

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 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.

## COMBLES AND THIEPVAL.

The glorious success that has at-  
tended the British operation at Com-  
bles has caused military observers to  
wonder and take a new view of the  
might of what was once termed by  
Wilhelm The Butcher "Britain's con-  
temptible little army." That a fort-  
ress so carefully prepared as Combles  
should fall after but a comparatively  
brief attack was a distinct surprise to  
those gentlemen who have been care-  
fully and closely following war events  
as they transpire. The Boston Tran-  
script compared the task of the Brit-  
ish to shooting Niagara Falls upward,  
or, in other words, said it was impos-  
sible. Yet it has been successfully  
performed.

It is known that the attack on Com-  
bles was not unexpected by the Ger-  
mans. They had well prepared for it  
with the thoroughness that has char-  
acterized all their military operations,  
and the fact that their preparations  
and defenses proved unequal to the  
task of withstanding the British de-  
monstrations better than anything else  
the mighty force that must have  
been concentrated in that final and  
successful onslaught.

The defenses of Verdun were not  
stronger than those confronting the  
British army when it launched its  
long expected offensive on Dominion  
Day. After the defeat at the Marne  
the Germans knew they could not  
hold the territory they occupied in  
France, and they also knew the path  
the eventual attack would take. Con-  
sequently they prepared for it and  
constructed fortifications comparable  
with those at Verdun and Metz, with  
this difference—the defenses of Com-  
bles and surrounding territory were  
underground instead of rising above  
the surface. These fortresses, or  
specially prepared trenches, were, in  
some places, forty feet deep, lined, so  
men who have seen them tell us, with  
concrete and steel, hard as armor  
plate, lighted by electricity, traversed  
by and connected with a system of  
underground roads, equipped with the  
latest and most terrible engines of  
slaughter and manned by the finest  
soldiers in the German empire.

In the light of such preparations it  
is quite conceivable that the German  
generals believed their positions im-  
penetrable and that against them it  
would be impossible for the British  
army to advance. Two years ago they  
might have been right, one year ago  
their opinion might not have been far  
astray. But in the past twelve months  
there has been a wondrous change  
on the western battle front, a change  
which became apparent only when  
the British started their long delay-  
ed drive, and which the triumph of  
Combles and Thiepvall has demon-  
strated anew.

The British army today is the might-  
iest fighting machine in the world, in  
physical strength, equipment and all  
the essentials of successful war-mak-  
ing comparable with the armies Ger-  
many had in the field six months after  
the outbreak of war. When it strikes  
the blow has behind it a power that  
cannot be denied or evaded, a power  
that will eventually land the follow-  
ers of the Union Jack as conquerors in  
the Kaiser's capital and will bring the  
haughty Hun to his knees a suppliant.

The whole battle of the Somme has  
been an illustration of the effective-  
ness of the Allied forces. Guns  
greater than ever known and in such  
volume that their fire constituted an  
unceasing rain of death were concen-  
trated upon the supposedly impen-  
etrable German defenses and battered  
them to pieces as the enemy battered  
Liege and Antwerp and Namur in the  
early days of this struggle. Against  
such a steady death dealing attack the  
most ingenious productions of Ger-  
man engineers could not stand and  
when the walls of steel and concrete  
had been smashed to atoms the British  
infantry—the finest foot soldiers in  
history has known—completed the work  
of destruction. Despatches relate that  
the British found Combles a fortress  
and left it a charnel house, and judg-  
ing by previous achievements the  
most roose descriptions can well be  
believed.

More important than the positions  
captured by the British in their recent  
success is the effect that success must  
have upon the morale of the German  
soldiers. They have seen fortresses  
which, they were told, would stand to

the end of the war crumbled into dust  
and positions they had successfully  
defended for months wrested from  
them by a foe they once held in con-  
tempt.

It can easily be imagined that the  
victory at Combles will have a ma-  
terial effect upon the duration of the  
war. Germany by this time must know  
the fate that will be hers, and it is not  
to be supposed that dismal knowledge  
will tend to strengthen her arm or add  
to the determination of her resistance.  
One writer, enthusiastic over Rou-  
mania's decision to cast in her lot with  
the Allies, declared the action of  
Bucharest would shorten the war by  
six months. Who will attempt to esti-  
mate the effect the victories of the  
past few days may have in the same  
direction? The capture of Combles and  
the defeat of the German armies de-  
fending it looks like the most impor-  
tant achievement of the past year of  
conflict.

