

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1919.

NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT.

The statement is made that the per capita funded debt of the City of St. John is the lowest of any city in Canada, amounting to only ninety-one dollars as against ninety-two dollars for the bush village of Windsor, Ont., and four hundred and ninety-six dollars—the highest—for the extravagant town of Port Arthur. In Halifax the debt is one hundred and twelve dollars per head, but the average for twenty-six cities is two hundred and fifty-seven dollars. Our town, it will be seen, is therefore very much below the average.

Is this a condition of which we should really feel proud? Is it not rather an intimation that as a community we are so conservative as to refrain from introducing those civic improvements which other cities enjoy, for fear of increasing the public debt? No one has very much use for a wealthy individual who lives on bread and water, lets his general health run down and wears shabby clothes. Indeed even the spendthrift enjoys a larger measure of popularity, but between the two the man of ordinary means who spends reasonably for the comfort of himself and his dependents is entitled to any enjoyment of the respect of all. The same is true of cities, and if St. John is content to go along indifferently with filthy and unpaved streets, with few public institutions worthy of note, with lack of housing accommodation for permanent residents, with insufficient police and fire protection, with inadequate means of looking after the sick and destitute, with its civic government quartered in a building entirely unsuited for this purpose, then the ability to boast of the smallest per capita funded debt in Canada must be its own reward.

No one wishes to see St. John as burdened with debt, but little of its revenue remains for any purpose other than the payment of interest charges, as is the case with certain ambitious western towns, but on the other hand our policy of conservatism has been carried to such an extent that it has now become a disease and an actual discredit to the community, and has brought about a condition which places this city in the unenviable position of being regarded as one of the most backward towns in Canada in the matter of municipal improvements.

Deducting from our present debt of less than five millions, the two and a quarter millions which we have expended and are now to have returned on our harbor account, our funded debt is shown to be a little more than two and a half millions, equal to about forty per cent. of the funded debt of Halifax, which has not spent anything on its own harbor, one-third of that of London which has only a few thousands more of a population than has St. John, about one-seventh of that of Calgary which is equal to St. John in size, and one-tenth of that of Edmonton which is also equal to St. John in population. No one cares to see this city burdened with the assessments made necessary by such extravagant expenditures as those of Calgary and Edmonton, but the people of Calgary and Edmonton themselves would not care to see their cities in such a state of decrepitude and neglect as is St. John. They spent the money and they have something to show for it. We do not spend the money and we have nothing to show. London, Ottawa, Hamilton and even poor old Halifax have in certain respects the appearance of modern cities and despite the additional taxation required to cover their interest charges the people get more comfort. Since property owners refused to respond to the half-hearted invitation of City Hall to pay for paving their own streets, why not blow ourselves to the extent of a couple of million and carry on this most necessary work.

THE ATLANTIC FLIGHT.

Emerging from the welter of blood and mud the British spirit has celebrated the victory over the monstrous powers of reaction, by daring and achieving the great adventure of soaring across the Atlantic, a feat which by its demands upon human courage, skill, science and mechanical invention has long intrigued the imagination of mankind. It is in keeping with the fitness of things that the casual representatives of the British Isles, heralds of the might and genius which in the heart of Empire, bearers of the spark from the sacred central hearth of the race, should have triumphed where the forward and flamboyant, son of the southern dominion failed, and it is in keeping, too, with the British character that the conquest of the Atlantic by Alcock and Brown should have thrilled the British people less than the magnificent failure of Hawker and his companion, for it is a peculiarity of the British, whose heroes have usually been gallant blunders and failures, than with them the quality of the sportsmanship is more important than the issue of the game. Hawker, who took a sporting chance for the glory of his country and fell into the sea, played the game

equally with these casual conquerors of the trans-Atlantic aerial route, and that is the chief stuff of which the British make their heroes.

