

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 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.

UNNECESSARY FEARS.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who by his proposal of a time-killing referendum did his utmost to defeat the measure for compulsory military service, is continuing in the committee stages of the bill, in which undertaking he is being aided by Mr. Pugsley. Yesterday those gentlemen had much fault to find with the clause of the bill providing for exemption tribunals. Sir Wilfrid expressing the fear that the boards which will pass upon the cases of men who lay claim to exemption, might be prejudiced, might be incompetent, or might possess any of a half-dozen other objectionable qualities that would stand in the way of useful service.

Sir Wilfrid need have no fear. The Government will doubtless provide an underlying principle upon which all boards will work, and as for the competency of the tribunals it is not to be supposed that the Government will jeopardize the success of an undertaking of such vital importance as this by the appointment of incompetent judges. The Government's aim and the country's desire is to secure the men required to bring our armies up to the necessary strength, with no delay and the least possible disruption of industrial conditions. That aim and desire will be attained despite the efforts of little Canadians who, for political purposes only, persist in their futile effort to hamper and impede the process.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier had his chance and missed it. He should now permit the Government to get along with the details of the measure he was unable to defeat. The country is not in a mood to tolerate the critic whose criticism is not helpful, or the political partisan who uses the accumulated craft and knowledge of a long public career to attempt to thwart an honest effort to bring to our boys at the front the reinforcements and support of which they stand in such extreme need.

THE ROGERS ENQUIRY.

It is possible that the first public session of the Rogers enquiry, held in Montreal yesterday, and which lasted but half an hour, may also be the last. Mr. Justice Galt of the Manitoba bench was appointed some months ago to investigate allegations of graft in connection with the construction of the Manitoba Agricultural College. This investigation was promoted by the Liberal government of that province and the evidence adduced was sufficiently strong to cause penalties to be imposed against some of the guilty parties. Mr. Justice Galt, however, in his findings, took occasion to criticize Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works. Hon. Mr. Rogers promptly asked for an independent commission to investigate Justice Galt's report, insofar as it related to him, and, pending the report of this commission, requested that he be relieved of his duties as a Dominion Government Minister.

Sir Robert Borden acceded to both requests and Sir Ezekiel McLeod, Chief Justice of New Brunswick, and Mr. Justice Teller, of the Quebec bench, were named as the commission. They have been sitting in Montreal for the past month going over the evidence taken by Mr. Justice Galt. Yesterday they held their first public session when Mr. Rogers was called to the stand and asked two questions, the answers to which appeared to be entirely satisfactory to the court and counsel engaged. The enquiry then adjourned indefinitely. Neither the Manitoba government, nor Mr. Justice Galt took any steps to verify the statements made concerning Mr. Rogers and this peculiar fact leads to the strong inference that neither the justice nor the government which employed him think their partisan report can be upheld and have abandoned the case.

Hon. Mr. Rogers has been the subject of much malicious criticism since the Manitoba charges were first launched. However he has shown no disposition to avoid the fullest and most searching investigation of his conduct, and up to the present time his enemies have signally failed to make a case. It looks very much as if the allegations against the Minister of Public Works contained more malice than truth.

AID TO SHIPBUILDING.

Citizens generally will approve the action taken by the City Council yesterday in deciding to grant concessions in the way of tax exemptions to a company which has secured a site and plans to engage in wooden shipbuilding in this city. A similar

attitude toward other companies planning to undertake shipbuilding here, and which can satisfy the council of their ability to proceed with the venture, will also be decided in the interest of the community.

On many occasions and in many ways attention has been called to the great opportunity which the war and the unprecedented demand for tonnage has given to the shipbuilding industry. More vessels are required than can be built in Canada or the United States for years to come, and at the present rate of freight charges undertakings should prove very lucrative. On the Pacific Coast every measure is being taken by municipalities to assist the establishment of shipbuilding yards. The United States is also experiencing a great boom in this industry, while Nova Scotia yards are already engaged with all the contracts they can handle, and with sufficient work in view to insure steady operation of the plants.

