

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1918.

POST-DISCHARGE PAY.

Scarcely has announcement of the government's plan of increasing post-discharge pay of soldiers been made public, than objections are offered. From all quarters in Upper Canada come complaints from men who have not seen service overseas, that the new system is unfair to them, that they will now receive minimum allowances for serving, through no fault of their own, in Canada alone, and that the spirit which prompted the overcautious men to offer is the spirit which has actuated those whom the fortunes of war detained in Canada. There is, of course, something to be said in behalf of the man who tried to go across and could not get there, but the plan now announced seems to be as fair an arrangement as could be devised. Any other system would involve individual application and a consequent investigation of the mental processes and physical weaknesses of all soldiers, which of course would be not only impossible but unwelcome to the extent of suggestion. If a man, physically unfit for overseas service, has in spite of his desire to go across, been forced to serve in Canada, then he is compelled to suffer to a certain extent financially because of his disability. In this regard the physically fit is paid for his strength. Again the new scale of pay varies according to length of service and while there is also some cause for complaint on the part of those who, by reason of their youth, were unable to offer their services during the earlier years of the war, still there will be general approval of the principle which maintains that the volunteer is entitled to more generous consideration than is the man enrolled under the military service act.

No possible plan could be adopted which would prove satisfactory to all, and the present scheme, generous almost to a fault, may, in spite of criticism, be regarded as about as fair a plan as can be devised. It has the merit of not reducing by one cent what any enrolled man was led to expect would be paid him, while on the other hand it increases very largely the bonus payable to those who have been exposed for the longest time to the most severe hardships.

THE MILK QUESTION.

No legislation can be effective unless backed by strong popular approval, and there can be no clearly defined public opinion without knowledge. Thus it is useless to attempt by fair price committees, civic by-laws or other methods to bring about improved conditions in respect to the sale of milk in St. John, until the people of St. John actually know what they are paying for. At the present time milk is sold at retail here at fourteen cents per quart. There are some who consider this price too high; there are others possessed of a more or less accurate idea of the cost of production, who believe it too low. Opinion, however, is general, that altogether too great a difference exists between the price paid by the consumer and the amount received by the producer. But even if investigation, it will not be found that the possible variation in price by improved methods of handling and distribution will amount to only a few cents per gallon. It is not in this direction that reform is particularly needed, but in respect to the producer himself as now actually sold in St. John. Anyone who buys a quart of milk at fourteen cents, has the right to expect that he will receive a quart of milk of the original article, a quart of water has been added, then the purchaser of the quart of mixture is paying not fourteen, but twenty-eight cents for his milk, and obtaining a very inferior article. If on the other hand the food-values of the original milk are taken away, and the residue, the skimmed milk sold at fourteen cents, while the cream is sold separately, at fifty or sixty cents, the consumer is merely a victim of deliberate theft. This is, in reality, the feature of the milk business, which is deserving of attention. For whether by fair-price committees or otherwise we eat one cent per quart of the present selling price, is relatively unimportant so long as we are compelled to continue paying what now amounts, in some cases, to forty cents per quart.

New Brunswick has a department of Public Health suitably equipped for the investigation of matters such as this, and endowed by legislation with ample powers to promulgate such regulations as may be deemed advisable. Why should not our city council at once request that provincial department to frame reasonable regulations governing the sale of milk in St. John, and to immediately thereafter hold an exhaustive investigation into the sale of milk here? That department is at present in possession of information which proves conclusively that in this city watered milk and skimmed milk possessing less than twenty-five per cent of the recognized value of whole milk, are being freely sold as the whole product.

Evidence now on record demonstrates that in the cases of certain dealers not fourteen cents but more than fifty cents per quart is being

obtained; that mothers of babies, and invalids, who are depending on the food values of the milk they are sold, are suffering through the unchecked dishonesty of someone. Certainly this condition does not exist generally, but the fact that it exists at all is ample reason for immediate action. The health of the people—of a very considerable number of them—is affected by this condition, and the provincial department of public health, which so far has failed to show any good reason for its existence, might, at least attempt to justify its creation by assuming responsibility for an inquiry such as this.

THE POTATO ENQUIRY.

