

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1919.

KINNEL CAMP.

Evidence adduced from day to day touching the causes leading to recent riots at Kinnel Camp in Wales, leads to the conclusion that delay in demobilization has been the underlying cause of the trouble. Statements have appeared of scarcity of food, lack of comforts, objectionable conduct on the part of officers, and the usual run of complaints such as soldiers always enjoy voicing. But at the bottom of the whole affair is the one outstanding fact that these men who had served at the front for years were possessed of an overwhelming desire to get home. And they were very generally brought home according to programme or according to promises made to them. Previous to their arrival in England it was necessary that the reserve battalions should be cleared out, so that accommodation might be provided. This was done, and the fact that these reserves who, for the most part, had not seen service in France, were the first to be brought back to Canada, created in the minds of some of the fighting men an unjustifiable impression of unfair treatment. They did not stop to realize the benefit of such a policy to themselves. All they knew, all they could think of, was that the war was over and that they should be brought back to their people.

Ever since hostilities ended the press of Canada has very generally urged upon the Government the speediest possible demobilization. Objections taken last November to the announced plan resulted in a speeding up of the programme, not sufficient to meet the wishes of the people at home or of those overseas, but an improvement on that originally announced. And if this speeding up had been carried out as promised, perhaps there would be less cause for complaint than there is today. It was not carried out. It is not now being carried out, and unless steps are taken to facilitate the earlier return of our war-sick soldiers, a very bitter feeling will be created among them toward the authorities in this country and in England, who, whether responsible or not, are being blamed for what appears an unnecessary delay. Not only have our soldiers seen the reserves brought home first—which, of course, was the best plan all round—but they realize perfectly well that steamers during the period of the war have been diverted from their accustomed routes to accommodate the men of another country who have not been overseas long enough to get over their sea-sickness. Our boys know that ports in Canada which were eminently satisfactory from August 1914 to November 1918 are now declared inferior. They understand that the railways of Canada, which, without much difficulty handled great bodies of troops proceeding overseas, now complain of their inability—and this at the slackest season of the year—to properly handle the returning divisions in any greater numbers than are now being brought back. The men do not believe these excuses to be good excuses, and, as a matter of fact, we in Canada know that they are not good excuses. And there will be a great deal of sympathy with soldiers in Kinnel Camp or those in other camps who are chafing under the delay, and whose feelings in this particular case went beyond reasonable bounds and found expression in unfortunate violence. It is a rather strange thing that Canada, with as many representatives as the country now has in England, cannot enjoy a closer co-operation than appears to exist between our Federal Government and the military and marine authorities on the other side.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE.

The Standard learns that in the course of their investigations into school discipline the committee of the Trustees Board are securing information of a somewhat disquieting nature. This is not in respect to the attitude of the teachers, but rather with regard to the conduct of pupils. Indeed some of this information which will not be made public—which indeed is not fit for publication—would, if generally known, cause much anxiety among parents. It is found among other things that there exists, even in the cases of mere children—eight, nine or ten years old—depraved tendencies which at such an age can be due only to parental neglect. The facts revealed in certain instances would indicate a regrettable lack of moral training at home, resulting in the development of a perverted sense which does not argue well for the future of those involved. There can be produced evidence indicating among boys of very tender years such a desire for tobacco that cigarette stubs picked out of the gutters are eagerly seized upon and made use of, not always in secret, but often with an utter disregard for publicity. Instances are recorded of childish, but none the less determined, defiance of school authority of like stories told to parents concerning treatment in school, of parental support of the children in this defiance of the teachers due to acceptance of the untrue tales brought home, and so, in some cases,

the existence of an attitude of direct hostility toward the teachers by parents who certainly should know better. The undesirable phases of juvenile conduct which have made so deep an impression on those who have become acquainted with the facts, are not by any means confined to boys. Unfortunately there are instances in which little tots of girls are found far from being in home training in as far as at least as can be judged from the evidence at hand. Indeed, from evidence produced so far there is reason to believe that instances of gross carelessness exists among parents with respect to the upbringing of their children, and that the real source of disquiet which seems to exist may eventually be traced to home neglect.