There are at least three such concerns planning to locate in this port and with proper encouragement from the city there is no reason why the industry which once made St. John famous all over the world should not witness a return to much of its former glory. Anything that can be done to assist in the establishment of shipbuilding yards in or near St. John is decidedly in the interest of the city and province. Members of the city council who were prompt to recognize this fact are to be congratulated.

HELP BATTLE-SCARRED FRANCE.

Excepting movements intended to help our own boys at the front The Standard can conceive of no more worthy cause for which money can be raised at the present time than that for which appeal will be made in this city tomorrow, the French Red Cross. Wonderful France, famed in history, story and song as the home of chivalry has written her most glorious page by her work in the present war, and the other nations of the world owe her a debt which will never be fully repaid. A nation of peace she consecrated herself to war, probably more thoroughly than any of our other allies in arms. Even Great Britain, material, self-centered, comfort-loving, did not rise to the complete conception of the duty of the day and hour as quickly as did the land of Bayard and Napoleon. And that land has suffered more grievously than any other first class power. Her fairest territory trodden under the foot of the Hun, her cities razed, her people enslaved, her very capital threatened with a menace which daily grew greater, she maintained heart and cheerfully applied herself to the task in hand. In that task she has never faltered, never failed. Sacrifice, hardship, more terrible than any that could previously be imagined, she bore without complaint, and today her soldiers, weary but valiant as of old, are fighting side by side with the sons of England and Canada in the cause of righteousness and world freedom.

It is a terrible, but at the same time a glorious picture. Canada has not yet commenced to feel the effects of this war. Our sacrifices of blood and gold, considerable as they may seem, are but paltry when measured by the standard of the suffering of France. And France will continue to the end, the staunchest and most dependable of allies. This being the case, and there is world agreement that it is the case, Canadians can well afford to give of their plenty to help these battle-scarred veterans. Tomorrow's effort undertaken to provide funds for the French Red Cross, merits the very heartiest co-operation and support of all citizens of St. John.

The Standard believes that the Canadian soldiers should receive the very best pay it is possible to give them, but when Dr. Pugsley or any other man attempts to put the services and value of those soldiers on a dollars and cents basis he offers a gratuitous insult to 400,000 heroes. It is safe to say that every man in Canada who donned the khaki could have earned more money by remaining at home, but money will not buy the satisfaction of having fully done one's duty in time of need. As it is, the Canadian soldier is the best paid, the best fed and best equipped of any of the fighting men facing the Germans today. As Col. Arthur aptly put it yesterday, the Liberals in Parliament who voted against sending aid to our men at the front, are now doing more talking regarding the pay and allowances of these men than the men themselves. But the concern of the anti-conscriptionist Liberals is for their party rather than for Canada's men in khaki.

Mr. Alphonse Verville still adheres to the opinion that the enforcement of

conscription will bring a general strike in Canada. At the same time the Regina Typographical Union passes a resolution strongly endorsing the compulsory service measure and repudiating the Verville statement. The most significant comment on the attitude of the member for Maisonneuve is found in an Ontario paper which dismisses the whole question in these words: "Verville is French, so is Laurier; Laurier opposes conscription, so does Verville."

How quietly and easily the Liberal newspapers of the Maritime Provinces have forgotten all about that convention of Western Liberals and the movement to form a new party with Laurier. It is hard for those newspapers to realize that Laurier's day is done. And even when they do realize it they consider it good politics to keep their readers in the dark as long as possible.

From all appearances the price of food and fuel has reached "the peak." Already those who attempted to hoard potatoes are facing a sharp decline in prices, while the fuel controller has succeeded in obtaining a substantial reduction in the price of coal and declares there will be enough to satisfy all needs next winter.

