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ALFRED E. MCGINLEY,
Editor.
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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1916.

"We are fighting for a north purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H.M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

IN THE BALKANS.

An interesting item in connection with the war news this morning is that the Greeks and Bulgarians have clashed as the result of Bulgarian attacks on Kavala and Drama, Greek towns. It had previously been reported that the soldiers of these countries were in conflict in the vicinity of Seres. A glance at the map will show that Seres is not in the region of the Allied advance from Saloniki but some distance east of Dolran and toward Kavala.

These clashes may mean much or little. Greece has not declared war against Bulgaria and it may be that the unpleasantness will be adjusted particularly since the Greek government and Greek king are known to be pronouncedly pro-German in their sympathies and would be likely to frown down any move on the part of their subjects liable to embarrass Germany or any of her allies. If, however, conditions were different at Athens and Venizelos in power he could easily find in the incident excuse for a declaration of war, Kavala, where the latest fighting has been reported, has long been a bone of contention between the two countries, Bulgaria feeling that in the settlement following the Turkish war it should have been awarded to her, whereas Greece secured it.

Another important recent development in the campaign in the Balkans is provided by the arrival at Saloniki of large detachments of Russian troops. So far as mere numbers go, they were not needed, as the Allies already have about 750,000 men upon the scene, and are quite able to defeat Bulgaria and re-occupy Serbia without further assistance. But the moral effect of the participation of Russia in the operations in Macedonia must be enormous.

First, consider the effect on Bulgaria. When Gladstone was denouncing the "Great Assassins" for the Bulgarian massacres, the people of Bulgaria came to look upon Great Britain as their champion and possible deliverer from the Turkish yoke. To Russia, however, was reserved the task of becoming the actual deliverer. The Russo-Turkish war laid the foundation for the very existence of Bulgaria as an independent state. And now in every Bulgarian cottage will be found a portrait of the Russian Czar of that day, if not also one of the British Queen. As fellow-Slavs, the Bulgarians look upon the Russians as blood brothers. Under such circumstances, can it be thought possible that the rank and file of the Bulgarian army, whatever Czar Ferdinand and his military clique may desire, will be found with any heart, fighting against the Russians of the present day?

Look next at Serbia. Of all the Balkan states, Serbia was most closely affiliated with Russia. When Austria issued her ultimatum to Serbia, it was practically an ultimatum to Russia. Serbia asked advice of her patron, and Russia dictated the reply—yielding everything Austria demanded consonant with independence and honor. When Austria pounced upon Serbia, she must have known there would be a day of reckoning. Now that day has come. The incoming Russians will make good the losses of the heroic Serbian army, and help in the re-establishment of the little kingdom.

Then look at Roumania. How can she remain any longer out of the conflict? All things are ready. Russia is understood to have agreed to cede to Roumania Bessarabia, with its two million inhabitants, chiefly Roumanian in race. She can easily do this when she is going to gain so much elsewhere—Constantinople, the Dardanelles, Armenia, etc. And the Roumanian army, 800,000 strong, is now completely mobilized. Very little further success of the Russians in Galicia will be needed to convince Roumania that she could either attack Bulgaria on the south or invade Transylvania on the west with impunity.

In short, every part of the Balkans may soon be bathed in sheets of flame. Germany, of course, will do her utmost, and it is even rumored that General Mackensen is personally directing the Teuton resistance at Monastir, but both Germany and Austria have more than they can do elsewhere and, if they cannot send reinforcements,

ments may as well retire. When the struggle becomes one between all the Allies and unhappy misled Bulgaria the issue cannot be deferred or doubtful and it may well be that the Balkans will be the scene of the commencement of the dramatic denouement which will end the war.

THE CARLETON ELECTION.

The leaders of the Opposition in Carleton do not appear to be able to get beyond their environment of slander and misrepresentation. The acceptance by one of Carleton's representatives of one of the most important portfolios in the Government of the province is to be contested, in the hope that the people can be misled into rejecting the portfolio, merely to satisfy the ambitions of Mr. Frank B. Carvell and his immediate following, who invariably display very bitter personal feeling against any man who will not serve them in their designs, says the Fredericton Gleaner.

