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E. W. McCREADY,
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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 15, 1916.

FILL UP THE BATTALIONS.

The Christmas holidays necessarily brought some interruption to recruiting, and there is all the more reason now that this work should be taken up with renewed energy, not only by the military men and civilians who have been most active in the matter, but by the people at large.

There are thousands of men in this province who rejoiced in the patriotism of the first detachments we sent to the war, who cheered the men who went, who praised them. Again, last Sunday thousands of our people gathered in our churches to honor the memory of those who have already given their lives to the cause.

By urging our sons to go and by keeping green the memories of those who have fallen our people have committed themselves not only to a general support of the work of prosecuting the war, but to personal and constant participation in the work of filling up the new battalions.

Our men in the winter trenches are calling for their friends at home. Canada has undertaken to double the 250,000 men authorized up to a few weeks ago. Men who are being enlisted today will have to undergo a considerable period of preparation before they are fit for active service, and it therefore will be spring or summer before they can hope to join the forces in the field. This coming period is the critical one of the whole war. This year the Empire must strike with all its vigor.

Before every town, village and parish in New Brunswick now must be kept constantly the daily thought that every part of the province must provide a larger contribution to the regiments now being formed. Every leader of our race who has recently discussed the progress of the war has repeated with all gravity the statements of His Majesty the King, of Earl Kitchener, of Mr. Asquith and others, that victory is possible only if the whole Empire does its duty to the high level of its duty by pouring an ever-broadening stream of reinforcements into the battle line.

More than ever, then, this is the duty of the hour for everyone in New Brunswick, not merely the duty of recruiting officers and of civilian committees, but the duty of every individual. The men in the winter trenches must not call in vain. Victory is only for those who show themselves worthy of freedom in this testing crisis.

NO MILITARY CENSUS YET.

Under the Militia Act the government can give authority to the Militia Department at any time for the preparation of a list of all Canadians eligible for military service. It has not yet been deemed necessary to have such a military census under Dominion authority, but in several parts of Canada local attempts to make such a census, without proper authority, have been set on foot by radical promoters of recruiting. Judging by Toronto's experience it is likely that these premature and unauthorized attempts to register eligible men have done recruiting more harm than good.

In Toronto it was decided to have a municipal census of all men of military age, and the police department was instructed to undertake the work. At first a house to house canvass was begun. It was found that many householders declined to give the required information, on the ground that the census was without legal authority. The police then directed their attention to large factories and stores. In some places they were well received, but in others admittance was refused. The police admitted that citizens might refuse to answer questions and could not be punished for refusing to answer or for giving wrong information. So soon as this became known it was seen that it would not be possible to complete the work satisfactorily.

The experiments in Toronto and elsewhere have brought out clearly the fact that no military census will be successful or even possible unless it is made under the provisions of the Militia Act and applies to the whole country. There must be behind such a movement the full authority of the government. All sections and all classes in the country would have to receive precisely the same treatment. Then the registration would be fair to everybody, whereas under local and unauthorized attempts at registration, some register voluntarily and others evade the census entirely, thus producing a very great degree of that injustice which it

should be the purpose of the authorities to avoid.

Voluntary enlistment has sufficed thus far, and it should produce the total of 500,000 men called for. If it should not do so within a reasonable time it will then become necessary to discuss some registration plan of general application backed by full national authority. The spring recruiting will tell the story. Recruits were never needed more than now. Patriotism, courage, fair-play to those already in the field, all demand that our young men should step forward promptly in greatly increased numbers. Sir Sam Hughes has just said that there is no intention to introduce the Derby plan in Canada, or any scheme resembling compulsion. He is confident that the present plan will provide all of the men required.

EASILY ANSWERED.

In the course of a delicious article purporting to disclose the ingratitude of the Board of Trade and the generosity of the government, the Standard exclaims:

"If those fault-finders (the Board of Trade) had no wish to stir up party strife, is it too much to ask what they do want?"

Not at all. We thought what they want had been made perfectly clear. They want an elevator for the inter-colonial and Transcontinental traffic here; they want the completion of the Valley Railway and a short connection between the Valley Railway and the Transcontinental; and they want the Contrecoeur Bay terminals completed. And, chiefly, they want some convincing evidence that these enterprises are to be brought to completion within a reasonable time.

