

## The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1921.

## MR. KING'S PLIGHT.

The more the position in which the Hon. Mackenzie King finds himself with regard to his cabinet making, is considered, the more amusing it becomes. Here is a man who, while the election campaign was in progress, denounced the so-called Progressives from every platform, condemned them for opposing Liberal candidates and spoke in support of Liberals who were opposing Progressives. Now he finds himself in the position where he cannot carry on an administration unless he has the support of these Progressives, and he must therefore eat humble pie and ask them to come to his help.

When the election was on the people of three prairie provinces had the opportunity to elect Liberal representatives if they wished to do so, but except in two or three cases they turned them down flat and elected Progressives. What are these people going to say now, if after declaring at the polls that they wanted nothing to do with the Liberals, they find that the men they elected in opposition to the Liberal party are, after all, to throw in their lot with it? One thing is clear. The Progressives will not support the King administration unless they get some guarantees that the policies they stand for will receive recognition and be carried into effect, and Mr. King gives way to this extent he stands a very good chance of alienating the sympathies of many of his Eastern Canada supporters.

Mr. King gained his support in Eastern Canada, where protectionist Liberals were elected, and where he and his followers proclaimed that the platform of the Liberal Convention of 1919, almost a replica of that of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, was only a "chart," and that a Liberal Government would be guided by the views of the leading elected lights. Mr. King is in a fair way now, if he accepts the conditions laid down by Mr. Crenier and the Western Progressives, to verify a prediction of Right Hon. Arthur Meighen that one school or another of political thought in Canada was in danger of betrayal. This, however, would not worry Mr. King, if he can get any advantage from such betrayal.

As to whether Mr. Crenier, the Progressive leader, and his followers will come into the King regime, appears to depend upon whether the Premier-elect is ready to concede their terms. If the latter is willing to do this, he may in all probability lose the services of Sir Lomer Gouin and some other prominent Quebec supporters from his Cabinet.

## VON MOLTKE'S SUPPRESSED MEMOIRS.

Though the First Battle of the Marne was fought a few days after the Great War began, military experts believe that it was the really decisive battle. Once lost, the Germans never again were in a position to win swiftly, and if they could not win in a hurry they could not win at all. This view was held by General Von Moltke, who was in supreme command of the German military operations when the war began and for some time afterward. His memoirs, which were written during the illness that eventually caused his death, were intended for publication, but when all arrangements had been made for the issue of the book the German Government forbade and the work remains unpublished. The manuscript, according to the Mail and Empire, was given by Mme. Von Moltke to Rudolph Steiner, a mystic and theosophist, who conducts a college of higher culture near Basel in Switzerland. Steiner is a friend of one of the editors of the Mail and has communicated to him some of the introductory passages which indicate what the book would have attempted to prove. These confirm the general impression that has been held of the German military plan and the long preparation for the war which the German staff had carried out. According to Von Moltke, even the Kaiser was not informed of what was intended. The real purpose of the general army manoeuvres was kept a secret in the breasts of two or three of the higher command.

Three times before the great rush on Paris in 1914 the attack had been rehearsed in German army manoeuvres. Each time Von Kluck made a mistake and it was precisely the same mistake that led to the loss of the battle. He went forward too fast. He was warned by Von Moltke that if he did the same thing after the war began Germany would lose. If this incident is authentic it throws a curious sidelight upon the mentality of the German staff, which gave the general an opportunity to make a

mistake a fourth time when it knew that disaster would be the result. Von Moltke says that after the battle of the Marne he relinquished his expectation of a German victory, and it was this despondency that brought about his final illness. He says that not either the Kaiser or the Minister of War knew the intention of the army in the event of war. The general staff and the Chancellor alone were aware that the attack through Belgium had been long ago decided upon. The matter was kept from the Kaiser not because it was feared he would not give his consent, but because, according to Moltke, "he was far too much a babler and too indiscreet. He would have told all the world." We learn from the memoirs that both the Kaiser and most of his advisers believed the war would be fought wholly in the East. Wilhelm was convinced that Britain would not come in, and that the world would keep France out after he had signed the mobilization order he wanted the troops halted and recalled an hour's march from the French and Belgian borders. Von Moltke refused to sign the counter order, and it was not until some hours later that the Kaiser, having received a new telegram from King George saying that he could make no engagement of neutrality, consented to the military party do as it liked, so long as it would promise a victory.

