

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 32 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 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 WAR.

Additional progress by the German army in France although at a casualty cost said to be out of proportion to the value of the gain, a renewal of the rumor that the German fleet is to try conclusions with the Allied navies, and an increased and successful activity on the part of British armaments, the war news of the past twenty-four hours.

The German armies, facing the Allies in the most recent drive between Noyon and Montdidier, have gained heights of land from which the French forces retired and are approaching Compiègne but the casualty loss is reported as being very severe and in no point did the enemy succeed in breaking the Allied lines. At the same time it is well to remember that the front on which the enemy is now operating actively is smaller than formerly and consequently, while his casualties are heavy he is not exhausting his men as rapidly as in previous drives. War reviewers, while emphasizing the importance of the gains on enemy reverses also sound the warning that exhaustion from this source is not to be expected too soon.

The rumor that the German fleet is preparing to make a test of strength is more interesting, inasmuch as such a test on a large scale has not yet been attempted. The nearest approach was the battle in the Bight of Heligoland, in which the British fleet won a notable victory. Today the German navy will encounter a foe even stronger by comparison than that on that occasion, for, in addition to the British navy, American ships of the first class are in the battle lines and can be depended upon to give a good account of themselves while Germany has had no notable accessions of naval strength since she last felt the weight of Britannia's blows in the element in which Britannia is the acknowledged ruler.

That Germany would make a naval attempt in conjunction with her land operations has long been the belief of military critics, who also expressed the opinion that such an effort, if unsuccessful, would practically mark the climax of German defeat. Germany, to win, must conquer the Allies on both land and sea and to date she has made no substantial progress in either direction. Her land forces have practically borne all the brunt of the four years of war and it is natural that from the German people who have contributed heavily to the support of the navy, there should be a demand that at least that navy should show itself in the open. Von Tirpitz is quoted this morning as stating that when the German armies had realized their objectives on land his "glorious fleet" would complete the discomfiture of Britain by defeating her at sea. The armies have not lived up to advance notices, but the failure of the navy will probably be even more pronounced, for on sea Britain today is as superior as Germany was on land at the outbreak of the war.

CANADA BUILDING SHIPS.

It will be generally hoped that the spectacle witnessed at the Saker yards, Strait Shore, yesterday, when a fine vessel took the water, will be frequently repeated and that shipbuilding, both in wood and steel, will again assume the importance it once enjoyed in the catalogue of the city's industries. It is interesting also to note that in another local yard a vessel is nearing the launching stage, while Mr. Saker will commence work on his second in a few days.

At this time, when there is a great demand for tonnage, there is no apparent reason why shipbuilding should not be successfully revived in St. John and New Brunswick. In other parts of Canada much has been done in this line of industry. In Montreal, on Saturday last, a 7,000 ton steel ocean freighter was launched from the immense yards of the Canadian Vickers, Limited, and in a few minutes after that vessel left the ways another keel was laid in position and it is expected she will be ready for launching about the first of October. Another vessel, also of 7,000 tons, which has been under construction for some time, will be launched in two weeks.

Montreal is not alone as a locality in which steel shipbuilding is developing. The plants at Collingwood, which have always been operated, now have more business than at any time in recent years, while at various points on the Pacific coast a number of vessels have been constructed. It is also announced that Halifax is to have a big steel shipbuilding plant and this will be welcomed as indicating an added measure of prosperity for our sister city, while the statement of Hon. F. B. Carvell that the Courtenay Bay contract will be signed next week, and that steel ships will be built there, will also revive hope that a section of the city of which much has been expected, will realize the bright future held for it before the war.

The Canadian Government has shown a disposition to aid shipbuilding in Canada wherever and whenever possible. That government will give contracts for ships to established yards or to any companies desiring to undertake shipbuilding, upon the completion of their plant. The only drawback to this proposition is that the Government is not in position to guarantee plates for the construction of steel vessels, which fact will naturally act as a handicap to the development of the business to its fullest extent.

