The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1919.

CIVIC TAXES.

With a record breaking rate of $2.62 in civic assessment, announced for this year, it is unpleasant to think what might have been had the assessors failed to discover 2,288 new people among whom the assessment is to be shared. In 1911 under the old government the rate was $1.94. In 1918 it was $2.27, to which was added thirty cents per hundred dollars Patriotic Fund tax. This year's rate is therefore higher without the Patriotic Fund tax than it was last year with it, and it is thirty-five per cent. greater than during the last year of old government. The total estimated revenue for 1919, amounting to $1,295,574, is more than double that of 1911, which was $637,810. That is, the assessment has increased more than one hundred per cent. while the rate has gone up only thirty-five per cent., the difference being due to the increase in valuation and additions to the number of ratepayers. The levy this year is made on a total valuation of $46,010,500, of which $23,780,800 is real estate and $14,987,850 is income, as compared with a total valuation of $29,842,300 in 1911, of which $16,516,000 was real estate and $4,147,100 was income. The additional seven and a quarter million dollars appearing in real estate assessment this year is not accounted for by new construction. Ninety per cent. of it is a matter of bookkeeping and represents the higher valuation placed on existing properties by our board of assessors. Incomes which in eight years have jumped from four millions to almost fifteen millions may be accounted for partly by the high earnings which so many are now enjoying, but chiefly through the discovery of the real incomes earned for years by hundreds who had previously escaped their fair share of the burden, as well as by the listing of many others who formerly did not appear in the tax lists. The new assessment law has been of value in revealing correct information along this line. Personal property shows a drop of approximately two million dollars from the assessed value in 1911, which, however, is due to the fact that taxes are now levied only on one-half the value. Therefore the assessed value of personal property for 1919 is in reality $14,483,700, as against $9,179,200 in 1911. In these days of high costs when the ordinary requirements for labor and materials are excessive, increased taxation may be reasonably expected. In St. John we are getting it in both directions, in high valuations and in high rates as well, and even with one hundred per cent. of additional revenue in eight years we do not seem to be as well off as under the old government. There is nothing more to show for $1,200,000 today than there was for $600,000, which is the position in which many private individuals find themselves — increased salaries being more than taken up by added expenditures—and it is scarcely reasonable to expect from the city any better showing than is made.

BRITAIN'S ARMY OVERSEAS.

Announcement is made that only thirty thousand Canadian soldiers now remain overseas and that these will be brought back during the next month or six weeks. Canada is in a much more fortunate position in this respect than is Britain, for the British army still away from home numbers fully seven hundred thousand men. Of this tremendous force—more than double the old regular army—two hundred and six thousand form the army of occupation in Germany. Behind this force is the army in France and Flanders forming lines of communication, reclaiming stores and supplies, clearing up old battle fields, caring for graves and generally endeavoring to restore the country to its pre-war condition. This vast force is held in reserve also in the event of further trouble with Germany. In Italy there are still eleven thousand British soldiers, one battalion being attached to the international garrison at Fiume. In the Black Sea district there are forty-four thousand British troops in addition to the East Indian soldiers of which number twenty-two thousand are in the Caucasus and are to be demobilized before very long. Palestine and Egypt still require attention and in these two countries there are ninety-six thousand men, of whom ten thousand come from Australia and New Zealand, the remainder being Britain. Continuous disturbances in these countries prevent the demobilization of the forces there, and this is true as well with respect to Mesopotamia, where there remain more than twenty-one thousand British troops, maintaining order by doing general police work. In view of the recent Afghan trouble and the widespread unrest following war conditions in India, and also remembering that one million natives of India were trained for war service during the years of the war and are now a more serious menace in the event of trouble than they were previously, it is believed that the sixty-two thousand British soldiers remaining in India is the smallest possible garrison compatible with the peace of that country. A small force is still attached to the Northern Russian expedition, and scattered units are maintained for garrison purpose at Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Malta, Bermuda and elsewhere over and above the number employed before the war.

CARSON AND HIS CRITICS.

