

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1915.

"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.

## CONCERNING MR. FLEMING.

The resolution adopted unanimously yesterday by the Local Legislature was amply warranted by the report of the Commissioners appointed to investigate the charges preferred by L. A. Dugal against Hon. J. K. Fleming in connection with the administration of the crown lands department and the construction of the St. John Valley Railway.

It will be remembered that two complete sets of charges were made against Hon. Mr. Fleming. In one of these there was an absolute vindication on every ground. In no case was it shown that Mr. Fleming or any other member of the Government had diverted one cent of public money, or that the Province did not immeasurably gain by the exchange effected in 1908 by which the Tweedie-Pugsley-Robinson plunderbund was hurled from power and an honest businesslike administration installed in its place.

The Commission appointed to consider and investigate the charges fulfilled the duties imposed on it with the strictest impartiality and fairness. That this would be so was guaranteed by the personnel of the investigating body. The Government, in deciding to give the maker of the charges more freedom than he asked for adopted a position which no previous government had ever dared to take when charges were made against one of its members.

There was ample precedent for the Fleming administration referring the charges to a committee of the House, as Mr. Dugal asked for, and then utilizing the services of a "blockers' brigade" to prevent the truth from being brought to the surface. Nothing of the sort was done. On the contrary the charges were accepted at their supposed value and every facility given to the makers of them to prove their case.

Hon. Mr. Fleming is now the Conservative candidate in Carleton-Victoria and his opponent is to be the man at whose hands he suffered persecution without precedent in Canada. The people of that constituency will judge between the two men and Mr. Fleming has no need to fear the result.

## GERMANY'S UNDER-WATER WAR

Reports of the sinking, by German submarines, of merchant steamers flying the flags of neutral nations seem to indicate that the Teutonic power has about decided to respect no flags save those actively allied with it. If this be so there should be a speedy reckoning in store for the war-craved men who sit in places of authority in Berlin. One instance of a neutral vessel being sunk by mistake by a German submarine might be explained by an official apology, such as has already been given, but when these "mistakes" recur with serious frequency apologies may lose their power to placate and something more tangible be demanded.

During the past week or ten days several Norwegian vessels have been damaged or totally wrecked, and there is evidence that at least one United States steamer which, despatches state, was "flying a large American ensign" has also fallen victim to the under-water engines of the enemy. Repetition of such occurrences must impress the United States government with the necessity of adequately protecting the merchant ships of that nation even if, in order to do so, it should become necessary to abandon the position of neutrality ably maintained up to the present.

Possibly it is the German game to embroil all the nations of the world in this terrible struggle. If that be so it would seem there is no surer way to accomplish it than by waging indiscriminate warfare upon every flag that floats. In such an event the price to be paid by the Kaiser will not only be increased but the day of settlement will be hastened.

## THE VALLEY RAILWAY BILL

There will be general approval of the steps taken by the Provincial Government to secure a closer control of the Valley Railway and to expedite the completion of that road. The bill passed on Tuesday with that end in view, meets the conditions as satisfactorily as possible. It provides for

the early completion of the road and safeguards against additional charges upon the public credit.

If the present contractors for the road, the St. John and Quebec Railway Company, are financially in a position to complete the work they will be permitted to go ahead with it. If not, the Government is authorized to step in assume control, and make what arrangements may be deemed necessary to finish the undertaking.

Such an arrangement is not only fair to the company but is absolutely in the interests of the people. The main point is that the road will be speedily completed and the necessary railway communication afforded to a large, populous and rich section of this province. It must be admitted that the Government faced a difficult situation and for the manner in which they have handled it they are to be heartily congratulated. They have once more given evidence of their intention to work first of all for the good of the province. All other considerations must be secondary. This is as it should be.

While no public action has been taken by the city council in the matter of appointing an assessment commission, it is understood that the subject is receiving serious consideration, and that an announcement may be expected shortly. The Standard's suggestion that the commissioners should be selected entirely outside of the members of the city council is one that meets with popular approval. It would be best for both bodies that they should be independent of each other and that the commission should have a free hand to work out its ideas.

The Conservative ward meetings last evening were marked with the enthusiasm of victory. No decision has yet been reached regarding a Dominion election but if it should come there is no doubt that the Conservatives of St. John will give a good account of themselves.

While the operation undergone by Hon. J. D. Hazen in a Montreal hospital on Tuesday was in no way serious there will be relief at the knowledge that he will soon be completely restored to robust health. Hon. Mr. Hazen is too good a representative for St. John to lose.

## "BORDEN BACKS BRITAIN"

(London Free Press)  
The party shibboleth, "Borden Backs Britain!" is disturbing to the opposition newspapers, which attack it with considerable energy. They ask if Borden backed Britain when he increased the British preference, but appear unable to satisfy themselves that they are doing more than beating their fists against a wall.

