

The St. John Standard

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"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.

SEEKING ITALIAN FAVOR

That Germany realizes the danger of Italian participation on the side of the Allies and is endeavoring to placate that country by the gift of Austrian territory is indicated in the despatches of last night. It is quite typical of Germany that she is prepared to allow Austria to put up the price of Italian neutrality while, in the event of the negotiations proving successful, it would be Germany which would derive the greater share of the benefit.

It has been patent since the outbreak of war that Italy's heart is with the Allies. She refused to be drawn into the struggle on the side of the other two nations of the Triple Entente and has succeeded in officially preserving her neutrality up to the present time. If now she should decide to come in with the Allies she would render service, the value of which Great Britain, France and Russia would not be slow to recognize.

It may be taken for granted that the open announcement coming to The Hague from Berlin that Germany has succeeded in getting Austria to consent to a cession of territory to Italy, as the price of her neutrality, if Germany and Austria are successful in this war, represents but the culmination of much German effort and scheming. Ever since the war started there has been a strong German agency in Italy attempting to purchase support for Berlin and at the same time, to prejudice public opinion against the Allies. In spite of this, however, and the fact that Germany has expended large sums of money in an effort to achieve her ends, the fact is that the Italian government has continued to make preparations for war and popular sentiment in favor of the Allies has been but thinly masked.

It is more than likely that even with Italian authorities inclined to listen to the latest German proposal the condition attached would be too great. Italy is to receive certain territory now held by Austria on the condition that success rests with the German and Austrian cause. The Italian statesmen, astute as they are and well informed in the progress of events in the war zone, must realize that the chances of German success are so remote as to be negligible and that the prospect of Italy securing the territory desired would be much better if the Allies agreed to give it to her as a condition of her immediate participation in the contest.

Italy's geographical position, and the fact that she has one of the finest armies in Europe give sufficient reasons why Germany should fear her. And it would be Germany rather than Austria which would have the most to fear. It is not likely that Austria is fortified against Italy or that that portion of German territory nearest to Italy, and touching Austria, is provided with protections sufficiently strong to stop an Italian army, because no danger has been expected from that quarter. Consequently, with the wonderful mobilization and transport facilities possessed by the Italians, it should not be a difficult matter, as difficulties are counted in this war, to send strong Italian forces across the Austrian Tyrol and into Bavaria. The presence of an Italian army on Bavarian soil, while the forces of Germany and Austria were engaged in fighting the other Allied powers, should be productive of a speedy move for peace. With this accomplished Italy would doubtless be well remunerated for her share in bringing about an end to the war. Consequently if it is the purpose of the Italian government to "buy where it can get the best value" it is likely that London can offer greater bargains than Berlin. Germany's efforts to "secure" Italian favor are not likely to be crowned with unqualified success.

A FUTILE POLICY.

It is now something over a month since Admiral von Tirpitz issued his dire threat of starving England out by establishing a submarine blockade upon her coasts, yet, up to the present, were it not for the fact that the cables have announced the sinking of some seven or eight small craft whose speed was so slow that they could not get out of the way of these little German water bugs the Empire would not have realized that this horrible threat of Admiral von Tirpitz had actually been put into execution. As a matter of fact this threat was never intended to accomplish more than to brace up the hopes of the German people; von Tirpitz, himself, and with him all the Prussian war managers, knowing very well that even if they were able to make good their threat

and establish a complete blockade of the British Isles it would be utterly impossible for them to starve its peoples into submission.

In discussing this subject the Glasgow Weekly Herald says:

"Could we possibly manage to get along for six months without the nine million tons of foreign wheat and flour received in normal times? At first sight the deficiency appears so enormous as to inevitably bring us face to face with starvation and anarchy in double quick time. But a scrutiny of the native resources of our islands dissipates the worst pessimism. Bread—and very nutritious bread too—may be made of other cereals except wheat and there is actually grown in this country a greater quantity of cereal food than is eaten. Then we are absolutely self-supporting so far as potatoes are concerned and could get along quite nicely without foreign vegetables. The British farmer for a certainty would rise nobly to the occasion so that taken all over if this impossible looking thing, a blockade of Britain, ever did come about while we might not live like fighting cocks we certainly would never starve."

Meanwhile the number of German submarines occupied in this foolhardy task is constantly diminishing, nor have they succeeded in intimidating the merchant shipping of England even to the extent of causing an arrangement of their shipping schedules. While it is not to be expected that this war will end without some terrible battles being waged on land, nevertheless it is not too much to say that the constantly tightening clutch of Britain's navy upon the throat of Germany has, more than anything else, impressed upon her the grimness and futility of the fight she is waging and the whole world has been impressed as never before with the tremendous sea power of England. The great lesson of this war is that the safety of the Empire, as well as the peace of the world, is absolutely conditioned by the British navy. Canada understands this today. Yet Canada, through the action of the Laurier controlled Senate neglected to embrace the opportunity afforded her of assisting to strengthen that navy.

