

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N.B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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 MUNICIPAL HOME.

The Chairman of the Board of Almshouse Commissioners intimates that because certain criticisms which have appeared relative to the conduct of that municipal institution have been anonymous no attention will be paid to them; but if some responsible party will make charges they will be investigated. This is scarcely the attitude to be assumed by a group of men who are freely giving of their services to the proper management of a public institution. The fact that the Almshouse Commissioners devote their time and ability, without remuneration, to this work is, in itself, evidence that their desire is to conduct that Almshouse along the most satisfactory lines. Hence Mr. Knodel's refusal to pay attention to criticisms uttered in the most kindly spirit, is a little difficult to understand. Nor is it likely that those among the public—and they are many—who have at heart the well-being of the institution and the happiness of its inmates, will feel disposed to prefer charges against the management. There is no desire to make charges which might result in unwished publicity, but only an eagerness to correct various practices which it is felt are detrimental to the comfort of those unfortunate ones whom circumstances compel to spend their days in the Municipal Home. And that such criticisms as are now offered may be based on solid fact, is indicated by past history. It will be remembered that some years ago when comment was made regarding the methods of burial in vogue at the home, the attitude of the commissioners was much as it is today; that eventually a charge was made and that in the evidence then produced, facts were elicited not at all to the credit of the methods of management then prevailing. As a result of the investigation held at that time, a very radical reform was introduced. So it is not at all impossible that present day criticisms, anonymous though they may be, have a similar foundation in fact. And while there is no desire on the part of anyone to work injustice to those in charge of the home, yet in order that the methods now regarded as undesirable may be discussed and, if necessary, corrected, The Standard is prepared to request that an enquiry be held on the following grounds:

That in certain respects the treatment of inmates of the home savors more of that accorded offenders than what should be due unfortunate ones. That the restrictions imposed upon persons desiring to visit relatives or friends in the home are altogether too drastic and that greater freedom should be allowed. That the privacy of inmates is interfered with, in that frequently personal conversation with friends is not permitted, but that one of the attendants in the home remains present to hear what is said. That at times mail is tampered with, or censored by someone in connection with the home before reaching or after leaving the person to whom it belongs. That the restrictions with respect to spiritual attention are undesirable and interfere with the personal relations of pastor and people. That the punishments imposed, especially upon the young, are too severe and tend to create terror on the part of those who suffer through violation of the rules. That the Almshouse instead of being a home in the best sense of the word, is a place of dread to many of those who, by their own or others' misfortunes, are compelled to spend their days there, this condition being to some extent due to the mode of treatment accorded inmates. Will the Almshouse commissioners, acting on The Standard's suggestion, correct the conditions outlined above as well as any other undesirable features which may be found to exist? Or will they seek an investigation—public of course—at which The Standard and others will produce evidence bearing out the criticisms offered? Either course will be satisfactory to this paper, but one or the other must be adopted—and at once.

SAVE MEAT.

The duty incumbent upon all Canadians to save every possible pound of exportable meats in order that the men in the field in Europe and the civilian population of the Allied nations may not experience a shortage is recalled by a memorandum recently received by the Canadian Food Board from the British Ministry of Food. This memorandum shows the estimated supplies of beef and mutton for the civilian population of Britain for the year 1918 and the showing it makes is not a reassuring one. It estimates that there will be a shortage of 100,000 tons of beef and 50,000 tons of mutton.

THE LATE MR. GRANNAN.

The news of the death of Mr. Philip Grannan, ex-M. P., will be received with keen regret by a very large circle of friends. Mr. Grannan was a good citizen and a useful public man. During his term in the Provincial Legislature he discharged the duties falling to him with faithfulness and ability and was in every way a useful representative. As a citizen he was to be found in support of all movements tending to benefit humanity. His death will create a vacancy in the life of the city that it will not be easy to fill.

A BIT OF VERSE.

DELIGHTFUL ADVENTURES.
 I went into a restaurant—it was a meatless day;
 And when I ordered steak to eat, the waiter said me nay.
 I ordered mutton and milk, and ate until I had a cramp—
 Then took the quarter I had saved and bought a Savings stamp.

I went into the grocery, some fine white cakes to buy;
 'Twas wheatless day—I quailed before the man's accusing eye;
 So for desert that night we ate of prunes, all dark and damp—
 And with the two bits we had saved I bought a Savings stamp.

I sought a moving picture show, where lovely girls are starred;
 But it was Heatsless Monday, and the place was locked and barred.
 There was no opportunity to watch the vampires vamp—
 I took the money 'twould have cost and bought a Savings stamp.

I sought a Free Employment place, where needy workers beg;
 To get a man to come and shovel off the snow for me;
 The men were all at work or war—
 I shoveled off the snow myself and bought a Savings stamp.

If things get any worse, and I can neither buy nor hire,
 Nor cop the luxuries of life, nor heap the roaring fire,
 I'll have so many Thrift stamps, as I follow out my plan,
 That I'll not only lick the Huns, but be a wealthy man!