The Standard does not ask us what the Board of Trade does not want, but it is reasonable to assume that the Board of Trade does not want to be told that the increased traffic through the port of St. John in 1915, an increase due to the war, is in any sense a satisfactory answer to the resolutions adopted recently by the Board.

Those who are interested in the progress of this port, and in the question of national transportation, cannot but note that the Standard very carefully avoids any reference to the time when the elevator will be re-built and the Valley and Transcontinental connections and terminals will be actually completed. As the government of the day has had these enterprises in hand for some years it is only reasonable that it should now begin to deal in facts rather than generalities and evasions.

THE OPPOSITION CONVENTION.

Public service rather than party politics was the governing consideration at Tuesday's opposition convention, and the representative men who gathered here from every section of the province for consultation and action certainly succeeded in presenting for the support of the public, straightforward and progressive proposals with respect to every important branch of the public service. These proposals will command very general public support.

The platform adopted by this opposition convention will be the basis for a highly necessary political revolution in New Brunswick. The need for effective action in regard to provincial affairs has been recognized everywhere in New Brunswick for some years, but never so clearly as during the last few months, and proof of this is seen in the very large and representative character of yesterday's assembly. The purpose of this convention was two-fold: to formulate and make public a platform which will command public confidence; and to prepare a basis for efficient organization in each county and parish of the province. This double purpose was accomplished yesterday with striking success. The platform in detail is set forth in the news columns of The Telegraph this morning, but reference may be made here to some of its novel and outstanding features.

The opposition party proposes to take the Crown lands out of politics. It is planned that these public lands shall be administered, free entirely from political influence, for the benefit of the people at large, and to that end the opposition pledges itself to re-organize the Crown Land Department and have it conducted along business lines by a non-partisan commission responsible to the Legislature and working in co-operation with the Dominion Commission of Conservation. This is a courageous plan for dealing with the chief asset of New Brunswick, and it will commend itself strongly to all who desire that the public domain shall be guarded against destruction on the one hand and on the other hand made to yield the largest possible amount of revenue, and that its administration shall be free from class and political influence.

The opposition plan with respect to the roads of New Brunswick is equally sound and progressive. The opposition proposes to take the highways entirely out of partisan control, placing them in the hands of supervisors chosen by the people of each parish, to whom the road money will be given and by whom a detailed and duly audited account will be rendered yearly at a meeting of the ratepayers. Duplicates of the accounts will be forwarded to the Department of Public Works. The work of the parish supervisors will be done under the inspection of a provincial engineer. Money derived from automobile licenses, and an equal amount of other provincial money, will be used to pay the interest upon bonds issued for the construction of permanent roads. The highways of New Brunswick have been a football of politics for a generation. The result has been partisan waste and bad roads. Politics, in the worst sense of the word, has been responsible for these conditions. The opposition policy is the first thorough and courageous plan yet adopted for dealing with the roads, the condition

A ROUMANIAN VIEW OF EDITH CAVELL'S MURDER



This cartoon, under the legend "Deutschland Ueber Alles," is clipped from a Roumanian paper. Underneath the cartoon were the words (translated): "As the troops refused to fire, Miss Edith Cavell was killed by a bullet from a revolver fired by an officer." The paper was sent to The Star by S. Berman, a Roumanian reader of St. Jacques L'Adieu, who writes: "This will give an idea to your readers what the real sentiments of the Roumanian people are."

of which exerts so large an influence upon the comfort and prosperity of the people.

The opposition convention decided in favor of prohibition, pledging itself at the first session of the Legislature after coming into power to pass a prohibitory law, as sweeping as the constitution will permit, this law to be submitted to the people for their acceptance and to be proclaimed within one year after such public approval. The war undoubtedly has greatly strengthened public sentiment in favor of prohibition, and the opposition, recognizing this, proposes that the people shall have early opportunity of introducing a sweeping temperance measure by their vote in favor of it, not a three-fifths majority, but merely by a simple majority of the votes cast.