There is an experiment which these newspapers might put to the test, and we are prepared to tender the suggestion gratis. It is this: That they substitute for the name of Sir Robert Borden that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Then we should have it reading like this: "Laurier backs Britain."

This, we submit, would be preferable to attacking the contention that Sir Robert Borden backs Britain. Because really everybody knows that Sir Robert is staunchly at Britain's back, and no amount of cavilling at the matter can well be expected to change the public view. Indeed, the more the subject is discussed, the more impressed is the public mind likely to be with the strong imperialism of Canada's premier.

Since we have made the suggestion that we should have two campaign cries on the same order, with interchangeable names, it is not for us to question the wisdom of a plea that "Laurier backs Britain." We leave that to the Liberal campaign managers. If they think it wise to raise the issue of Sir Wilfrid's success or non-success as a backer of Britain, they have the opportunity.

## MASTERY STRATEGY.

(Ottawa Journal)  
"Let us fight the enemy, not ourselves," advises the Toronto Star, apropos of the rumors of a general election.

In this regard, however, the Toronto Star and other Liberal papers do not put the thing just the way they practise it.

What they practise is, "Let us hang away at the Government while nobly insisting that the Government shall limit itself to banging at the Germans."

## THOMAS ATKINS—SOLDIER

The great Duke of Wellington stood on the path which runs round the ramparts of Walmer Castle and looked out to sea. The day was one of splendid sunshine—it was at the commencement of the July, of 1843—and the old soldier, at home by the sea-side, had put on clothes, nankin and duck, suitable to the day. He stood, on foot on the carriage of one of the little carronades, leaning lightly on a Malacca cane, and his eyes, looking over the sea, seemed to gaze beyond the horizon.

Near him, and a little behind him, stood at attention a young staff officer of the Adjutant-General's Department, in dress uniform. He had brought some papers down for the signature of the Commander-in-Chief—for Hill was dead, and the Duke had been appointed for life to the command of the province. London he had asked a question, a small matter of detail, which the War Office thought should, as a compliment, be referred to the commander of the forces. A name typical of the British private soldier was required to use on the model sheet of the soldiers' accounts to show where the men should sign. It seemed a ridiculous unimportant matter to the young staff officer, and he was surprised when, instead of answering off-hand the Duke had thrust his cane into the path broken shells, and had then looked steadily out to sea.

The great Duke stood without a movement, and the young officer waited. Before those eyes, which looked over the rim of the world, was unrolling a vast panorama of all the gallant deeds he had seen done in war. He was searching in a memory stored with recollections for the man who should best typify the dogged gallantry of Britain's private soldiers. Before him, as in a picture, passed that desperate fight to hold Hougomont, and then his mind travelled back to the olive groves and the vineyards of Spain; to the snow-topped Pyrenees and the purple ridges and the black fork woods of Portugal. He felt again that gripping of the heart-strings he had endured as the thin stream of red coats crawled up the rocky cliffs into the Seminary at Oporto, he saw the dancing line of British bayonets sparkle as they came to the charge at Busaco! he looked again in imagination on the dreadful breach held by the dead at Badajoz! but no one name came more clearly to his mind than another. Travelling ever backwards memory carried him to a blazing sun and scorched plains—the savage storm of Assaye, and to the fierce fight in the darkness before Seringapatam; but still the name he searched for did not come. Now he was in the Low Countries on his first campaign, fighting his first action. He saw again the clear rain-washed blue of that horizon, the pink and blue and yellow houses by the canal blanketing in the morning sun, the distant spire of Bois le Due. His regiment, the 33rd, a corps of veterans, stood in reserve. He knew that his officers were waiting to see how the boy colonel would handle his regiment under fire. His first experience was to be a trying one.

The French were in superior force, and in the cloud of smoke before him he could see that the first line of the British were being pressed back. Firing still, turning at any point of vantage, the French light troops flung at them to complete the disaster were almost in the British ranks, and on the left a squadron of the French cavalry cantered, waiting an opportunity to charge. Then young Wellesley put the discipline of his regiment to one of the severest tests known in warfare. At the word of command every company swung back into column—leaving thus wide lanes through which the hard-pressed troops in the firing line could retire. Grimed with powder, cursing with anger, the men dashed through, and like closing gates the companies of the gallant old 33rd swung back again. The French were so close on them that some of the men were bayoneted before the word to fire was given. Thrice the Brown Besses spoke—volleys as steady as though the regiment was firing on inspection parade—and then the word to advance was given, and with bayonets fixed the 33rd moved forward to take up the ground from which the other regiments had been forced back.

The three volleys had done their work, the ranks of the French had crumbled away before them, and the cavalry had drawn off like a trail of mist. The day was won.