The different manners in which the British and Americans set about the high enterprise of over-flying the Atlantic illustrates in striking fashion a curious difference in the spirits of the two peoples. To the Britisher the enterprise was primarily an adventure, a sport; to the Americans—no less daring and adventurous perhaps—the enterprise was a task, to be gone about in a business-like way, and with the avowed purpose of making the experiment profitable for aeronautics. That this pure, casual spirit of adventure should possess a race which has made itself a ruling power in the world by making human labor and the homely virtues which grow out of the necessity of labor the basis of its civilization is perhaps surprising—and its possession of that spirit is often denied by other peoples, to whom John Bull is the very personification of stolid practicality. Nevertheless it is this strange spirit, burning like a high, clear flame in the stolid souls of the British, which has enabled them, as somebody has remarked, to conquer the best part of the world in a fit of absence of mind, and it is this spirit, tempered by a passion for playing the game according to accepted rules, which is enabling them to tackle the problems of reconstruction of a distracted world in a manner absurdly casual, yet with a calm assurance of competency, strikingly in contrast with the hysterical manner of the Americans who face the same problem with self-righteous indignation, born of the practical conviction that it is absolutely unnecessary to reconstruct anything in their particular civilization.

NATIONAL HEALTH.

It is intimated that Hon. N. W. Stowell will become Canada's first Minister of Public Health, having charge of the new department which is understood to be shortly to be organized under legislation recently enacted. The statement has also been made that the Deputy Minister will be Doctor Peter Bryce, of Ottawa, a man now well advanced in middle age, but at the same time well qualified for this position.

Canada has not in the past devoted to public health the attention which the importance of this branch of the administration deserved. While it is true that such neglected hospitals have existed here and there, with quarantine stations at intervals, and the medical inspection of immigrants has been carried on in an indifferent manner, there has been no concentrated action, nor any assistance given the various provinces in their efforts towards improved conditions. With the establishment of a thoroughly modern laboratory at Ottawa, with the assistance of the ablest men available in research work, with the application of up-to-date regulations governing the medical inspection of newcomers to this country and with facilities for aiding the health boards of the various provinces, it is anticipated that valuable results will be achieved. Ontario has for years taken the lead in matters of public health and the methods adopted there compare very favorably with the most advanced practices in other countries. Other provinces of the Dominion have been less progressive, but with co-ordinated effort such as is now proposed, together with central supervision from Ottawa, an awakened interest along this line may be looked for.

THE CHAPLAIN SERVICES.

The report of the Overseas Minister of Militia deals rather extensively with the Chaplain Service from the time this branch first assumed duties at Valcartier in August, 1914, to the conclusion of hostilities. In this period, it is said, no Canadian soldiers have been deprived of the ministrations of a Canadian Chaplain. With the First Contingent thirty-three Frenchmen crossed to England, but not until a year later was the Chaplain Service organized on lines similar to those of other branches. Early in 1917 the establishment of the Chaplain Service provided for a total representation of two hundred and eighty, of which the Church of England numbered 102, Presbyterians 58, Roman Catholics 53, Methodists 23, Baptists 14, and other denominations smaller numbers. Later ten additional chaplains were authorized. During the period of the war four hundred and twenty-six chaplains served overseas, of which number two were killed in action, one died of wounds, one was drowned on a hospital ship, and two died of illness. Twenty-one were wounded while serving at the front. Five of those who went over have been honored with the C. M. G., one with the C. O. B. E., nine with the D. S. O., three with the O. B. E., thirty-four with the M. C., two winning bars, one the D. C. M., and three the M. M. Thirty-two were mentioned in the dispatches, and thirteen others were brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for valuable services, a

total of one hundred and three awards and mentions. At the close of hostilities there were one hundred and eighteen chaplains serving in England and one hundred and seventy-five in France, of which latter number eighty were at the front and the remainder on the lines of communication.

LANCASTER DEVELOPMENT.

The development of a building site in Lancaster under proper supervision is one of the best schemes the city has undertaken in a long time. The land selected for this purpose is said to be admirably adapted to construction purposes—well situated and with easy reach of water supply and sewerage. The prices placed by the Council on these lots, according to size and location, do not appear to be excessive, nor are the restrictions imposed with respect to the class of houses such as will deter those who are really desirous of having homes of their own from investing in these properties. It should be possible to transform this vacant land into an ideal residential district, attractively laid out and dotted with bright and comfortable homes. In view of the extremely congested condition of the city proper it is imperative that our people find homes on the outskirts, and on the success or otherwise of the present venture will depend to some extent the possibility of future extensions into the suburbs.

