

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 23 Prince William Street,
St. John, N. B., Canada.

Yearly Subscriptions: \$5.00 Do not enclose cash in an unregistered letter. Use postal notes, money orders, or express orders when remitting.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1917.

"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.

ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

The events of the past few days have proved beyond shadow of doubt that the Entente Allies have the situation on the western front well in hand. The Germans, if they desire, can explain their retirement on the ground of strategy, but the world knows, and if the German people ever learn the truth they too will know, that it is the strategy which recommends flight when it is no longer possible to stand and fight successfully.

If the Germans could have held Bapaume, Peronne and the other places they have evacuated, they would not now be racing madly for new positions which their own reports declare it is good "strategy" to reach. Bapaume has been an objective of the Allies for months, yet, until the pressure became too great to withstand, the Germans never considered the strategic value of yielding it. Peronne, an important and strongly fortified post, has been a centre of German railway communication and was deemed so valuable that it was elaborately defended. Now that the Germans have been forced out of it they declare that their retirement was entirely strategic and that they destroyed means of communication before they left. It does not require military knowledge to bring the conclusion that the end to be served in destroying such communications was chiefly to delay a pursuing enemy and that delay was desirable from the German standpoint through fear of what would probably happen if pursuers and pursued came in complete contact. Consequently the German "strategy" behind the whole retirement is the strategy of safety first, nothing more.

When the German explanations are stripped of their bluff the fact appears to be that the British and French forces, through abundance of munitions and men, skillful and energetic leadership and the highest quality of courage, have demonstrated a decisive supremacy on the western front far greater than the Germans believed could be done. Not since the Marne has so much French territory been reclaimed from German domination as during the past four or five days. The British alone have made greater gains in that period than were made by the entire British and French forces during the eight and one-half months following the commencement of the Somme offensive.

In their splendid achievements on French soil the British troops have done no more than their share, but they have furnished complete refutation of the German contention that Britain was using France and Russia as buffers and that, secure in her isolated position and protected by her fleet, she would allow her Allies to bear the brunt of the land fighting. At the outbreak of the war Britain was handicapped. Her army was smaller than that of France and not so well equipped. However, French's "contemptible little army" did its best and proved to be the foundation of the most formidable fighting force that the war has brought into existence. Britain's original part in the land operation on the western front was a minor one, but generally her lines have been extended, until today she is covering the greater part of that front, and there is little doubt that before the war ends her army in France will outnumber even that of France itself.

Britain made good her undertakings to her Allies more than two years ago. If she had done nothing more than maintain the supremacy of the seas she would have performed wonderful service. But her efforts increased as the urgency developed. She did not enter this fight simply to carry out an agreement but to discharge to the world a duty incumbent upon her as the greatest and most powerful of all nations. That duty will be discharged to the smallest undertaking. As the war needs increase Britain will answer them. France has already done glorious work, work that is nowhere appreciated at higher value than in Britain. But from the very nature of things France cannot go on indefinitely adding to her men at arms. She has already reached the zenith of her power while Great Britain has but commenced to fight.

The events of the past few days must convince Berlin that the British Empire has done more than keep its word, that Britain's military strength has not yet been tested to the full, and that, before peace terms are signed, the Teutonic Allies will be so thoroughly trounced by the sons of the Lion that never again will they possess the ability to involve the world in

war. The past week has furnished indication of the ability of the Allies' fighting machine. But the Germans will be given other demonstrations as time goes on.

THE PRICE OF POTATOES.

When the Minister of Agriculture for Canada made investigations which showed that we had a surplus of two million bushels in Canada, a newspaper friendly to the Government said that the high prices were due to "apathy at Ottawa." What would this newspaper critic have the Government do? He does not suggest any action. He merely complains, and places the blame upon apathy at Ottawa.

Other critics have called for an embargo on potatoes shipped to the United States. The answer to that is that the embargo is a thing that two can play with. We might place an embargo on potatoes going to the United States in the same way that the United States may place an embargo on coal coming into Canada. One might very easily be the result of the other in which event the central provinces of Canada would have double cause to complain because the potato surplus and the coal deposits are at the eastern and western ends of Canada.

A more reasonable critic would place the difficulty in lack of transportation facilities which would carry the products of the east and west more freely to the centre. But that cannot be done to apathy at Ottawa because the same difficulty exists everywhere, particularly in the United States.

The writer of an article in the issue of March 10th of the Saturday Evening Post, on "Cabbages as a Luxury," says:

"Goods shipped from the west months ago are standing on sidewalks at way stations while trainloads of munitions are whizzing past, day after day."

On March 9th the New York Herald commences an editorial on the food situation with this sentence:

"There never has been a famine of foodstuffs in this country but always there has been a lack of adequate distributing agencies that frequently has resulted in what approached famine prices."