The Hon. B. Frank Smith may not be a perfect man—few, if any, of us are that—but, through the place he has taken in the public life he has earned an important position for his country. When the late Hon. A. G. Blair reconstructed his Government he declined to give Mr. Carvell, who was then a member of the Legislature, a place in the Executive. When the late Henry R. Emmerson resigned as Minister of Railways and Canals Mr. Carvell was available and pressed for the position; but Sir Wilfrid Laurier also declined to take him into his councils and went outside of Parliament to get his minister. More recently, at the Liberal convention at Ottawa some weeks ago, Mr. Carvell attended to seek some prominence in the council of the party, but was again passed over in the selection of chairman of committees appointed to map out party policy on the various public questions, New Brunswick being practically the only province in Canada not honored with a chairmanship. And now Mr. Carvell and Albion Foster and George Upham and some others of that class are the very men to demand that the electors turn down and repudiate a gentleman whose ability and standing in the public life have won for Carleton a position it is entitled to enjoy, and through which its material interests in the work of development can be advantageously promoted. In this situation it may be natural in such an Opposition, certainly not commendable, to begin and maintain a campaign of misrepresentation and slander. We had hoped that the Opposition would be prepared to reasonably discuss the issues of the day. The Government have so fixed the date of the election as to give ample time for full and free discussion, such a discussion as will tend more largely to interest the people in the affairs of the province. But Mr. Carvell, who prides himself that he bosses the Opposition in Carleton, insists that he will run that end of the business to serve his own ends; and he is already at it in his own way. In the meantime the advice from Carleton are that Mr. Smith will easily carry the seat by a very large majority, and that the electors, including many who formerly supported the Opposition, are enthusiastically interested in the cause of progressive government which the new minister so well represents in that county.

REGISTRATION!

The Government has decided to introduce a system of registration. One object is to hold the balance between the needs of industry and the needs of the army. Hitherto there has been no process of selection in recruiting that had any relation to the requirements of business and production. The shortage of labor for munitions making has been a factor in bringing about the change. Another is the falling off in enlistment. Men required for essential industries, and men with numerous dependents, have been recruited without question, while an equal or greater number of eligibles who could be spared from their occupations and have no dependents, are left at home.

There is to be no compulsion—not yet, at least—but eligible men will be registered and classified. Those whose services are required in essential in-

dustries, those who have offered for active service and been rejected, and those who have been honorably discharged from the expeditionary forces, will have the privilege of wearing buttons or badges. Under this system the badgeless or buttonless men of military age will be stigmatized.

Some prefer out and out conscription, but registration has been adopted in the hope of rendering conscription unnecessary. There are objections to conscription, one of which is the adverse effect on immigration. But if the new plan fails to bring in the required number of recruits, there may be nothing left but compulsion.

THE EMPIRE AND ITS DEFENDERS

New homes for our veteran Fighters.

By J. Saxon Mills.

The end of the war will bring the British Empire a problem and an opportunity such as it has never known in the long course of its history. The problem will be how to restore to civil employment the vast armies recruited for the war by England and the Overseas Dominions, and this task brings along with it the opportunity of carrying through a big scheme of land settlement at home and in the broad Empire over the water. And before I say another word I must try to correct a misapprehension that has arisen in some quarters. Myriads of young men belonging to our island population will be kept open for them, for those who will remain in the Army, for casualties and the like, we may expect to have on demobilization close on a million young men for whom some provision of employment will have to be made.

England's First Call.

Now nobody proposes to deprive England of a single one of these men who may be willing and anxious to stay at home. England must have the first claim to her own manhood, and she will do well to have a fair scheme of land settlement read by the time she has these children of hers on her hand. Let there be no mistake about this. It is not conducive to the strength and safety of the Empire that we should depopulate its heart. In view of the effect which aircraft and submarine are having on our insular position, we shall need a bigger and not a smaller population to garrison these islands. Some may not have heard that a good many of our Dominion-born soldiers have taken a great liking for "Blighty"—climate and all—and that Anzacs and Canadians and South Africans may soon be showing us how to cultivate our Empire. That is all to the good. Hundreds of thousands will have died for England in the war, and the best memorial we can raise to them is an England worth living in as well as dying for. Our first great duty is to revivify the life of our shores and villages, which has fallen so sad and desolate.

But there is sure to be a vast number of our disbanded soldiers who will be drawn to the freer life and wider horizons of the new countries over the water. By virtue of good shepherding we must keep these Britons under the flag. This sort of thing used never to occur to us. We let our British stock drift whither it would. In 1850 three times as many people were leaving these shores for the United States alone as went out to the British North America, Australia, and South Africa taken together. At quite a moderate estimate we might have had today 90 millions of British people in our Empire, and that would have been a decisive advantage in these critical and perilous times.

We have to see, then, that not a single Briton shall be lost to the Empire at the end of the war for want of a good offer of home and handwork. Our Board of Agriculture is waking up to this situation and proposes to found a number of farm-colonies in England as a practical beginning. Let us hope that the Department realizes that the end of the war is approaching and that an adequate scheme has got to be ready by then. But meantime the Dominions are going strong in this big task of dealing with our Empire "veteran." Their first duty, of course, is to their own sons, but they are all awake to the great need of manhood and womanhood to fill their waste places, and their schemes are being made wide enough to absorb all the "new chums" that care to go out.

