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H. V. MacKINNON,
Managing Editor.

ALFRED E. MCINLEY,
Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 13, 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.

IN MANITOBA

The Roblin government in the province of Manitoba has resigned and the leader of the Liberal opposition, Mr. T. C. Norris, has accepted the invitation of the Lieutenant-Governor of that province to form a new administration.

Sir Rodmond P. Roblin, after fifteen years of service as premier of Manitoba, leaves the public life of the province to whose interests he devoted his best years better than he found it. Sir Rodmond's position is stated in the announcement made by him yesterday in which he said, in part:

"At the late session of the Legislature certain serious statements were made alleging over-payments and other matters in connection with the construction of the new parliament buildings. A royal commission was appointed to enquire into the whole matter. The authority or jurisdiction of the commission is now challenged. This means considerable delay before that point can be determined by the courts. The government believes that such delay is undesirable and contrary to public policy.

"The production of certain evidence during the sitting of the public accounts committee caused the government to institute a departmental enquiry into these matters. The result of that enquiry, together with the statement made before the royal commission by counsel for the contractors convinced the government that adjustments as between the province and the contractors were necessary. Further, the government believed that such adjustments could be made with more benefit to the public by a new government. The government also realized that constitutionally they were responsible for the acts of their officials in matters of this kind.

"For these reasons I have tendered my resignation to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, with a recommendation that he call upon T. C. Norris, M. P., the leader of the opposition, to form a new government."

The resignation of the Roblin administration was not altogether unexpected as it has been felt that the Manitoba situation would speedily develop. The government has been in power for fifteen years and following the election of last July it was believed that it would soon disband. The retirement from the provincial field of Hon. Robert Rogers proved a severe blow to the government as there is no room for doubt that had he retained the portfolio of public works which he so long and so ably administered no scandal charge would have been possible.

What the new administration will achieve remains to be seen. On first glance the feature that strikes one most particularly about the cabinet Mr. Norris has selected is that the very large number of French Canadians in Manitoba are not honored with cabinet representation. In the Roblin government Hon. Joseph Bernier, representing St. Boniface, was Attorney-General and in that capacity did valuable work.

Naturally the Liberal newspapers will attempt to see in the resignation of the Roblin administration an indication of weakness in the Conservative party in Dominion affairs. Already the Times has produced its big type to announce that it is the "First Break." Of course there is no justification for such opinion. The Pugsley-Robinson government did not resign but was hurled from power early in 1908 and yet, a few months later, Mr. Pugsley and his supporters appealing to the people as federal candidates made gains in this province. Manitoba is still staunchly Conservative and the Liberal newspapers know it.

IT RESTS WITH GERMANY.

The sinking by a German submarine of the Cunard liner Lusitania and the murder of scores of innocent Americans who had taken passage on the giant liner recalls the note sent by the United States government to Germany on February 10th. That note was in part as follows:

"If the commanders of German vessels of war should act upon the presumption that the flag of the United States was not being used in good faith and should destroy on the high seas an American vessel or the lives of American citizens, it would be difficult for the Government of the United States to view the act in any other light than as an indefensible violation of neutral rights, which it would be very hard indeed to reconcile with the friendly relations now

happily subsisting between the two Governments.

"If such a deplorable situation should arise, the Imperial German Government can readily appreciate that the Government of the United States would be constrained to hold the Imperial Government of Germany to a strict accountability for such acts of their naval authorities, and to take any steps it might be necessary to take to safeguard American lives and property and to secure to American citizens the full enjoyment of their acknowledged rights on the high seas."

This was an explicit warning to Germany of what she might expect if she violated the rights of the American people. In spite of it Germany torpedoed the Gulfight, an American vessel flying the American flag and caused the death of American sailors. In spite of it again Germany torpedoed the Lusitania and slaughtered scores of American citizens who, believing in the protection of their government, considered themselves safe to voyage the seas without molestation.