The Government majority on the conscription measure was one and one-half times the normal majority in the House of Commons. This is the best sort of evidence of the quality of the Borden brand of leadership.

The Russians have taken the key to Lemberg. The renewed vigor of the Muscovite army will create no joy in Berlin.

VETERANS HOME AFTER GALA TRIP TO BOSTON; WELCOMED BY MAYOR

Merry Party Returned on Governor Dingley Yesterday.

Address by Mayor Hayes and Informal Luncheon at Bond's.

The Great War Veterans returned yesterday afternoon after a most pleasant week in Boston. All are in accord that Mayor Curley, the presidents of the Canadian Club and the Intercolonial Club did everything possible to make the trip to the Hub most enjoyable.

The favorite song of the "Vets" while in the Hub was "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag and Smile." On the Boston Common on Saturday the "Vets" participated in the "Canadian Red Cross Charge," and one of the soldiers stated yesterday that after a few of them addressed the large crowd they sang, "Pack Up Your Money in the Red Cross Bag and Smile." The result of the "Vets" efforts was a very large sum of money was subscribed by the audience for the Red Cross work. The boys also asked for recruits with the result that in a very short time, 72 men stepped forward and enrolled for service. The steamer Governor Dingley, with the Veterans on board, arrived at her dock at five o'clock and many citizens were on hand to welcome the boys home. Among those present were Mayor Hayes, Commissioners McLellan, Wignome, Russell and Fisher, E. A. Schofield and members of the Rotary Club. As the boys left the steamer they were greeted by the Mayor and Commissioners. Lieut. McKinney, who was in charge of the soldiers, marched them to automobiles supplied by members of the Rotary Club, and the crowd present cheered heartily.

A procession of cars then carried the boys along Prince William street, up King to King Square in front of the Imperial Theatre, where the soldiers received an address of welcome from the Mayor. His Worship said that he could not express the pleasure it afforded him in welcoming them home after their visit to Boston, or the pleasure it afforded him to know that the people in Boston had looked after their comforts so well while in that city.

The first thing he intended to do was to address a note to Mayor Curley and the presidents of the Canadian and Intercolonial clubs of Boston thanking them for the excellent manner in which they looked after the Canadian soldiers.

"It is an honor for a citizen to talk to returned heroes, who have fought and bled for their country, and we all hold you in the very highest respect and esteem," said the Mayor. He said he was sorry that a more elaborate welcome could not have been given the soldiers on their return, but he assured them they had not been forgotten, and an opportunity would be taken later when all the boys could be got together and a hearty welcome home could be extended to all. His Worship closed his address with the hope that the soldiers would enjoy the very best of health for the remainder of their lives.

After cheers had been given for the soldiers they adjourned to Bond's restaurant where they were the guests of Messrs. Bond and Scott at luncheon. It was an informal affair and after cheers for their hosts and the Rotary Club, the soldiers adjourned to their homes.

"It certainly was one great time that we had in Boston, and we will never tire of talking about the grand way in which the people in that city treated us," was the comment of one of the "Vets" when asked what kind of a trip he had.

Nursing Sister Leaves. Miss Edith Hogan, a nursing sister, of this city, who has been home for a rest, left last night. A number of friends were at the station to bid her farewell.

Little Benny's Note Book.

Me and Puds Simkins and Leroy Shooter and Sid Hunt and Sid quiet little cousin Joe was sitting on my front steps talking about which one was the hardest to wake up in the morning, me saying, Ray-body that's harder to wake up than I am must be pretty hard. My father has to call me about 20 times and after that he has to come up and shake me, and sometimes I ain't even awake then.

That's nothing, said Sid Hunt, they pull the pillow from under me and I jest dream I'm falling down a well and keep on sleeping, and then they throw cold water on me and I keep rite on sleeping, in so hard to wake up that sometimes they don't even try.

That's nothing, a alarm clock don't even wake me up, said Leroy Shooter, why, if I tied a alarm clock over my ear with a piece of string it wouldn't even wake me up then.

