

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 83 Prince William street, St. John, N. B., Canada.
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United States Representatives: Henry DeClerque, Chicago, Ill. Louis Klobash, New York.
British Representative: Frederick A. Smyth, London.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 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.

THE CITY TAXES.

The proposal of Mayor Frink that the city should apply for legislation authorizing the levy of a special tax on all incomes above \$1,000 during the year 1915, the revenue so derived to be placed in a separate fund for any extraordinary public expenditure arising out of, or made necessary by the present war, furnishes an additional reason why more than ordinary care should be exercised in making up the usual estimates of the civic departments. It is all very well to claim, as one newspaper has claimed, that, in the interests of "business as usual," the civic services should not be "starved," but it is quite necessary that the civic authorities should be strongly impressed with the fact that when private business firms deem it advisable to pursue a policy of economy and retrenchment the city of St. John can do no better than follow their example.

In the case of special necessities arising out of the present war the situation is different. Citizens of St. John, in common with those of other cities all over the Empire, will regard it as a privilege to bear their share of the burden of the conflict in which the Empire is involved and which will mean so much to the civilization of the world. If it is necessary that a tax such as Mayor Frink suggests should be raised, it will, doubtless, be accepted in the proper spirit and paid as quickly and as cheerfully as possible. But the necessity should first be shown beyond a shadow of doubt.

The Standard has advocated that the duty of every patriotic Canadian is to do his part in the direction of maintaining business conditions as nearly as possible at the normal. To do this will entail more than a little sacrifice on every manufacturer, every business man and every wage earner and it is not desirable that the difficulties of the situation should be added to by the action of any body representing the people.

In the proposal of Mayor Frink it would appear that a special burden is being placed upon some persons who are least able to bear it. In this connection it might be advisable to consider the reduction of the percentage to be levied on incomes of \$1,000 and thereabouts. Even under normal conditions the man earning \$1,000 to \$1,200 per year has little surplus after meeting ordinary expenses. Consequently his burden should not be made heavier even if it should be found advisable to increase the percentage on the larger incomes. However, the adjustment of the scale is a matter yet to be considered and it may be taken for granted that members of the Provincial Legislature will bring their best judgment to bear on the consideration of any such measure before it becomes operative.

That considerable opposition has been aroused among business men against the proposal to add to the civic expenditures is evident from the statement of Mr. Joseph A. Likely, published elsewhere, and it is possible that the whole question may receive the attention of the Council of the Board of Trade. Beyond doubt there is much to be said on both sides, but the great mass of the people will incline to the view that the present is not a good time for increasing civic taxes. It is not necessary to "starve" the public services, but there must be due regard for the ability of the taxpayers to provide the money to improve those services on the rather elaborate lines suggested by some of the plans which have found their way into the newspapers during the past few days. "Business as Usual" does not mean increased expense without increased revenue.

A CLEAN GOVERNMENT.

Hon. John Morrissey, Chief Commissioner of Public Works, is to be commended for the stand he has taken in asking the Lieutenant Governor in Council to appoint a commission to make a thorough investigation of the affairs in his department. It is assumed that the request will be granted and an investigating body named. In his application Hon. Mr. Morrissey does not hesitate to say that certain men in the province have made statements regarding the affairs of his department and his desire is to give them an opportunity of proving their contentions, or else rendering themselves liable to prosecution for slander.

The Secretary of the Public Works Department, in a letter to his chief, also asks for an investigation. The position of Hon. John Morrissey in the position of every member of the Clarke Government. There has

been inuendo and mean insinuation, coming, mostly, from friends and hirelings of the "Old Gang," such as no member of the present Government can be expected to quietly tolerate. The Government has nothing to conceal and, moreover, does not intend that any one of the departments under its control shall be administered except by honesty and in the very best interests of the public. If any man in the province has evidence to the effect that the Department of Public Works, for instance, is being improperly administered, or can show that there has been dishonesty, Hon. Mr. Morrissey asks that that man shall come forward and produce the facts upon which charges or discrediting reports are based.

If other responsible Ministers of the Government should also apply for an investigation of their departments none can say they are not acting with their lights. The Government, headed by Premier Clarke, will welcome the test and it may be assured that if investigations are held they will be so conducted as to bring out all the facts. The days of the Blockers' Brigade at Fredericton passed into history simultaneously with the suspense accounts and frenzied finance methods of the Tweedie-Pugsley-Robinson regime.

THE WAR SITUATION.

Bad weather, rendering it increasingly difficult to move troops on either side of the war zone, continues to be the principal factor in the operations of the Allied armies against Germany. Last evening's despatches intimated that fighting had almost ceased, except in isolated places, but that in what engagements were progressing the Allies were meeting with success. Continuance of present conditions cannot but tend to prolong the war and it would not be surprising if the severity of the weather and the difficulties of transport should render it next to impossible to undertake any sweeping forward movements much before the early spring months.