These three planks in themselves constitute a welcome and impressive measure of political progress. The Crown lands are the property of the people, not of the politicians or the lumbermen; the public wants a dollar's worth of road improvement for every dollar spent, instead of bad roads and dishonest and wasteful patronage; the general assumption that a large majority of our population would vote the liquor traffic out of existence if opportunity were given is accepted as correct, and a majority vote will be followed by a stringent law giving effect to the will of the electorate.

It will be noted that popular control is brought strongly to the fore in these proposals, and that political patronage is banished to as great an extent as could well be possible. Another progressive departure is that in connection with the constituencies, in our large counties it is sometimes difficult to secure candidates well known throughout the constituency or men who can take time to visit every part of it. The opposition presents a new plan. If a county elects four members, it would be divided into four districts, and each district would elect its own representative to the Legislature. If the county is entitled to three members, there would be three sub-divisions, and if it elects two members, there would be two sub-divisions. This is a simple plan which should make it easier to send a more representative class of men to Fredericton, especially more farmers. The convention, in this connection, took strong ground against the use of money or liquor for purposes of political corruption in provincial and municipal affairs and promises drastic legislation for the punishment of such practices.

The completion of the Valley railway from Grand Falls to St. John, with a Transcontinental connection, increased aid to agriculture and education, and an investigation of the provincial debt, are other matters with which the convention dealt along lines of which the province will approve.

The convention placed on record an earnest and forcible resolution on the subject of the war. In regard to this, the paramount issue of our time, the delegates pledged their most loyal and vigorous support to the prosecution of the war until victory has brought to the Empire an honorable peace. The retirement of Hon. C. W. Robinson from the leadership of the opposition which was expected after his address of Monday evening was confirmed at yesterday's session, and the convention, while reluctant to part with so valuable a leader, was compelled to bow to his decision. Following many precedents, including the course of the Nova Scotia opposition before Hon. W. S. Fielding became Premier, the convention decided to appoint a committee of leadership to serve until after the next general provincial election. This plan met with very general approval. This committee is a strong one, well fitted to carry to success the highly important duties with which it is entrusted. Mr. W. E. Foster, of St. John, is chairman, and associated with him are: Mr. L. A. Dugal, M. P., of Edmundston; Mr. William Curdie, of Campbellton; Dr. E. A. Smith, of Shediac; Mr. P. J. Hughes, of Fredericton; and Messrs. E. S. Carter and P. J. Venio, the opposition organizers. Carrying the process of organization further, representatives from each county were selected to constitute county organizations from which the parish organizations will be extended. Finally, a strong provincial committee on finance was appointed.

There are conventions and conventions. This one was out of the ordinary. It did a great day's work, rapidly, and with clear recognition of the needs of the province and of the public demand for courageous and progressive measures. That demand has been well met. The organization perfected Tuesday will carry the conclusions and the enthusiasm of the convention into every parish of the province. In due time will come the selection of candidates to give force and effect to the measures proposed, and these candidates must be men with the vigor and the courage to live up to yesterday's declarations of principle and purpose, men who think more of serving the province than of getting into the Legislature. The people will do the rest.

"THE MADNESS FOR PEACE."

The World's Work for January has a word to say about "the madness for peace" that ought to cause Henry Ford to change his mind once more. When he left America on his great advertising trip he declared that the war was caused by the munition makers. On his return from Europe he announced that there was no doubt that the war was caused by the people themselves, including the men who are fighting. At first he was of opinion that he would have all the soldiers out of the trenches by Christmas; then he declared it would take longer to do the job properly. The World's Work tells him why the job ought not to be done at all just now.

"As paradoxical as it may seem, this is one of the best ways of insuring war for the future, for if the war stopped now the German government, which started the war, could make out a fair case to prove that starting a war is a profitable business. Up to the present time the German people have had every reason to believe that Prussia and Austria started a little war against Denmark in 1864. The Germans were ready and the Danes were not, so Prussia and Austria got two very valuable provinces at small cost. Two years later Prussia carried out a short, cheap and highly profitable military venture against Austria. Four years later Prussia engineered a similar undertaking against France. It was comparatively cheap and it, too, was highly profitable.

