

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1914.

"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.

### CANADA WAS PREPARED.

Important statements, which seem to have escaped the attention of the newspapers in this province, were made by Sir Robert B. Borden in the course of his address before the Canadian Club of Halifax on Friday evening last. The theme of the Premier's discourse was the Empire war and Canada's participation in it, and he related a little bit of inside history which showed that, at least, the Canadian Government was not caught napping.

As early as January last the Premier called a conference of the deputy ministers of the different departments of the administration and consulted with them as to preparation for war should the necessity arise. Carefully the officials went to work and collected a great mass of information later embodied in a private publication known as the "War Book," and as far as possible patterned after the book of the same name issued by the Imperial Defence Council. The wisdom of the Government's action is seen in the fact that a few days before the outbreak of war the book was available.

The information it contained related to every branch of the administration which could be affected in a situation such as this and its availability did much to facilitate Government operations and to prevent the wasted effort usually due to overlapping. In fact it will be readily believed that in the splendid record made in the mobilization, equipment and despatch of the Canadian contingent the officials charged with that duty were materially assisted by the work already accomplished in times of peace.

In relating the facts in connection with this achievement Sir Robert Borden treated it as a matter of ordinary business routine and did not invite credit for the foresight and statesmanlike wisdom which led him to prepare for trouble even when none appeared to threaten, but the people of Canada will not be slow to recognize that in incipient the movement the Premier has again placed the country under a deep and lasting obligation to him. Canada was ready when the call came and that state of preparedness must be ascribed in large measure to the happy circumstance which gave us in control at Ottawa a business-like administration with a keen sagacious statesman at its head. Premier Borden has again proved his quality.

### THE WAR SITUATION.

Steady pressure from the Allied armies in the West, coupled with most dogged resistance from the Russians on the opposite side of the war zone, is gradually causing the military power of Germany to crumble, and the news from all quarters where fighting is going on is, today, decidedly bright. A few days ago reports of a great German victory over the Russians were sent to Berlin, and the school children in that city were given a few hours relief from their studies to celebrate the success. It is as well that they had their holiday when they did for if they had waited for confirmation of the first glowing reports, they would probably have missed it.

It is not now apparent that the "victory" was a victory at all; rather a comparatively unimportant advance over territory which the Russians had given up in order to perfect changes in their plans. Instead of being defeated the Russian army is a very virile force pressing the Germans in the north so fiercely as to compel a retirement across the East Prussian frontier. Further south the Russians continue the investment of Przemyśl with as much determination as ever and although the Germans are attacking in force at the centre there has, as yet, been no decisive result.

While Russia has given some ground she has increased her forces and improved her strategic position, and the battle for the possession of Warsaw is yet far from being decided. The Kaiser is reported to have told the men of the army of Warsaw that if they did not succeed in capturing the city, he would be obliged to make peace for Germany on degrading terms. The capture has not been effected and is not likely to be for some time, and while the Kaiser may not have intended his statement to be accepted literally, yet, if possession of Warsaw was the only alternative in his mind to a "degrading" peace, it does not seem improbable that there may be an earlier cessation of hostilities than generally expected.

In the West the Allies are making splendid progress. One by one the units in the system of German de-

fences are being overcome and the German lines forced a little nearer to the border and to disastrous defeat. It is not spectacular campaigning, but it is mightily effective, and if the visible progress of the Allies is slow it is none the less certain and must eventually result in sweeping victory.

The reports of disaffection in Austria and of Italian preparation for participation early in January, still persist, and it would not now be regarded as surprising to learn that Austria and Hungary were prepared, at any time, to negotiate peace independently of Germany on the best terms obtainable. That knowledge of conditions in Austria has reached Berlin is certain and the attitude of the Austrian people may prove a potent influence in inducing Germany to ask for terms before the fighting has been carried to her own territory. Even though the German authorities are inflated with their own conceit they must realize that for them the game is up, that their position today is far more favorable than it is likely to be six, or even three months from now, and that in the end there remains nothing but the prospect of ignominious defeat. Peace, however, cannot yet be had for the asking. When this war ends it will be under conditions dictated from London and Paris and Petrograd, rather than from Berlin or Vienna, and it will not end until Germany has fully expiated her gross crimes against civilization and humanity. Any other conclusion is not to be thought of, no matter how keenly Berlin might desire better terms.

### A RECORD CHRISTMAS.

The general report from retail merchants is that Christmas business which, to all intents and purposes, closes tomorrow has been at least as good as usual this year, a fact plainly indicating that St. John has felt the depression coming from the war to a considerably smaller degree than most cities. The bulk of the people apparently have more than enough money to supply their daily needs and in endeavoring to keep "Christmas as Usual" are showing an altogether commendable spirit.

A barometer of local prosperity, usually regarded at this season of the year as fairly accurate, is furnished by the business done at the Post Office, particularly in the money order branch. This year, postal officials say, has constituted a record in their line. The fact that the parcels post and the express companies are experiencing more than the usual Christmas rush also indicates that the amount of money being spent for Christmas gifts for those away from home is greater than before. The receipts of the money order department show that remittances of cash gifts are also in greater volume and all these signs taken together illustrate that there is little or no basis for pessimism as regards St. John. There is likely to be the usual amount of poverty this winter but unemployment is not expected to prove a very great problem as indications point to a good shipping season and much business which, in times of peace, would not be transacted through this port. Also the outlook for the province generally is not depressing. While timid souls may continue to expect dull times and business stagnation the general opinion will be that St. John and New Brunswick have much cause for thankfulness and can face the New Year with a high and justified hope.