Despatches from Washington early this morning indicate that the United States will today demand from Germany a guarantee that there shall be no more interference with American vessels or American citizens and will also ask full reparation for the crime of the Lusitania. President Wilson has taken the firm stand he was expected to take and in the light of the plain terms of the American note, the only stand open to him. The United States insists on full reparation. What that will consist of is yet to be determined. If Germany accedes to all demands there may be no further complications at the present time. If she refuses the decision of the United States can mean but one thing and that the most drastic measure Washington may decide to take. Germany will be held to the strict accounting. It rests with her whether that accounting will be rendered through the conventional diplomatic channels or by the arbitrament of force.

THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN.

German reports for the past week or two have claimed great successes for the Kaiser's men in the campaign against the Russians. These claims are denied by Petrograd, the Russian officials declaring that German and Austrian forces have not won any victory of importance. Despite the contradictory statements of the two reports it should not be forgotten that the Germans and Austrians on the eastern front are now making their supreme effort, fighting with largely reinforced lines, and at greatly accelerated speed. The men under Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian commander-in-chief are, however, holding their own and a little better.

During the past winter Germany and Austria made every effort to get the greatest possible number of men on the fighting lines and to strengthen their positions. Conscription being in force in both countries it was not particularly difficult for them to impress great numbers, and when the spring campaign opened it found, on the eastern front, a German army much stronger than anything the Russians had faced before.

In spite of that, however, the Muscovite steam roller has not lost ground. The Germans have not yet taken Warsaw, while their colleagues have lost Przemyśl, and have been driven back to the Carpathians, in which mountain range the Russians still hold many important positions. This is all most satisfactory. As the campaign goes on the Russians must increase in relative strength, while the enemy cannot keep on adding to their forces indefinitely. As matters stand industrial Germany must be well crippled while Russia's vast resources have not yet reached their limit.

If the war should last through another winter Russia will emerge in the spring far stronger than either Germany, Austria or Turkey. Before that time Turkey should be, and probably will be, disposed of, while the British and French armies on the western frontier should succeed in exercising such pressure in the very heart of the German Empire that Russia's constantly increasing army should find its work comparatively easy. The Russian steam roller has not yet lost its force.

Some curious and uncanny parallels between the sinking of the Lusitania and the disaster in which the Titanic went down have been recalled. It will be remembered that in the Titanic wreck a famous theatrical producer met his death in the person of Henry B. Harris. Among the victims of the Lusitania tragedy was Charles Frohman, who has been termed the "Napoleon of the show business." Literature and journalism suffered in the Titanic accident by the loss of Jacques Futrelle, an eminent fiction writer, and W. T. Stead, the great journalist. Among the Lusitania's victims were Justus Miles Forman and Elbert Hubbard. In the world of finance the Titanic list contained Col. Astor, while Alfred G. Vanderbilt found a watery grave with the Lusitania. The parallel could probably be carried farther but the instances referred to are sufficient to furnish food for thought.

FRANCE UNDER WAR CONDITIONS.

According to the Temps, the French Minister of the Interior recently made an announcement at a meeting of the Committee of the French Chamber to the effect that 2,000,000 applications for public assistance had been made to the government by the families of soldiers in the field, of which 2,430,000 had been granted. Twenty-seven thousand appeals from the decisions of a sub-committee have been taken to the main committee on relief, and some 50,000 more are expected shortly. In order to expedite the work of passing on these requests, said the Minister, the number of members on the main committee was to be increased from fifty to 100.

M. Malvi, the French Minister of the Interior, recently presented to the Budget Committee of the Chamber figures bearing on the number of German and Austrian civilians remaining in France. From these statistics it appears that fifty-eight prison camps have been established, in which 7,500 Germans and 4,000 Austrians are quartered. In addition, 8,785 foreigners of different nationalities (Alsatians, Poles, Orientals, etc.) are lodged in empty store-houses. Permission has been granted to 1,700 Germans and Austrians to continue undisturbed in France. Of these 292 are men whose sons are in the French army; thirty-eight were once soldiers of the Foreign Legion; 137 are cripples, 153 are women whose sons are in the French army, and 150 women whose husbands are at the front; 169 are mentally deficient, or women weak from age; 376 are the wives of Germans and Austrians, and 385 are children.

