

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 15, 1916

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.

Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier \$3.00 per year, by mail \$2.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank S. Northrup, Brunswick Bldg. 5th fl.

CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association Bldg. 5th fl.

MONTREAL, J. C. Ross, Board of Trade Bldg.

British and European—Frederick A. Smyth, 29 Ludgate Hill, LONDON, E.C., England

THE WAR NEWS

The military correspondent of the London Times estimates that Germany still has 4,500,000 men in the field and at least 2,000,000 more on lines of communication and as guards and reserves. This leads the correspondent to say:

"The Allies are faced with the necessity of straining every nerve to place in the field next year every man, gun and shell that all the countries can produce."

"In asserting that the necessary effort can be made, the Times correspondent says there are still between three and four millions of men available in the United Kingdom, and 'our gallant dominions have still greater reserves of man power.'"

This last remark should set Canadians thinking. We have reserves of man power, but we are not getting them into the ranks, although we should 'place in the field next year every man the country can produce.' What steps will the government take to bring about that result?

Last night's cables brought news that though the British have gained more ground in the west the enemy is driving hard in the southeast and forcing the Rumanians to yield ground. While the war generally continues to progress favorably for the Allies, it is clear that the issue is not to be decided till next summer or fall. The winter must be devoted to training more millions of men and piling up guns and munitions for the supreme struggle.

SIR SAM STRIKES BACK

Sir Robert Borden's letter to Sir Sam Hughes, calling for his resignation, is an interesting document, but not nearly so interesting as that of Sir Sam Hughes in reply. For example:

"It took up four months in the midst of this great war to fight through the principles of purchasing for the second division, trucks at the lowest wholesale prices instead of allowing large commissions to local agents who would have nothing whatever to do with securing the order."

And again:

"Sir Robert, I have known and experienced, for a long time, the meddling and intrigue which has been going on."

And again:

"Recently, I heard on excellent authority, that you had it in contemplation for some time to retire to the supreme court of Canada by arrangement with the present incumbent of the chief justiceship and hand over the prime ministership to another, under whom it is well known I would not serve."

In view of these and many other statements made by Sir Sam Hughes it is quite safe to say that his retirement from the cabinet will be by no means the end of the troubles of the prime minister. If Sir Sam has as many friends as more than two years of passionate eulogy would seem to suggest, the controversy is not ended but has only begun. Sir Sam will be in his place when parliament meets, and a very interesting discussion may be anticipated. It is most unfortunate, at a time when every energy of the government should be devoted to the tasks imposed by the war, that there should be such recrimination between the leader of the government and the colleague he has so long held up as worthy of all praise.

KING ALBERT

Throughout the British Empire and the Allied nations today the thoughts of people turn to Belgium, whose king observes his birthday. In the critical hour when the German hordes were seeking a swift road to the heart of France, King Albert preferred war to all its horrors to national dishonor. "For us," he said, "there can be no other answer," and that answer saved France though it gave to the Hun all but a fringe of Belgium and brought untold horrors upon the Belgian people.

King Albert of Belgium and his devoted queen will forever stand among the great figures of this war. There is no more striking picture than that of the King of the Belgians holding with his small but dauntless army "that small portion of their territory which still remains to them, suffering and enduring to the end."

Appeals are now being made in behalf of the starving Belgian children, and no appeal should come to us with greater force. The response is very gratifying, and proves that the sympathy of the Canadian people goes out to the victims of German hatred and brutality. Long live King Albert and his noble consort, and may the time soon come when they will be able to serve their energy and their high talents to the restoration of their ravaged domain, freed for all time from the danger that has so long hung over them as a result of German greed of power and lust for world domination.