Sir Edward Carson by his recent public utterances has earned the condemnation of a certain section of the English press, not so much for his references to United States interference in Irish affairs as by reason of his attitude as representing Ulster on the Irish question. He is accused of using language calculated to incite opposition to the Government, but even some of those papers which criticize his addresses in this particular respect admit that his references to the United States are in accordance with what those papers have been saying editorially for some time.

The unwarranted impertinence of Walsh and Dunne in carrying on an alleged investigation of Irish conditions and presenting their report censuring British administration of that country, is having its effect not only in Ireland but upon the British Government, which now finds itself facing more serious difficulties because of the added confidence Irish revolutionaries have gained through this American endorsation of their cause. Crime and disorder in Ireland have been more marked in the past six or eight weeks than in any previous time in the history of Home Rule agitation, and adverse criticism of the policy of the Lloyd George Government in permitting these American delegates to wander about at their own sweet will is becoming more general in the British press.

The London Times in this connection says: "Mr. Lloyd George, presumably without making inquiry, trusts these frothy rhetoricians from America as though they were painstaking students of the truth. The delegates go to Ireland and there stretch the permits which the Prime Minister, a good and easy man, gives them, into license to preach, and then refer the reports to Paris. The mischief which they have done in Ireland has extended to the United States."

The Chronicle in referring to the Walsh-Dunne report says that "whatever else may be thought of the authors of this tissue of exposed falsehoods, their reputation as persons of ordinary veracity and honor deserves simply to disappear among sane and unprejudiced men. It is of course perfectly true that Ireland is governed at present under a system which nobody believes in or regards as permanent. The difficulty is to discover any new system upon which Irishmen themselves are even approximately prepared to agree."

The Morning Post comments as follows: "The culprit in this whole business is the Prime Minister who, knowing the record of these Irish-American mischief-makers, went out of his way to facilitate their visit to Ireland. If any strain is imposed upon the good feeling between England and America by this incident Lloyd George will have the consolation of knowing that he is largely responsible for it."

IN PROHIBITION DAYS.

A very interesting story has reached The Standard which, if it is any indication of a general practice, may possibly account for the shortage of water about which we occasionally hear. It is said that the consumption of water in a two and one-half story house on Brussels street for the year ending June 30, 1919, was one million, seven hundred and forty-eight thousand gallons. The house is reported to be occupied by four families and was equipped some years ago with a meter. Meter rates are not, however, charged, but the ordinary dwelling rate. If the owner or tenants were asked to pay on the water consumed, the bill to the city might amount to more than the annual rental from all tenants combined. The amount of water said to have been drawn is equal to, roughly, forty-eight hundred gallons per day, or two hundred gallons per hour, which means that one or more faucets must be flowing at full force day and night. Accepting this report as reasonably correct — and The Standard's authority is good—if such wastage is going on in many homes, it will account for the exceptionally high consumption with which this city is credited. The volume of water drawn through the supply pipes into that one house is one hundred times more than could reasonably have been used.

WHAT THEY SAY

Strikes Come High.

Hamilton Herald: Economists agree that what is needed to combat the high cost of living is increased production. There cannot be increased production without the application of more labor to materials. Every worker withdrawn from production tends to keep up the cost of living.

If this be so, see what folly a general strike is from the point of view of the consumer—and we are all consumers.

It has been estimated that the direct loss in wages and profit from the Winnipeg strike was over four million dollars. This applies to the industrial loss only. The losses of the merchants in Winnipeg and the farmers of Manitoba are not included in the estimate.

The Chief Thing Left.

Brooklyn Eagle: German Government has agreed to abide by the Treaty. Now all there is to do is make them do it.

Something Coming to Them.

New Mork World: It is well that the ex-Kaiser and his junker crew remember Edith Cavell and Captain Fryatt before they assure themselves that they cannot be found guilty of atrocities.

One War Object Attained.

Philadelphia Press: Constantine, late King of Greece, is busted, according to the language of the street. This shows how successful the war has been, since one of its objects was to bust kings and such like personages.

Every Little Helps.