Some one who apparently did not know anything about the matter and probably cared less, announced that Mr. J. P. Connors of Chatham had been appointed Judge of Probates for Northumberland. Mr. A. A. Davidson, K. C. of Newcastle, has been filling the position for the last four years and nothing has been heard of his relinquishing it for any reason. Why should Mr. Connors supersede him? Mr. Connors has probably been appointed to succeed the late Mr. Benson as Registrar of Probates. If the Royal Gazette said "Judge" instead of "Registrar," it is only in keeping with its regular traditions; for as Comptroller Stewart once remarked in the House, it needs a second notice in the Gazette always to correct the mistakes in the first.

The Hon. Walter Foster has been summoned to Ottawa for a consultation with "my honored leader." The incident has given rise to several rumors, which may, or may not, be well founded. One of these is to the effect that Mr. Turgeon, member-elect for Gloucester, is to be otherwise provided for, and the vacancy which his resignation would make is to be filled by Mr. Foster. The Premiership of New Brunswick, it is said, would then be offered to Mr. Foster. Just what portfolio Mr. Foster would take in the King Cabinet, has, of course, not yet transpired, but a more interesting question is, what is going to be done with Mr. Arthur Bliss Coppi?

The death is announced of Colonel Henry Waterman, one of the most widely known public men in the United States and probably the most noted journalist on the American continent. He was a man of diversified gifts, being equally at home as an orator on the public platform, and as an author at his desk. Outside of his journalistic work he found time also to take a considerable part in the political life of his country, and in addition to write several historical works. When he had anything to say, he said it, and his remarks were usually worth while.

New Brunswick is scheduled to go "dry" on 18th January. In the meanwhile every vessel that reaches port here seems to have a considerable part of its cargo consisting of "casks." The Prohibition which arrived yesterday had 20,000 on board. It would seem that with reasonable care the supply that will be on hand by the time the 18th arrives, should be good for several years yet.

Before Mr. Mackenzie King comes to any formal agreement with Mr. Crenier for co-operation, it might not be amiss to remind the former that "the country is sick, sore and tired of coalitions." At least Mr. Foster says so, and of course he wouldn't say so if he didn't know.

A despatch from Ottawa to the Liberal press states the statement that Mr. King will not announce his Cabinet until he has secured some strong men for the various positions. If this is the case, the public will have to wait a long time for Mr. King to complete an almost hopeless task.

According to records, it takes four and a half months to make a soldier and 16 months to get him the material and the resources with which to fight.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Getting It In The Neck.  
(Nashville Southern Lumberman.)  
The Philadelphia economist says that "the consumer is king." And everybody knows in what portion of the anatomy the kings have been getting it during recent years.

A Reckless Way.  
(Hamilton Herald.)  
Yes, the Washington conference has done good work—but it is work which could have been done just as well by the League of Nations if the United States had been a member of the League.

Everybody's Moderation.  
(Winning Tribune.)  
The Japanese delegation to the armistice conference have rather surprised American public opinion by their moderation and apparently quiet unforgotten desire for an amicable settlement of Pacific questions.

In the same way the United States has surprised the world. It is but a short time since the sentiment of the United States was all for a navy second to none on earth, and a policy of saying the last word, and giving the final decision backed by formidable force, on questions raised over the Far East.

Sentiment has greatly changed.

Whether the staggering cost of the Mercantile Marine policy have had anything to do with the change, or awakening to the truth that developing force first and bringing judgment to bear afterwards, is not the right way of approaching disputed questions need not be too nicely discussed. The realist will give one answer and the idealist another.

"Dew of Death."

(Quebec Chronicle.)

Discussing the weapons of the next war and the ghastliness with which it will probably be conducted, a military writer points out that it will far outstrip the last savagery and that it will be the most ghastly of all. It has been admitted that on the next occasion when nations meet in armed conflict the chemist and not the engineer will be the presiding genius. Airplanes are predicted, will drop a single bomb on a city and spread enough poison gas to render it uninhabitable and to kill those unfortunate enough to be in its vicinity. It is an interesting fact that the deadliest chemical for use in military operations was discovered by the Allies, though it was not ready for employment in the field when the armistice was signed. Of this diabolical material, details are now available for the first time. Its technical name is "chlorovinyldichloride," formidable enough in truth. It was first called "Lewisite," after Capt. Lewis of the U. S. army, its discoverer. But since then another and more dramatic name for it has been found: "The Dew of Death."