LAURIER AND THE KAISER.

Now that the German troops are feeling the prowess of the Canadian soldiers, His Majesty the Kaiser can reflect that the spirit of the people of Canada evidently does not agree with the opinions of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The Liberal leader and ex-Premier, the man who sent the Canadian troops to Africa C. O. D., has been guilty of many foolish expressions in his career, but few of these can compare with his unwarranted eulogy of Great Britain's enemy. Here is what Laurier said of the Kaiser on February 27th, 1913, when the Liberal leader was fighting might and main to prevent Canada from giving assistance to the British navy:

"THERE IS ONE FACT IN THE SITUATION WHICH I THINK SHOWS THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION ON THE PART OF GERMAN TO ATTACK ENGLAND, AND THAT FACT IS THE GERMAN EMPEROR. THE GERMAN EMPEROR IS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE GREAT MEN OF THE PRESENT AGE. BY INTELLECT, BY CHARACTER, BY MORAL FIBRE, HE HAS SHOWN HIMSELF WONDERFULLY ENDOWED. IN THE FIRST YEARS OF HIS REIGN SOME OF HIS UTTERANCES SENT A SHIVER THROUGH THOSE WHO HAD THE PEACE OF THE WORLD AT HEART. MANY BELIEVED HE WAS, PERHAPS, HANKERING FOR THE GLAMOR OF MILITARY GLORY. BUT AS HE ADVANCED IN YEARS, AND AS CRISIS AFTER CRISIS CAME HIS PATIENT INFLUENCE WAS ALWAYS DIRECTED TOWARDS PEACE. AND THE DAY MAY COME WHEN LIKE HIS ILLUSTRIOUS UNCLE THE LATE KING, HE MAY BE CALLED THE PEACE-MAKER."

Events coming to light since the outbreak of war have illustrated that the Kaiser for years was preparing for the conquest of England. At the very time he was being lauded by Laurier he was plotting the downfall of the British Empire. How do patriotic Canadians today regard the Laurier certificate of character?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his address on the budget the other day took the ground that one of the most important duties for the Government was to provide employment for the people. Yet Mr. Pugsley wanted to have the St. John harbor works expenditure cut in two and the extension of the breakwater postponed which would

have the effect of very largely reducing the work available for St. John men. The Grit member from St. John has been repudiated by his leader.

Possibly taking its cue from Mr. Pugsley the Toronto Star is attempting to interest its readers in fish lore and asks if Canadians are aware that 100 or more giant whales are caught in our Pacific waters every year. Certainly not, for we have not yet had time to consider whales. As yet we are merely learning from the lips of Mr. Pugsley some hard and unusual facts concerning the gentle squid.

A veteran of the Crimean war died in London, Ontario, the other day who by reason of his experiences in that campaign had been a notable figure in London for many years. A few years from now this country will be filled with veterans of a war compared with which the Crimean affair was but a slight disagreement.

Apropos of the Cammell, Laird tender it is interesting to recall what the Telegraph would like to forget. The tender was in the hands of the Liberal government for five and one-half months before the government was defeated. Why did Mr. Pugsley not award the contract?

The Chandler commission has opened in Fredericton and any charges against the provincial government department will be thoroughly probed. Now if Mr. Carter or Mr. Veniot have anything to say the chance is before them.

Each day brings additional evidence that the Canadian soldiers who have gone to the front are the equal of the best troops in the Empire. This war will place the Land of the Maple in a still higher position in the affections of the people of the motherland.

PROF. SHORTT'S INDISCRETION.

(Kingston Standard.) "Verify your quotations," is a rule which does not apply only to literature. Professor Shortt should know this very well. By not following it he has made, to our mind at least, an inexcusable mistake. We should have thought that, in his position as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, directly he saw a statement in the press bearing upon his work in any way he would have sought to arrive at the truth of it. Further it would point to rather a poor knowledge of his particular work that he did not at once see where errors could lie in such a statement as that while there have been something like 2,000 dismissals from the Civil Service, there have been some 10,000 appointments. As a man in touch with political affairs he must have known that this statement was one which would be caught at eagerly for partisan purposes, as it immediately was by the Hon. W. Pugsley and the Liberals, and he should have been wary how he handled it, or better and wiser still he should have left it alone.

His words have gone all over Canada. They contain an accusation against the Government, and a wrong one. At first Professor Shortt was somewhat doubtful, but now he has issued a statement that he was indiscreet in accepting a newspaper report of the return brought down in Parliament of the dismissals, appointments, etc., in the Civil Service, on which to base his statements, in that the report gave only part of the return, and did not indicate resignations, deaths, and other acts materially affecting the deductions to be made from it.

