

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1916.

**"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.

## CANADIANS AND THE WAR.

Now that the great day of the holiday season has passed, the people whose attention to some extent has been distracted by it, have opportunity to turn their attention to even more important things. Canada has not yet discharged her full duty in this war despite the fact that more than 350,000 Canadians have done the King's uniform and are doing their bit for Empire.

It should never be said of Canadians who remain at home that they permit the boys overseas to do it all. Every man and woman in this country has a duty to perform in connection with the struggle in which the Empire is now engaged, and they must see to it that that duty is fully discharged. Canadians must think in terms of Empire and it is not fair to the boys overseas that we at home should continue to live our usual lives, eat our accustomed food and enjoy the luxuries of peace times while our dear ones are enduring hardship and discomfort in our interests. If we Canadians continue to live carelessly, thoughtlessly, it must be said that we are unworthy of the sacrifice being made for us. This country must organize for war, participation in it must become a part of the individual duty in every case, every sacrifice must be cheerfully and willingly made. It has been said that every man who is consuming food that a soldier might consume, or wearing expensive clothes, the cost of which might arm a man in uniform, and is not contributing in some measure to the success of the cause for which Canadians overseas are fighting is hampering the Empire by just that much. This may be an exaggerated opinion, but, after all, in comparison with the winning of this war what else counts?

This is the thought that must be pressed home at this time of year, at the season which, while the happiest at home, is the most productive in discomfort for those who are fighting our battles overseas. Canada is measured today by the number of men and dollars she can place at the disposal of the Empire. Up to the present she has done nobly but the most trying time is still ahead and it must not be said that in that time Canada has failed.

## THE NICKEL PLATED PATRIOTS.

Duncan, British Columbia, has a Board of Trade. That fact might ordinarily have escaped notice. In fact it is quite possible that Canadians busy with the war, Christmas and other things, might even have lost sight of the fact that it had a Duncan in British Columbia, were it not for the energetic Board of Trade of that community. Duncan is somewhere on Vancouver Island and is a small place. Consequently it naturally follows that its Board of Trade is a small body and possibly because of that has not heard of many things which some other Canadians know quite well. It may not have heard that the Canadian Government had taken all precaution to see that no Canadian nickel matte was shipped out of this country to any persons from whom it might find its way to Germany, or that the Imperial Government had already expressed its complete satisfaction with the manner in which the nickel question was being dealt with here.

But the nickel plated patriots of Duncan did not hear of these things, or else they had taken their news of the day from one of the small group of Liberal newspapers in Canada which has been biased in an effort to create the impression that the Government of Canada was a glibly or foolish partner to a wicked plan by which nickel was sent out of the mines in Canada to return to us in the shape of bullets in the bodies of Canadian soldiers. Consequently, Duncan, and the Duncan Board of Trade, got very busy in the circulation of a resolution to all the other Boards of Trade in Canada in which the opinion was expressed that "the Canadian Government be urged to take immediate steps to insure the erection in Canada of a nickel refinery at the earliest possible date; and that pending the completion of such refinery the Canadian Government take such action as will best assure control

of the Canadian nickel supply for the sole benefit of the allied nations." The St. John Board of Trade received a copy of the resolution from Duncan but the council of the local body took no action on it except to point out that everybody in Canada (outside of Duncan) knows already, that there is a nickel refinery underway in Port Colborne, Ontario. Also, it may be of interest to learn, that this project was in hand and well advanced long before Duncan awakened to what it believed to be its national duty.

It is also a fact that months ago members of the Imperial Government stated that they were quite satisfied that Canada had done and was doing everything possible to ensure that Canadian nickel would not find its way to Germany. The Duncan Board of Trade should certainly revise its newspaper list. Either it is not getting the news of the day or else it subscribes to newspapers which print only such items as are unfavorable to the Government. In the present case the Imperial Government is satisfied and the Canadian people are satisfied and the men in control of affairs at Ottawa are not lax in this matter. No one appears to be worrying but Duncan, and if our western friends would take a tip from the east it would be to devote their surplus energy to other purposes, set up a good big recruiting campaign or some other beneficial activity, which will occupy the mind until real estate speculation sets in again, so in for Red Cross work, knit socks for the soldiers, do almost any cheerful thing and get away from the bad idea of thinking that, with the exception of a few nickel plated patriots, the Canadian Government and the Canadian people are disposed to sit with folded hands while the country and the Empire go to the dogs.

