

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1915

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DR. DERNBURG AGAIN.

Dr. Dernburg has again been heard from. He is the German ex-colonial minister who came to the United States to travel over the country and arouse prejudice against Britain and in favor of Germany. He was to have delivered an address in Portland, Me., on Saturday night, but being unable to keep the engagement sent a letter which was read by another German. This letter dealt with what Dr. Dernburg regards as necessary to ensure a permanent peace when this great war is ended. He insists first that as the sea is nobody's property it must be made free to everybody. Surely Dr. Dernburg knows that in time of peace the sea is free to everybody, and if today it is not free to Germany it is because Germany is at war and chooses to keep its navy safely hidden, instead of sending it out to protect German commerce. But Dr. Dernburg also insists that there must be freedom of cable and mail communication with all countries, whether belligerent or not. There must also be an "open door" policy, such as would for example prevent the British Empire from having discriminating duties between the Motherland and the over-sea Dominions of the Empire. In other words, Dr. Dernburg would not permit the British Empire to conduct its own commercial affairs.

Discussing the matter of treaty obligations Dr. Dernburg passes over the violation of Belgian neutrality by Germany, by saying that, if it were a breach of international law at all, "it has been followed up by all other belligerents by destroying other parts of that code." This peculiar type of justification will hardly commend itself to the people of the United States, or of any other country outside of Germany.

Dr. Dernburg denies that Germany is striving for territorial aggrandizement in Europe, but immediately follows the denial with the complacent assertion that Belgium is the natural forerunner of the German Empire and cannot be given up. He asserts that "the love for small peoples that England herself now," and in that connection refers to "the destruction of the small Boer republics." Dr. Dernburg forgets to tell his American hearers that the Boers are now fighting for England, and are making very good progress in the subjugation of the Germans in Africa. He insists that Germany must have an outlet for "the development of such foreign parts as need or wish for development." In other words, Germany wishes to seize territory that is now held by other nations.

Dr. Dernburg suavely assures the Americans that there is nothing in the programme of his country "which would be beneficial to the rest of the world, especially the United States."

The efforts of the ex-colonial minister of Germany will prove futile, as well as those of the very ill-advised German ambassador at Washington, whose foolish utterances have brought forth very sharp criticism from the American press. Whoever has read at all carefully the story of the war from day to day and from month to month must have become convinced that Germany is a nation not to be trusted; and that, however loudly Dr. Dernburg may protest that she does not desire world domination, all such assurances would be as quickly forgotten as was the pledge to observe the neutrality of Belgium when it seemed in the interests of Germany to regard that pledge as "a scrap of paper."

BRITAINS WOUNDED.

The Saturday Evening Post has a very long article by Mary Roberts Rinehart, describing her own experiences in going from London via Boulogne and Calais to La Panne, the Belgian headquarters, within four miles of Nieupoort. At Boulogne, while in the railway station waiting for a train to Calais, she saw the British hospital train come in. First there were taken from the cars probably two hundred men, whose feet had been frozen in the trenches, and who were utterly unable to walk or place any weight whatever upon their bandaged feet. Then came the turn of the badly wounded, and the description is worth quoting in full.

"Half way down the car a wide window was opened, and two tall lieutenants with four orderlies took their places outside. It was very silent. Orders were given in low tones. The muffled rumble of the trucks carrying the soldiers with frozen feet was all that broke the quiet, and soon they too were gone, and there remained only the six men outside, receiving with hands as gentle as those of women the stretchers so cautiously worked over the window-sill to them. One by one the stretchers came. One by one they were added to the lengthening line that lay prone on the stone flooring beside the train. There was not a jar, not an unnecessary motion. One great officer, very young, took the weight of the end as it came toward him, and lowered it with marvellous gentleness as the others took hold. He had a trick of the wrist that enabled him to reach up, take hold and lower the stretcher without freezing his hands. He was marvellously strong, marvellously tender. The stretchers were laid out side by side. Their occupants did not speak or move. It was as if they had reached their limit of endurance. They lay with closed eyes, or with impassive upturned eyes, swathed in their