CANADIAN FISH.

Interesting information on the relative food values of fish is being distributed by the Canadian Trade Commission, which organization, as the result of careful analysis, finds that certain varieties of fish are really Canadian in origin and are superior in food value to those secured in foreign waters. Accepting the calorie as the measure of nutrient in food, it has been found that our Bay of Fundy sardines, divided into four classes, are much superior to the widely advertised Norwegian brands. The figures indicate that the latter show 1,314, 1,649, 1,663, and 1,174 calories respectively, as compared with 1,832, 1,720, 1,469 and 1,795 calories for the corresponding Canadian varieties. With regard to the larger herring similar information has been secured, the Canadian brands standing out ahead of the best known British packs in food value. The finest British product, packed in tomato sauce, contains only 776 calories, as compared with the four Canadian varieties of 890, 1,061, 1,031 and 1,024 calories respectively.

OVERSEAS ORDERS.

"The Canadian Official Record" states that many first orders were placed through the Canadian Trade Commission with producers and manufacturers in Canada for exports to European countries to the value of \$15,760,756.05. Of this very large amount New Brunswick has received orders for only \$74,290.75, this whole amount representing woollen goods. The list of articles covered by this Canadian orders is rather extensive, but apparently New Brunswick manufacturers and producers have not interested themselves in the work of the Canadian Trade Commission with a view to securing a fair share. It is, of course, true that business is being placed privately, particularly in lumber, but the amount so placed is known. Ontario heads the list with almost half a million out of the total of orders received.

WHAT THEY SAY

Same Everywhere.
Toledo Blade—One can buy ten cents' worth of almost anything now for thirty cents.

No Assistance Needed.
Brooklyn Eagle—Don't waste sympathy on the Germans. They have enough for it for themselves.

Can't Get Worse Off.
Greenville Piedmont—The Russian doesn't care what happens now. He knows it will be an improvement.

Approximate Justice.
Cleveland Press—The German Chancellor says that the peace terms will turn his country into an enormous jail. If that is true, literal and exact justice will be done for the first time in human history.

Victorious French Girls.
Washington Star—More than 6,000 French women were wooed and won by American soldiers in France within one year. The majority of the French girls who have become Americans through marrying men and officers of the American Expeditionary Force are stenographers, sales girls or teachers with a sprinkling of peasant girls and those of the middle class or bourgeoisie.

A Vital Wrong.
Montreal Star—The arguments in favor of the solidarity of labor are from the labor standpoint appealing, as the desire for world-power was appealing to the Prussians in 1914; but in one case as in the other, plans based upon the denial of things fundamental to democracy were bound to fail in a democratic world. A sympathetic strike which involves the participation of employees who, for their own interest, had previously pledged themselves to certain agreements with their employers, instinctively antagonizes the British sense of business honor and the respectability of another class citizen. And the assumption by Winnipeg's labor leadership of dictatorial powers for the benefit of one class and at the expense of another violated the very principles upon which British democracy was founded and is developing. Its failure was doomed from the beginning.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and pop and ma was up in the setting room last nite, me doing my homework slow and ma looking at the book part of the paper with a expression as if she was looking at some other part, and pop was smoking and uncrossing his legs and crossing them the other way, and after a while he sed, Confound it, theres no 2 ways about it, theres something rong with me, I dont feel well.

Wy, Willyum, nosenats, sed ma.
Mony thanks for your sympathy, sed pop, and I sed. Maybe you got sun struck, pop, it was pritty hot today and there was something in the paper on the first page about people getting sun struck—one man had his picture in on account of dying from it.

Sun struck, haley smokes, I wonder if there can be anything to that, I was out in the sun a good while today, sed pop.

Willyum Potts, you are no more sun struck than I am, I suppose if the boy told you you were frost bittin you would start to worry over that, sed ma.