MR. VENIOT'S ROAD PLAN.

Mr. Peter J. Veniot, in his three or four hours' speech on Thursday, covered all mention of the gratitude which fills his soul through the contribution by the Federal Government of a million or so for expenditure on New Brunswick roads. Mr. Veniot referred to this little matter a few weeks ago in St. John, when he explained that, owing to the unfortunate position in which New Brunswick is placed, it would be utterly impossible for the province to take advantage of the Federal Government's proposition. Since that occasion Mr. Veniot has undergone a change of heart and he has now reached the conclusion that, far from turning down the proposition, he, on behalf of the Department of Public Works of New Brunswick, will be more than pleased to accept it and will do his utmost to expend on the byroads rather than on the highways of this province the hundreds of thousands of dollars to be received annually from this unexpected source. Briefly the Federal Government has, as an aid to the construction of good roads, set apart \$5,000,000.00 per year for a period of five years to be distributed among the various provinces. First of all \$800,000.00 per year is given to each province, and the remainder of the \$5,000,000.00 fund is divided in proportion to population. The thing works out so that New Brunswick will receive approximately 50 cents per head of population, or \$175,000.00 in this way, making a total of \$255,000.00 per year, or more than one and a quarter million in five years. This annual grant is to represent forty per cent. of the total amount expended on the highways proposed, and Mr. Veniot's original proposition was that New Brunswick is not in a position to put up the other sixty per cent. Since his change of heart, however, he has been figuring things out, and realizing that this province is now spending between \$500,000.00 and \$600,000.00 per year through his department, he has reached the conclusion that the greater portion of this may be so diverted, under his new accounting system, as to represent the required sixty per cent. required on Federal Government expenditures. By this simple little plan he will, as he now feels, get hold of that \$255,000.00 a year from Ottawa and will be able, as was done in the last election, to employ hundreds of people on the back roads, ditching, draining, stumping and levelling, in order to strengthen his own political position. The sum of \$255,000.00 a year for five years is a mighty big thing for an astute politician like Mr. Veniot to have in his hands, and he realizes the advantage which he will possess, provided always that he is able to hoodwink the Federal Government, according to his present plans. That Federal Government, of course, anticipates that new money will be provided by the province for the construction of permanent roads, but, after all, in the hands of a man like Mr. Veniot, it is easy to arrange the accounts so that the latter's contract may be carried out and the spirit of it disregarded. But this matter, despite Mr. Veniot's laudable ambitions, is one in which the Federal Government will be more or less inclined to take an active interest, and it is barely possible that before the \$255,000.00 per year is handed over to Mr. Veniot to play with, some assurance will be required that the province itself will put up the other portion of the funds.

THE PORTLAND PIER.

The Portland Argosy, of March 8th, contained the following:
"An act amending Article 9 of the Constitution is to provide for a bond issue for the purpose of building and maintaining public wharves and of establishing adequate port facilities in the State of Maine. The bond issue is not to exceed \$1,150,000.00, payable within twenty years, at a rate of interest of 4 per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, and shall be issued serially under the direction of the Governor, in Council. Bonds or other proceeds shall be devoted exclusively to the building and maintaining of public wharves and the establishing of adequate port facilities in the State of Maine. Provision is made that people shall vote on the question on the second Monday of September, 1919."

From the above it appears that the people of Maine are going after busi-

ness. Representations made to the State Legislature by delegates from all over the State have resulted in the preparation and passage of the act mentioned above, whereby Maine assumes liability for more than one million dollars for the construction of the proposed Portland pier.

Petticoat is not crushed. It has suffered a very severe loss, but the people of that village are not the kind to be disheartened, and from the ruins of the fire swept section new homes and stores will rise. The unfortunate feature is the loss sustained by those who failed to carry insurance and who now find themselves compelled to start all over again. It is a matter of gratitude that in the conflagration no lives were lost nor were any of the people injured.

Mr. Veniot and Mr. Foster reiterate their determination to get back that money about which we have heard so much. Just a word of advice. Don't waste time. The people who are accused might die or get themselves appointed to office where they will be beyond the reach of ordinary court proceedings. That has happened before.