"If the Teutonic allies could bring the present struggle to a successful close now before the expense of the undertaking becomes prohibitive, they would furnish conclusive proof, that planning and fighting wars is a profitable national industry."

The editorial in The World's Work points out that it is the object of Great Britain and her Allies to stop Germany—and the world—that "starting war is a losing business and incidentally that it does not pay to indulge in emporium with inordinate ambitions and a pride in military class." The case of civilization, it says, can be won only when the German people (and incidentally any others that may need convincing) are convinced that fighting for the world is not the way to get it. The cost of conducting this case, it adds, "is the most frightful account against mankind in all history, yet despite this it is better to flush the case at all hazards, now that it is begun, rather than give it up and have it tried anew at some future time." Reference is then made to the ridiculous statements of Miss Jane Addams following her return from a "meddlesome and entirely ineffective peace mission," and to the "pitiable exhibition" by those who left America with Ford on the Oscar II.

The futile figuring on peace has become a pastime. Dr. David Starr Jordan, Miss Addams, Ford and his followers would be much better employed in giving comfort and assistance to the returned soldiers who are suffering from wounds, or to the poor and needy in their own country. There is not the least sign of weakness on the part of the Entente Allies who are determined to fight until they have achieved a great and lasting victory. There can be no patched up peace by outside influences. There has got to be a yielding of one side or the other as the result of decisive military action before terms of peace can be put in form by anybody so as to be acceptable. It is not desirable for neutral nations that there should be terms of peace which would not be decided by the one great issue involved. The Allies are just beginning to throw their full strength into the conflict, and they will never cease until they have crushed the Prussian spirit which has been guilty of drenching Europe in blood.

AT OTTAWA.

War questions naturally will dominate the session of Parliament which is now beginning. There are some mutterings in the Conservative despatches concerning the likelihood of a general election if the Liberal members do not consent to the government's programme in all respects, but it is more probable that the great sense and patriotism of both parties will make an election unnecessary. Certainly the country at large is expected in confidence that the House of Commons will devote itself only to such domestic questions as may be unavoidable,

and apply most of its time and its energy to matters in connection with the prosecution of the war.

One of the main questions for consideration is the extension of the life of Parliament, for which Imperial sanction will be necessary. It is believed that the opposition is ready to assent to such an extension for a reasonable time, but that it will require a definite understanding that the government will not take advantage of the extension for the purpose of passing purely partisan or contentious legislation which is not demanded by national or imperial needs.

Members of Parliament on both sides have now an unexampled opportunity for broad-minded and patriotic action. It is for the government to set the example in this respect, for the nature of its proposals will govern discussion in the House of Commons. If these proposals avoid partisan advantage there will be no excuse for a session that is other than creditable and harmonious.

The country at large is thinking of scarcely anything but the war. It naturally will be interested in Parliament's provision for increasing the Canadian forces in the field and for financing Canada's war expenses. The government can greatly facilitate discussion and decision in relation to these matters by affording the fullest information as to the principal expenditures. The public most willingly provides the money required, and it is the business of the government and of the opposition alike to see that the people of Canada have all necessary information as to how the money is spent.

If this Parliament meets public expectation it will make every effort to keep more participation in the background. Its deliberations should be governed by recognition of the fact that Canada, in this Imperial crisis, expects from its public representatives deeds as well as professions of patriotism.

SPEAKING OF "THE BAG."
The Standard and the gentlemen for whom it speaks ought to be thoroughly well acquainted with the origin of the phrase "Abolish the Bag," but from the Conservative organ's frequent references to the matter it appears that it is striving to forget some highly unpleasant history. But the public very clearly remembers how the phrase arose. When the blackmail was being collected from the lumbermen on the North Shore, one of the collectors placed a bag on a table in his room at a North Shore hotel, and into this the contributions were thrown, preparatory to being carried to headquarters. Mr. Fleming also carried a bag with him on certain famous occasions, and in connection with other "collections," "contributions," "retainers," "fees," "loans," and the like, if no bag was actually used, the phrase was equally applicable because all of the money thus acquired by the active politicians of the day, by their agents, and by their associates, was either identical with or closely related to the graft transactions which made their circle famous.