Public hearings in the potato enquiry which, while an unavoidable necessity, were looked upon by the investigating bunch as such a beastly bore, are now over. Mr. Peter Hughes who has been running things to suit the ideas of those who are paying him, and Mr. McQueen who knew it all from the start, may now go through the pretence of preparing the report which they have had ready for presentation since before the enquiry opened. Everyone knows what this report will be. There have been so many intimations by the commissioner since the hearing began, that any one with even the slightest conception of the bitter passion which has prompted the whole affair, can read Mr. McQueen's report in his attitude towards witnesses, in his apparent disbeliever in the honesty of anyone politically opposed to his employers, and in the evident pre-judgment which has marked his whole attitude during the enquiry.

Based on the evidence produced by an unlimited authority—though, of course, the report will not be so based—there has been almost nothing which could in any way justify condemnation of the actions of anyone connected with the potato business. It is true, and this has been freely admitted, that those business methods marked the conduct of one or two of these engaged in the work. The responsible minister of the interested department was at that time busy in looking after the affairs of several departments—possibly trying to prevent such stunts as were pulled by the gentlemanly Mr. Currie—and was not able to devote his close personal attention to every detail of the transaction. And a loss was sustained to the province, a straight business loss of thirty thousand dollars.

Instead of showing this—and it was in reality nothing to be ashamed of—certain persons undertook to make good this deficit out of party funds. This was done, and the province was not called upon to meet the loss which it should have met. There is room for criticism in the method by which this end was achieved. One or two of the people involved acted as though a legitimate loss incurred through adverse conditions in a perfectly straight business transaction were something to be ashamed of. It was nothing of the kind and the fact should be borne in mind that as a direct result of the purchase and shipment of certain potatoes during a time of great confusion, New Brunswick met a financial loss, which loss has not been called upon to pay. The total result of this enquiry—enquiry which has as its sole object the hope of involving some member of the previous administration—has been to prove conclusively that New Brunswick is not out one cent, but that the province has been recouped from party funds an actual loss sustained in a transaction about which no criticism has been offered. The source of the funds so employed is an entirely different matter, a matter now before the courts, and out of the sphere of investigation in which Mr. McQueen has gloried. He will, of course, attempt to exceed his authority in this particular direction, but to his great regret he is unable to find that any of his political opponents can be accused of dishonesty or that in the whole affair under-investigation there has been anything on which he can hang an excuse for condemnation.

WHAT THEY SAY

"Must Hang Together." Boston Transcript: "Doubtless the former Kaiser and Crown Prince feel that they have about reached the ends of their ropes and come what will they must hang together."

"History Repeating Itself." Troy Times: "A German army of 200,000 men is marching home from Russia through storm and cold, and then suffering from attacks by enemies. The conditions recall Napoleon's flight from Moscow."

"A Dejected Don Quixote." Tampa Tribune: "So, Stripped of snuffboxes, the band of Don Quixotes before us a dejected Don Quixote, with lance shattered against the windmill, the diseased brain shaped into a catfish's face."

"A Poor Service." Springfield Republican: "In this country one hears little bragging about America's part in the war, and it may be hoped that there are not many foolish Americans abroad who talk in a way to create ill feeling among the Allies. To give publicity

to idle talk of that sort does this country a poor service."

"A Sex Problem." Los Angeles Times: "Seems tough for a warrior to come back from France and fight a woman to get his job back. But lots of them will have to do it. The girls who have made good and like it will not want to let go. There are quite a number of little problems in this readjustment business."

"Selling of the Good Ship Junkenote." Philadelphia Inquirer: "Had the President announced that he and his peace commissioners were going to France unaccompanied except by the necessary clerical forces, an air of stern business would have been given to the expedition. But it seems that the vessel selected is to transport various wives, daughters, sweethearts, cousins and aunts. One cannot escape the impression, therefore, that the excursion is largely of the pleasure variety. May we not be allowed to suggest that the name of the George Washington be changed temporarily to that of the Junkenote?"

A BIT OF VERSE

DAME WILKINS.

Harry Edward Wilkins, in Richmond Times-Dispatch.
Quoth good Dame Wilkins: "I do despise All folks that's gifted with peepin' eyes And I got no use for 'em peepin' kind With no affairs of their own to mind! That Cynthia Gray—whom I ought to know And I won't take long to tell her so, I caught her peepin' at Smithers' door That lives downstairs on 'th' second floor!"