My deer, your anxiety for my welfare simply overwhelms me, sed pop, and I sed, Maybe you ate sumthing and it poisoned you, pop, Sid Hunts father had potomam poison last week from eating sumthing in a resteraunt.

By George, I knew that meet I had for lunch tasted funny, sed pop.

Well I never, and only a minnit ago you were sun struck, you sertenay are having a terrible time with Bennys kind assistants, sed ma.

I suppose if I died heer in this chair under your very eyes you mite be convinced, sed pop, and I sed, Wats appleplexy, pop, it cant be that, can it?

Hang it, you get out of heer, you've killed me awffin enuff for one nite, sed pop mad.

Hee hee, appleplexy, sed ma, and I sed, Do you want me to look up the doctors number for you in the fone book, pop?

Did you heer wat I sed? sed pop. Meaning about getting out, and I sed, Yes, sir.

Wich I did, going up and finishing my lessins in my room, and this morning at breakfast pop looked all rite, proving meny people are all rite without knowing it.

A BIT OF VERSE

Little Edith—"Mother, are you the nearest relative I've got?"
Mother (who has just been refused a new hat)—"Yes, dear, and your father's the closest relative you've got."

Maude—"Eileen is keeping her engagement a secret."
Martha—"How do you know?"
Maude—"Why, she told me so."

Mrs. Startup—"Ah, professor, and how is my daughter getting along with her singing? Do you think she will ever become a great singer?"
Professor—"Madam, it is very hard to say."

Mrs. S.—"But, surely she possesses some of the qualifications?"
Professor—"Yes, madam, she has a mouth."

In a provincial touring company there was an actor whose name was Fortune, but who was in fact a particularly unlucky individual. One day his wife presented him with twins, both being girls. On the following morning there was written up in very bold letters on the wall in the happy father's dressing room this portentous announcement: "Mrs Fortune never came singly."

An English visitor to Scotland was walking along one fine morning when a policeman addressed him. "You had better take care, sir, what you are doing," said the policeman. "What am I doing?" said the visitor. "I'm not even whistling."

"No," said the policeman, in reproving tones, "but you are looking almost as happy as if it were a week day."

Kissing's No Sin.
Some say that kissing's a sin, But I think it's name ave. For kissing has wound'd in this world Since ever there was twa.

O, if it wasna law'n!
Laws are made to allow it;
If it wasna holy,
Ministers wadna do it.

If it wasna modest,
Maidens wadna tak' it;
If it wasna plenty,
Putr folk wadna get it.

—Unknown.

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A Soft Answer.

"See here, John!"
"Well?"
"Mother noticed you down town today and you were looking at every pretty girl on the street."

"I made careful comparisons. There were none in your class, dearie."
"What could she say after that?"

Mrs. Ghostwalk had got the spirit-ualistic craze, and got into the habit of receiving messages from the departed when she ought to have been getting her husband's dinner. Hubby protested, and then he acted. In a week she was cured, and his friends marvelled.

"How did you do it?" they asked him.
"Oh," said he, smiling. "I got the craze, too, and every seance we went to I got a loving message from my first wife—see?"

Hebrew riddle.
A Hebrew small storekeeper, to the surprise of his brethren, suddenly decorated his window with a gorgeous new blind.

"Nice blind of yours, Isaac," quoth his neighbor.
"Yes, Aaron."
"Who paid for it, Isaac?"
"The customers paid, Aaron."
"What! The customers paid for it, Isaac?"

"Yes, Aaron. I put a leadle box on my counter 'for the blind.' And they paid for it!"

Paid Him Back.
Mr. Jones loves his better half dearly, but was unfortunately more lavish in love than money.

Starting one day on a long business trip, he left Mrs. J. short of money, but promised to send a cheque which, needless to say, did not arrive. When the rent became due his wife telegraphed:

"Stone broke. Landlord in the house. Wire me money."

Mr. J. answered:
"Am short myself. Will soon send cheque. A thousand kisses."

Exasperated, she wired back:
"Don't bother about money. Gave landlord one of the kisses. He was more than satisfied."—London Answers.

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