YOUTHFUL DELINQUENTS

On the heels of the report of the Children's Aid Society concerning bad social conditions comes the arrest of a group of delinquent boys and the news that the police are on the trail of others. When will the community show some practical interest in the boys who are drifting into evil habits, and whose

parents do not care what becomes of them? Of course, there are cases where the parents are handicapped, or wake up too late; but the whole community suffers when the boys and girls become criminal or vicious, and in the great majority of cases that could be prevented. Each day makes more urgent the need of a commissioner to administer the Children's Protection Act, and get at the root of some of the trouble that is causing by far too large a percentage of the young in St. John to grow up without proper care and education. The average attendance at school tells nothing in this respect. It says nothing of those who ought to be in school but are not there. The compulsory school law must be better enforced, and better machinery must be provided to carry out the provisions of the Children's Protection Act. There is a smug self-complacency which depreciates any talk about undesirable social conditions; and soothes itself with comparisons. The thing to do is to face the actual conditions and provide a remedy, and it cannot be done too soon.

A PERSONAL TRIUMPH

The New York Times claims that President Wilson is stronger than his party, and advises the Democrats to follow his lead for the next four years, and not venture into radicalism lest they lose the support he has won. We quote:

"The historian of political changes and developments in the United States, indifferent to the petty incidents and minor details of the Presidential election of 1916, which received quite too much attention in contemporary analysis and interpretation, will with clear vision and a sure pen trace the history of the many attempts to organize and put in power a party of the people; will tell of repeated failure under leaders unfit or undeserving until, in this electoral campaign, the people saw before them the opportunity they had long desired and a leader worthy of the confidence. We have seen in this election the working of political foreordination, a majority of the people were waiting for just such a candidate as Mr. Wilson. It was the most natural thing in the world that they should elect him."

"More than 1,000,000 voters of other affiliations have joined the Democrats to extend for four years Mr. Wilson's service as President. If the Democrats will consent to be guided by the President, if they show themselves to be safe and sane, in short, if they do not make fools of themselves, complete assimilation will take place, they will be the people's party and they will continue in power during good behavior. In our electoral balance of power is always mobilized. Unsteadiness and foolish ventures into radicalism on the part of the Democrats will drive the new recruits by hundreds of thousands to the other party, and put it again in the majority."

Will the battalions known as "Sir Sam's Own" change their name?

The facts about the hickories in the Borden cabinet are beginning to come out. No doubt it would be a very interesting story if all were told, but a very humiliating one.

Old Boreas evidently grew tired of reading those items about November roses and sweet peas and marigolds. His artist painted frost flowers last night on the window panes, following the snowstorm of yesterday.

The Times, with all due humility, once more desires to nominate Mr. Blondin, as Sir Robert Borden's minister of militia and defence. Great crises call for great men. There is a crisis in recruiting in Quebec. Surely Mr. Blondin is the man of the hour.

In order to encourage Liberals to join in a vigorous recruiting campaign and sink all political differences, the Halifax Herald recently referred to "the sacking of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, treacherous to patriotic Liberals, treacherous to the Empire, refusing to lift his hand, and do his part for Canadian national service." How many recruits will this bring to the colors?

If the Society of Marine Engineers desire the use of a room in a school building for educational purposes there should be no difficulty in complying with their request. The widest possible use should be made of the school buildings of the city, not only for educational purposes but for community welfare work, including supervised recreation. Especially should there be an extension of evening classes, and encouragement given to those of limited education to attend them.

At a bi-monthly meeting of the Sunday School Teachers' Association, St. John's Denney, held last evening in St. Jude's church schoolroom, West St. John, Rev. A. L. Fleming gave an address on the "Eskimeaux as a People."

Thirty-five boys of the Bible classes of the employed boys and high school boys gathered at the Y. M. C. A. building last evening for the supper and class meeting. After the meal they divided into classes.

"Beans Is Beans"

—and the cost is soaring skyward with pork, beef, eggs and other foods until the cost of living represents an increase of from 30 to 50 per cent. While meats and vegetables are beyond the reach of many millions of families, Shredded Wheat Biscuit continues to sell at the same old price and retains the same high nutritive quality. Shredded wheat biscuit contains all the rich body-building nutriment in the whole wheat grain, including the bran coat, which is so useful in keeping the bowels healthy and active. Eat it for any meal with milk or cream or in combination with fruits. Made in Canada

LIGHTER VEIN

An Acrobat

In one of his early sermons the new army chaplain lamented the fact that many men spent their evenings at the club. "The club," he said, "is a place for bachelors. It is not right for a married man to pass the evening away from home while his poor wife sadly rocks the cradle with one foot and wipes away the tears with the other."