The Paris Journal publishes an article by M. Paulie Vandervelde, in which the Belgian Minister of State describes a recent visit to the trenches on the Yser. He visited one of the advance posts within a couple of hundred yards of the German trenches, and there he met an officer who has had a very unusual career. This man had begun life as an officer in the Belgian army, but at the moment when the prospects of his military career seemed brightest he suddenly gave up his commission and entered a Franciscan monastery. When the war broke out he volunteered as an ordinary soldier. Today he is a lieutenant, decorated for bravery, and always the first to claim a post of danger.

M. Vandervelde thus describes his visit to the warrior-monk: "Our hermit lives in a sort of pigeon house, which serves him for observatory. His men are relieved every twenty-four hours, but he refuses to be relieved. He never budges from his post, where he has no connection with the outer world save the line of telephone. He receives food on peaceful nights. But when the German artillery fire is very fierce, communications are perforce cut off. Some weeks ago, for three nights, no drinking water could be sent to him. To quench his thirst the officer took the bowl, brimful of water in the trenches, boiled it in a kettle, then thickened the drops that collected on the lid.

"One evening a shell burst in his pigeon house. By what he would doubtless call a miracle he escaped uninjured, save for a scratch on the finger." In answer to M. Vandervelde's question whether he did not find life terrible under such conditions, the

warrior-monk replied: "I have never been so happy. The time passes quickly; I watch over my men, and am conscious of being of use to my country." Then he pointed to the words engraved with a penknife in the stone of the wall—"Vive le Roi!"

Much gratification is expressed in Paris at the importation of matches from the United States, which are rapidly supplanting the inferior domestic article. For the old match a special sort of wood was imported from Russia, but the war cut off the supply. When the state manufacturers looked round for this sort of wood, they found that America alone could supply it, but the cost was prohibitive. But America offered to sell matches ready made and the French authorities accepted, the first load of the American matches being distributed in France in February. It will be a matter of regret to the entire nation that the stock is not inexhaustible.

Altogether, to fill the gap made by non-arrival of the Russian wood, 8,000,000,000 matches have been bought from abroad, mostly from the United States and Switzerland. Experiments are being made with poplar and a Japanese wood.

In a recent "Bulletin des Armees" appeared a short but very significant phrase: "We may say that we have now a new explosive which has supplanted the power of our guns." Side by side with this bare official statement, it is worth placing the account of a recent bayonet charge as given in a provincial paper of standing. It is a letter from a soldier. He writes: "We had to carry three Boche trenches and it looked as if it were going to be a stiff job. Behind us our artillery

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

SPRING.

O Spring is the season of the year
When every little bud
Tries hard to be a flower
And the April rain makes mud.

In spring the birds hum back from the South
As fast as anything,
How sad if a bird flying back from the South
Got careless and dropped a wing!

The butterflies leave their cocoons
Also the moth and miller,
And fly around so happily
Never noting they want a caterpillar.

The plants stay where they are planted
But the sorrels parade passes,
The April raindrops trickled down,
And so doz suffer and mullasse.

The trees are clipped so they can grow again,
And the grass is green and waving,
The robin and the sparrow and the hokey pokey man
Awl raise their voice in sawing.

Yure pants sticks to the seats in school
Awl akount of summer being near,
The little birds awl make their nests
And yure molhr makes root beer.

warrior-monk replied: "I have never been so happy. The time passes quickly; I watch over my men, and am conscious of being of use to my country." Then he pointed to the words engraved with a penknife in the stone of the wall—"Vive le Roi!"

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