The Russians are maintaining their offensive against the Germans in the east and are reported to be strongly entrenched in Warsaw against any possible attack. On the western front some progress is also reported particularly toward the center of the line where French troops have almost reached the German border. Heavy reinforcements of Germans are reported to have checked the advance in Alsace, but the check can be but temporary. Eventually the Allied armies must go forward but before that day comes there is likely to be much hard fighting. It is decidedly encouraging, however, to know that all the time the strength of our forces is increasing and that when the supreme moment arrives for a mighty blow at the heart of Berlin, Great Britain, France and Russia will be in a position to make that blow effective.

A NEW RAILWAY DISTINCTION

For the first time in history Canada built more first-track railway miles in 1914 than the United States. In this country 1,978 miles of first track were completed, and in the United States 1,523 miles. Considering that Canada has only eight million inhabitants, as compared with the United States' hundred millions, and that 1914 was a year of depression in railway circles, to have outdone the United States in new construction is a signal achievement, says the Mail and Empire. Canada now has nearly double the railway mileage per capita than the United States has, and there is considerable construction pending.

When the two new transcontinental systems now nearing completion are finished, and the Hudson Bay railway is completed, we may have to face a period of comparative inactivity in new mileage extension, and may have to turn attention to the utilizing of the enormous railway plant we now have. That plant is equal to the needs of a population about twice as large as Canada has, and will prove an asset of immense value in affording facilities for the enlargement of production. The shrinkage in gross earnings on the chief lines lately, in common with American lines, has made it evident that the Canadian systems are going to need increased productive activities throughout the country as much as the country itself needs them. When the war is over the time will be ripe for a stock-taking of our economic situation, in which transportation facilities are so important, that we may derive the utmost profit from our recent immense mileage development. A prominent railway official in the West recently announced that the earnings on many of

the Western branch lines would not for many years pay the interest on the cost. But those branch lines are not likely to become "streaks of rust." With them, as with older lines, the problem is to get out of the service they afford the greatest of value in commercial activity. The country has paid dearly for its railway systems, and that they shall be one of the chief assets and instruments in the rebuilding of our prosperity is only reasonable for us to expect.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE.

Great God of Mercy, in whose hands the destinies of Nations lie, Have pity on these stricken lands Where, seeking Peace, our brothers die.

Shall earth for ever in chaos move? Must men die, that men may live? The truer way, O Father, prove, And in Thy boundless love forgive.

Grant unto us a bloodless peace In future days, if clouds appear That human hate and wars may cease: Whose mankind's love dispels its fear.

And in this present tumult, Lord, Quick-speed the day when it shall end, Thy peoples here can ill afford The sacrifice, to Hate, they send.

Deep down in every human heart, In different as to race, or creed, There lies, through Thee, a better part Than 'e'er is shown by word or deed.

Grant, Father, unto us just now, In this stupendous hour of strife, From man to man, the power to show This better part we feel of life.

We're brothers all, as Thou hast planned, 'Oh save us from this sin of Cain! Spread over each and every land The Love that love alone shall gain.

When shall such happiness abound? Reveal to us some hopeful ray: When foes are friends the whole world round, Great God of Mercy, speed that day! South Bay, N. B. F.H.

A DISAPPEARING "TRUCE."

(From Beck's Weekly, Montreal.) The truce which the opposition press is enforcing in Dominion politics is certainly "some truce." It is one of those affairs under which one side can fight while the other cannot—a very good thing for the fighting side if only the other side would put up with it, which of course it never does when it once finds out what is going on. There must not be a general election, because it is the Government which calls the elections, and that would be fighting on the part of the Government; but there may be a contentious session, with all sorts of scandalous allegations about war supplies and interminable delays in the voting of supply, and demands for committee investigations with enough Liberals on them to make a noisy minority report. All that sort of thing is merely fighting by the Opposition, and therefore is quite proper, truce or no truce.

In view of all this, it is somewhat interesting to ponder whether or not what we have been regarding as a truce was merely a convenient policy of inactivity adopted and declared by the Opposition on their own hook and for their own ends. It looks as if the truce were getting extremely frayed at the edges, and would scarcely last through another parliamentary session, and would be very short. As the Conservative party never got any visible advantage out of it, the Conservative party will probably do no visible mourning for it.

W. H. M'KAY, FAMED AS A HIKER, IN TOWN

Some of his experiences as related to the Standard yesterday.

