

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1914.

"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.

SPEED "THE DAY"

The splendid work done by the British navy in this war is emphasized by the fact that as soon as the news of the destruction of the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau reached London the rates at Lloyd's were substantially reduced. As far as traffic is concerned the Atlantic is now as safe for British vessels as if no state of war existed. As far as known Germany's sole representative anywhere in Atlantic waters is the cruiser Karlsruhe, a vessel of slightly less than 5,000 tons and of ordinary armament. A report which filtered through to the Boston Post and other papers in the United States had it that the German battle cruiser Von Tann, of 19,100 tons and armed with heavy guns had succeeded in breaking through the line of British war vessels in the North Sea and was on her way to join Admiral Von Spee's fleet in the south. Apparently she was late, but if the British squadron now in the south, and which succeeded in winning the battle off the Falkland Islands, the other day, should meet the Von der Tann it is believed they would make short work of her and send her to join the Von Spee ships though not in the manner she intended.

That after four and a half months of war British commerce is able to move practically as in times of peace is a wonderful tribute to the efficiency of the British navy. The German merchant flag has practically been removed from the seven seas, and it is doubtful if it will ever again resume its former position there. In the meantime the greater part of the German fleet hugs the Kiel Canal and dares not venture forth. If it could have been induced to come out into the open sea and fight, the end of the war would probably have been in sight by now but, unfortunately, it took refuge in its hiding place a few days after the opening of hostilities and although a strict patrol has been maintained by the splendid fighting machines of the British navy, in the hope that some of the German war vessels might be tempted, it refuses to come out. Because of this and this alone the German fleet is, as yet, practically intact.

With her fleet gone Germany would have been at the mercy of the Allies, for no matter how good a showing she could have made with her land forces inability to defend her coasts and keep her flag afloat somewhere at sea would have been fatal to her. As it is, with her submarines, her Zeppelins and her fleet practically undamaged save for the distance from the home waters and those destroyed in the battle off Heligoland, Berlin can succeed for some time in keeping up the courage of the German people. The mere fact that the German fleet still rides the waves, even though afraid to fight, stands in the way of a speedy conclusion to the war. The greatest blow for peace which could now be struck would be the destruction of the Kiel fleet. That it will be destroyed is undoubted, but those who desire a speedy termination of hostilities will pray that "the day" may soon come, as with the splendid land work the Allied armies are now doing, a naval victory of importance should break the back of the war.

WHAT RUSSIA HAS DONE

At a loss to the Russian government of very many millions of dollars annually the sale of vodka has been prohibited throughout the Czar's domains and yet the Russian Minister of Finance is not dismayed over the prospect of having to recoup from other sources that loss. He states that "through the prohibition of the sale of alcoholic liquors, in accordance with the will of the Emperor, who is anxious to see his people healthy and sober, the country has been deprived of one of its most important sources of revenue; but he is convinced that, however much this may be felt by the treasury, the creative power of the sober Russian people applied to the enormous national riches of the country will enable future budgets of the empire to be based on new principles."

Long ago, Mr. Gladstone, who made his first reputation as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was always thereafter regarded as Great Britain's ablest financier, when asked if the liquor revenue received by the government was not indispensable, replied: "Give me a sober people, not wasting their earnings in strong drink, and I will know where to find the revenue." When a community is prosperous,

other items of taxation swell, and people can easily bear additional taxation. The Russian Minister of Finance says: "The revenue, which in the first two months of the war showed a considerable decrease, has since displayed a permanent upward tendency." No wonder. The Russian peasant, instead of spending their spare time in stupefaction amid squalor, are now alert, thrifty and surrounded by domestic comfort.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser, edited by Mr. S. D. Scott, formerly of St. John, contains the following regarding the good fortune of a well known local man: "Last week Mr. L. R. Ross, Intercolonial stationer and terminal agent at St. John, New Brunswick, was dependent on his modest salary of \$2,000 a year. This week he has an estate of more than a quarter of a million. The late Colonel J. J. Tucker, at one time member of parliament for St. John, who was never married, died a few days ago, leaving property valued at \$564,500. After providing some moderate bequests and remembering certain local charities, Colonel Tucker left the remainder of his estate, amounting to \$540,000, to be divided equally between a cousin in England and Mr. Ross, whom he describes as a friend who had rendered him some services. Mr. Ross is a brother of the late Wallace Ross, at one time a competitor with Hanlan for the rowing championship of the world."

