

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1918.

"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.

## THE VICTORY LOAN.

Sir Thomas White, in opening the Victory Loan campaign at Winnipeg, put the case in one sentence when he said: "Canada relies upon the proceeds of this loan to enable her to carry on." When that has been said the appeal to the people of Canada has been made. It is an appeal of tremendous force. It means that in the fifth year of the war, with victory in sight and within reach, with the gallant Canadian army fighting the most difficult and exacting of all its battles, the Government comes to the people for the means without which the war, so far as Canada is concerned, cannot go on. There can be no question as to the nature and completeness of the response. Canada, with so proud a record in this war, is not now to step from the ranks of the conquering Allies, and leave the work for others to complete. The loan cannot, however, be a success, unless it is supported by every individual citizen to the limit of his ability. "We shall expect," said the minister, "at least five hundred million dollars from over a million subscribers."

The combined effort of all the people is necessary if so large an issue as this is to be absorbed, and it must be absorbed. The measure of Canada's determination to press the war to a victorious conclusion will be exemplified in the number of individual subscriptions, no less than in the volume of the whole. The financial position of the country, as pointed out by the minister, is strong. Production has increased, trade has expanded, and bank deposits have increased since 1914 by over half a billion dollars.

As an investment the loan presents substantially the same attractions as did its predecessors. The people in this are their own bankers and the whole Dominion is their security. By taking up the issue they go on with the war; they secure for themselves a safe and profitable investment and they ensure at the same time the continued prosperity of Canada.

An organization covering the country from coast to coast has been completed for the purpose of facilitating subscriptions to the loan. Local committees have been formed and a systematic canvass will be made, as in the case of the last previous issue. Nothing in the way of preparation that could contribute to the success of the loan has been omitted. The rest is for the people themselves to do.

## THE POTATO ENQUIRY.

The evidence adduced in the potato enquiry to date shows two things, first that the Government of New Brunswick made a legitimate loss in its shipment of potatoes to the Cuban market and that it was decided to make up this loss by contributions from prominent members of the party supporting that Government. Second it reveals that out of the profits secured by him through his connection with the Nova Scotia Construction Company Mr. W. B. Tennant made good the loss the province would have otherwise suffered and also made contributions of money that was used for campaign purposes.

In regard to the first phase of the matter there has been no evidence to show that the loss sustained in the shipment was due to negligence on the part of the Government or its agents. A combination of circumstances due in part to the war, which rendered it impossible to secure tonnage, and in part to natural causes which delayed vessels in transit and kept the cargoes back until they spoiled, turned what would have been a profitable transaction into a decidedly unprofitable one. If the transaction had ended there the province would not have lost \$33,000; that this sum was not lost was directly due to the decision of Hon. Mr. Clarke that should be made up by party friends instead of falling upon the public treasury. Naturally such a course involved concealment, but it is juggling with accounts if you will, but the very worst that can be said about it is that it was a policy of weakness rather than strength. For the adoption of such a policy there are mitigating circumstances as must be apparent to all who have followed political conditions in this province, but what was adopted shows nothing more than a lack of decision to acquaint the public with the truth, a truth that would at once have been distorted and misrepresented by a particularly bitter and unscrupulous press supporting the political party then in opposition to the government but which has since been returned to power in Fredericton. By the adoption of this policy the province lost no money, no matter what Fosterite newspapers may say, and no matter how zealously the Fosterite counsel engaged in the enquiry