It is perhaps natural that the group for which the Standard speaks should object to any proposal to abolish the bag, and certainly there is not yet any evidence that it has been abolished, although recent collections have not been so crude or so open as the former ones. But the public will insist upon having the bag abolished, and it will demand, also, the political abolition of many of the gentlemen of the local government party who have been more famous for their connection with grafting enterprises than they would ever have become by reason of their public services.

Throughout the reports of several royal commissions the bag is much in evidence. If other royal commissions could be appointed, with an absolutely free hand, the bag would be still more in evidence. The public has in mind what happened to those who held the bag in Manitoba, and it is expecting a similar fate to overtake the bag-holders in British Columbia and in New Brunswick. In this province the contents of the bag have not yet been fully disclosed. There are other chapters to come.

ALBANIA.

While the Montenegrins are being forced back from their mountain strongholds by the Austrians the Italian forces were landed at Valona and Durazzo in Albania, are making little or no headway in their efforts to lend assistance. It would seem now that Italy's help in this direction has come too late. It is even doubtful if the Italian troops will succeed in remaining in Albania at all. The Austrian steam roller is sweeping across Montenegro as it swept over Serbia, and it is receiving valuable assistance from some of the northern Albanian tribes who stand ready to oppose any move the Allies may make in their territory.

Of all the countries of Europe Albania is the most difficult for an army to pass through. It is wild and hilly, and there are no railways and but very few carriage roads. What bridges are to be found are unsafe and the rivers have to be crossed by means of primitive ferry-boats or fords. There has been no real attempt to develop the country and great tracts of land remain uncultivated. Some of the Albanian tribes are exceedingly warlike and the schools for the young are very few in number. Moslems make up about two-thirds of the population. It is plain, therefore, that if it was the purpose of the Italian forces to move through the Albanian passes to join the Montenegrins on the north, or to ease the pressure by attacking the Austrians further east, they faced tremendous difficulties. There is just one thing in their favor: Ezzad Pasha has declared war on Austria, and is preparing, with a force of 80,000 men, to go out against his old enemy. Ezzad Pasha, it will be remembered, recently arrested the Austrian consul at Durazzo, and he has declared that he and his followers will fight to the last man against the Huns.

Albania has been much in the public eye during the last four years. Its independence was proclaimed at Valona in 1912, and a provisional government formed. Later, it was decided at a conference in London that a European Prince should be nominated to rule the country and Prince William of Wied accepted the crown and arrived at Durazzo in March, 1914. The Prince had a stormy time of it, and following the outbreak of the war he left Albania which fell once more into a state of anarchy. Several attempts have since been made to bring order out of chaos, but with little success. The Italians went to Valona in December, 1914, and a few months ago landed at Durazzo. Whether or not they will be able to stay there remains to be seen. But in view of the difficulties of the situation prospects for Italian help for Montenegro are not promising.

of the opposition will not clean the slate. The electors, to save their self-respect, are bound to dispose of the local government when the chance comes to do so. Defence of this government, in view of what it has done and failed to do, merely increases public disgust.

A large number of British manufacturers have found that their businesses have increased tremendously as a direct result of the shutting out of German goods. They have decided, therefore, to form an organization to be conducted in the interests of British trade in general. It will have no political leanings. After the war is over, it is hoped by means of this organization to bring about a great trade expansion and to prevent Germany from capturing business that might just as well be done by British firms.

The government has received a report from an officer of the Marine Department in charge of the Hudson Bay survey. He advises the employment of hydroplanes in connection with wireless stations to warn incoming and outgoing vessels of ice dangers in Hudson Straits. He takes a by no means optimistic view of Hudson Bay navigation. This report is contained in the annual statement of the Department of Naval Service, and no doubt it will be the subject of discussion in Parliament in connection with the construction of the Hudson Bay railway and terminals.

A new code for amateur athletes in the United States provides that hereafter no amateur may "write" signed sporting articles for newspapers without losing his standing. The signed article by an amateur or professional athlete in the United States very often is a bold fake. In nine cases out of ten the article is written by a reporter, the athlete being paid for the use of his name. In many cases well written articles appear over the signature of a baseball player who never wrote a sentence correctly in his life. If the new law is well enforced it should produce good results.