Among the visitors to The Standard last evening was W. H. McKay, lawyer, lecturer and globe trotter. As a truce was merely a convenient policy of inactivity adopted and declared by the Opposition on their own hook and for their own ends. It looks as if the truce were getting extremely frayed at the edges, and would scarcely last through another parliamentary session, and would be very short. As the Conservative party never got any visible advantage out of it, the Conservative party will probably do no visible mourning for it.

THE BEST QUALITY AT A REASONABLE PRICE.

For Your Child's Sake Have the Eyes Examined

It is much better to have your child wear glasses for a few years in childhood than to have defects in the eyes grow to a point where permanent damage is done.

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Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Yesterday I was in mas room looking in the mirror and making faces to see how many different kinds I could make, and after a while I filled my face full of air and pulled up the corners of my eyes with my fingers, making myself look just like a fat Chinese, and I turned around and started to walk around the room doing it and saying, Look, ma, look.

Im busy, sed ma going awn sewing holes in socks. Well just look wunts, I sed, look at wat im doing. And ma looked up and saw me looking like a fat Chinese, and she sed, Well I hope you dont imagine that looks pretty.

Its not suppose to look pretty, I sed. And I kepp wawking around the room doing it, and ma sed, Stop it, simpli, youll goe to look that way. I woodent care, I sed, if my face stayed this way I ood get a job in a side show as the grate wite Chinese.

And I kepp wawking around looking that way and stopping evry time I calm to the mirror and looking at myself, and after a while ma looked up agen, saying, Benny Potts, are you still doing that, now you stop it immedidly, dont you think yure funny stuff looking as it is.

Well I do, sed ma, and if you dont kwit that this seckond ill make you wish you had.

So I stopped looking like a fat Chinese awn akkount of my face beeing thru enyway, saying, Wat wood you do, ma, if I was reely a Chinese. Id make you do awl the washing, of corse, sed ma. Then im glad im not, I sed. Wich I am.

RECRUITING FOR MOUNTED RIFLES DISTRICT L.O.L. HAD GOOD YEAR

Some of the Officers For The New Corps.

It is expected that in a couple of days word will be received officially from head quarters to commence recruiting for the Mounted Rifles. So far only two officers have been officially appointed in charge of the Rifles and these are Major H. H. Ryan, of Kentville, N. S., who has been promoted to Lieut-Colonel, and will be in charge; also Lieut-Col. J. B. Kirkpatrick, of the 67th, and Major C. H. McLean, of the 28th. Lieut-Col. Kirkpatrick has been at Salisbury Plains with the First Contingent, and will come home to go with the Mounted Rifles. Lieut-Col. Ryan has an excellent record, having been through the South African war, and fighting is nothing new for him.

Major C. H. McLean is a brother of Col. H. H. McLean and is well up in military training, having been connected with the militia for a long time.

Recruiting for the 8th Hussars and the 28th Dragoons is going on and men wishing to go into the Mounted Rifles will do well to recruit at once with 8th or 28th, as they will then be given the first chance. The 28th Dragoons has probably more of its officers now on active service than any other regiment. They are as follows: Major C. H. McLean, Major D. G. Fisher, Major A. M. Vince, Lieut. H. M. Teed, Lieut. J. C. Morrow, Lieut. G. G. Corbett, Lieut. F. Rankine and Captain Duval.

WEDDINGS

Davis-Potmore. Last evening at the Methodist parsonage, Guilford street, West St. John, the wedding of Mayes E. Davis, insurance broker, and Miss Bertha B. Potmore, took place in the presence of a number of immediate friends of the young couple. The bride was attended by Miss Frances Meliday and the groom was supported by Olla P. Mullin. The ceremony was performed by Rev. H. E. Thomas, the pastor of the Carleton Methodist church. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Andrew Davis, and like the groom, is very popular and the large number of handsome presents received testified to the esteem in which the couple are held.

After the wedding the party adjourned to the residence of the bride's mother, 79 Market Place, where a sumptuous wedding supper was served which Mr. and Mrs. Davis drove to their new home 136 Metcalf street, North End. Shortly after the happy couple arrived at their home a large number of their friends accompanied by a brass band called and tendered them a grand serenade.

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Reports for p —Officers ele entation to I

The annual meet street Baptist chu evening. Satisfactor ceived from the v and officers, includ trustees, their rep work done during financial committee showed receipts fring the year of abou tures of about \$23, ance of \$500 or the day school and ch church steward, ac countant and pew ing incident was t Donaldson Hunt, at of thirteen years of church treasurer, o ing chair. The gift by an appropriate the pastor and chu of the congregatio are the officers for City missioner, church clerk, S. treasurer, W. C. Cr tant, F. C. Fisher, S. E. Fisher, S. H.

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