What the Empire Offers.

Sir Rider Haggard, the envoy of that busy hive of Empire workers, the Royal Colonial Institute, has received in South Africa, Australia and Canada a hearty and helpful welcome. It is difficult even to enumerate all the enterprises contemplated by the various provinces of the Empire. From Charterland comes the offer of half a million acres, free gifts, but requiring from the settler some little capital. The Canadian Pacific Railway is preparing on its own lands 1,000 farms, covering 300,000 acres, and arranged in groups to be known as "Return to the Land" colonies. The lovely little orchard Isle of Tasmania is providing homes to begin with for 300 British soldiers. Australia is busy with a scheme for placing 45,000 families on the land during the next three years, and the scheme will be extended so as to include all ex-service men as well as Australians. New Zealand

Little Benny's Note Book

I was passing a candy store and I stopped passing it and stood there looking at all the different kinds in the window, being a pretty expensive looking candy store, and I thought, I wonder if they would sell a candy worth of anything. I wonder if they would sell a candy worth of those caramels.

Which after I had wondered a while I went into see, nobody being there but a tall lady with red hair putting chookit in a candy box behind the counter, and after I had bit standing in front of her a while she saw me, saying, Well, little boy, what do you wish.

I want to ask you about those caramels in the window, I said. Wat about them, and the lady. How much are they, I said. 60 cents a pound, and the lady. No, you sell a candy worth, I said. No, we don't sell less than a quarter of a pound of anything, and the lady.

O, I said. And I started to walk out again, and the lady said, O, well, you seem to be a nice little boy, I'll give you a couple for a sent. I haven't got a sent, now, I said. Well then you did you come in and inquire, and the lady. I just wanted to know in case I give have a sent some time, I said. And I went out and the lady kept on putting chookit in the candy box.

has definitely set aside 57,000 acres for her own homing heroes, and 400,000 acres more for further settlement. The Prairie Provinces of Canada, where there are 300 million acres of public land, of which only about 20 million are under cultivation, will co-operate with the great transcontinental railroads towards the same object.

Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, are all taking the business in hand. A passage from the report of the Ontario Commission appointed to deal with the subject is well worth quoting. It shows that these gentlemen understood pretty thoroughly the subject of their reference:

"It is the judgment of the Commission that after the conclusion of peace to all those who have fought the awful battle for human freedom and democratic principles this country will owe a lasting debt. It is the duty as well as the privilege of Canada to offer them a home and the opportunity of earning for themselves a comfortable living. The obligation to discharge British soldiers is especially pressing. If we wait until the end of the war nothing satisfactory can be achieved. A great economic and social crisis may result. For this purpose and for the general purposes of inter-empire migration and land settlement the United Kingdom and the Dominions should be viewed as a single whole. It should be possible effectively to unite the Imperial and Dominion Governments in a policy which will keep the movement of population more and more within the Empire, check the drain of population to foreign countries, and so conserve British manhood for the development of British territory and the support and defense of British institutions against contingencies."

Here we have the conclusion of the whole matter. This subject of land settlement is one in which the whole Empire is closely concerned. The statesman of the Homeland and the Dominion will have to put their heads together and devote their wisest thoughts to the question. I agree with Mr. Christopher Turner that we require such a body as an Empire Conservation and Development Board to deal continuously and effectively, with the subject. I am aware that boards are narrow things made of wood, but the Empire must have some organ to deal with this problem of post-British demobilization. It is much to be hoped that some such authority will soon be in existence. I do not mean soon after the end of the war, but as soon as possible from this moment, as the demobilization problem will furnish one of its biggest tasks.

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S. Kerr,
Principal

The World's a Puzzle

This world is just one big puzzle. As anyone plainly can see, But do your best to be happy. And don't always look to be free.

For the rich are not always contented. And the poor are not always sad. So you see that this world is a puzzle. And it pays to be poor if you're glad.

—Pte. J. B. Ramsford, 26th N. B. Batt.
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New Rooms for Government.

The work of renovating the new government rooms on Prince William street is nearing completion, and it is expected to be finished and ready for occupancy the first of the month. The spacious offices in the building are much superior to the crowded and close offices now being occupied by different branches of the provincial administration. Besides the provincial immigration offices, the Farm Settlement Board, John Kenney, factory inspector; John B. Jones, liquor inspector, and the provincial government will occupy offices. The decorating of the interior is in charge of J. H. Pullen. S. A. Williams is directing the wood-working operations.

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