In their book "Chemical Warfare," Gen. Amos De Fries and Major C. J. West, of the U. S. army, say of the new war agent, which is three times more deadly than the terrible mustard gas: "Not only is it a vesicant (cause of burns) of about the same order as mustard gas, but the arsenic penetrates the skin of an animal, and three drops placed on the abdomen of a mouse are sufficient to kill within two hours." It is also a powerful respiratory irritant and causes violent sneezing. Its possible use in aeroplane bombs has led General De Fries to apply the term "The Dew of Death."

"Resolutions have been passed protesting against the use of poison gas in war," as the Canadian Military Gazette observes. "The resolutions have been based on humanitarian motives and are praiseworthy in expressing repugnance to inhuman war practices. But war is war. War is basic and cruel. It abrogates international treaties and humanitarian principles, and so long as war is possible every diabolical device will be utilized. War is a law unto itself. It is anarchy in its worst form, and only when war is swept into the limbo of dead things will there be any definite assurance that such horrors as the 'Dew of Death' will not be resorted to."

## THE LAUGH LINE

Hardship.  
Benevolent Old Lady—And I suppose you are a widow, my dear?  
Mrs. Slugg—Worse nor that, mum, I has to keep him.

Fact.  
"I see a man has been fined for eating fruit in a railway carriage."  
"That's rather tall, isn't it?"  
"Fact, I assure you. He was trying to gnaw the date off his ticket. You see, it happened to be an old one."

A Futurist Worker.  
"You look tired."  
"Well, it's hard work carrying a load of bricks up to the third storey."  
"Have you been doing it long?"  
"No—I start tomorrow."

Up-To-Date.  
Lady (leaving children's dance, to small girl)—We're having a little dance on Wednesday, and we should be so glad if you would care to come.  
Small Girl—Right-o! Would you like me to bring a man?—Punch.

"A Critic Too!"  
Once while Henry Irving was rehearsing a play in which a horse was needed, the horse was brought around and the following incident took place: Irving walked around the horse, "It's a fine animal. A very fine animal indeed. Tell me, is the animal likely to get nervous of the crowd and footlights?"  
"Oh, no, Sir 'Henry. It's been on a stage before."

"Oh, indeed, an actor."  
"Oh, yes, Sir 'Henry. Why 'e played with Mr. Tree through the rooms of Richard III, except last week, that is."

"Oh, quite an actor, quite an actor. Tell me, why didn't he play last week?"  
"Well, Sir 'Henry, as a matter of fact, one night when Mr. Tree was on, 'e forgot 'isself and lashed out and kicked Mr. Tree."

"Oh, indeed? A critic, too?"

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Ma was in the kitchen making crullers and I was standing in the kitchen door admiring the smell, and Ma sed, How can I work with you standing there sniffing like a steam engine, go on out and get some air.

Which I did, not feeling like starting an argument with Ma, when there was crullers in the house, and Puds Sinkins was sitting on his front steps and I went over and sat on them with him, saying, My mothers making crullers.

G, is she? sed Puds. And pretty soon he sed, Hay, I tell you lets was, les go into a wacky partnership, suppose every thing I get good to eat I give you half and everything you get you wacky up with me.

All rite, Im willing, thats a go, I sed. Thinking, G, hermy, he's always getting stuff to eat. And Puds sed, About how many crullers is she making, about?

O, a lot, I dont know, maybe about 50, maybe about 100, I sed.

Which jest then the Sinkinses cook came out to the front door saying, Heer, your mother sent those out to you. And she gave Puds 2 cookies and a apple and went in agin, me saying, G Im glad we made up that wacky partnership.

We too, wen shall we start? sed Puds.

How do you mean, wat do you mean, we have started, I sed and Puds sed, Like fun we have, I didnt say wen I was going to start.

Well lets start rite now, I sed, and he sed, Aw no, not rite now. And he only gave me one bite of apple and no bite of cookie on account of saying its too hard to take a small bite. And I went home to see if the crullers was done, wich they was, and Ma gave me 3 and I went out on the front steps to eat them hoping Puds would come over and try to start the wacky partnership.

Which he didnt, on account of properly not wanting to give me the satisfaction of saying no.

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