That is in the United States outside the area of "apathy at Ottawa."

But a government can do anything in war time and why not then fix a maximum price on potatoes? That is the next, and only other suggestion the critic could make. But why should the government do this? It has been done in the case of paper, a commodity controlled by a few which the many need. Nothing else can take its place. But every man can grow potatoes, and the Government is calling upon the people to do so. High prices furnish a better argument and incentive than all the appeals the Government can make. In the meantime no one is going to starve or be put out of business because the price is high. We cannot recall that any one seriously suggested a fixed rate of a dollar a bushel when farmers were losing money by selling potatoes at forty cents.

In the meantime the inquiring and unthinking and, therefore, uninformed criticism of a friendly newspaper is gleefully going the rounds of Liberal papers glad to circulate any sort of criticism against the Government no matter how unthinking and uninformed, and gladder still because it comes from a Conservative newspaper.

Soldier Welcomed Home.

The members and friends of Court La Tour assembled in their hall in the market building last evening for the purpose of tendering a cordial welcome home to Pte. T. Banks, a member of the court, who has but recently returned from the front, where he was a member of the gallant 26th Battalion. Pte. Banks was the recipient of a well-filled purse, which was given in token of the valuable work he had done overseas. The presentation was made by Past High Chief Ranger Grass. In accepting the purse Pte. Banks gave a brief account of his experiences while at the front. He also exhibited an interesting belt which had fastened to it a number of cartridges, buttons and medals taken from the bodies of those who had made the supreme sacrifice. After the presentation a programme of songs and recitations was heard. Those taking part were Pte. Monaghan of the 198th, piano solo; Mr. Guy, solo; Miss Ross, reading; Miss Myles, solo; A. C. Smith, solo, and Little Miss Logie in a recitation. Short addresses were also given by Commissioner Wigmore, L. P. D. Tilley, T. Armour and Sheriff Wilson. The National Anthem brought to a close a very successful evening. Chief Ranger D. L. McRoberts presided.

THE HEAD LINER BRAY HEAD SUNK

Steamship Left St. John Mar. 1st for Belfast—Captain Hoy and Number of Crew Missing.

Wm. Thomson & Company, Ltd., received a cable from Belfast yesterday, giving the information that the Head Line steamship Bray Head, Captain Hoy, had been sunk by a large iceberg and had a rostered tonnage of 2,835 tons. Ever since the steamship was built she made regular calls at this port and was one of the best freight carriers in the Head Line service.

The ship had a crew of thirty-five men in addition to the officers. The Bray Head sailed from St. John on March 1 for Belfast and was sunk on Wednesday. It is estimated that she would be within 400 miles of her destination when she fell a victim to a U-boat.

The steamer was owned by the Ulster Steamship Co., Ltd., G. Hoy & Sons managers. She was built in 1894 by C. S. Swan & Hunter of Newcastle and had a rostered tonnage of 2,835 tons. Ever since the steamship was built she made regular calls at this port and was one of the best freight carriers in the Head Line service.

THE TELEGRAPH WAS SLIGHTLY IN ERROR.

A recent issue of the Boston Herald says: "Within twenty-four hours following announcement of the resignation of Andrew J. Peters as assistant secretary of the treasury, the names of Edmund Billings, collector of the port, and Gen. Charles H. Cole, former state adjutant-general, were mentioned in connection with his successor. Collector Billings declined to discuss the matter on the ground that it would be highly improper to do so. Gen. Cole is not openly a candidate for the position, it is understood, and is making no personal effort to obtain it."

FIFTEEN NEW LOCOMOTIVES OF MIKADO TYPE ORDERED BY GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

The Grand Trunk Railway system has ordered fifteen new locomotives for its freight service. They are of the latest Mikado type super-heated, and each capable of hauling a train of 6,330 tons.

These fifteen locomotives represent a total outlay of \$735,000, the price of locomotives having increased about one hundred per cent. during the last two years. Ten of these locomotives are for use on Grand Trunk lines in Canada and are being built at the Canadian Locomotive Works, at Kingston, Ont., while five are for use on the company's lines in the United States and are being constructed by the American Locomotive Company.

Each of these great engines weighs 276,000 pounds, exclusive of tender, which has an additional weight of 165,800 pounds. The total length of engine and tender is seventy-nine feet.

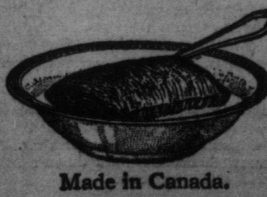
PROBATE COURT.