## A TOUCHING TRIBUTE.

Since the outbreak of war the  
French government and people have  
done many things to win for them the  
esteem and honor of the world. The  
splendid gallantry of the French  
troops, the noble devotion of the French  
women and the great-hearted sincerity  
with which all classes of the people  
have entered into this war has had  
few parallels in history. Every act  
of the French nation since the war  
began has been worthy of the most  
glorious traditions of that nation,  
whose history for deeds of valor and  
sacrifice is not eclipsed in richness  
even by that of Britain. Quite recent-  
ly the French government has given  
evidence of the grace and chivalry so  
characteristic of France. Official  
France has honored the British sol-  
diers buried there by giving to the  
British title deeds forever of the land  
occupied by British dust. This fine  
act has aroused much emotion in Brit-  
ain and London papers refer to it  
with deep feeling. One of the finest  
tributes of any paid by the British  
press is contained in the London Daily  
Telegraph. It is as follows:

"Without display and without sen-  
timentality the government of the re-  
public has simply consecrated and re-  
served for ever in special honor the  
cemetery where the dead rest. Truly  
the grace of France falls never.  
They could have done nothing to  
give deeper or more serious pleasure  
to England; nothing that was more  
truly in accord with her own national  
tradition; nothing that better went  
hand-in-hand with our own ingrained  
habit of respect for the acres of God  
wherever they may be found. We  
have in our minds a fairly good idea  
of where those graves lie and what  
they look like. Here the cross that  
means so much to one may be clus-  
tered among a group within and be-  
neath the shadow of a church of  
which the pierced spire and battered  
interior tell their own tale; or it  
may be set up there, within a peaceful  
enclosure under the poplars of the  
Year or the Canal. Here it may be  
inside a tidy and orderly court, sur-  
rounded by walls not so high as to  
prevent the sea wind playing with  
the ribands of a few wreaths; or  
there, by itself, in rear of a wrecked  
cottage with a crudely made fence  
around it. But wherever the grave  
may lie, there will be comfort in the  
thought that long after our own day  
it will still be spared and kindly  
thought upon. Yet this is not all that  
the French proposal will effect. Each  
of these countless little enclosures  
will be working in silence for the  
continued goodwill of two nations.  
From the little patch of ex-territori-  
alized ground the dead will speak for  
generations. For we have given the  
best of England to France, volun-  
teers every one, and the French will  
not fail to understand the meaning  
of Rupert Brooke's lines:

If I should die, think only this of me:  
That there's some corner of a foreign  
field  
That is for ever England.

It is a gift of English earth that we  
are making, the best earth we have,  
earth that France has shown her  
anxiety to honor; and in the belief  
that in some way the loyalty of each  
man to a common cause will still be  
speaking to each that understand, we  
may leave our dead in all gratitude  
and in full understanding to the lov-  
ing care of France."

## Exit Kyte and Carvell

(Quebec Chronicle.)

It can be taken for granted that  
there are two men in the federal par-  
liament who do not desire an election  
"until the war is over" and as long as  
it is possible. Messrs. Carvell and  
Kyte see the "handwriting on the  
wall." They see in the returns from  
Carleton and Richmond the end of  
their political careers. For Carvell  
and Kyte were the two men who  
took their own political lives in their  
hands, who staked their political ex-  
istence on their own activity as scan-  
dal mongers and their constituencies  
have given them their answer in lan-  
guage not to be misunderstood.

And while the result in Richmond,  
in the local election of June last was  
a stinging rebuke for Geo. W. Kyte  
and his attempt to throw discredit on  
the Borden administration in connec-  
tion with the purchase of munitions to  
carry on the great struggle in which  
this country is at present engaged, the  
great majority rolled up in Carleton  
for the Conservative candidates is  
equally emphatic and equally ominous  
to the whole grist machine which plin-  
dred its hopes of again coming into  
power on a campaign of slander and  
vituperation.

Kyte went to Richmond county  
fresh from his charges on the floors  
of parliament. The Halifax machine  
organ, in order to impress upon the  
electors of Richmond the nature of  
the "service" Kyte was rendering and  
to further impress upon them the fact  
that the force of slander in the fed-  
eral house, took the issue to his con-  
stituents and on Thursday they gave  
him their answer.

In the two contests the issue was  
plain. Federal issues were not intro-  
duced by the Liberals as a side issue.  
The two contests were fought out on  
the scandal part of the Carvell pro-  
gramme and the results are splendid,  
every one on emphatic endorsement  
of the loyal and sound policy of the  
Borden administration, and a crushing  
condemnation of the unpatriotic policy  
of the opposition.

One thing is morally certain and  
that is that the electors of Richmond  
and Carleton will retire Messrs. Kyte  
and Carvell into the cool shades of op-  
position at the first opportunity.

## A WORTHY CAUSE.

To the Editor of The Standard:  
Dear Sir,—On Tuesday, the 26th  
inst., as the daily papers have record-  
ed an entertainment was tendered the  
mayor and commissioners of this  
city, by the children of the Good  
Shepherd convent. The entertain-  
ment clearly showed the care, atten-  
tion and untiring devotedness of the  
good sisters, and Commissioner Mc-  
Lellan in expressing his appreciation  
voiced not only the feelings of the au-  
dience but placed himself on record  
as being willing to do all in his power  
to fight for the recognition that this  
institution should receive either from  
the government or the city.

Those who heard Mr. McLellan  
could not but be impressed with his  
earnestness, and furthermore with  
the fact that he intends showing his  
appreciation in a practical manner.

