficult, but his showing seems to indicate that that province is working hard in the direction of efficiency and has already made much commendable progress.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE FACTS ABOUT THE VANWART CASE

St. John, N. B., April 6, 1918
 To The Editor of The Standard.
 Sir,—The attached letter is being, this day, sent the Telegraph for publication. Will you kindly publish it in your next issue?
 J. L. McAVITY,
 Lieutenant-Colonel,
 Commanding 1 Depot Battalion, N. B. R.
 St. John, N. B., April 6, 1918.

Editor of the Telegraph,
 Sir,—The finding of the coroner's jury in the matter of the death of No. 235587, Pte. James VanWart and your editorial comment of this date cannot pass unchallenged.

VanWart was brought into the guard room of my battalion shortly after eleven a. m. of the 26th March. Two military police were the escort and he was handed over to the sergeant of the guard as being a defaulter under the Military Service Act. No mention was made at the time that the man was sick. His appearance was that of a man who had spent the night in a police cell. He was placed in the detention room and about 11.30 a. m. a prisoner informed the sergeant that VanWart was ill. The sergeant of the guard immediately despatched a runner for the battalion medical officer, but as this officer was on a sanitary inspection of the quarters he was not located until about a half an hour afterwards. In the meantime VanWart walked about and the sergeant asked him if he felt able to walk to the medical office. He replied in the affirmative and at 12.30 he was sent to the medical office under escort. He arrived there at 12.30 and was given immediate medical attention by Capt. Smith, my M. O. The ambulance was summoned and arrived within a short time and the man was taken to the hospital at once.

These are the facts.
 VanWart told one of the prisoners that he had been badly treated at the police station, having been placed in a cell without blankets.

In my opinion the verdict of the coroner's jury was at variance with facts according to the newspaper account of the evidence, and any adverse criticism against the military authorities is uncalled for and unfair. I may say that the coroner did not at any time ask my medical officer or myself to be present nor were we ever advised when the inquest would be concluded.

The military authorities have nothing whatever to do with defaulters under the Military Service Act until they are handed over by the Dominion Police. From my statement you will note that he was not handed over to me until about 11 a. m.

Will you give this letter as great a degree of publicity as you have the adverse criticisms of the military authorities?
 J. L. McAVITY,
 Lieutenant-Colonel,
 Commanding 1 Depot Battalion, N. B. R., formerly O. C. 26th Battalion, France.

A BIT OF VERSE

SPRING IS HERE.

Are you ready, are you ready, for the gentle joys of Spring?
 Do the vernal breezes blowing cheer your soul like everything?
 Does it make you gay, gladder, to awake at early dawn?
 And to hear the cheerful chirping of the sparrows on the lawn?
 Do sweet thoughts of Spring home with you fill your icy heart with joy?
 Do you look on upset living as pure bliss without alloy?
 Do you long to beat some carpets, and to whack some parlor rugs,
 And to scatter round some powder, a preventive sure for bugs?
 Do you yearn with eager longing for the sharp crack of the bat?
 Do you want to win distinction, wear the first straw hat?
 Do you want to see the sidewalk, once so muddy, hard and firm?
 Do you want to watch the robin yanking out the early worm?
 If you do, you'll soon be happy, for Winter's icy reign is ended, and the showers of Spring have come!
 —Somerville Journal

A BIT OF FUN

More Economical.
 "Oh, you men! You manufacture lies out of whole cloth."
 "And what do you women use—remnants?"

A Boston Child.
 "Our child is backward. Four years old and takes no interest in Shakespeare."
 "That does not necessarily indicate that the child is backward. He may believe that Bacon wrote the plays."—Kansas City Journal.

Hide, Horse and Tallow.
 Bootmaker—Well, captain, I'm glad to see you back; and 'ow did you find the last pair of boots I made you?
 Captain (an exchange prisoner from Germany)—Oh, the best I ever tasted.
 —London Opinion.

Tableware Relationship.
 A young American officer dining in a restaurant in France wanted the

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Ma had a new dress on wen pop came home today, being a brown dress with more than twice as many buttons as buttonholes, and pop looked at it with his head fast on one side and then on the other like a bird, and ma sed, Well, wat do you think of it?

Do you want my reel honest candied opinion? sed pop.

Serenty, sed ma, I like people to tell me jast wat they think wen I ask for their opinion.