In the estate of Miss Elizabeth Nugent the will has been proved in common form, and letters testamentary granted to Otto P. Olive, the executor named in the will. E. P. Raynes is proctor. The deceased left to the executor all her estate. The freehold property on Princess street was valued at \$2,000 and personal property \$150. Mr. Olive was requested to pay \$100 to the Catholic Bishop of St. John to have masses offered up for the repose of the soul of herself, her parents, and brothers and sisters; to pay \$100 for the perpetual care of the family lot in the old Catholic cemetery, and also to pay \$100 to Mrs. Margaret Olive.

In the estate of Bernard McAlloon the will was proved in common form and letters testamentary issued to James McAlloon, the executor named in the will. Wm. M. Ryan is proctor. Letters of administration have been granted in the estate of William James Love, of Milford, deceased, to May Elizabeth Love. John A. Barry is proctor.

In the estate of Eliza McQuarrie, deceased, the will has been proved in common form and letters testamentary granted to Margaret Ann McQuarrie, the executrix named in the will. J. M. Treuman is proctor.

Believe in Preparedness? Are you ready for Mr. Germ? Catching cold is a crime. Fortify yourself against cold germs and other germs by eating Shredded Wheat Biscuit, the food that supplies the necessary warmth and strength to resist disease. A better balanced ration than meat or eggs at a much lower cost. For breakfast with milk or cream.



Made in Canada.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Coleman, who have been spending some time in Montreal, arrived in the city last evening. Mr. Coleman and son, Charles, well known residents of St. John's, Newfoundland, who have been in the city visiting relatives, left for their home last night on the Halifax train. They are accompanied by J. C. Sapp, also of St. John's.

THE REPORTED BIG ACME DISCOVERY.

Special to The Standard. Montreal, Mar. 20.—The local office of Hollinger Gold Mines, Ltd., has not as yet received any word of the alleged sensational find on Acme property. The report in question was received in Toronto and read as follows: "A wire from the north says that Hollinger last night unearthed a vein which promises to be one of the wonders of the camp. The vein is on the 400 foot level of the Acme property. The work so far done shows it to be almost solid gold several inches wide and as it is being taken out it is deposited in the vault without further treatment."

LOCAL BOWLING.

The Tigers won four points from the Ramblers in last night's City League bowling match. Following are the scores:

Ramblers.	Tigers.
Duffy... .. 98 95 91-284 94 2-3	Jordan... .. 75 82 88-245 81 2-3
Covey... .. 79 95 86-260 86 2-3	Coughlan... .. 104 84 98-287 95 2-3
Riley... .. 83 106 94-292 97 1-3	
449 461 458 1328	

478 485 460 1423
Tonight the Specials play the Amateurs.

TROPHY MATCH IN THISTLE RINK.

The final match for the Junior Trophies, put up by I. F. Archibald, was played last night at the Thistle Curling Rink. The score by rinks follows:

C. Mitchell	W. H. Gambin
T. Ledingham	J. E. O'Brien
H. Stubbs	D. Currie
A. W. Estey	Harry Warwick
Skip..... 5	Skip..... 15

CAMPBELLO.

Campello, March 20.—On Monday evening, March 12th, the young people of the village assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Alexander for the occasion being a farewell party for their son, James, who recently enlisted to serve his country. The pastimes consisted of games and music, after which a light supper was taken off. The guests departed at a late hour after a very pleasant evening spent.

The young man has many friends here, who send their best wishes with him and hope for a safe return. On Tuesday and Wednesday the W. A. met at the rectory for the purpose of making out a list of names for the benefit of the foreign mission, the number completed was two, while the young people enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

The ladies of the Red Cross Society were entertained at tea on Friday evening at the camps of the Eastern



A Meal in a Moment.
1000 Cubes: Hot Water: Biscuits
Sustains for hours.



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English Worsted Suits
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who builds for the future, always gives a full dollar's worth for every dollar, knowing a satisfied patron becomes a permanent one.

HUMPHREY'S FOOTWEAR

Made Here -- Wear It

NORTON

Norton, March 20.—Miss Jean Adams of the teaching staff spent the week-end in Bloomfield. Misses Lucy and Martha Pierce spent a few days the guests of St. John friends. Mrs. George Brown and little daughter Marion are spending some time in Fredericton.

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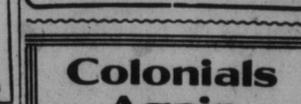
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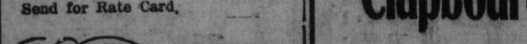
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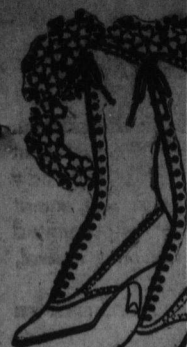
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2nd Clear 6 inches wide . . . 46.00
No. 1 5 1/2 inches wide . . . 36.00
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