"Now Smithers, he is so doat' in love With Mrs. Brown on 'th' floor above That Martha Black, in 'th' third floor back, Jest keeps her eye at 'th' blessed crack 'Til livelong day, in 'th' hope that she'll see 'th' ridiculous gals on 'th' wall! I know 'th' way, so becu' didn't I see her through the keyhole with my own eyes?"

Quoth good Dame Wilkins, "I got no cause for to make complaint, But they's some folks right and some that ain't. And I won't take long to tell that Smith Has got a wife he ain't livin' with! I got no call for to say how Brown Ain't paid a creditor in this town; And 'tain't no place, though it ain't no lie, To tell how Mrs. Smoot got 'th' eye!"

Quoth good Dame Wilkins, "I do despise All folks that's gifted with peepin' eyes, And I got no use for 'em peepin' kind With no affairs of their own to mind!"

PEACE IN FLANDERS.

(Dedicated to Col. John McCrae, M.D.) Sleep, rest, have hearts in Flanders field, Ye will not to yield, And not to yield, Som leaveth of the truth Of Life, to know That sacrifice For what is right Shall ever triumph Over might, True to this faith Ye fought the fight, On fields where poppies grow.

Sleep on, brave lads, Bright sunrise glow, Beams on the land Where poppies blow; A land where Freedom lives, Where red did flow The blood of brother, Fried and for Fair land that lives, Because ye died, Ye loved of Britain's South, Her pride, Far fields of Flanders, Glorified, Where red the poppies grow. —R.

A BIT OF FUN

"You are looking badly broken up." "I feel badly broken up. Didn't have any sleep last night." "How was that?" "When I got home I couldn't find my latch key and had to sit on the doorstep all night. Didn't find it till this morning." "Where was it?" "In my hand."

The fair young thing threw her arms round the bridegroom-to-be another twenty-four hours. "Oh, Walter," she giggled, "Dad's going to give us a cheque for a present!" "Good!" said the man. "Then we'll have the wedding at noon instead of 2 o'clock!" "But why, dear?" "The banks close at 3!"

A famous actor tells a story of a friend of his who returned to New York after several years' absence in the west. As they walked down Broadway on a sight-seeing tour the actor asked him: "You remember Grace Church, I suppose?" "Let's see," replied his friend; "what was it?" "That was it!"

A party of sportsmen had been out all day big-game hunting, and as they rested after their day's labor they spun yarns. "Last time I was out here on this game," said the quiet man, "I met a magnificent lion face to face. With a terrific roar, the beast sprang at me, but just missed his aim by jumping two feet too high. Disappointed, it stalked away into the woods. The next day we set out to track the beast down, and at last came upon it in an open space in the jungle—or—practically low jump."

Mrs. Fatpurs—"You paint pictures to order, don't you?" Great Artist—"Yes, ma'am." Mrs. Fatpurs—"Well, I want a landscape, with lots of deer, and ducks and quail, and reed birds, cattle, pigs,

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

The door bell rang today, being 2 ladies to see me, one being a little fat lady with big diamonds on her fingers and the other being a big skinnier lady with little diamonds on her ears. And they sat down in the parlor and I went up to tell me, and won I got as far as the setting room, where was in there but our cat Fluffy chasing a feather around the floor as if he thawt he was having more fun than little, which he properly was, me standing there watching him and forgetting all about the 2 ladies, and after a while me came to the setting room door with her hat on, saying, Benny, I'm going shopping, in case anybody wants to know.

Yes, mam, if you bring home any candy will you bring home checkkitts? I sed.

You're not supposed to eat checkkitts in war time, sed ma. Meaning she probably wouldn't, and she went downstairs and out the front door, and I watched the cat some more and then I looked out the back window at a huckster yelling, bannanass without selling any, and all of a sudden I thawt, Gosh, G, I forgot to tell her about the 2 ladies.

And I went down in the parlor again and the 2 ladies was setting there as if they thawt it was time sumthing happened, me saying, Ma aint home. Well for goodness sake, did you ever hear the best of that? sed the little fat one. Meaning why didn't I tell them long ago.