That's the proper spirit, and it does you credit and its tracky the way I feel about it, so no doubt it does me credit too, sed pop. I dont ispeck to flatter enyboby and I dont thank enyboby for flatterin me, I ispeck to tell the truth and I ispeck to hear it.

Well wat do you think of the dress? sed ma.

In partly in favor of it, that is, I think it mits be extreemly becoming if it was some other color and if the general outline of it was changed, sed pop, I trust you take my candied criticism in the rite spirit.

Absoootly, sed ma, and I hope you will do the same wen I tell you that in my opinion the necktie you have bin wearing for the past 3 or 4 days is without exception the worst combination of colors I ever saw on a human neck.

Wat, this scarf? sed pop.

I hope you take my criticism in the rite spirit, sed ma.

Criticism my eye, its jast plane ignorant, that's wat it is, jast plane ignorant, and I marvel at your lack of taste, sed pop. And he lit a cigar and wawked out of the room smooking it with farse puffs, and ma sed, Partly in favor of it indeed, I never herd stuch an abserd criticism in all my life.

waitress to bring him a knife. Not knowing the French word to use, he held up a fork and said, "Camrade, camrade." The girl disappeared and presently returned with another fork. "No, no," cried the officer, and holding up the fork again he said, "Fiancée, fiancée." "Ah, oui," laughed the girl and in a moment she had brought him the required article.

The Restive Button.

Indignant Wife—What on earth do you do to your clothes to keep me sewing on buttons this way?

Apologetic Husband—I merely touch the button with my finger. I can't imagine what does the rest. —Baltimore American.

TWO LINERS ARRIVE WITH RETURNED MEN

Plenty of Mail from the Boys
 "Over There"—First Contingent Men Among the Number — Heroes Mostly Western Men.

With 117 passengers aboard, 2,000 bags of mail and a heavy cargo, a transatlantic liner arrived in port on Saturday morning. Shortly after four o'clock the steamer was compelled to return to port, having been "wounded" by a submarine. She transferred her passengers on this occasion and went on the drydocks for repairs.

Her second voyage out was most fortunate and she sailed across without any interruptions. Included in the passengers were a number of officers, who served with the Allied armies in different branches of the service. Some were aviators; others infantrymen, while others did work with the heavy guns.

Two bodies were brought from England to Canada for interment. They were Lieut. Reid of Belleville, and Pte. H. McMillan of Campbellton. Captain Christopher O'Kelly was one of the noted soldiers on board. He won the Victoria Cross and the Military Cross for distinguishing himself on two different occasions on the western front. His home is in Winnipeg.

Lieut.-Col. Jenkins of the A. M. C. also arrived in the city on Saturday. Col. Jenkins was the proud wearer of the D. S. O. His home is in Prince Edward Island.

Lieut. H. D. Mitchell of the Royal Irish Rifles, formerly a member of the Princess Pats, who was twice wounded, the last time at Cambrai, was a student at McGill when the war broke out. He left on Saturday for his home in Providence, R. I.

Squadron Commander Woodward had the honor to assist in the destruction of the Breslau. On this occasion the squadron also bombarded the Bockan, but the Germans managed to get away. In the same squadron was Lieut. Harold Arundel, D. S. O., D. S. C. He participated in the destruction of the Breslau and did some fine work at the Dardanelles.

Captain J. Alexander, formerly of Toronto University, who arrived on the steamer, is considered one of the best night observers in the aerial service.

Lieut. F. Methers of Manitoba returned home to be transferred to the Aviation Corps.

Others on board the steamer were: Captain G. F. Nelson, of Saskatchewan, who is a member of the R. A. W., and who is a member of the R. F. C., and who saw service in Italy; Lieut. S. E. Lyons, of Toronto, a member of the Queen's Royal West Regt.; Lieut. H. Saville, R. F. C., of Hamilton, Ont.; Lieut. B. Pierson, of Toronto.

Another Liner Arrives.
 Among the men who arrived in the city yesterday on a liner which docked in the morning were two first contingent men who have been granted three months leave of absence for the purpose of visiting their homes in Canada. In the party were three other officers who have seen service in France and are home on leave after doing good work on the firing line.

The first contingent men are Lieut. D. A. McDonald of Regina and Lieut. Gilbert of Kingston; the other three are Capt. Letcher of Springfield, N. S.;

Whole Wheat Flour, Graham Flour Rye Flour, Buckwheat Flour

C. H. PETERS SONS, LIMITED
 St. John, N. B.

Commencing April 1, our Stores open at 8 a. m.