Quiet Girl

Caller—"That new girl of yours seems nice and quiet."

Hostess—"Oh, very quiet! She doesn't even disturb the dust when she's cleaning the room."—Boston Transcript.

Her Husband's Temper

"Isn't it a good thing the government is stopping the imports of luxuries?" said one lady at the Red Cross meeting.

"Well, I'm married," replied another worker, "and my husband is over military age; but if they are going to cut down his tobacco and newspapers I sincerely hope he'll go to war."—Rehoboth Sunday Herald.

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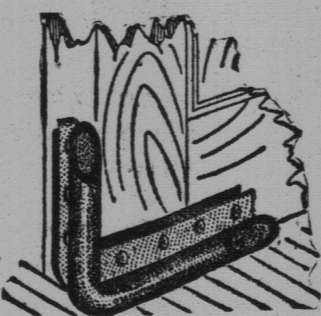
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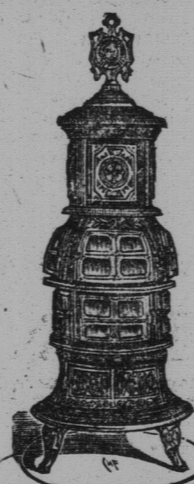
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Rubber Supply Is Steady While Leather Gets Scarcer

This Explains Low Price of Rubber Footwear in Spite of Increasing Cost of Fabrics, Chemicals and Labor

The war is using up enormous quantities both of leather and rubber. At the same time it is seriously restricting the output of the former, much of which came from Russia—while rubber production keeps pace with the demand. From the great plantations now reaching maturity in Britain's tropical dominions will come this year 150,000 tons of raw rubber—75 per cent of the world's production, and an increase of over 40,000 tons from last year.

Thus, thanks to the British Government's foresight in encouraging these plantations, the Allied armies have been abundantly supplied with all the rubber products they need—Germany and her allies have been cut off—and the price to the world at large has actually been reduced. Meanwhile, leather has been getting scarcer and more expensive—80 per cent higher than in 1914—and the end is not yet.

At normal prices a pair of good shoes cost about four times as much as a pair of standard quality rubbers, and would last nearly twice as long if the rubbers were worn to protect them in bad weather. So even before the war rubbers were a mighty good investment, to say nothing of their prevention of wet feet, colds and doctors' bills.

Now, when shoes cost seven or eight times as much as the rubbers, the saving from wearing the thrifty will think of going without them. Nor will those who are anxious to help win the war, for by wearing rubbers and overshoes we conserve the leather so scarce yet so absolutely necessary for the soldiers.

Wear Rubbers and Save Leather for Our Fighting Men

JOKE ON ELDER SOTHERN

Audience Had Been Warned Not to Applaud the Great Actor

An old friend of my father, one Dr. Simpson, induced him to go out of the Dundreary. My father, feeling that he was conferring a favor on the small community, went with his company. This Simpson was a great joker, and went about telling the rustic auditors that this man Sothern, being an eminent London actor, they must be careful about their demeanor in the theatre. "This is no cheap kind of play," said he. "You must not let this man think we have no manners. Don't applaud, don't laugh; it isn't done; people of taste don't do it. Laugh when you get home, but remember the loud laugh denotes the vacant mind." If you like this man's acting, say so quietly when you meet him at the reception after the play.

Never was there such a night. The

house was crowded to the doors and not a sound of welcome, not a sound of laughter at this most comic of characters. For two acts my distracted father endured torture, the fiendish Simpson running around to him every now and again, hitting him on the back and whispering vehemently, "Isn't it great? I never such such enthusiasm! They're simply mad about it!"

"The devil they are!" said my wretched father. "They are as dumb as oysters."