Its outrageous, children nowadays have no sents and fewer manners, sed the big skinnier one. Meaning me, and they both went out looking as if they didn't care if they never came back, and after a while ma came home without the checkkitts, me saying, 2 ladies was here to see you, ma. No saying when they got here, and ma sed, Who were they? and I sed, One was a little fat one and one was a big skinnier one.

I missed them, sed ma. Yes mam, I sed. Proving I couldn't do did better if I had tried.

and so on, you know, and put a lake and an ocean in—fresh and salt water you know, and be sure to have plenty of fish swimming around because it's for the dining room."

POTATO ENQUIRY ENDED SATURDAY

(Continued from page 3)

Mr. Baxter's name has been dragged into the enquiry. Few public men occupy with respect to matters under investigation with which their names are connected, the enviable position that Mr. Baxter occupies with respect to this potato transaction and the transaction with respect to Mr. Tennant. Without being a party to or knowing in any way the alleged transaction between Mr. Clarke and Mr. Tennant, which resulted in the donation by the latter gentleman to party funds, without having anything whatever to do with the potato shipments without knowing anything about the use of the public credit in the interests of A. C. Smith & Co., if there was such use, he stepped into the breach financially and paid over his own money that his colleagues might not be obliged to stand the odium which might attach in the mind of the public to a bungled business transaction.

Mr. George Jones has been drawn into the enquiry. Nothing appears against Mr. Jones other than this. He was an ardent supporter of the black advertisement, assuming great financial burdens for his party, and acted as the party treasurer and distributor of funds.

It is reasonable that corruption is resorted to in elections, and the interests of the state are imperilled by the use of the public credit in the control of elections. The day

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HEAD OFFICE—TORONTO

WEDDINGS.

Merrill-Davis.
On Christmas night, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Murphy, 310 Codman street, Dorchester, Mass., the marriage took place of Mr. Stephen C. Merrill, formerly of Bellisle, N.B., to Miss Annie L. Davis, formerly of Avonmore, Kings County. The ceremony was performed by Rev. A. A. Aldout, and was witnessed only by their immediate friends, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill will reside in Dorchester, Mass.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gillen.
The death took place yesterday morning after a short illness of Mary Elizabeth, wife of John Gillen, a well known resident of the North End. She is survived by her husband, two sons, James and John, and three daughters, Mrs. Mary E. Dury and Mrs. Catherine Campbell, all of this city. The funeral will be held from the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Campbell, 24 Harding street, Tuesday morning at 8.30, to St. John the Baptist church.

James M. Foohy.

The death of James M. Foohy occurred yesterday morning at his residence, 24 Pond street. The deceased was a well known printer, and had been in the employ of Barnes & Company for over twenty years. He is survived by his mother, and three brothers, David and Joseph of this city, and Dennis, of Norton. The funeral will be held this (Monday) afternoon at two o'clock from his late residence.

Frederick Sullivan.

The death occurred yesterday morning in the General Public Hospital at 5.45, of Frederick Sullivan, a well known city. Deceased was a middle-aged man and had been in poor health for some time. He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Mark O'Brien, a resident of the city. The repose of the soul of the late Mr. Sullivan was prayed for at the masses in the Cathedral yesterday morning.

Thomas B. Perry.

The death of Thomas B. Perry occurred at his home, 30 Wellington Row, Sunday afternoon. Mr. Perry, who was representing in these provinces the Munro Adding Machine Company of New Jersey, contracted a heavy cold while on a business trip to Halifax which developed into pneumonia. A young business man of great promise, genial and unassuming, he numbered a wide circle of friends who will sincerely sympathize with the bereaved family.

Mr. Perry is survived by his wife, who was Miss Helen Webb of Wintthrop, Maine, his mother, Mrs. Ruth Perry of Cole's Island, Queens county, and five brothers, Hacen of Portland, Me.; George of Boston, Arthur of the American Aviation Corps, now in France, and William and John, at Cole's Island. He was thirty-seven years of age.

This body will be taken to Young's Cove this morning and the funeral will take place at Cole's Island this afternoon, interment being made there.

Robert Law Lennox.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, N.B., Dec. 29.—The death of Robert Law Lennox occurred this morning at his home here after an

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