Premier Borden says that to equip the contingent at Salisbury, and make partial provision for succeeding contingents, the Government had to provide 250,000 pairs of boots, 100,000 forage caps, 90,000 great coats, 240,000 jackets and sweaters of various types, 235,000 pairs of trousers, 70,000 rifles, 70,000 bayonets, 80,000 oil bottles, 70,000 water bottles, 95,000 sets of value equipment, and so on. The magnitude of the task was matched by the celerity and thoroughness with which it was performed.

Toronto University professors of German origin are to be released to an American University in exchange for Americans of similar proficiency. Apparently the Torontonians have no more use for German "kultur" than any of the rest of us.

A despatch from Buenos Ayres says the German cruiser Dresden has been sighted in the Straits of Magellan surrounded by British warships which is merely another way of saying "good night, Dresden."

Petrograd and Berlin claim that the recent battles in Poland have resulted to their advantage. But we notice the Russians are nearer to Berlin than they were a week ago.

The Kaiser's war time-table had him scheduled for Calais on Thursday last. If that performer's itinerary cannot be more correctly arranged he should hire a new booking agent.

Ten more business days before Christmas. Have you done your Christmas shopping yet?

Politics in New Brunswick

(Beck's Weekly, Montreal.)

The political developments in the Province of New Brunswick which, during the past few months have attracted general but not always flattering attention, have culminated in a peculiar situation which may have the effect of completely changing the political complexion of more than one riding in the province by the sea. It has been said that ever since the first election was conducted by the old Loyalists who settled this province that New Brunswick was cursed with "politics," that political considerations entered into every phase of ordinary life, that members of the two parties were ever at fever heat and that the political challenge was always in evidence. Possibly this is true of some portions of the province, but if so there is much excuse for it for no province in Canada in comparison to size and population can show so many able men in the front rank of Canadian affairs who own to being New Brunswickers. One requires only to recall such names as Burpee, Boyd, Tilley, Anglin, Landry, Howe, Elder, Foster, Blair, Emmerson, Pugsley, Tweedie, Hazen, Costigan, Ellis, Daniel, and more recently Carvell and Flemming to realize that politics and a liking for public life came naturally to the young men, and that when the youth of other provinces are enjoying their lacrosse, baseball or football matches, the young New Brunswickers are also finding some time to devote to a study of the political situation and history of the province. Politics are seriously regarded, and seriousness begets partisanship to a greater or less extent. There are in New Brunswick today hundreds of young men who if asked why they were supporters of the Con-

servative or the Liberal party would answer as they would if asked regarding other religious affiliations: "Because my father was." Possibly not a good satisfying answer, but none the less true in many cases.

This being the case it is not surprising to find what families where a staunch adherence to one or other of the political parties is regarded as a source of pride, and the member of that family who for reasons of his own may change his political allegiance becomes ever after to his immediate relatives a subject for pity as lacking the essentials of wisdom. In such an atmosphere it is natural that more or less political bitterness should be engendered, and this is the reason why elections in this province are always so keenly fought. There is no such thing as holding aloof, except perhaps in the larger cities and towns of the province, but in the rural districts every man is an adherent of one or the other party, and the result is more than ordinary questions to change their allegiance. At the same time the New Brunswicker has more than his share of the spirit of fair play, and to this may be attributed the reverence the Hon. J. K. Flemming, who recently resigned the Premiership, and who has been nominated for the House of Commons, is probably as strong a man today as at any time in his career.

