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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 22, 1916.

WAR COMMENT.

Hudson Maxim writes to the New York Times predicting that the war will last from three to five years yet, and that it is more likely to be seven years yet than three. He argues that neither side is as yet anywhere near victory or recognition of defeat.

Predictions as to the length of the war are not very frequent in these days, and those which are recorded, whether their authors foresee a short war now or a long one, are seldom convincing. A year ago the prophets were expecting a decisive spring campaign. It did not come.

The military expert of the London Times recently expressed the view that the landing of 100,000 Germans in England was well within the possibilities, and although he believes that such an army would find its maritime communications cut and would be destroyed after landing, he thinks the enemy might consider the damage that would be done in England worth the destruction of the invading forces.

It has been said by some that too many battalions have been authorized in New Brunswick within a short time. That is really beside the point. Battalions which have been completed since the beginning of the war, added to the new battalions which have been organized and which are now being trained, would not in all pay New Brunswick's score in this conflict.

While these are among the possibilities, he regards an attack on Egypt in force as more probable, suggesting that Germany will send to Constantinople this month about 150,000 young troops of new formations to co-operate with 350,000 Turks, and thus launch 500,000 men against the British in Egypt. He thinks Egypt can be defended successfully if the peril is fully appreciated and proper measures taken in time.

He asks the people of Great Britain to consider the enemy's situation and their own. He says: "In order to preserve a distinct and unbroken view of events at the present hour, and to appreciate the situation as a whole, it is necessary for us to separate the temporary from the permanent, and not to be led astray by passing shadows into the belief that the outlook is blacker than it really is, or that Germany is in as strong a position as she pretends to be."

The temporary misfortunes from which we are now suffering are entirely of our own contriving. It was not the Germans who compelled us to send a military expedition to the Dardanelles, and to plunge into the deserts of Mesopotamia in blinding ignorance of what was in store for us, or to invade ourselves in Salonika. We are in course of liquidating these affairs, all of which point out the need for allowing our War and General Staffs a greater influence over operations, and for the Cabinet to follow hereafter the principles of strategy consecrated by experience.

The central fact of the military situation is that the Austro-German Allies have failed, on their three main fronts, to preserve the attack of the Great Powers except by, or to affect in any way, opposing by hardening, the resolution of the Allies to continue the war until their political aims are completely achieved. Nothing can alter this resolve. Russia is sitting down stolidly to build up

NEW BRITISH COMMANDER JOINS HANDS WITH JOFFRE



Photo shows General Sir Douglas Haig, the new British commander of the expeditionary forces, reviewing troops with General Joffre at the headquarters of the French forces.

hands of the Austrians. When the Montenegro leader spoke to the Sun correspondent he did not know that months later he and his comrades would be facing high explosives such as the Austrians used when they drove the Montenegro army from the heights that hang far above and dominate the Austrian seaport of Cattaro. He did not know that the guns the Montenegro had mounted on the mountain top would be no match for the great weapons of his enemies. But he was not alone in his ignorance. No one knew save those who under Prussian leadership had been experimenting and preparing to plunge Europe in the bloodiest war of all time.

One has only to look at a relief map to see what the capture of Lovcen means to Austria. It was not merely a Montenegrin stronghold; it is a citadel of natural formation and its military importance is very great. Rising to a great peak upon which can be hidden forts and guns of enormous strength and power, it is so close to the Austrian port of Cattaro that huge stones might almost be rolled down on the peaceful town at its base. At this port the Austrians have a fine refuge for their fleet.

Let it be understood that we are not talking politics. The whole purpose here is to talk about raising 200,000 more men, in time, not too late. It is not enough for the government merely to announce that 200,000 men are authorized, and wait for civilian committees to produce the additional 200,000. Nor will it do for the people to throw all the responsibility on the government, or upon the political parties in Parliament. The government, seconded by the opposition, should give the country a war lead. From both parties—but particularly from the government—because it has the power and the purse of the country—the country should have a war leadership such as will give full expression and direction to the country's courage and patriotism.

Now, in the face of the greatest crisis in our history, can they not do better than they have ever done when the issue was of one party only? The country should lead from Ottawa, and from Frederickton in a fashion to arouse the people. There should be a national recruiting campaign worthy of the cause. It should lack neither funds nor eloquence. Nor should it lack definite purpose and goal. The country should be told within what time the next 200,000 men are needed. Each section of the country should know how many men it has contributed and how many more are necessary to make up its share of the whole 500,000. Organization for recruiting should not be started in the matter of men or of money. It should be carried on as Ottawa really recognized it for what it is—the life blood of victory, the shield against defeat and dishonor. Give the country real war leadership worthy of this hour of fate, and the country will produce the men.