How do you know, did you ever do it? I sed.

No, but I bet you it wouldn't, sed Leroy Shooter.

Wich jest then Sid Hunts quiet little cousin Joe sed, it takes 2 to wake me up, it takes one to put their hand over my mouth and it takes one to hold my nose, and jest before I choak to death, I wake up.

Good nite, sed Puds Simkins.

Do you expect us to believe that? I sed.

Lets get up a game of Red Rover, sed Leroy Shooter.

Wich we did.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK FORESTRY UNIT ALMOST UP TO FULL STRENGTH

But Three Men Enlisted Yesterday in St. John—Further Evidence Taken at Military Inquiry.

HONOR ROLL.
T. Jenkins, Boston, Mass.
Forestry Unit.
Wm. Kilby, Brownville Jct., N.B.
Frank H. Price, Pettitodiac.
Canadian Engineers.

The Forestry Unit has now nearly 500 men on the muster roll. The complement for overseas service of this unit was increased from one company, 250 men, to 500 men or two companies. It may be that after this unit has recruited up to full strength, recruiting for the artillery, which was suspended for a time, will be resumed. No definite information to this effect has been received in the city, but according to a report from Ottawa, recruiting for the artillery has not been stopped for good.

More Evidence Taken Yesterday. Several witnesses were examined by the military board of inquiry appointed to investigate into the death of Corp. Walter Scott Ham, who was killed last week in the city, but witnesses submitted practically the same testimony as was given at the preliminary hearing before the police magistrate.

Awarded D. O. S. Major Charles F. Leonard, who went overseas as a Lieutenant, in the 26th Battalion, and won his majority on the field, has been awarded the D.S.O. He is now in command of "D" company of the 26th Battalion. Although a very few of the original men are in the battalion, there still remains that New Brunswick spirit, which made itself manifest in all of the engagements in which the battalion took part.

PERSONALS

Albert McHarg and Master Glenon McHarg of Black's Harbor motored to Prince of Wales on Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. John McHarg.

Mrs. Alfred D. Thomson and Little

daughter, Margaret, of Mac's Bay, are visiting Mrs. Thomson's sister, Mrs. Everett Herrington, Brittain street.

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WINNERS AT BRIDGE CONTRIBUTE TO FUND FOR WAR PURPOSES

Dr. Dunbar Hughes Looks for Development of Trade with Grenada Which Will Mean Much to Local Port.

Dr. Dunbar Hughes, a prominent citizen of Grenada, British West Indies, is in the city, a guest at the Royal Hotel. Talking with The Standard, Dr. Hughes pointed out the immense possibilities for the development of trade with the West Indies.

The doctor is considerably interested in the cocoa industry which is the chief business of Grenada. He believes that a big trade between Canada and the islands could be developed, particularly with respect to the importation of cocoa. There are also possibilities of an import trade in spices, nutmegs, etc. At the present time the old country is the chief market for the output of cocoa, fully two-thirds of the crop being shipped to England, while one-third goes to the American market. There is no exportation of cocoa to Canada and Dr. Hughes says this trade could be developed to the mutual advantage of both Grenada and Canada.

Dr. Hughes reports that the British West Indies are experiencing the same lack of tonnage which is being felt in Canada. Freight rates he states have practically quadrupled. Speaking of the war, Dr. Hughes says there has been a very generous response to the appeal for recruits. At least 25 per cent. of the eligible population of Grenada have enlisted. The citizens there have also given freely of their wealth towards patriotic causes. A special Red Cross stamp is voluntarily placed on all letters while the winners of each rubber of bridge, a favorite pastime in Grenada, pay a voluntary contribution to the war fund.

Dr. Hughes is hopeful that the conclusion of the war will see a large increase in the trade between Canada and the West Indies and he says that St. John is the logical Canadian port for the handling of this increased volume of business.

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