## A BANKER'S LIABILITY.

The Montreal Gazette reviews an interesting case which has just been decided by the English Court of Appeal and in which the judgment is of wide interest. In the case of Banbury vs. The Bank of Montreal the plaintiff claimed damages for breach of duty on the part of the bank in advising him of the merits of an investment. He invested \$125,000 on the advice, as he claimed of Mr. Galletly, the agent at Victoria, B. C., loaning the amount to a local lumber company which was carrying out a contract for the supply of water to the city named. The city authorities failed to provide funds for completing the works and the investment resulted in loss.

For the bank, it was alleged that Mr. Galletly did not advise Captain Banbury, the plaintiff, but had simply told him of the lumber company and he had then acted on his own judgment. The bank further claimed that its agent had from it no authority to give advice in such a case and that if advice was given it was not responsible. The case was tried before a jury, which probably had the weakness of most juries where in a suit for damages a company is the defendant, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff for \$25,000. This the Court of Appeal has set aside, declaring that the first and vital finding of the jury could not be supported.

The end of the case, if this is the end, is of concern to more than bank managers and banks. Many people whose business training has not made them acquainted with the character and value of investments and business propositions naturally look to manager of the bank with which they do business for advice. It is often given, as a matter of course, without expectation of remuneration or thought that either the individual manager or the bank will be liable if at some future time the client should lose from following the advice. Even with the result in this Banbury case in the bank's favor, it is not likely that henceforth managers will be at all ready to give the benefit of their judgment to seekers for opportunities for investing or making money.

## Births and Marriages.

There were twenty births in the city last week, ten boys and ten girls. Eight marriages were also reported.

# PROF. R. J. SPRAGUE GIVES VIEWS ON RACE SUICIDE

Former Member of U. of M. Faculty Says Continuance of Present Conditions Will Exhaust Native American Race in a Few Generations; Rich Should Have Larger Families, the Poor Smaller.

"Preference on the part of both men and women for freedom from care and responsibility, and for passing pleasures rather than solid satisfaction, is the reason given by President Emeritus Eliot of Harvard for the falling birth-rate among native Americans."

President Eliot was led to discuss the problem of birthrate by Dr. John C. Phillips, Harvard, 99, who, in the most recent number of the Harvard Graduates' Magazine, presents statistical evidence that Harvard and Yale men are guilty of race suicide.

According to the figures collected by Dr. Phillips, the graduates of Harvard and Yale from 1850 to 1890 are not doing much better in reproducing "Intelligent Americans" than are the girl graduates of Vassar, Wellesley, Smith, Bryn Mawr and Mt. Holyoke.

But the problem of race suicide is not confined to the college graduates, according to Robert J. Sprague, professor of economics and sociology at Massachusetts Agricultural College, formerly a member of the faculty of the University of Maine, deaths among the native born population of Massachusetts from 1887 to 1911 exceeded the births among the native-born parents by 269,918, while during the same period the total births in families having foreign-born parents exceeded the total deaths by 526,987.

Three Not too Many. Professor Sprague, who is a recognized authority on birth rates and marriage statistics, says that if every native child-bearing mother in Massachusetts should bring to a marriageable age three children, there would be only a slight increase in the native population from one generation to the next.

Taking into account deaths, lunatics, etc., this means every child-bearing mother should have an average of 3.7 children each.

At present Massachusetts is falling away behind this average, says Professor Sprague "and the natural result will be race extinction."

Talking to a reporter at his home on Mt. Pleasant in Amherst, Professor Sprague said that he had recently made a thorough investigation of "race suicide" statistics among the graduates of the leading women's colleges of the country.