This institution has wrought untold  
good in this city, quietly but thor-  
oughly doing its work for all classes ir-  
respective of creed, and the friends of  
the institution have good reason to be  
pleased that a man of Mr. McLellan's  
energy and perseverance will take up  
the work of giving these good sisters  
some financial support.

Thanking you for the space in your  
valuable paper, "ONE PRESENT."

St. John, Sept. 28.

The Chamber of Deputies recently  
discussed a bill, introduced by M.  
Brusson, regulating for the duration  
of the war the whole French mer-  
chant fleet. M. Nall, Under-Sec-  
retary for the Merchant Marine, op-  
posed a general requisition, express-  
ing the opinion that partial requisit-  
ions were preferable affecting alter-  
natively all shipping companies. A  
reduction in freights, indicated M.  
Nall, was impossible until there was  
an understanding between all the  
maritime nations, without exception.  
M. Nall considered that an under-  
standing between the Allies regarding  
a reduction of freights was a sufficient

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## Little Benny's Note Book

I was looking throo the fotograf album up in the setting room,  
and the door bell rang, and I went down to answer it, taking the album  
with me, and it was Mr. Parkins to see my sister Gladdis, and I called  
up looking throo the album in there, and I turned over a page and  
what was on the other side but picture of a baby smiling with no  
clothes on saying under it, Gladdis at the age of 4 months.

G, Mr. Parkins, wat you think? I sed. And I took the picture out  
of the album, and Mr. Parkins sed, O I dont know, wat do you think?

Heere a picture of Gladdis I bet you never saw before, I sed.  
Realy, well, lets have a peek at it, sed Mr. Parkins.

I dont know if Gladdis wood wunt me to, I sed.  
Wy not, isent it a pritty picture? sed Mr. Parkins.

Yes, shes smiling and all, I sed, and Mr. Parkins sed, come across  
with it then, and I sed, I dont know if Gladdis wood wunt me to and  
Mr. Parkins said, O, come now, whats on the picture she woodent wunt  
me to see?

Its not wats on it that Im thinking of, I sed. Meening I was think-  
ing of wat wasent on it, and jest then Mr. Parkins ran over and grab-  
bed it out of my hand and looked at it, saying, O, hevins. And jest  
then Gladdis wawked in and Mr. Parkins quick stuck the picture in  
his cote pocket, and Gladdis sed, wats that your hiding from me, Mr.  
Parkins, come on, now, I demand to see.

O, its nothing, realy, its foolish, its nothing at all as a matter of  
fact, sed Mr. Parkins. And Gladdis ran over and put her hand in his  
pocket and pulled the picture out and looked at it, saying, Benny Potts.  
And I ran out of the room with her after me, and she cawt me at the  
top of the 3rd story stairs and pulled my hair and shook me like any-  
thing, saying, Now you go down stairs and tell him I have a hedake  
and cant see him tonite. And she went in her room and shut the door,  
and I went down and told Mr. Parkins, and he got his hat and cane and  
went, saying, Your a little kid thing, thats wat you are. And I got my  
cap and went out, thinking Gladdis must be pritty consented to think  
she looked any different from uther babies wen she was one.

measure. Moreover, the Bill which  
had been passed relating to war  
profits would render useless the total  
requisition of the merchant marine.

M. Chaumet urged the establish-  
ment of a central fund by shipowners  
pooling their profits with the object  
of assisting shipbuilding after the  
war.

Admiral Lacaze, Minister of Marine,  
said he feared that a bill to requisition  
all ships would meet with great diffi-  
culties in application, and he consid-  
ered it wise to allow shipowners the  
opportunity of realizing profits which  
would permit them to replace their  
vessels on the conclusion of peace.

The Chamber defeated by 250 votes  
to 209 the motion to refer M. Brus-  
son's bill to a committee, and adopted  
M. Brusson's resolution on the bill  
after a slight amendment.

The following is an interesting ex-  
tract from a report of the British Com-  
mittee on Public Accounts: "On the  
outbreak of war the peace system was  
modified as being too slow to meet the  
requirements of the army, and direct  
negotiation, appointing expert agents  
to go round and buy from stock, or  
negotiate direct deals with manufac-  
turers. The whole procedure, how-  
ever, was soon found to be unsatisfac-  
tory, as the government was taking  
nearly as much as some industries  
could produce, and in some cases  
wanted far more, so that all the goods  
offered had to be accepted irrespec-  
tive of prices. . . . In June, 1915, the  
War Office began to require manufac-  
turers, in submitting their prices on  
tenders, to justify those prices by giv-  
ing a statement of the costs of manu-  
facture; and in cases where these  
were clearly exorbitant, negotiations  
were entered into to reduce the prices  
offered. Further developments took  
place from time to time, and culmin-  
ated at length on February 15, 1916, in  
an amendment to the Defense of the  
Realm Regulations, by which power  
is given, in the last resort, to requisition  
the output of any factory in the  
country and to pay for that output at  
a fair agreed price, which the contrac-  
tor has to show to be reasonable by  
producing his costs of manufacture

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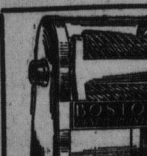
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