

The St. John Standard

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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 airmen featured 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 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 territory, 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 some 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.

Allied activity in the air is another good sign. Within the past few days tons of bombs have been dropped on German depots and fortified ports, doing great damage. This air superiority should increase as time goes on. The situation is encouraging. At her maximum of power Germany has been unable to score a decisive land victory on the western front. Her chances on the sea, and in the air are very small indeed.

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, chronicled 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 inadequately 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 is 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 items in order to provide for them. Considering the qualifications necessary to make a successful school teacher the members of that profession are shamefully underpaid. That is the task to which we have set our hand, 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 seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to smother and displace it by the Norman French.

THE GERMAN LANGUAGE.

(Toronto Mail and Empire). We must smash the German war machine and put an end to Hohenzollern imperialism. That is the task to which we have set our hand, 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 seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to smother and displace it by the Norman French.

German will be the tongue of scores of millions of people after the war as it was before the war. The idea of ignoring it from this time forth may be acceptable to our present righteous hostility against the German empire, but 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 afford to ignore the German language, 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 German is doing. Unless we are alert she will steal a march on us in the great campaign for trade in the principal nations which will be engaged when the war is off their hands.

Germany hates everything English, but that will not cause her to put a ban on the study of English within her empire. On the contrary, more Germans will have a speaking knowledge of English in the future than at any time before. They will push their trade in English-speaking countries in the face of tariffs and strong prejudices, and to do that they will require to speak our language with facility. To meet them in competition both in English-speaking countries and other countries we must be able to read and write their clever trade literature. It is true Germany has profited more by knowledge and use of the English language than the English-speaking nations have 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 carrying out such improvements. The great scientific discoveries that have revolutionized the social and economic life of the world and the great inventions of modern times have come from the English-speaking nations. We must keep up a knowledge of English in order to keep on reading and writing their clever trade literature. It is true Germany has profited more by knowledge and use of the English language than the English-speaking nations have 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 carrying out such improvements. The great scientific discoveries that have revolutionized the social and economic life of the world and the great inventions of modern times have come from the English-speaking nations. We must keep up a knowledge of English in order to keep on reading and writing their clever trade literature.

Six weeks ago the report was published of a committee appointed last summer by the British prime minister to enquire into the condition of modern languages in the educational systems of Great Britain. It made three principal recommendations, one being that modern students be encouraged to learn foreign languages in the general consular service, and for more opportunity for acquiring knowledge of modern foreign languages. It advises that new professorships and lectureships be established for the teaching of the language, literature, history and economics of "the five principal European countries" and that "the allowance for French be half as much again as for each of the other four languages." It further advises that Spanish, Italian and Greek studies receive attention at the universities "commensurate with that given to German." Clearly this British committee, of which Mr. Stanley Leathes is chairman, does not contemplate the dropping of the German language.

While civilization is still shuddering at the ruthless barbarities of Prussianism on invaded territory, there has reached the office of the Vancouver World an Arab newspaper published in Baghdad. British troops went to Baghdad, and it is now under British rule. From this Arab newspaper our Vancouver contemporary is able to learn what the natives think of the British, and to contrast British rule in the conquered East with Teuton ravages in Belgium and Serbia. With naive astonishment the Arab newspaper records some of the doings of the British. They have hit Baghdad with electricity. Each house has been valued and registered. No excessive rents can be charged. The Mussul-

man religion endowments have been recorded, and all moneys so spent must be accounted for. The Arabs began to blossom. The Arab newspaper reports, from whose story the Vancouver World has taken these facts, concluded by fervently invoking Allah in blessing for the deliverance of British rule.

FOCH AND FRENCH.

(Cleveland Leader). It was at two o'clock 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, machine-gun-like sentences of which I know so well. This is what he said:

"The Germans have sixteen corps. Very well. We have only ten. With you retire I will remain. 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' recent 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 light of Italy now. With only 36,000,000 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 wallowed, and I've rolled; From hygienic model places immaculately clean.

To dens of vice and poverty unsanctifiedly 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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BRITAIN AS VIEWED THROUGH ARAB EYES

(Toronto Globe)

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Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

The Park Ave. News.

Weather. Placitively.

Sports. Pads Slunking and Benny Potts had a weight throwing contest in the back ally last Saturday afternoon, the only weight they could find to throw being a iron to iron clothes with out of Benny Potts' kitchen.

which after about the 10th time they had each threw 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 broke 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.

Intristing Packs About Intristing People. Sam Cross has got a camera, being a prize for selling 4 dollars worth of soap, with its jest like other camera 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 eny princess brido,

But no prince had enuff nerve to ask her,

And she was still a old maid wen she died.

Sisatety. Miss Maud Johnson, who stayed at Miss Mary Watkins house all nite last Saturday, says that Miss Watkins ate 9 buckweak cakes for Sunday breakfast, Miss Watkins being such a bewty looking gerd that

often visit Hell;

The few clean hands I pass through are far between and rare,

And millions are the microbes I distribute everywhere.

First a banknote printing company presented me to view,

Then I as a legal tender at a bank made my debut;

Next in a factory office with some others I was ranged,

And with a sweated wage slave for his labor was exchanged.

I passed then to a grocer from the worker's haggard wife,

And to the coffers of the hoarders of the needs of human life;

Then the bank again received me to make his wealth secure,

Then out again and in again a dozen times or more.

Even in the church and Sunday schools I seldom am refused,

And to pay the preacher's salary next voyage I was used;

From the model son's fat pocketbook on a mission next I went,

And to feast a lashed angel at a Cafe I was spent.

Next for dresses, laces, and ribbons at a haberdasher's sale,

For fashion as a lure for my exchange will never fail;

Next to a man who often ardent spirit's would imbibe,

I was given by a crooked politician as a bribe.

To a barroom next I shifted from a drunkard's filthy purse,

While his starving wife and children had to suffer for the cure;

In work both clean and dirty I've had many plans to play,

And conscience qualms are sentiments that seldom block my way.

I'm getting creased and ragged now, destroyed I soon may be,

But I've shown you how the greed of gain has made a curse of me;

So with war, crime, pest and poverty, this planet will abound,

Until for fair exchange some other medium is found.

—N. A. W.

A BIT OF FUN.

Can't Get Any Work Out of Him.

"How's the work, Jim?"

"Not at all. He's a slacker."

All That is Necessary.

"I simply don't know how twelve dollars a week, Norah. You are not worth that much money."

"I know it, ma'am, but the man who runs the factory thinks I am."

—N. A. W.

Rid the Skin.

of disfiguring blemishes, by quickly purifying the blood, improving the circulation, and regulating the habits with

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Entree Dishes, Compartment Dishes, Bake Dishes, Casseroles, 1847 Rogers Bros. Knives, Forks and Spoons

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All that is needed is a pair of properly fitted glasses. Don't try to select them for yourself. That is dangerous. Let us fit you.

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