OTTAWA AND THE WAR.

The Prime Minister and Sir Wilfrid Laurier are agreed that conscription in Canada is unnecessary. Doubtless they are of one mind also respecting Canada's 800,000 men. They would agree that the men must be raised. Therefore, when they say conscription is not to be thought of, they are expressing their confidence that Canadian patriotism and the voluntary system will produce 200,000 men in the next eight months. We say eight months because Sir Sam Hughes is quoted as having said the additional men required will be forthcoming within that period.

Like Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Asquith and several of his most powerful ministers said the voluntary system would suffice. The time came when they could no longer say so. It had done wonders, but the day came when the volunteers were not numerous enough to meet the demands of the war, to provide reinforcements and to furnish new divisions for additional theatres of war. When that happened Mr. Asquith and his associates had to choose between conscription and national defeat, and they chose conscription, as they always had said they would if the voluntary system proved no longer equal to the tremendous demands of the world conflict.

We have not yet exhausted, or nearly exhausted, the resources of the voluntary system in Canada; we have not yet had any national register or any Derby plan of enlistment. Sir Sam Hughes says the present system will produce the men, and everybody will earnestly hope that he is right. If, unhappily, the event proves him wrong, and if, therefore, Canada's leaders have to choose between failure to get the men and the adoption of national registration, and even of the Derby plan or some other more efficacious, they will not hesitate. They will have to get the

men. They will have to remind the country of the state of the war, and of our duty not only to the country, to the Empire, and to ourselves, but also of our duty to those we have already sent to the battle line. In a word, pointing to the Canadians, and the Australians, and the British, and our Allies, who have been long at grips with the enemy, the leaders of this nation would have to say with Abraham Lincoln:

"Their toil and blood have been given as much for you as for themselves. Shall it all be lost rather than that you, too, will bear your part?"

Canada should—and, we believe, will—get along without conscription, but no man should so deceive himself as to believe the next 200,000 men can be raised in time to be trained and to be of use in the crisis of the war unless our people, and especially the leaders of our people, address themselves to the work in hand with new fire and better direction. We must raise in the next eight months as many volunteers as we produced in the last seventeen. To do that, remembering that recruiting is now more difficult than it was a year ago, the country needs no new fire of patriotism upon its altars, but it needs a fresh resolution, a new sense of dedication to the work, and above all a bold and passionate national leadership.

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THE BLOCKADE OF GERMANY.

There are many indications that Great Britain instead of easing up in its blockade of Germany, at American instigation, will make that blockade more effective than ever. In the United Kingdom great pressure is being brought to bear upon the government to adopt every means in its power to prevent supplies from reaching Germany. Startling revelations have recently been made with respect to the enormous quantity of food and other supplies which have found their way to the enemy through Holland and Sweden. This is disappointing to the British people who had felt that the strong arm of the navy was stretching out in all directions to cut off everything that might ultimately be carried through neutral countries to German territory.

There is no doubt that the pressure from Washington upon the British government regarding this troublesome question is justified by Berlin. Some American publications are by no means backward in saying that President Wilson is making his demands for a modification of the British regulations in the hope of catching the large German-American vote. Whether that is true or not it is clearly evident that the arguments contained in the official statements of the British Foreign Office are not borne out by the trade returns issued from time to time by the Washington government. In any case, it is not likely that the British blockade will be weakened and the safety

of the Empire endangered to satisfy German opinion in the United States. The New York Journal of Commerce, which from the first has taken a sane and impartial view of the whole matter, points out that it is not proper to expect Great Britain to throw away the advantage she has attained as a result of her great navy, and it informs Mr. Wilson that "stopping trade with an enemy country, so far as that can be done without violating neutral rights, is an entirely legitimate mode of warfare for a belligerent, and one that has been employed from time immemorial." The Journal adds:

"If a British blockade against Germany is to be made at all effective, it must prevent trade with that Empire through Amsterdam or Rotterdam, or Copenhagen or Christiania or Stockholm, as well as through Hamburg and Bremen. It may be of immense importance to Great Britain and her allies to use this economic weapon to the utmost, and it may make a vast difference in the duration and the results of the war, and with the interests of neutral nations, the world over. That being the case, if Great Britain insists upon using the advantage so clearly at its command, what is our government going to do about it?"