may seek to paint every person connected with the transaction in the blackest colors. THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE PROVINCE LOST NO MONEY AND THAT THERE WAS NO GRAFT.  
As to the second phase of the question: The money to make up the loss came from Mr. Tennant. Other arrangements were temporarily made before Mr. Tennant appeared on the scene but in the final analysis it was Mr. Tennant who put it up. Where did Mr. Tennant get it? From his profits in connection with the Nova Scotia Construction Company, which company had a construction contract on the Valley Railway.  
This matter has already formed the subject of an enquiry conducted by Mr. Commissioner Stevens and it may not be amiss at this time to refer briefly to that case. The allegation was made, principally through the columns of the Telegraph and Times that public money of the province had been improperly expended in the construction of the Valley Railway, under the direction of the directors of that company who were appointed by the late Government. Mr. John M. Stevens was appointed by the Foster government to hold an enquiry into the charge and was specifically directed to find whether this allegation was founded on fact. Much evidence was taken and it developed that W. B. Tennant had received \$100,000 or more from the Nova Scotia Construction Co., the contracting company for the construction of certain portions of that road. Mr. Commissioner Stevens probed the case very thoroughly and examined many witnesses all of whom were subjected to searching questioning by the same counsel engaged in the present case with the able co-operation of Hon. F. B. Carvell and Hon. W. P. Jones. And what was the result? After a probe by a Commissioner of the Fosterite choosing, and after every means had been exhausted by the prosecuting counsel to incriminate some one Mr. Commissioner Stevens found as follows: "THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE SUBMITTED IN THIS ENQUIRY TO JUSTIFY ME IN FINDING AND I DO NOT FIND THAT ANY OF THE PUBLIC MONIES OF THE PROVINCE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SAID BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE IMPROPERLY OR DISHONESTLY EXPENDED, AND THE SAME MAY BE SAID OF ALL OFFICIALS, CONTRACTORS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS THEREUNDER."  
Mr. Tennant received his money from the Nova Scotia Construction Company, a contracting company under the Board of Railway Directors referred to in the Stevens report. Yet Commissioner Stevens declares that he DID NOT FIND THAT PUBLIC MONIES OF THE PROVINCE WERE IMPROPERLY OR DISHONESTLY EXPENDED BY ANY OFFICIAL, CONTRACTORS OR SUB-CONTRACTORS THEREUNDER.  
If the money given to Mr. Tennant was not public money, and was not dishonestly used or expended WHOSE BUSINESS IS IT WHERE IT CAME FROM OR FOR WHAT PURPOSE IT WAS GIVEN TO HIM?  
And if the money given to Mr. Tennant was not public money dishonestly obtained WHOSE BUSINESS IS IT WHAT HE DID WITH IT?  
It is established in the evidence that at least part of it went to make good a loss the people of the Province would otherwise have been called upon to sustain. IS THERE ANYTHING CRIMINAL OR DISHONEST ABOUT THAT?  
Now regarding the contributions to political campaigns. The use of campaign funds has been publicly deplored and deprecated for many years. BUT THE FACT IS THAT THEY EXIST AND THAT THEY ARE USED AND THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST UNDER THE FOSTER GOVERNMENT AS UNDER EVERY OTHER GOVERNMENT THAT EVER HELD OFFICE IN NEW BRUNSWICK OR ANY OTHER CANADIAN PROVINCE.  
IT IS ALSO A FACT THAT NO NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN CANADA HAVE HAD MORE EXPERIENCE WITH CAMPAIGN FUNDS OR POLITICAL FUNDS, OR HAVE PROFITED MORE GREATLY FROM POLITICAL CONTRACTS THAN THE FOSTERITE ORGANS ON CANTERBURY STREET.  
Therefore it is the height of hypocrisy for those papers or either of them to raise an outcry about campaign contributions or political funds, a clear and specific case of Satan reproving sin.  
But New Brunswick has had experience with another enquiry, by commis-

## Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.  
I was late for supper again yesterday, pop saying the next time I was late I couldn't have any, and today when I came home for supper what was the rest of the family doing but eating it already, me thinking, G. I'll just go in the dining room and set down as if nothing was the matter, and maybe nothing would be.  
And I went in and set down in my own place, and they kept on eating, and after a while pop said, Well, well, Benny, how have you been? Me saying I've seen you, Benny, how have you been?  
All right, I said. And I kept on setting there wigwagging, pop saying, I suppose you happened to be in the neighborhood and just dropped in. Me just wigwagging, and Pop said, its nice weather we're having, is- sent it?  
Its all right, I said.  
Yesterday looked rather threatening, for a time, said pop. Which I didn't say anything, and pop said, I trust you won't think it rude on our part if we seem to continue our supper while we are entertaining you.  
Which they kept on doing, and I wigwagged some more and then I said, I got a good excuse, pop.  
Really? said pop, polite as anything. Perhaps I can prevail on you to tell it to us, seeing that we are such old friends, one might say.  
Yes sir, I said, I was wawking along coming home in time, and I tripped and pritty near fell down, and I tried to see what I tripped over, and I couldn't find out.  
Yes, yes, go on, your tale intrigues me strangely, said pop, and I said, Yes, sir, and I looked again, and there wasn't anything there.  
I see, said pop. Let me know when you come to the excuse.  
That's it, I said.  
A poor excuse may be better than none, but a mirriblem excuse is worse than half a dozen, said pop. Mother, give him some supper just to show him that charity still exists in a wicked world.  
Which ma gave me some, being loose stew and peas.