It came to the third act, where there is a long and most arduous monologue of nearly half an hour. Not a sound. My father could endure no more. He arose from the stool whereon he sat, walked down to the footlights and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, if you don't laugh I can't go on." Pandemonium broke loose. People shouted and wept. My father for once was nonplussed, but he caught sight of Simpson in a box, self-possessed and smileless, and a light broke in upon his darkness—Edward H. Sothern, in Scribner's Magazine.

SCENE ON THE CLYDE

Alfred Noyes Writes of Activities in Building of Navy and Merchant Vessels

In an article on the navy, Alfred Noyes said:

Today I heard the unending rattle and roar of the machine guns that are defeating Germany; but there were no bullets apparent, and no casualties. It was the sound of the pneumatic riveting hammers, ringing upon a hundred ships in the forest-like yards of the Clyde. The scene from the deck of our launch, as we glided from dock to dock, and from reach to gleaming reach of the smoke-wreathed river, was one of epic grandeur. Here, like the ribs of an unimaginably huge leviathan lay the shipway in which the Lusitania was born; and all around it were the stark Spartan cradles of her avengers. Mile after mile they stretched, like a skeleton forest. Men moved like ants among their naked boughs. Dark bulks, embryo battleships, grew and took shape below them. Among those gigantic wooden ribs, the hammers rattled and roared in a deafening crescendo that drowned all speech. They rang and palpitated and boomed together, through the smoky day, from dawn to sunset and through all the furnace night from sunset to dawn.

Where the Hun is Answered

Here, at last, I heard the answer of the British Empire to Germany in that unceasing sound of as rapid-firing guns. Here were hammers engaged in something too mighty to be anything less than conclusive. There was an impersonal planetary movement behind the process which meant simply the thing—the defeat of Germany.

England lost eight destroyers in the Jutland battle. I saw a shipyard whence, in that same week, they had launched fifteen new destroyers. And what is more, I saw brood after brood of ships, in yard after yard, ready to follow. No sooner was one ship launched than another was laid down. I saw, nearing completion in this one cradle of ships, a fleet of destroyers, a fleet of submarines, a fleet of battle cruisers, that in themselves would have constituted a formidable navy for any country. Here, too, were certain "mystery ships" of a new type, round, which special screens had been built to guard them from too inquisitive eyes. And if mere size be a quality of the "colossal," I saw several submarines, larger than any hitherto built, and battle cruisers that would outstrip any ship in the world, and were considerably larger than any battleships in existence. They already carried their armament, and I know not which were the more impressive—the great muzzles of the gigantic guns, that looked as if they could shatter a world, or the giant chimney shafts in the background, that looked like cannon, up-mouthed to the skies, with a smoke of their last discharge curling about their black lips, while two sentinel aeroplanes slowly circled above.

Workers Refute a Libel

The newspapers have talked much of the labor troubles on the Clyde; for the simple reason that one man in a city who throws his chair through a restaurant window will be more widely advertised by the press than the three millions who merely use their chairs in the ordinary way. But I happened to visit the Clyde at the time of the brief annual holiday which the workers had been asked to forego, and I saw for myself how

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they were refuting the libel upon them. All these thousands were working and sweating as if their lives depended on the achievement of each minute.

And let nobody think that the abandonment of their brief holiday was a small sacrifice on the part of these "sheltered" workers. Nobody who has been through these grinding workshops will ever again think that.

All this work goes on, in long shifts, without ceasing, by night or day. There is neither dawn nor sunset, week nor Sabbath, on the Clyde now, till victory comes. In all the 4,000 munition factories controlled by the British government the same tale is told.

One Significant Thing

On my return journey down the Clyde I saw one very significant thing—a quite unadvertised result of the Julian babies. For two years previously work upon merchant ships had almost been abandoned. All the energies of the shipwrights were concentrated upon the navy. Since the Jutland battle, however, work had been resumed on merchant ships. The hammers were rattling on the sides of a dozen great liners. Cargo boats of all kinds were keeping hundreds of men busy, and, unless my eyes grievously deceived me, the Transatlantic service would soon be considerably improved.

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