The thanks of the Conservative Party of New Brunswick are due to Honorable Peter J. Veniot, for his able support of the Opposition in the Legislature on Thursday. A few more such addresses as this and any possible chance that the Veniot-Foster Government may have had of ever being returned to power will be gone.

WHAT THEY SAY

An Everlasting Pity.
Dallas News—"Russia lost 1,700,000 men in the war. The Russians fought with great bravery, often half armed. It is an everlasting pity that they have been betrayed by every ruler they have had."

They Love It Still.
Toronto Globe—"Several different Federal Governments allowed the Printing Department to go from bad to worse. Yet some politicians clamor for a return of the patronage system."

Just as Effective.
Watertown Times—"The German government says it will not submit to coercion. Nobody asked you do, sir, we said, but you will quietly do exactly what we want you to do. Coercion by any other name is just as effective."

Best Again.
Hartford Courant—"It is gratifying to all friends of American soldiers in France, to be told officially that grounds for complaint have been removed at Brest. A while ago we were told that there were no grounds for complaining. It can't have been very difficult to remove nothing and seems hardly worth announcing."

A New Mystery.
Springfield Republican—"No civilian can be presumed to understand why the War Department should dismiss nine on 509,999 men as the temporary size of the army. General March says: 'We cannot get along without that number, 509,999, and they were held.' But why exactly 509,999? Why not 500,000, or just 509,900? It's that last nine that puzzles us."

Sir Robert Borden.
Hamilton Herald—"Even political opponents of Sir Robert Borden, if they be good Canadians, will be pleased to read the high praise bestowed upon him by the Paris correspondent of the New York Herald. Sir Robert, it is clear, is recognized overseas as a man of commanding ability even among the intellectual giants who are attending the peace conference."

The Australian Way.
Christian Science Monitor—"It is difficult to conceive how any nation could improve upon the Australian system of dealing with the Bolsheviks as outlined in a recent despatch from Melbourne. It is simplicity itself, understandable and is simply itself, understandable. This obviates the necessity of later getting rid of them."

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

St. John, N. B.,
March 14th, 1919.
In reply to the letter of Bishop Richardson, an regard to the jury's finding on my boy's death, allow me to say that it is not surprising, and perhaps commendable that Bishop Richardson should have taken the attitude which he has taken in regard to the decision on the part of their finding, namely that the death was due to spinal meningitis, was conclusive and final, while the second part of their finding, that Miss Spencer's conduct warranted her removal, was absurd. Yours truly,
JAMES R. HIGGINS.

St. John, N. B.,
March 14, 1919.
Editor of The St. John Standard.
The Higgins case—that verdict of opinions expressed and the recommendations of the jury of fair play will read with much satisfaction two letters which appear in your issue of the 13th inst. one by Mr. Bertie C. Porter, president of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association, and the other by Bishop Richardson. I would like to direct particular attention, particularly to the last paragraph of Bishop Richardson's let-

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.
THE KING AND HIS DOCTORS.
A Play.

Scene, King sick in his gold bed.
King. I'm tired of being sick, darn it. I bin laying heer sick for about 3 weeks, and all I do is lay heer and get sicker. Wats the use of being a king if you can't get better wen you get sick.
Lord High Chamberlain. Wy dont you have a little patience, your majesty?
King. Wy dont you fall out the window wase you belong?
Lord High Chamberlain. Well sippose I offer a reward of a million dollars for the doctor that can get you out of bed.
King. G, thats a good idee, if I do say so myself.

Scene 2. The same.
First doctor. Try this pill, your majesty. If this wont make you get up, nothing wont.
First doctor. It and making a fearsse face) Gr wat a talent!
King. Wese.
2nd doctor. Take a drink of this, your majesty. I guarantee it because I've the penetration and then mixed it myself.
King (drinking it and making a even fearsse face) Holey smoaks.
2nd doctor. Do you feel as if you could get up now?
King. I feel as if I need 2 beds insted of one.
3rd doctor. Get the heck up out of that, you big nock need stiff.
King. Who, me?
3rd doctor. Yes, you, you funny looking gizebo.
King. (Jumping out of bed and starting to chase him) Come back heer!