brown blankets against the chill. Here and there a knitted neck scarf had been loosely wrapped about a head. All over America women were knitting just such scarfs. And still the line grew. The car seemed insupportable of horrors. And still the young lieutenant with the tender hands and the strong wrists took the onus of the burden, the muscles of his back swelling under his khaki tunic. If I were asked to typify the attitude of the British army and of the British people toward their wounded, I should point to that boy. Nothing that I know of in history can equal the care the English are taking of their wounded in this, the great war. They have of course the advantage of the best nursing system in Europe."

"The Hon. Robert Rogers is anxious for an early election. He is afraid of Manitoba. A Royal Commission is about to investigate a great tory scandal in that province."

Chancellor Lloyd George says he sees no reason for adopting the policy of conscription in the United Kingdom, and adds that Lord Kitchener is highly pleased with the response to his appeal for volunteers.

Mayor Pitkin says he thinks the time has come for the appointment of an assessment commission, and that there will be no delay in the appointment. The announcement will give general satisfaction to the citizens.

The practice of withholding important legislation until the legislature is about to prorogue, and rushing it through without proper consideration, or without giving those whose interests are affected a chance to be heard, is one that ought to be abandoned.

The immense resources of Russia are shown by the announcement that 600,000 new troops, trained and equipped, are now being sent to the Carpathian region. When they resume their great advance, it will doubtless be with such a superiority in numbers as will bear down all opposition and open to them the plains of Hungary.

The Conservative press has been telling its readers that Col. Hurdman, who inspected and passed the cheap binoculars, was a Liberal and a brother of the Liberal member for Ottawa. He was not a brother but a cousin of the Ottawa member, and he was not a Liberal, but a Conservative and former president of the Macdonald Club of Ottawa.

The Standard again lauds Mr. Hazen for getting contracts for war supplies placed with St. John firms. The gentleman who is really responsible, however, is the German Kaiser, and the demand for such supplies is so great that orders are placed with any and every firm capable of turning them out in a satisfactory manner.

Premier Asquith has again urged that every effort be made by employers to employ to speed up the manufacture of munitions of war. He also warns manufacturers that they are not entitled to undue profits, and it is perfectly safe to say that middlemen's profits, as they have been revealed in Canada, would not be tolerated in connection with war materials in the Mother Country.

Yesterday was Sock Day for the soldiers in the hospitals. Today in this province is Sock Day for the soldiers in the trenches. Socks came in in great numbers yesterday to the Red Cross for the men in hospital, and doubtless they will come in today in very large numbers for the men in the trenches. There is good reason to believe that the idea of a special Sock Day originated in St. John, and it was certainly a happy thought.

The Times prints today the three sections of the proposed amendments to the Highway Act, which permit any road supervisor to instruct men to enter upon any uncultivated land and secure materials for the making or repairing of roads. In the case of injury to property the question of compensation is left entirely in the hands of the minister of public works, where material is taken from a beach; or in the hands of three men nominated at the request of the supervisor in the case of uncultivated lands. This is outrageous legislation, and should be thrown out.

The Toronto Globe asks why Sir Robert Borden did not bring down to parliament the war graft correspondence between himself and the executive of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. That correspondence directed the attention of the premier to graft cases in several provinces, giving names and places and dates, and the correspondence itself dates back to last fall. Why did the premier fail to bring down this correspondence, which was asked for over and over again? He said it was private correspondence, but the executive of the Association declared that he might publish it if he chose. Why did he not do so? Was it because in the light of that correspondence the premier to graft cases in the speech in which he condemned Garland and Foster would be branded with the brand of falsity, and reveal to the people of Canada that the investigation before the public accounts committee only touched the fringe of what ought to be investigated?

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"You've got the wrong proposition. Make it 'for' instead of 'of'."

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"Once, dear. A gentleman asked me to marry him over the telephone, but he had the wrong number."