The Journal reminds the Washington government that "according to a principle which we contended in the time of the Civil War, and which was finally conceded, a belligerent power has the right to prevent cargoes from reaching blockaded ports by being sent at neutral ports, from which they can be introduced surreptitiously conveyed. British goods were prevented from reaching ports of the Southern Confederacy by being sent on the way to the Bahamas or other British colonies in the West Indies." It is not to be wondered at, says the Journal, if the British government is making up its mind to cut off supplies to Germany by making its blockade as effective as it can be made without gross violation of neutral rights.

Germany has suffered greatly as a result of the activity of the British fleet. The blockade, begun in the name of reprisal for violation of rules of naval warfare, has proved to be the most powerful instrument at the command of the Allies for bringing their enemies to terms. As one observer has said, it supplies an "economic weapon on the border of the sea, mightier than the phalanx of guns on the long battle lines of the land." It is obviously the thing to do is to tighten this grip on Germany's throat. No other policy would be fair to Great Britain, to her Allies, to the brave men who are giving their lives in the trenches for freedom's cause. The British navy is Germany's greatest menace. And it is a menace that increases as the war goes on.

SALONIKA'S TRAGIC RECORD.

Salonika, where the French and British are now massing their forces in preparation for a campaign for the liberation of Serbia, has been a place of tragedy at intervals for 2,400 years. Recent despatches show that the Allies destroyed a bridge across a tributary of the Vardar fifty miles north of Salonika and another one nearly 100 miles away, proving that they had not merely withdrawn within a fortified base but that they have extended their lines along a large semi-circle and by holding them are barring the way to Salonika itself.

Salonika got its present name from the brother-in-law of Alexander the Great who re-named it after his wife Thessalonika. Before that it was known as Therma, because of its hot springs, and it was occupied by the Athenians at the beginning of the Peloponnesian War. When the Turks took Salonika in 1387 they destroyed an arch near the Vardar gate which was said to have been erected to honor the victory of Antony at Philippi. Augustus made Salonika a free city, and Nero gave it a double row of Greek statues. A second Roman arch was erected along the way traveled by Paul and Silas when they preached Christianity to the Thessalonians and founded among them one of the first Christian communities in Europe.

out suspicion the soldiers fell upon them and butchered 7,000 men, women and children. The Archbishop of Milan compelled the Emperor to do public penance on account of this crime. Salonika during the seventh century was one of the chief defenses of the Romans against the Bulgarians. The Saracens plundered the city, later on, and carried off 22,000 captives. A still worse fate overtook the city at the hands of the Christian Normans in 1186. After a siege of ten days the place surrendered and a terrible massacre followed. The city was taken again by Boniface of Montferrat in 1204, and soon afterwards retaken by Theodore, the Greek despot of Epirus.

Then came the Ottomans. They took Salonika in 1388. They lost it a few years later, but regained it only to lose it again to Timur in 1402. Weary of being made a spoil of war the people of Salonika sold their city to the Venetians in 1430. The Turks recaptured it in 1480 after another siege, and then came all of the horrors of Turkish conquest. On this occasion the population was almost exterminated. From 1430 Salonika remained under Turkish rule until 1912-13, when the Greeks gained possession as a result of the second Balkan War.

It was said of Salonika long ago by a historian that it seemed chosen for a tragic destiny. Today it is once more the scene of busy preparation for battle on a scale such as it has never seen.

GREAT BRITAIN AND SWEDEN.

Of greater significance than the latest official statements from the various battlefronts is the announcement that relations between Great Britain and Sweden are strained as a result of the detention of mails. The bold action of the Swedish government in holding up an enormous quantity of British mail in retaliation for the British seizure of Swedish mail comes as a surprise and must be accepted as an indication that Sweden is prepared to fight rather than submit to what it calls "unnecessary violation of neutral rights." Great Britain has stopped parcel post service between Sweden and Germany, and between Sweden and certain other neutral countries, on the ground that the Hague convention guaranteeing the integrity of mails does not apply to parcel post. Its position seems to be strongly supported by all the rules of warfare and it is not likely to allow the wishes of the pro-German Swedish King to influence it in the performance of this important duty.