Electric Appliances

In the Household Save Time and Labor!



Let us show you our line of Hot Water Kettles, Coffee Machines; Grills, round and oblong; Immersion Heaters, Toasters, upright and flat irons, 3lb. and 6 lb. Radiators, Curling Irons.

T. McAVITY & SONS, LTD.

The Diamond Earns Its Keep

There's more than sentiment—more than love of the beautiful in the purchase of a Diamond today; the Diamond always earns its keep, and will, more than likely yield a handsome profit, for prices are soaring rapidly.

Our large collection of Diamonds composed of the better grades, comprises rarely beautiful specimens in loose and mounted gems which await your careful inspection.

41 KING STREET FERGUSON & PAGE

Wire Door Mats for Public Buildings or Private Residences.

Express Wagon Top Bows, Express Wagon Top Coverings,

Axle Grease,

M. E. AGAR, Phone 818.

Carriage Hardware

Auto Top Bows, Auto Top Covering

Auto Grease and Oil

Tire Carriers

Imperial Auto Tires, and Inner Tubes

51-53 Union Street St. John, N. B.

Extra C Leather Belting

MANUFACTURED BY

D. K. McLAREN, LIMITED

Also Balata, Rubber and Canvas Stitched Belting

LACE LEATHER and BELT FASTENERS OF ALL KINDS

Phone M. 1121. STOCK DEPOT 90 Germain St. P. O. Box 702



Never Be Without
 Herbine Bitters

CONTAINS the active principles of Dandelion, Mandarake, etc. and is an old-fashioned remedy that has been on the market over 50 years and cannot be displaced because of real merit. As a Blood Purifier—a cleanser of foul stomach and tongue—cure for headaches and biliousness it has no equal. Specially valuable at this time of the year when the blood is sluggish from indoor living. Family size, 50c. Six times as large 1.00.

THE BRATLEY DRUG CO. Limited, ST. JOHN, N. B. Ask for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Alice Doherty.

The many friends of Mrs. Alice Doherty, wife of Pilot Joseph Doherty, will be grieved to learn of her death which occurred yesterday. The deceased leaves besides her family a wide circle of friends. Besides her husband there survives one daughter, Miss Mary, at home; also three brothers and two sisters. The brothers are Joshua Corkery of this city, Thomas of California, and David of Boston; also two sisters, Mrs. Wm. Cotter of this city, and Mrs. James O'Neill of Brighton, Mass.

The funeral will be held from her late residence, 174 Sydney street, tomorrow morning, at 8.45 o'clock, to St. John the Baptist Church for High Mass of Requiem.

THE BEST QUALITY AT A REASONABLE PRICE

ENJOY LIFE

Eye strain means headache. Headache means inability. Inability means a grouch. Come to us and we'll fit you with glasses that will remove the cause—eye strain and change you from a pessimist to an optimist. Let us help you to enjoy life.

L. L. SHARPE & SON, JEWELERS AND OPTICIANS, 21 King Street, St. John, N. B.

BUSINESS MEN

Are just as anxious to discover an employ well trained and talented help as young people are to secure good positions. No better time for beginning preparation than just now. Catalogues containing Tuition Rates and full information mailed to any address.

S. Kerr, Principal

FLEWELLING PRESS

BRASS TABLETS FOR MEMORIALS
 BRASS SIGNS, DOOR PLATES, NUMBERS.
 STENCILS IN BRASS & PAPER

Wh...
 Moir's...
 for the...
 chocola...
 their de...
 MOIR

W. J. WETMORE
 New



Should not be given
 which has interest
 recommending it to
 THE ROYAL

NEW ENGL...
 Fine Spring a...
 ED

THE U...
 Cyrons Portable
 Machines. Repair...
 UNITED

ELE...
 HIRAM
 91 Germain

ALSO MANUFACT...
 COPPER AND G...

Phone M. 350

Civil E...
 Surveys, Plans, I...
 Prints. Maps of I...

The Union...
 West St. John...
 G

Wanted to b...
 alone
 R. G. & F. W.

FI...
 Structu...
 WM. L.

ESTABLISH...
 D. BOY...
 Eyeglasses and...
 are the best th...
 art and service...
 D. BOY...
 Montreal