3rd doctor. (Keeping on running) Youre up—I get the million dollars.
King. You come back heer and Ill show you wat you get! (Which the 3rd doctor dont).
The End.

ter, in my judgment, it is most important.
"One word more of a general character let me add. We are living, Sir, in an age when the question of discipline amongst the young is a very pressing one. No thoughtful person can regard with satisfaction the disregard for authority and law that is so common amongst boys and girls. It is becoming more and more difficult for parents to control their children and more and more we are drifting into laxity in this regard. Is it not into while asking whether the sentimentality in respect to punishment, that is so increasingly common, has not something to do with the evils which we deplore? Is it quite sure that the widespread departure from old-fashioned standards has been altogether a benefit? Is it not true that in some of our social evils we are reaping a harvest, the seeds of which we ourselves have sown by an undue softness in the matter of bringing up our children?"

I notice the father of this unfortunate boy appears before the Board of School Trustees and demands that the recommendation of the coroner's jury be carried out and Miss Spencer dismissed; everybody is truly sorry for Mr. Higgins but surely he is ill advised.

There is one aspect of this case that appeals to me as so important that I feel bound to say a few words about it. For there are other homes, than Mr. Higgins' where children are, apparently under the care of that personal direction that they greatly need. In January the mother in this home died, leaving a large family of children all under ten years of age, it may be assumed that a Christian minister visited this home and attended at the funeral and burial, but did he, personally, or direct anyone, to inquire into the social condition prevailing in this afflicted home, for the purpose of assisting Mr. Higgins and his children in their hour of trouble? If such an inquiry had been made would not the position of this poor boy in his relation to the public school have been relieved in such a way that the responsibility of the teacher would not have been taxed as it certainly was? I think not.

Yours truly,
T. H. SOMMERVILLE.

A BIT OF FUN

Sometimes,
A teacher was telling her class little stories in natural history, and she asked if anyone could tell her what a groundhog was. Up went a little hand, waving frantically.
"Well, Tommy, you may tell us what a groundhog is."
"Please, mam, it's a sausage."
Ottawa Evening Citizen.

Took a Chance.
"You admit you knew you couldn't pay them?"
"Yes."
"Then why did you order oysters?"
"Kind sir, I thought one of them might contain a valuable pearl."
Louisville Courier-Journal.

Two of a Kind.
"I once knew a man who went hungry in order to buy feed for his horse," said Jones.
"I can understand his sentiments," said Smith. "Many's the time I have

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SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN WELCOMED

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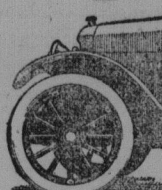
The Soldiers' Reception Committee of the many St. John organizations which keeps on steadily with its work. Since 1915 soldiers' boats and trains have been most faithfully met and words of welcome spoken, and gifts presented to the returning men. One of the first tasks of this committee was the providing of a room in the immigrant shed for returned wounded men. This room they furnished and decorated, provided lights, reading and amusement, and also engaged a piano. Folding tables, writing pads and other necessities were also provided by the committee at the discharge depot.

No record has been kept of the troop ships or the soldier trains that have been met, but Miss Helen R. Jack, the faithful treasurer, in a statement submitted to the committee, shows that from November, 1915, to March 11, 1919, the committee had distributed among the returned soldiers landing here about 30,000 apples, 5,000 oranges, 17,000 chocolate bars, 25,000 packages of cigarettes, 21,000 packages of matches and more than 2,000 flags. No record has been kept of sodas, khaki handkerchiefs, and other comforts distributed amongst the men.

The treasurer's annual statement shows that the cash receipts from November, 1915 to the present time amounted to \$4,438.38. The demands that have been made upon this little sum have been so great in the last few months that at present there is only the sum of \$11.25 in the exchequer, with \$40.29 of bills unpaid.

Many of the patriotic associations have contributed amounts of money to help in this work, which has been so deeply appreciated by the soldiers.

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