There is hope, however, that this situation will be remedied in time and there is every likelihood that as a development of the future Canada will return to the position she held fifty years ago when she stood third among the nations of the earth in point of her marine tonnage. In those days Canadian built ships sailed the seven seas and the Canadian ensign was a familiar sight in every part of the world. May it be that the recent development in shipbuilding is but an indication of a genuine revival in this important industry and that what Canada did in the sixties she will duplicate in the not distant future.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

Two items appearing in yesterday's newspapers were worthy of more attention than they will probably receive. One was to the effect that at a meeting of the Board of School Trustees, in St. John, on Monday evening, a request for increased salaries was received from a delegation representing the female teachers employed in the city schools. The other item, appearing in the Fredericton newspapers, concluded the fact that the number of young men and women writing the examination for teaching licenses this year was much smaller than usual. In part the reduction is explained by the demands made by military service upon the young men of the province, but the falling off in the number of young women willing to enter the teaching profession cannot be disposed of as easily. The real reason is that there is a more intimate relation between the two items than the average citizen is aware of. This newspaper has already claimed that public school teachers are inefficiently remunerated and the fault for this does not rest altogether with the local school boards. The demands upon the school board of St. John, for example, are very heavy, and it is admitted that there is much difficulty in maintaining the service at the desired point of efficiency.

But the responsibility for the dissatisfaction among school teachers can be laid at the doors of the provincial government to a greater degree than any local school board. That government, while it has not been at all forgetful of the claims of its political friends, and has not hesitated to increase salaries in other departments, has given no attention to the case of the teachers. At the last session of the legislature the government's proposals for the year contained adequate money for roads and bridges, which if the usual Postoffice plans are to be followed will give but inadequate returns, but there was no increase in the grants to be paid to school teachers. This situation could not have been due to a lack of money, for the same government that ignored the teachers did not hesitate to submit plans for extensive developments in the forestry department, and had it not been for the strenuous and competent opposition of the men behind Hon. J. A. Murray, would have saddled the province with an expensive, overmanned and unnecessarily elaborate health department under the control of another salaried minister. The conservation of public health is important of course, but the education of our children should be of equal importance. The forest resources of New Brunswick are of value, but that value is not so important as the wellbeing of our future men and women. Road expenditure, as in Gloucester County, may help to keep political supporters in line but the general public will be better satisfied by increased provision

for the education of the young. The teachers in St. John and elsewhere in the province have a case that should not be overlooked even if it becomes necessary to eliminate some superfluous in order to provide for them. Considering the qualifications necessary to make a successful school teacher the members of that profession are shamefully underpaid. It is little wonder that teachers are leaving New Brunswick for more lucrative fields elsewhere or that the class writing examinations for licenses this year should be so small as to arouse comment.

THE GERMAN LANGUAGE

(Toronto Mail and Empire).

We must smash the German war machine and put an end to Hohenzollern militarism. That is the task to which we have set our hands, and it is one we can perform. But the smashing of the German language is beyond our power, and in any case it would be nothing to our purpose. The English language lives today in spite of long-continued systematic efforts in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, and it can give us no rational satisfaction. If we had known the German language better, we might have been better prepared for this war. At least we should then have been more fully informed as to the real feelings and intentions of the ruling classes in Germany towards us. We cannot at present do this. The German language is either when grappling with her in a death struggle or competing with her in peaceful trade. To forbid the study of the use of her language would be to handicap ourselves in the race we must continue to run with her, whether for victory in war or leadership in trade. In this progressive age of the world neither the British Empire as a whole nor any of its Dominions can afford to be deaf and dumb in the language of any rival nation. To compete with Germany in the markets of the world and in the diplomacy of the world we must know what official Germany is saying, and what industrial and commercial Germany is doing. Unless we are alert she will steal a march on us in the great campaign for the future of the world. We must speak our language with facility. To meet them in competition both in English-speaking countries and other countries we must be able to come to grips with their clever trade literature. It is true Germany has profited more by knowledge and use of the English language, but the English language has profited by knowledge and use of the German language, for much as has been done by Germany in the application of science to the arts and industries, it was what she learnt chiefly from the English-speaking nations that put her in the way of revolutionizing the social and economic life of the world and the great inventions of modern times. The English language has profited by knowledge and use of the German language, for much as has been done by Germany in the application of science to the arts and industries, it was what she learnt chiefly from the English-speaking nations that put her in the way of revolutionizing the social and economic life of the world and the great inventions of modern times.