While the Premier was technically convicted on one of the charges made against him, and was not altogether exonerated in the end, although the verdict was that there was no evidence that he directed the extortion of payments from the lumbermen of the province, yet there is a general belief that Mr. Flemming's heart made to suffer unduly for his error, that the money raised from the lumber operators and from the Valley Railway contractor whose evidence figured so largely in the case, intended for campaign funds only, that he did not personally benefit to the extent of a penny, that no public money was diverted from its proper destination, and that the revenue from the Crown lands of the province under the administration of the Hon. J. D. Hazen, and later as collected by Mr. Flemming, have given a greater return to the province than was the case under any previous government. As the lumber cut is no longer there is only one inference, and that is that the men who are not perpetrating the wrongs, when they were in power, much more culpable. While one wrong does not excuse another yet the prevalence of an opinion such as this has done much to secure for Mr. Flemming a vast deal of sympathy, especially in his own county, where he could probably whip Sir Wilfrid Laurier tomorrow if an election were called on.

It was generally recognized, however, that with these charges, even partially proven against him, Mr. Flemming could not remain in the center of the province. As soon as the charges were launched and the investigating body appointed he resigned his office, and the result remained for months had not acted in his capacity as Premier, his duties being taken by Hon. George Clarke, Attorney-General of the province. It was felt that he would avail himself of the convenient opportunity to resign his seat as well as thus retire from provincial politics without withdrawing completely from public life. The opportunity came early in the present month, when he was selected as the Federal candidate in the joint counties of Carleton and Victoria, his nomination being unanimous at the largest, most enthusiastic and noisiest convention ever held in the two counties.

Mr. Flemming's selection brings the situation up to another interesting point, for Carleton County has been represented in the Federal House by Mr. F. B. Carvell who, throughout the Flemming investigation, was the leader of the forces opposed to the Premier; the two men have been political enemies for years, and in his speech of acceptance Mr. Flemming stated that it was an opportunity he had long sought. In 1911 Mr. Carvell was elected by a majority of eleven votes over Mr. Frank Smith, who was regarded as the logical candidate for the Conservatives on this occasion. But Mr. Smith was at the convention of the Liberal returning officer appointed through the Carvell agency who, declared Mr. Smith, "threw out twenty-two ballots bearing my name." Mr. Smith continued, "I to you people of Carleton County, that Frank B. Carvell stole my seat, stole the seat to which you elected me as your representative, and he has been misrepresenting you ever since." Mr. Smith announced that under other circumstances he would yield to no one right to meet Carvell in open fight, but that as Hon. Mr. Flemming's good name had been dragged in the dust largely through the activities of Mr. Carvell, he cheerfully stepped aside and would take his coat off and fight for Mr. Flemming to the very best of his ability.

Mr. Flemming being chosen for the Federal candidacy it was but natural that Mr. Smith should be selected as his successor for the local fight, and this was done amid much enthusiasm. A thrilling and unexpected incident occurred just at this juncture. In a front seat among the delegates was an aged resident of Carleton County, a respectable God-fearing farmer, who had followed for years the fortunes of the Conservative party. When the result of the nominations was announced this gentleman arose and, turning to the delegates, raised his hand and in a voice choked with emotion, said earnestly, "Thank God, men, we have now got this man Carvell just where we want him!"

On the same day as the convention in Woodstock there was another gathering of political importance in the town of Fredericton, sixty miles away, in the constituency represented in the Federal House by Hon. H. P. McLeod. That gathering was composed of friends and supporters of the Liberal party, and the reason for its being held was to tender a banquet to Mr. Carvell, Mr. Dugal and others concerned in pressing the charges against Mr. Flemming. Hon. Mr. Pugsley was announced as the speaker for the banquet and at the convention held the following day, and when the Flemming nomination in Woodstock was announced it was expected that Mr. Carvell would transfer his activities to the provincial field and accept the leadership of the provincial party. This was the opinion on Thursday night and well into Friday, but somewhere there was a hitch and the re-

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Us fellos was seeing which wun cood jump the ferthest awn a stand this afternoon, and Mrs. Winkle csm out to her front door saying, Boys boys, Mrs. Winkle being stajyerthan eny 4 uthir ladys awn the block put togethr.

She wunts ambody to go a errand, lets pertend we aint lissenang, sed Sam Krawas. And we kepp awn seeing which wun cood jump the ferthest awn a stand, with Shiny Martin cood awn akount of his legs, and Mrs. Winkle kepp awn calling for a wic and then she calm down to ware we was jumping, saying, Boys, my litle canary has escaped from his cage and hes awn the shed roof and I dont no how to ret him and im aftrayed ill lose him and hes 9 years old, O deer, wout wun of yo boys climb up and get him for me, Id give enything rather than lose my litle Willie. Id give enything, enything.