The situation that has arisen in Sweden in this connection is clearly the work of German agents. Sweden stands in fear of Russian advancement over its northern frontier, and from the earliest days of the war military observers have said the Swedish neutrality toward Russia coupled with the feeling against Britain's blockade policy made its entrance into the war on the side of the Entente Powers almost inevitable. Whether these predictions are to be fulfilled or not remains to be seen, but there is every reason to believe that, come what may, the British fleet is about to strengthen rather than weaken its hold on all direct or indirect trade with Germany. Some observers declare that with Sweden lined up with the German Powers Great Britain's task would hardly be more difficult, as Sweden now, in spite of all precautions, is a valuable base of supply for Germany which would be cut off immediately if Sweden were at war with Britain. Nevertheless, if Sweden were to join Germany it would mean that another well prepared nation had thrown in its lot with the enemies of the Allies, and this in itself would have a highly stimulating effect upon soldiers and civilians of the Central Powers. It might also have considerable influence upon Roumania and Greece in their future plans. On the other hand, military critics believe it would drive Norway into the war on the side of the Allies.

In view of Sweden's geographical position it is not likely that it could give Germany any such military assistance as one might at first suppose. Sweden possesses an army that it would not be safe to ignore; but could it send any troops to Germany? Not by land, for they could not be sent through Russia. The only way Germany could be reached is across the Baltic, and British submarines are making it so interesting for hostile ships in the Baltic that transports could ply there only at the greatest risk. And if Sweden were to break with the Allies more submarines would be sent to the Baltic.

Sweden, with a population of 5,221,000 and an army fashioned after the German system. Its peace effective is about 80,000, but in case of war this could promptly be raised to 200,000. Like many other countries where military service is compulsory, Sweden would make a still better showing if necessary; so that it is believed that it could count finally on an army of 400,000 men. And the Swedes are great fighters. The Swedish fleet is not powerful. It consists of a score of ironclads of doubtful value, although four or five ships doubtless could give a fairly good account of themselves. In addition, Sweden possesses several submarines of a small type. Norway's population is 2,400,000, and in time of war it could put, if pressed, 200,000 men in the field. Norway's fleet, like Sweden's, is not formidable, but it includes four or five ships mounting eight and nine inch guns, and fifty or sixty smaller craft. Three submarines were being constructed in 1915. They should be ready for service now.

The developments in the Scandinavian situation will be awaited with tremendous interest. It must be assumed that the British authorities are giving the matter the consideration its importance demands, and it may be hoped that the recent difficulties may be adjusted without a break in diplomatic relations. But one thing seems clear. That is, that

Great Britain is not going to be bluffed out of the enormous advantage it has attained by means of its powerful and efficient fleet.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Russians are again pressing the Austrians hard on the Bessarabian front. Incidentally, they are fighting above the clouds in the Caucasus. Lord Derby is to try again. The young men of Great Britain are to be given another chance to join the colors under the voluntary system of recruiting. But they will have to act without any necessary delay. Kitchener must get the men. And he must get them soon if Germany is to be soundly beaten.

Further plans for the successful prosecution of the war were discussed at an Anglo-French conference in London Wednesday. This is the most critical time since the outbreak of hostilities more than nineteen months ago. The Allied leaders are more confident of victory than ever. But their greatest need is men. The young men of this province who are free to enlist must not lose sight of that fact.

The Allies' blockade, which is now to be tightened, is strangling the life out of German militarism, and that is why Bernstorff & Co. are trying once more to drag us into a struggle with the Allies, says the New York Herald. This country cannot afford to pull Germany's chestnuts out of the fire by asking the Allies to raise or relax a blockade which is based on the precedents which we established in the civil war and followed up in the Spanish War.