The Germans have sixteen corps. Very well. We have only ten, with you. Remain! The British army never drew back in its history. As for myself, I give you my word as a soldier that I will die rather than retreat. Give me yours! The soldiers round him listened in silence. It was Lord French who stepped forward and grasped Foch firmly by the hand. In that handshake the doom of the Germans at Ypres was sealed.

Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE. The Park Ave. News.

Weather. Placitively. Sports. Pats Sinking and Benny Potts had a weight throwing contest in the back alley last Saturday afternoon, the only weight they could find to throw being a iron to iron clothes with out of Benny Potts' kitchen. With after about the 10th time they had each thrown it in the handle was away out of shape on account of having bin a little out of shape after about the 2nd time, and the game was brook up so suddenly by Benny Potts' mother that both the weight throwers forgot which one was ahead, and Benny Potts was not saw agen till the next day. Intriguing Facts About Intriguing People. Sam Cross has got a camera, being a prize for selling 4 dollars worth of soap, with its just like other cameras except that all the pictures turn out blank. Poem by Skinny Martin. TOO BEWTFILL. Wants there was a princess so bewtfill. She cood of bin any princess bride, But no prince had enuff nerve to ask her. And she was still a old maid wen she died. Sisistety. Miss Maud Johnson, who stayed at Miss Mary Watkinnes house all nite last Saturday, says that Miss Watkins ate 9 buckwoak cakes for Sunday breakfast, Miss Watkins being such a bewty looing gert that nobody wood think it.

man religion endowments have been recorded, and all moneys so spent must be accounted for. The railways have been extended from the Persian Gulf. The Arabs feared the railway, so the British induced thousands of them to lay the rails at good wages. There was no trouble among the on-coming tribesmen thereafter. The first through train to Basra was filled with Arab sheikhs. They went doubtfully. They returned, says the Arab chronicler, "full of praise" and "calling on Allah that every good might come to the great British government." There are idlers in Baghdad, even as in Canada. Everyone must work. All the high taxes have been remitted; all the high rents for farming lands have been abolished. The British governor has taken over the administration of such lands and rented them at a reasonable figure. "The Arabs have built new schools," and they are full of glad pupils." Thus comes British rule after Ottoman misrule. The desert has already begun to blossom. The Arab newspaper reporter, from whose story the Vancouver World has taken these facts, concludes by fervent invoking Allah in blessing for the deliverance of British rule.

FOCH AND FRENCH

(Cleveland Leader).

It was at two o'clock in the morning of November 1, 1914, that Foch met French when the tide of battle was strongly against us. It was suggested, for the sake of prudence, that Foch should retire. The development of this suggestion was scattered by Foch's interruption, uttered in those stirring words which have since become famous: "I know so well. This is what he said: 'The Germans have sixteen corps. Very well. We have only ten, with you. Remain! The British army never drew back in its history. As for myself, I give you my word as a soldier that I will die rather than retreat. Give me yours!' The soldiers round him listened in silence. It was Lord French who stepped forward and grasped Foch firmly by the hand. In that handshake the doom of the Germans at Ypres was sealed.

THE GLORY THAT IS ITALY

(St. Louis Times-Democrat).

Americans resent being charged with provincialism, but few will deny that until comparatively recent years our general view of modern Italy was narrow and mistaken. The Italians were lightly classified as singers, brigands and curators of treasures of art fashioned by the genius of their illustrious ancestors. After their thrilling fight for unification the Italians set about the making of a reputation for themselves. Some of the minor achievements were overlooked by the world, but no bushel could hide the light of Italy now. With only 35,000,000 people, Italy has raised and is maintaining an army of 4,500,000 men, fighting under conditions that put a strain upon the imagination.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE PILGRIMAGE OF A DOLLAR BILL.

I represent a dollar as a substitute for gold. And many are the dirty places where I've allowed, and I've rolled; From hygienic model places immaculately clean. To dens of vice and poverty unscrupulously mean.

If you could know my language and the tales that I might tell, And follow me about the world you'd

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