—Ted Robinson, in Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A BIT OF FUN.

ON THE HOME STRETCH.
 The clerk called his boss at the office to say
 That he wouldn't get in to business today;
 "The trains are behind and I deeply regret
 That I haven't got home yesterday yet."

THE HIGHER MATHEMATICS.
 Tommy—Half of 'em we got with machine gun fire, half of 'em with the rifle, then we fixed bayonets and killed another half of 'em!
 Funny Man—And what happened to the rest?
 Tommy—Oh, we took 'em prisoners.
 Red K. February 26th.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE PROVINCIAL BOND ISSUE.
 To the Editor of The Standard:—Sir, In a letter addressed to you under date of the 14th inst. and published in your Friday issue, Mr. J. M. Robinson says that in the recent issue of bonds sold by the province to his firm and its associate, Messrs. A. E. Ames & Co. of Toronto, the province received a good price for its securities, and he, in effect, further asserts that this province received as good a price for the Province of Ontario in a recent issue and better than the Province of Manitoba.

I am not familiar with the terms of the Manitoba issue, but I believe there is something wrong with Mr. Robinson's contention with respect to the Ontario issue referred to as compared with the recent New Brunswick issue. In his budget speech, delivered in the Ontario Legislature on Tuesday, the 12th inst., Hon. T. W. McGarry, Provincial Treasurer, according to the report of his speech published in that reliable journal, the Toronto Daily News, on the 13th inst., "referred to the difficulty which had presented itself to the Ontario government in securing loans when the United States 'went into the war. Thrown on our resources, he had managed to obtain loans to the aggregate of \$5,000,000.00, at 5.50 per cent., \$1,000,000.00 at 5.42 per cent. and \$2,000,000.00 at 5 per cent. Subsequently he had confided his difficulty in this respect to Ottawa, with the result that 'he had received and accepted an invitation from Sir Thomas White, Dominion Minister of Finance, to go to the capital. The result of the meeting was very satisfactory, he said, 'since Sir Thomas had offered to 'advance the province in essential undertakings. Later, he had got in touch with certain Toronto money brokers, and secured \$2,000,000.00 at even a 'lower rate of interest than that imposed by the Finance Minister.' This language, if it means anything, means that at the moment when that illustrious statesman, Hon. Walter E. Foster, and his equally illustrious Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, Hon. Robert Murray, whose entry into the local administration last March was, to say the least, a great surprise, were engaged in selling gilt-edged Province of New Brunswick bonds to Mr. Robinson and his associates at a cost of over 6 1/2 per cent., the Province of Ontario was able to sell its bonds at considerably less than 6 per cent.

Mr. Robinson and his associates are not politicians and are not to be blamed for making a good trade for themselves with Mr. Foster, but it is apparent to anyone, I think, that the sale was far from being a good thing for the province. The bonds are offered to the public at 90, bear interest on the par value of 100 at 6 per cent. and run for ten years. The province, however, only received 96 for the bonds, so that the money at the expiration of the term will have cost the province between 4 1/2 per cent. and 7 per cent. Incidentally Mr. Robinson and his associates clean up \$20,000.00 on the deal, less advertising and cost of selling. As the press last night reported

Little Benny's Note Book

Me and Puds Simkins and Leroy Shooster was standing on the corner, just standing there, and a big avtomobile stopped on account of one of the tires getting punkered, and the shower started to put on a new tire, and 2 little girls got out of the back of the avtomobile and started to watch him do it, being bewty looking little girls with fur coats and hats, and Leroy Shooster sed, G, Benny, G, Puds, I bet those kids is each worth a million dollars.

Well wat if they are, I sed, that dont make them eny better than we are, does it?
 No, it ony makes them richer, sed Leroy Shooster.
 Lets go rite up close to them and start to tawk as if we was rich as anything, jest to show them they aint the ony pebbles on the beach, sed Puds Simkins.

And me and him and Leroy Shooster wawked rite up close in back of the girls, me saying, Well, Puds, I heer you got a gold piano in your parlor now.

Yes, we gave the diamond one away because we was afraid of berg-lers, sed Puds.

We got a lump of radium in our house, sed Leroy Shooster, my father bawt it for a million dollars, its hanging up in the kitchen insted of a electrick lite.

Bring it over to my party tonite and we can have some fun with it, I sed, its going to be a pritty good party, my fathers going to give all the fellers 2 million dollars apeece and all the girls 3 million.

Wich after that none of us cood think of anything elts to say, and I sed, Well, wat do you say we go around and see your lump of radium now, Leroy?

Sure, help yourself, sed Leroy Shooster. And me and him and Puds wawked away with our faces up in the air looking rich as anything.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. William Willis.

The death of Mrs. William Willis occurred in South Boston on Feb. 15. She was a daughter of the late Wm. and Mary Carter of Milford, and is survived by her husband, one daughter, one son, two sisters, Mrs. Hannah McIntyre and Mrs. John McGovern, both of this city, and two brothers, Wm. Carter of this city and Henry Carter of Boston.

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