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that Harry K. Thaw must go back to New York State and stand trial for conspiracy in connection with his sensational escape from Matteawan. The result of the decision will likely be that after this product of false standards of life has disposed of more of his mother's money he will find himself back in the Asylum for the Criminal Insane from which he escaped in August, 1913. Those who have followed the Thaw case since it first spread its filthy details through the press, will incline to the opinion that a heap of trouble could have been saved if the murderer of Stanford White had been treated as a man instead of as a Pittsburgh millionaire.

It is announced that the Valley Railway will be operated by the I.C.R. early in January. The operation of this railway will prove a great boon to the people of one of the finest sections of this province. The road has already been declared to be well built and the success of its operation is practically assured.

Two more shopping days remain for those who have neglected the slogan

"Do your Christmas shopping early." For them the motto is "better late than never."

One last word to Christmas celebrants—beware of Christmas tree candles and cotton-wool-whiskers. Many serious fires have started in that way.

## CITY FINANCES IN JANUARY

Money provided until next year's appropriations are made up—Routine matters.

A short meeting of the city commissioners was held yesterday afternoon when it was decided to have Canterbury street extension taken over as a city street and made ready for traffic.

The comptroller with the commissioner of finance were commissioned to provide an amount equal to one twelfth of the appropriations of last year. This amount will be necessary to carry on the civic departments during the month of January. It was decided to sell city bonds over the counter to the first customers as they appeared. The Mayor, Commissioners Wigmore Russell and Potts, with the common clerk, were present. John M. Christopher was granted a renewal lease of a lot in West St. John from May 1, 1913, at annual rental of \$13.50, an advance of 10 per cent. on former rental. The lot is No. 5, Guy.

The appropriations for bands last year was increased from \$900 to \$910. Canterbury street extension was taken over as a city street, and the lease formally issued to Hugh S. Gregory, but never signed, was annulled. The city will therefore open up this street for the public.

The grade of Britain street as given by the road engineer was adopted. Mayor Frink brought up the matter of selling city bonds. Several bond dealers had thought they should be given a chance to secure the bonds. Commissioner Potts, Wigmore and Russell all favored the bonds being sold over the counter to those who wanted them. The plan of first come, first served, was the idea favored by the commissioners. Mayor Frink pointed out that the interest on the bonds really amounted to seven per cent. The meeting then adjourned.

## INTERESTING CASES IN POLICE COURT

Several By-law Reports Dealt With By Police Magistrate.

In the Police Court yesterday afternoon Fred G. Spencer was fined ten dollars for allowing his automobile to remain on the street over the limited time and the fine was allowed to stand for the present subject to the matter being reported to the Commissioner. Mr. Spencer was also charged with conducting a vaudeville performance without a license. The defendant explained that he had taken out a license and the matter was adjourned until Tuesday next for further proof.

Scovill Bros. had been reported to the court for throwing paper boxes thrown on King street. This case was also adjourned until next Tuesday.

Alphonse Nikola was before the court on the charge of wandering about Mill street late at night. It was explained that he had been found sleeping in a box car on the I. C. R. tracks, which was considered quite dangerous owing to the car containing a large quantity of hay. Nikola was the man who recently was found guilty of stealing goods from a store in the North End and the question came up in court whether or not he

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## Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

Krismas is the time when there is peace and earth good will to men for those that get presents.

Krismas must be a fearsome time for Turks and Mormons, awn akhount of if a man has 19 wives and about 100 children and they awl expect presents, I guess he wishes Krismas was Noo Years or um othr holiday, ware peopl are expected to enjoy themselves without ipeckting everybody to give them sumthing. I guess Turks and Mormons try to keep thare childrin frum bleeving in Santer Klawa isted of trying to make them bleeve in him, the way reguler peopl do.

Evrryboddy ipeckts to get moar than they give at Krismas, proving that moat peopl dont care weathir they are blestid or not, perviding sum-boddy elts is blestid for thare sake. It is bettir to ask for wat you want and not get it, than to not ask for it and not get it enyway and think maybe you wood of got it if you had asked for it.

Evrryboddy, even kids, can haveas mutch plum puddin and different kinds of diszet as they want awn Krismas, providing that even if they get sick its in a good cause. I rote the following poma about Krismasus Krismasus kums but wants a year As evrryboddy noz Krismasus kums but wants a year And wants a year it goz. Pop ses the opposite to Krismasus is Thanksgiving Day.

had been allowed to go under a suspended sentence of five years. He was remanded to jail and the Magistrate said that if the prisoner had been allowed out on suspended sentence he would be handed over to the higher court to be dealt with. A big soldier of the 26th Battalion named Anderson who was arrested a few nights ago in the army for being drunk and disorderly, was taken from jail and allowed to go with Captain Keeffe.

### FUNERALS.

Daniel Sullivan.

Newcastle, Dec. 21.—The funeral of Daniel Sullivan, prominent lumberman, of Renous, of place to St. Bridget's R. C. cemetery Saturday forenoon, Rev. Father Murdoch conducting services. There was a large attendance, the deceased being a much respected citizen, well known throughout the county. The pall-bearers were the five sons of the deceased living the county and a grandson, Vincent Sullivan. Seven children survive, their mother, formerly Miss Catherine Keahoe of Renous, having died two years ago. They are: John and Wm. Redbank; Michael, Cobalt, Ont.; Dennis and James at home; Frank, Renous, and Miss Bernetta at home.

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