Halifax Chronicle: John D. Rockefeller says he expects to live to be 100 years. He is now eighty, and he attributes his good health to golf and a tablespoonful of olive oil daily. But Standard Oil, we fancy, is still his main prop.

As It Should Be.

Calgary Herald: Winnipeg strike leaders are now said to be planning to carry their fight into the political arena, municipal, provincial and Dominion. To this there can be no objection whatever. It is what should have been done in the first place. If the radicals in the labor element are able to elect a majority in councils, Legislatures or Parliament they will get what they are after in the way of government. By no other process would they be legitimately entitled to it.

Bread Instead of Bombs.

World Outlook: Over the same air routes where once allied planes went to battle with the Germans, aeroplanes are now carrying food and clothing to the devastated villages of Northern France. No other means of transportation to many of these villages is open, for not only are the railroads destroyed, but for miles the roads have been so cut to pieces that motors cannot pass over them.

The aerial relief service began January 25, 1919, when seven planes, loaded with condensed milk for the children, flew from Bourget to Valenciennes. The next day more than two tons of food and clothing were carried through the air to the devastated villages. More planes, including two boche escadrilles, have been added, which every day carry tons of provisions to villages in need.

"A Man of DeWart's Stamp."

Flesherton Advance: Wm. Proudfoot, who was denied the leadership of the Liberal party in convention at Toronto, has said that his reason for supporting Union Government during the war was that he had two sons in the war and both had written home saying that they needed men. The straight Liberals who opposed Union Government delayed the sending of needed reinforcements, as everybody knew at the time. This fact will not soon be forgotten by the country, either, and Mr. Proudfoot's statement only makes the truth more prominent in the memory of those Liberals who wished to give their sons "over there" the help they needed. A man of Dewart's stamp will never reconcile the fathers and mothers of this province to the action of the Liberal party in its fatal policy of delay when help was needed.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE TIGER OF FRANCE.

The smile on the face of the Tiger, as
he handled the pen of peace,
Was a smile for his country's future,
when all wars of the world
should cease.
'Twas a smile full of glory and sadness, as he thought of his
comrades laid low,
Yet full of joy and gladness, for the
Pilot they had learned to know.

He thought of his enemy's hatred, and
triumph of years gone by,
Of his country's patient waiting, till
they could make their proud
reply.
Not a smile of self-glory, at his
enemy's utter defeat,
But a song of praise and thanksgiving
to the God of the humble and
meek.

Full of faith and courage undaunted
Which no trial could ever decrease
Was the smile on the face of the
Tiger, as he handled the pen of
peace.

—Galton Moore.

Toronto.

A BIT OF FUN

Danger.

"Who are the plain people, anyhow?"

"Well, I wouldn't apply the term to the lady voters.'

Diplomacy.

Olive—"She is always grumbling about her servant, and yet she still keeps her. I cant understand her at all."

Elsie—"That's her diplomacy, dear. She knows that if she praised the girl to her friends, one of them would soon entice her away."

A Plunger.

"Was that young Brown I saw striking you for a loan? Why, I heard that only recently he fell into a fortune."

"That's so, but he fell into it so hard that he went right through it."

Popular Mechanics.

Scientific Parent (on a stroll)—"You see, out there in the street my son, a simple illustration of a principle in mechanics. The man with that cart pushes it in front of him. Can you guess the reason why? Probably not. I will ask him. Note his answer, my son." (To the Coster) —"My good man, why do you push that cart instead of pulling it?"

Coster—"'Cause I ain't a hoss, you old thickhead."

Nerve.

"I really can not see you," said the very busy man with some irritation.

"Then it's lucky I called," returned the intruder calmly. "I represent a firm of opticians."

Milliner—"I know that hat would please your husband."

Customer—"Not unless you took thirty shillings off the price."

Wife (during the quarrel)—"You looked so sheepish when you proposed."

He—"Perhaps because you looked so woolfish when you accepted me."

"You haven't explained how you happened to have Mr. Wacker's chickens in your possession," said the magistrate, sternly.