Here are some of the salient facts which he says he discovered: Only an average of one child has been raised by 959 graduates from Vassar in the classes from 1867 to 1892.

An average of only .8 of a child has been brought up by 1,739 graduates from the same college in the classes from 1867 to 1900.

Out of 628 graduates from Wellesley, from 1875 to 1889, the children per graduate is .83.

At Mt. Holyoke only 41.9 per cent. of the graduates marry and an average of only .95 children is born to each graduate.

At Bryn Mawr the child per graduate is .37.

Value Outshines Harvard. Dr. Phillips' statistics on Harvard and Yale graduates make these points clear: An average of 149.5 graduates each year (from Harvard) in the classes from 1850 to 1890 have raised 149 children each, a much better showing than at any of the women's colleges, but nowhere near up to the standard of three children per family set by Professor Sprague.

At Yale an average of 115.5 graduates each year from 1850 to 1890 have

1.69 children, a slightly better record than Harvard's.

Professor Sprague who has spent much time considering the causes and remedies of race suicide in New England, offers many suggestions.

"There is no disputing the facts," says he, and all the authorities of the East agree with him. "Everybody knows that if present conditions go on the native American race will be extinct in a few generations. Now, how can we prevent it?"

Warding Off Extermination. "Three ways occur to me. "First, we should idealize the home and family more, instead of the individual.

"Next, we should turn our legislation in economic directions, we should not burden a man with more taxes because he has a home and children.

"Thirdly, we should have patriotism enough to reproduce our race; some day we shall wake up to the fact that we cannot depend upon the slums of Europe for our population.

"Bearing on the idealization of the home and family, let me suggest that we should make housing easier. It should not be a task for a family man to get a home. In Germany the government does all in its power to aid the home circle.

"In this country we penalize a man every time he has a child; that is, we add an extra burden in taxes. Like as not, with more children he is forced to take larger quarters and his expenses go up.

"I think it would be a sound principle to tax homes on a different basis than business is taxed. The rate should be much lower.

In connection with Prof. Sprague's idea on taxation it is worthy of note that when Massachusetts legislators were debating the state income tax law, it was he who suggested the grading according to the size of a man's family. That is, the single man has to pay a \$2,000 a year income; the married man without children does not have to pay until his income reaches \$2,500; when he gets one child he does not have to pay until his income reaches \$2,750, and when the second child comes the figure goes up to \$3,000.

"In connection with this law," went on Prof. Sprague, "I might say that I advocated a four-child-per-family basis instead of two. The present law seems to recognize two children as the Massachusetts standard family. This is altogether wrong, as our statistics prove. There is no inducement

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for a family to have three or four or more children.

"More than this, I would have public ownership of public services, so that families could have better rates than at present.

"In the schools I should have domestic science taught the girls, and vocational training the boys.

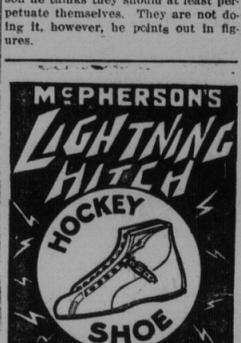
Legislation for Family. "I should have more married women instructors in the schools, from the first grade up through college. Two years ago in Wellesley there were 114 instructors; 100 were women, and of the 100, 98 were spinsters. Thus, the girls taught by these instructors are not psychologically trained for home making.

"College girls are not greatly sought as mates to share in the work of getting a living and founding a family, because they are not prepared psychologically and technically for the jobs of cooking, sanitation, nursing and child rearing.

"They have culture and intelligence, and demand high standards in husbands, but they know nothing about homes or home making."

Speaking further about legislation, Prof. Sprague says the whole tendency in this state, and the entire country, is to legislate for the individual rather than for the family. He points out that if a legislative body is considering making laws covering the building of homes, they think more about protecting the individual who is building the house for money making purposes than they do the family that is to occupy it.

Dr. Phillips, in his article in the Harvard Graduates' Magazine, says that college men are fair samples of American manhood, and for this reason he thinks they should at least perpetuate themselves. They are not doing it, however, he points out in figures.



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