The recruiting activity during the last days of Lord Derby's appeal is described by the Boston Transcript as "an inspiring spectacle." The Transcript adds:

"British manhood, as a whole, has stood the test of the war very well. There is certainly no general 'sabotage' against the war. The fact that no fewer than 2,829,288 men came forward and offered themselves for service in the twenty-three days prior to December 15 is a positive proof of that. Never before in any country—certainly not in the United States during the Civil War—was any such record as that of the uprising of a people. It is an inspiring spectacle for the whole human race, and particularly for the Anglo-Saxon part of it. It foretells the eventual success of the Allies' cause."

THE ANSWER.

(Toronto Globe.)

O the tyrant lord has drawn his sword, And has hung the scabbard away. He has said the word that loosed his sword To ravage, destroy and slay.

"Then where are those who will dare oppose?"
The blast of my fury's flame?
But a salty breeze swept across the seas And back the clear answer came:

We have heard the boast of your mighty host,
And slaves will we ne'er become.
Let our deeds declare what our hearts
We come! We come! We come!

O the Mother of Men has called for them,
The nations she reared long ago:
"In Freedom's name I make my claim,
By the tokens that Freedom know."

Let the world behold, as in ages old,
That my strength can never decay,
In a cause that's right, will ye rise and
Give me answer: yes or nay?"

We have heard your call, O Mother of
From the shores of your island home.
Let him die in thrall who denies that call,
We come! We come! We come!

O the Lions young, they forth have
At the sound of the lion's roar,
To defend the lair they once did share
By the far-fung ocean's shore.

With eye flame and with mane
They greet the approaching fray,
Let the foe beware who roused that lair,
For list to the lion's bay.

We have heard on the air the bugles'
And the roll of the muzzling drums;
To the surging beat of ten thousand feet,
We come! We come! We come!

Toronto.
SHELM GONAL.

A Prayer in Time of Battle.

One of the oldest prayers ever made was that of an old Virginia soldier at Antietam. He was lying flat on the battlefield, and, to quote his own words, "the shot and shell were going over me so thick that the whole firmament above me was lead color. I felt just then that was six feet flat and pretty high for me. The shot and shell were going over me were only two feet better lying down than standing up. I made up my mind that my only safety lay in praying. 'Oh Lord, good Lord, I prayed, 'please stretch me out as thin as a shoestring, with the pointed end towards the enemy!'"—Boston Transcript.

His Message to His Wife.

(London Times.)

Some of the best stories of the war come from the base hospitals, and are bestowen on the doctors in the same spirit that grateful patients bestow gifts on their medical attendants in civil life. One told recently has traveled from the farthest outpost in Mesopotamia. A Turkish officer, captured in the Mesopotamian campaign, asked and received permission to telegraph to his wife when he was brought to Basra. His message read: "Safely captured."

There are about 40,000 different surnames in England and Wales, or one for 600 inhabitants.

OPPOSITE SIDE

Great Convention Program

Take Crown Lands and Give Prohibition by Counties Into Riding Advanced Proposals Committee Succeeded

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Not only were new public service proposed in control and the predominant individual advantage, were

The convention brought to the fore of every county. The reform, will be active forces. The most progressive plan adopted with very marked and determined to give to the organization and active

Next to the ringing of the war until the Emancipation was created

Taking the Crown ministering them for partisan commission;

Giving the people road money—and

Granting prohibition to the people

Other frank and practical reform (including that of which would elect one to agriculture and education, and

Upon the regretted leadership, a committee of its chairman, was appointed county organization on a convention adjourned satisfied

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W. E. FOSTER, chairman of the prohibition committee of the province.

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January 15, 1916.

To the President Officers of the opposition convention:

Gentlemen:

The President of the New Brunswick branch of the Dominion Association has invited me to be your convention and state that body. Owing to the other matters, he is unable to attend and has asked me to appoint a representative.

I am here to thank you for the invitation extended to me by you, and in compliance with the request of the alliance as memorial appended, a representative was received by me. I am here to thank you for the invitation extended to me by you, and in compliance with the request of the alliance as memorial appended, a representative was received by me.

It was decided that at the session of the house of assembly provision for prohibition be enacted.

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