"I'se trying to think, your worship. Give me time," replied the prisoner.

"I will. Fourteen days!"

Knew the Sound.

In a village cricket match the local butcher was batting when a ball bumped up and hit him on the head, from which the wicket-keeper made a catch.

"Hows that?" yelled the wicket-keeper.

"Hout" said the umpire.

"But it hit me on the head," protested the batsman.

"I don't know where it hit you," responded the umpire. "But I know the sound of wood, so hout you go."

Father's Hope.

Mother (at telephone)—"Mercy! John, our daughter has married the chauffeur."

Father—"So? Well, maybe now he'll have some object in keeping down the repair bills."—Boston Transcript.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

I had 3 sents yesterday aftirnoon and I was going pass Mommy Simminses store and there was a box of long hat pins in the window with diffrent color glass nobs on the end of them, saying on the sine, 3 sents apeece, werth dubble.

G, 3 sents apeece, I thawt. Bi buy one and give it to Mary Watkins to pin her hats on with.

Wich I went in and did, taking me about 10 minuits on account of changing my mind so awfin wich color I wunted, and I pinned it on the inside of my coat, being a red one, and went erround to Mary Watkinses house and she was setting on the frunt steps on a pillo looking up and down, saking, "Hello, Benny, wont you sit down?—do you wunt me to go in and get a pillo for you, Ill have to go all the way up in the setting room to get it.

Meening shed rather not, and I sed, No thanks, this is all rite. And I sat down on the steps and we started to tawk about diffrent things sutch as the heet of the weather and nobody having eny parties lately, and after a wile I sed, Wat do you think I jest found? Thinking it would sound too conceeted if I sed I bawt it, and I took the hat pin frum the inside of my coat, saying, it looks jest like a new one, dont it?

O, izzent that perfeckly bewtifill, ware did you find it? sed Mary Watkins.

Outside Mommy Simminses, do you wunt to see it? I sed. And I handed it to her and she looked at it saying, O, well I declare, its the very one I lost, and thats the very place I lost it.

No it izzent, neither, I sed. Thinking, Gosh, G, and Mary Watkins sed, It is so, too, and I sed, No it aint, and she sed, Wy aint it?

Because it aint, I sed.

Well, of all things, Im insulted, sed Mary Watkins looking hawty. And she handed me back the hat pin, saying, Heer, take the old thing if you dont bleeve in giving things back wen you find them.

Wich I wouldent take it, saying, O, all rite, maybe you did lose it for all I know. And I gave it to her without getting eny credit for it being a present.

Proving if you dont start in by giving yourself credit youre libel not to get eny.

BUILDING WAITING ROOM.

The New Brunswick Power Company are building a waiting room at the Fairville junction. Their action in this respect will be highly appreciated by the Fairville patrons of the line.

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

GOOD ROADS.

To Editor of Standard,

Sir,—As we read and hear about the good roads and good work done in other places, I wish to call the attention of our member at Cody's, Queens Co., to the so-called "Knight Road," (Parish Cambridge) as the mail has to go over it three trips per week, and no work done on it for several years.

Also the "Cameron Road," as I have some hauling to do on that road. Our commissioner worked one day with a road machine and left it in such a shape it is almost impossible to get over it. If he would send a couple of men to level the road and pick off the stone, he would greatly oblige

JAS. McLAUGHLIN,
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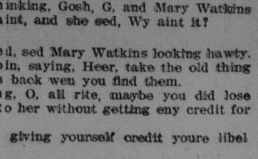

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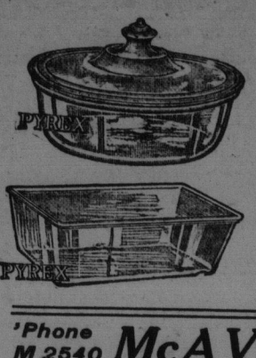

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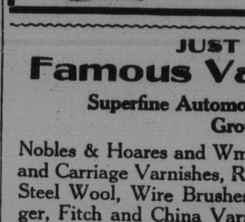

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