Willful
"I understand that you have a new motor-car."
"Yes."
"Do you drive it yourself?"
"Nobody drives it. We coax it."

Testing Father
Willie—"Do you know everything, pa?"
Pa—"Yes, my son."
Willie—"What is the difference between a son of a gun and a pop of a pistol?"

Ready for the Circus
Freddie—"Are you the trained nurse, mama said was coming?"
Nurse—"Yes, dear. I'm the trained nurse."
Freddie—"Let's see some of your tricks, then."

Poet's Jeke
"What is a man-of-war?" said a teacher to his class.
"A cruiser," was the prompt reply.
"What makes it go?"
"Its screw, sir."
"It's crew, sir!"

Necessary Step
She—So Phil's married at last!
He—Yes; he was so hopelessly involved financially, there was nothing else to do.

First Boomer—You fellows have no git-up about you at all. Why don't you have photographs of your town taken, then?
Rival Boomer—Now, that ain't the reason at all. I want you to understand, young fellow, that our town don't stand still long enough to be photographed.

Johnny (in Christian Register)—Mother, my toes are not as hard as leather are they?
Mother—No, Johnny.
Johnny—Then, mother, how do they wear themselves through my shoes?

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THE SWINE AT THE ARMY CONTRACT TROUGH

(Winnipeg Free Press.)
The committee of parliament which, after many weeks of taking evidence, brought to a close last week its inquiry into the contract for supplying the boots for the soldiers, devoted its last day to taking some evidence about the government's patronage list.

There was a mountain of proof piled up establishing the fact that inferior unsuitable boots were supplied to the soldiers, and that on such footwear, unfit for service, middlemen pocketed fat profits at the financial expense of the public and, what is immeasurably more despicable and criminal, at the expense of the comfort and health and safety of the brave men who have gone to the front as Canada's representatives.

In comparison with that mountain of proof of infamous criminality and Judas-like perfidy, the evidence about the government patronage lists made, so to speak only a little hillock. But known here in Winnipeg, for example, that a certain lawyer with a political pull secured the contract for supplying individuals, whose party services were regarded by the dispensers of party patronage at the public cost as entitling them to be in on the good things going some thousands of shillings for the soldiers in the way of army contracts, were asked to state what they would prefer to supply.

Every such favored individual had to "get his piece" out of the transaction. Which means either that he was paid more than a just price out of the public treasury, or that he furnished an inferior article, or that he both scammed his contract and was overpaid.

If the dominion government had risen to the duty which confronted it in patriotism and in honor, the patronage lists would have been swept aside. The ministers would have said: "In everything that has to do with meeting this great national and imperial emergency we will know no distinctions of party politics. There is no thought of party politics in the minds of the men of Canada who are going to the front. We will allow no politics to sully any part of the carrying out of this great work of patriotic devotion and sacrifice."

Instead of that, the miserable and shameful system of party patronage, which has so bedeviled Canadian politics, was extended so as to bring the allotting of the army contracts under its operation. The vultures flocked to share in the fat pickings. The ordinary average beneficiary of the system, seeing that the patronage system was not swept aside by the government, but was being applied as in the piping times of peace, said to himself: "This is not a case of patriotism, but of politics as usual, and I must lose no time in taking advantage of the fine opportunities there are for faithful party workers who know how to make the most of them."

It is a matter of public knowledge that in ordinary times, no matter which party has been in office, the patronage system has been more or less rigidly in operation. But surely the time of stress and trial that came with the outbreak of the war should have inspired the government with the patriotic determination to acquit itself worthily in this respect. And now, in this respect, has the government acquitted itself in this time of supreme discipline and testing? The answer is given by the spectacle of the grafting middlemen crowding like swine to the trough.

A young woman prominent in the social set of an Ohio town tells of a young man who had not familiarized himself with the forms of polite correspondence to the fullest extent: When on one occasion he found it necessary to decline an invitation, he did so in the following terms:

"Mr. Henry Blank declines with pleasure Mrs. Wood's invitation for the 19th

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