Wellesley rode back to where on the ground, on the first line his regiment had fallen, were little groups of men who had fallen. The men of the land were already busy with their stretchers. He rode to where the right of his line had been. There on the ground lay the pride of the rank and file, the right-hand man of the Grenadier company, Thomas Atkins. Six foot three he stood in his stockinged feet; twenty years had he served His Majesty the King; he could neither read nor write; he was the best man at arms in the regiment, and one of the stoutest hearts in the world. One of the bandsmen who stood by him had bound up his head where a sabre had slashed him, he had a bayonet wound in the breast and a bullet through his lungs. He had prayed the bearers not to move him, but to let him die in peace where he had fallen. Wellesley looked down on him, and the man saw the sorrow in the young commander's face. "It's all right sir," he said, in gasps. "It's all in the day's work." And then the blood gushed out of his mouth.

.....  
The Great Duke turned to the young staff officer. "Thomas Atkins," he said, shortly. The officer saluted and withdrew. As the sound of his footsteps on the path died away the Duke turned once more to the sea.—By Lieut.-Colonel Newham-Davis.

## Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Ma was sewing in her room today and I was leaning way out the window seeing how far out I could lean without falling, and after a while Ma sed, Benny, are you axually trying to fall out.

No mam, Im trying to see if I can keep from doing it, I sed.  
And I stopped leaning out of the indow and sed, G. Ma.  
Do I look like a G, sed ma.  
Did you heer about Mildrid Jones dying, I sed.

Mildrid Jones being the girl next stoar, and ma sed, Wat, wy, wy, my goodness, wat are you talking about.  
About Mildrid Jones dying, I sed.

Are you crazy, wy wat do you meen, my grayhiss, sed ma, there was nothing the matter with her except a soar-throat, and the last I herd that was awl bettir.

She dyed just the same, I sed.

Wy warevyr did you heer that, thats dredfll, theres no crape awn the doar, is there, sed ma.

No mam, they aint doing to put eny there, I sed.

Benny, are you telling me a falsehood, sed ma.

No mam, evvrybody noz it, I sed.

Now be carefll, sed ma.

She ust to be a broncet and she dyed and now shes a blond, I sed.

Benny, kum heer, sed ma.

Aw G, ma, she did, didnt she, thats no falsehood, I sed.

Kum ovvr heer, sed ma, and I sed, Im going out, and ma sed, Kum ovvr heer, I say, Wich I did, and ma sed, Put out yure hand.

Wich wun, I sed.

Put both of them out, sed ma.

Ill put it out I sed. And I put wun out, and ma gave it a farsee crack with the yard stick, saying, Now prehaps youll confine yure joaking to less serious subjects.

Wich prehaps I will.

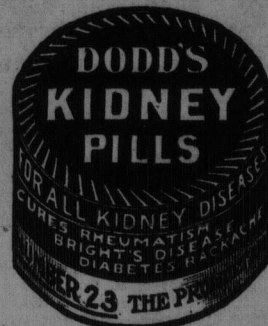
## FIREMEN CALLED OUT TWICE YESTERDAY

The fire department responded to two bell alarms and a still yesterday. In the morning about eight o'clock some person saw smoke issuing from the basement of Thomas Christian's house on Cliff street, and sent in an alarm from box 4. When the firemen arrived the only fire they found was in the furnace where some rubbish was being burned, and this was the cause of the smoke.

About two o'clock in the afternoon a fire was discovered in the basement of Brock & Paterson's on King street, and an alarm was sent in from box 23. It was discovered that the fire was among some garbage which is kept in a large box and so thick was the smoke that the firemen had considerable difficulty in getting at the blaze, but it was not long before the burning boxes were hoisted into the yard in the rear and the fire was extinguished. There was some damage by the fire and smoke, but not of a serious nature, and the smoke did not

get through the building to any extent, with the exception of the top floor. It is not known what started the fire.

FOR ASSISTANCE OF REFUGEES.  
Paris, May 4.—Cardinal Ametie, Archbishop of Paris, today received a letter from Cardinal Gasparri, the papal secretary of state, announcing a gift of \$5,000 to the National Relief Fund, to be expended in behalf of the refugees from the invaded departments of the north of France.



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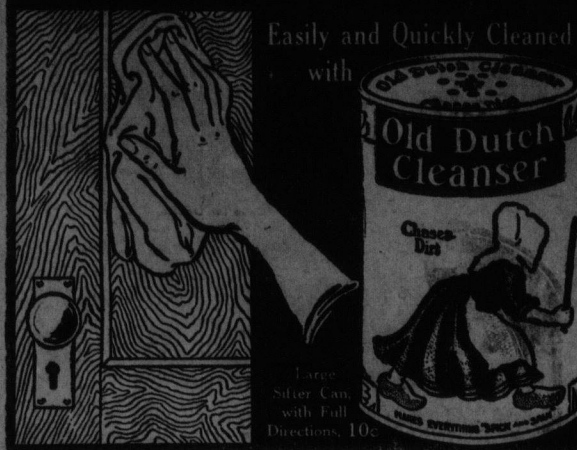
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