## WHAT TO DO ON THE CHURCHLESS SUNDAY

By Typo.  
Churchless! But it need no: be worshipless. When the hands of the clock point to the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., why not call the family together for worship?  
Let father be minister in the home-church next Sunday, and mother the organist. Tommy will be delighted to take up the collection, which, later, can be forwarded to the treasurer of the church to which you belong.  
Father, open the Good Old Book read some immortal passage from its wondrous pages to the bairns as they sit in the imaginary pews, and let the church in real earnest. Let those same children dream that they are members of a "really truly" choir as mother leads them in the service of song.  
Let prayer be short, and full of thanksgiving for the "multitude of tender mercies," and the blotting out of transgressions. Ask that the "noisome pestilence" may soon be swept from our shores; that the Great

## NEREPIS LUMBER CO. INCORPORATED

Head Office at Welsford and Capital Stock of \$9,000—Takes Over Sagwa Saw Mill  
Bliss H. Dunfield, of Halifax, N. S., Harry C. Heans, of St. John and Gordon G. Scott, of Fredericton, have been incorporated as the Nerepis Lumber Company, Limited, with head office at Welsford and a capital stock of \$9,000. The company is empowered to take over a sawmill at Sagwa, Kings County, and to run a general lumbering, lumbering and pulpwood business.

## MORE LABOR TROUBLE AT DOMINION STEEL

Sydney, N. S., Oct. 10.—Notice has been given by the Dominion Iron and Steel Company by members of a union recently organized among some of the office clerks that they will quit work unless by Thursday afternoon the company takes again into its employ the union president, who resigned his position in the company's accounting office, when told, as he says, that he could not continue in his position if he retained the presidency, and it is reported further that members of the steel workers union will go out on sympathy strike.

## VICTORY LOAN ADDRESS.

At the afternoon and evening shows at the Imperial Theatre yesterday, the audiences heard the fine address of Sir Thomas White to the people of Canada on the Victory Loan, which was clearly reproduced on the phonograph. The instrument was loaned for the occasion by the Townshend Music Co.

## WAS KILLED IN ACTION

Word Received That Pte. Ernest W. Willis of Golden Grove Has Paid the Supreme Sacrifice.  
The home of Mr. and Mrs. William Willis, Golden Grove, was saddened yesterday by the receipt of the news that their eldest son, Pte. Ernest W. Willis, was killed in action on September 27th.  
Pte. Willis enlisted with the 236th Kiltie Battalion as a piper, and on reaching England was transferred to the famous Black Watch. The young hero who was only twenty-one years of age, is survived by his parents, three brothers, William, Fred and James, and two sisters, Emily and Etie, all at home.

## ON FURLOUGH.

Rev. James Scrimgeour and Mrs. Scrimgeour, of British Guiana, are visiting Mrs. Scrimgeour's old home at St. Martin's. Later he will attend Knox College at Toronto. Rev. Mr. Scrimgeour, who is a Presbyterian missionary, is on a three months' furlough.

## Rev. Father Dion.

Rev. Father G. E. Dion, provincial of the Fathers of the Holy Cross, and parish priest at St. Lambert, Quebec, is dead, aged 66 years. He was ordained priest September 24, 1876, became superior of the college of St. Laurent, and later became head of his order at Rome from 1902 to 1906, when he returned to Canada as provincial of the order here. He had been ill for the last three months.

## OTTAWA, Oct. 10.—Rev. James Archibald MacNeill, pastor of Western Methodist Church, died here of pneumonia, following influenza. He was in his 32d year, and was a native of Ormstown, Quebec.

## EVENING CLASSES

For Winter Term Will begin Wednesday, Oct. 2  
Nights: Monday, Wednesday, Friday.  
Hours: 7.30 to 9.30.  
Tuition rates on application.  
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## Accidents Will Happen

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## SEVENTEEN FROM MA PROVING

Ottawa, Oct. 9.—Cavalry killed in action—Lieut. W. C. Smith, Died of wounds—G. McDonald, Svdn. Wounded—Lieut. C. P. Inches, N. S. D. Sweet, Comd. N. S. D. Sweet, Halifax.