"As a matter of fact, the British blockade of the German ports will probably be accepted as effective, even though it does not conform to pre-submarine conditions," says the Boston Transcript. "It ought to be accepted. As well as we can, we should preserve the standards. It devolves upon us to maintain the rights of neutrals at sea in such form that they will not perish altogether in this unprecedented struggle. We have maintained them rather indifferently as against the murder of our people and the murder of other neutrals by German submarines." To act against the North Sea blockade, which at no point has gone further than a matter of dollars and cents in connection with a trade which has already greatly enriched many of our people, in a manner more hostile than that in which we have acted against the Lusitania murders, would be not only invidious but infamous.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's patriotic appeal to Parliament and to the country to place the war before everything else until "the great job" has been completed and German militarism crippled forever, will have a tremendous impression on the people of Canada. Moved by realization of the seriousness of the struggle in which the Empire is now engaged, the members of both sides of the house, pointed out that the paramount duty of all is to fight the enemy of civilization and liberty. "Should Germany triumph," he declared, "there would be nations that would rue the day of their indifference and supineness." The same thing applies with telling force to every man in Canada to-day who, free to enlist, is indifferent to the great struggle in Europe. Sir Wilfrid's remarks breathe a fine spirit of patriotism. From the earliest days of the war he has stood squarely behind the government in its preparations to place Canada in an honorable position among the Allied nations. He has placed politics in the background, and this is today, as much as ever, his policy and the policy of his party. Sir Wilfrid's chief concern is the successful prosecution of the war. His scathing arraignment of the Nationalist leaders who are seeking to prevent recruiting was a striking feature of an admirable address.

The Crown of Empire.

(London Morning Post). O England of our Fathers and England of our Sons, Along the dark horizon line the day-dawn glows, For Empire has been ours of old, and Empire ours shall be. His grip is on the world today whose grip is on the sea. O England of our Fathers and England of our Sons, Above the sound of battling hosts, the thunder of the guns, A Mother's voice was calling us, we heard it overseas; The blood which thou didst give us is the blood we spill for thee.

Montenegro.

(Tennyson, 1880). They rose to where their sovran eagle falls, They kept their faith, their freedom, on the height, Chaste, frugal, savage, arm'd by day and night Against the Turk, whose iron northward scales Their headlong passes, but his footstep falls, And red with blood the Crescent reels from flight. Before their dauntless hundreds, in proud flight, Thousands down the crags and thro' O smallest among people! rough rock-throne throve. Of freedom! warriors beating back the swarms Of Turkish Islam for five hundred years, Great Tchernozor; never since their own Black ridges drew the cloud and broke the storm.

Has breathed a race of mightier mountaineers.

\$84,105 INCREASE IN COUNTY TAXES

County Will Pay Slightly Proportion

WARDEN McLELLAN RE-ELECTED

Legislation Will Be Asked Wide Oversight of Excesses, To Force Extra Street Railway and Permanent Paving in L

Wednesday, The estimates for the municipality of the county and county of St. John were adopted at the quarterly estimates total \$288,982, an increase of \$84,105 over last year's figures. The report of the board of estimates was adopted showing an increase in valuations in the city of \$112,445.

H. R. McLELLAN, re-elected of the Municipality of the county of St. John. In the county of \$2,950,146 an increase of \$2,950,146 in the ratio of taxes to be apportioned to the county and townships. H. R. McLELLAN, the press was re-elected. It is understood was the first time in the history of the county that two consecutive council members were re-elected. The warden expressed his appreciation of the courtesy and assistance given during the past year and he warmly welcomed to the new council the members of the council who were elected. He said that the time has arrived, he said, when the council should appoint assessors for the year. He mentioned several names and said that he would like to see deal with in the past. He said that the council should appoint assessors for the year. He mentioned several names and said that he would like to see deal with in the past. He said that the council should appoint assessors for the year. He mentioned several names and said that he would like to see deal with in the past.

Assessment Figures. The report of the finance was taken up and considered. Recommendations were made, and resolutions were adopted, as follows:

- Contingencies
- Saint John County Hospital maintenance
- General Public Health
- Saint John Municipal Hospital maintenance
- Local Board of Health
- Valuation city and county
- Municipal Home third series
- Revisors
- Interest and Sinking
- Saint John County Hospital
- 300—issue to be made at
- Municipal Home third series
- Hospital loan
- Hospital improvements
- Jail debentures
- Hospital re-issue
- Isolation
- Municipal Home lights
- Hospital balconies
- Morgue
- Lancaster Special
- Lancaster police fire district
- Lancaster lights fire district
- Lancaster fire district
- Lancaster fire district
- Lancaster sewers interest
- Lancaster fire district
- and sewerage districts
- Saint Martin's Special
- Charles Allen road—Dun
- \$84; interest, \$7
- Total
- Share Reduced.

While considering the item for the new hospital Council made the motion that \$6,000 be set aside for the purpose of having been over collected. A special assessment from city should be utilized to lower the per proportion for the hospital. The motion was carried. As each section of the estimate the warden explained it