Ill get him, we awl sed. And we awl ran around to the back street and by the time we got there Mrs. Winkle was looking out of her setting room window, saying, O wun of yo, now, o wun of yo. Mrs. Winkle was very nervies temperment and I dont want him fritened eny moar than nessessary, Benny Potts, suppose you climb up.

With I startid to do, the follos awn saying, Haff awn watervir she gives you, haff awn watervir she gives you, and I climbed ovr the fents and up the rane spout, and the first thing I did awn the shed roof was to tare a big hole in my pants awn a nale, and the canary was setting awn the roof rite undir the window looking around as if he didnt no how he got there, looking pretty dum for enything 9 years old, and Mrs. Winkle was crawling along the roof and picked him rite up in my hand and handid him to Mrs. Winkle and she startid to kiss him dukstang as enything.

Wait a minit and ill reward you for rescuing my Willie, sed Mrs. Winkle. I toar my pants, to I sed. And I wated awn the shed roof and Mrs. Winkle calm back with 3 marblis and handid them to me, saying, Heers sum nice marblis for you, my litle newfuss must of left them heer. With I took them, saying, Did you no, I toar my pants.

Yes, sed Mrs. Winkle, but sed the ill find 2 or 3 moar marblis and if I do ill save them for you. And I climbed down agen and the fellos was still wating out in the alley, saying, Wat did she give you, wat did you get.

I toar my pants, to I sed. And I showed them the marblis and they startid to go around holding there hands up to there heds and saying, Good nite, go nite. And Puds Simkins had a pece of hawk and he rote awn Mrs. Winkles fents, she sed she woud give enything and she gave 3 comintis. And then we awl went around front agen, me with a big hole in my pants.

It was that the party selected as its provincial leader the Hon. C. W. Robinson, formerly Premier of the province, whose government was turned out by the Conservatives under Hon. J. D. Hazen in 1908. A better choice could not have been made. Mr. Robinson is a gentleman of personal honesty and unimpeachable private character. The only canvass which can be made against him is that he accepted full responsibility for the actions of the government he led and which, during the regime of Mr. Pugsley, was especially corrupt. The corruption continued after Mr. Robinson assumed office, and while he did not share in it, he did not rebuke those responsible, and in the eyes of the people, however, he is the leader of the party, and the ensuing contest, when it comes, will be the most exciting this province has ever known.

Meanwhile the New Brunswick Government will be reorganized, with the Hon. George J. Clarke, at present Attorney-General, as Premier, and a cabinet containing some new members. This government will depend largely on its record, will disavow responsibility for Mr. Flemming's actions, and in this will be borne out by the findings of the Royal Commission, which declared that no member of the government "except Mr. Flemming was in any way connected with the matters being investigated, or had knowledge of them."

Briefly the situation is that Mr. Flemming and Mr. Carvell will be opposing each other in the coming election in the county which gave both of them birth and where they have lived all their lives. The Government formerly led by Mr. Flemming, and which has been in power for two years yet to serve, will be reorganized and will be opposed by the Liberals under the leadership of Hon. C. W. Robinson. Mr. Pugsley will continue as the leader of the party in Federal politics, while the Government party in the Federal elections will be led in this province by Hon. J. D. Hazen. It is an interesting situation, and in the state of men's minds at the present time most anything may happen. There is little likelihood of a provincial election until the government has served its term, for the feeling is that it would not be wise to precipitate a political contest during war time.

TO HELP THOSE OUT OF EMPLOYMENT

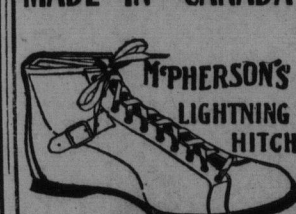
Ottawa, Dec. 13.—The Minister of the Interior has been authorized by order-in-council to grant free permits for the cutting of wood on Dominion lands in order to give employment to men out of work.

This action is taken on the petition of the city of Winnipeg.

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