Sir Robert Borden has dealt with the matter as we believe the country would wish. He has promised to have plain and unvarnished statement of the facts prepared, and an explanation, so far as any explanation is necessary, as to the increase in the service of the country. This will be submitted to the House, the Opposition given the opportunity to discuss it, and to take such action as they think fit.

Professor Shortt may take into consideration his own position. His "indiscretion" has certainly cast doubts upon his good judgment, and his freedom from partisanship. His work as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission has more than once been called in question. Complaints have been made that the examinations he sets are not those required to obtain the civil servants needed by the country. An efficiency expert rather than a professor with theories of his own would appear to be wanted.

A RSSN PZL.

A dmsl who dwlt in Pzemysl Invtrntly sat on a thyl;
Tlo it certnly paid.
A shrk she restratnd,
And contnd brst with a wylal.

A GOOD MARKET IN NEW ZEALAND FOR CANADIAN WHEAT

There is a good market open at the present time in New Zealand for Canadian wheat and flour, and Canadian exporters would not find much difficulty in establishing themselves in it. According to a consular report by W. A. Beddoe, received by the Department of Trade and Commerce, the wheat crop of New Zealand is short and the visible supplies previous to the new crop are not sufficient to supply the daily demand for flour.

On November 18, 1914, a wheat census was taken showing that there were in the hands of the merchants 132,368 bushels, while according to a census taken on January 19, 1915, showing the large decrease to 45,568 bushels. This is a decrease in the stocks on hand of \$7,000 bushels in two months. Although the ultimate forecast had not been made at the time of his writing, he stated that owing to drought this season's crop would be short and points out the fact that a market for

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

Puds Simkinnes aisey cuzzin Persey calm up wile the fellos was awl sittin awn our frunt steps today, not doin enything seshill, and Persey sed, Wata you doin, fellos.

We bin havin a contest to see wich wun can run erround the block the fastest, sed Reddy Merfy.

Yes, I was the last wun that ran, I did it in a minnit and a half, sed Sid Hunt. And he startid to breeth hard as if he hed jest stoped running awl his mife.

Do you want to try it, Persey, sed Reddy Merfy.

Awl rite, I bet I can do it in less than a minnit and a half, sed Persey, whose watch are you countin by, I don't see eny watch.

We alnt using eny watch, we jest count out loud, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, like that and wene we count 60 that minnit, thares 60 seckinds in a minit sed Reddy Merfy are you redy to start, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Wate a minit, wate a minit, I havent startid yet sed Persey. And he got down awn his hands and wun nee like a sprintr ina plecture and sed, Reddy, get set, go, and he started to run up the street fast as the dickins, Reddy Merfy yellin aftr him, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and by that time Persey was so far up the street he coodent heer eny moar so Reddy stoped countin and sed, Now as soon as he terns erround the cornr evvrybody run in the vesterbule and wen he kums erround the uthr cornr he wont see enybody and he will think we awl ran away, quick, evvrybody run in the vesterbule.

Wich we awl did, beeing about 6 of us gisgeling in thare thinking how funny Perseys face wood look wen he calm back and dident see enybody thare countin. And aftr we had bin in the vesterbule a wile Sam Krawas sed, G, he must be a pritty slow runner, alnt he in site yet.

Wich I peeeped out to see, and he wasent, and we wated in the vesterbule sum moar and Persey dident kum back, and Skinky Martin sed, Good nite, hes as slow as a funrl.

A snale cood go faster than that, sed Puds Simkins.

And aftr a wile we got so tired of wating in the vesterbule for Persey to kum back we went out and sat awn the steps agen, and aftr we had bin settin thare about anuthr hour, who calm wawkin up the street but Persey, saying, Heio, fellos, do you no wy I dident run awl the way erround the block that time, wy bekause as soon as I got erround the cornr I remembred I had promised my ant I wood get a pound of sugar for her at the stoar, so I stoped running rite away and went and got it.

O, thats awl rite, sed Reddy Merfy, we didnt ixpect you back.

Canadian wheat and flour will be available in New Zealand for some time to come.

During the season 1912-13 the crop of wheat from 189,869 acres was 5,179,626 bushels. The exports amounted to 505,205 bushels, as against 1,254,567 bushels the previous year. New Zealand has now ceased to be an exporter of wheat, and is an importer.

Except in times of shortage when prices rise above a normal level, New Zealand farmers generally find other crops more profitable. Last year's crop of wheat was insufficient for local needs, and the war demand, together with the drought in Australia, has made importation difficult.

The export of wheat from New Zealand has been prohibited until further notice. There is every indication that the shortage in the coming crop will

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