

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1914.

THE WAR NEWS.

Cheerful reports from land and sea have featured the war news of the last two days and there is an indication now that the critical period for Germany is at hand. Yesterday's developments did not materially change the situation. The Germans have been forced a little further back on the western battle line and in the coast towns of northern France street fighting is being carried on. Early this morning it was reported, unofficially, from London, that the Germans who had occupied Ostend had been driven out again by an allied army and that the allies were gradually advancing. Elsewhere on that front the situation is unchanged.

In the eastern theatre of war the result of recent fighting still is problematical. German and Austrian forces undertook to capture Warsaw; they have not done so but, instead, Petrograd modestly claims "partial successes" for the Czar's armies. Berlin and Vienna, on the contrary, seek to make the world believe that the legions of the Kaiser are sweeping all before them but, particularly, the reports are not credited.

Possibly some reason for the general disposition in Canada and the United States to take German claims with reserve, is furnished by the London correspondent of the New York Herald in an excellent and interesting article, which The Standard this morning prints on another page. The correspondent reproduces the announcements of the bulletin boards in Britain, and in the British newspapers, in which British losses or reverses were not minimized nor British successes magnified. Instead, the news furnished and vouched for, while it might have been less detailed than desired, had the merit of complete truth.

An interesting contrast is furnished by the announcements circulated in Berlin, and published for accurate accounts of the happenings at the front. These can best be described in the language of a Mark Twain hero who, on first hearing the story of Jonah and the Whale, remarked: "Them statements is interestin' but tough."

The Berlin bulletin boards have already told the German people that the whole British army is prepared to surrender, that Britain is ready to sue for peace, that the British fleet has been sunk and that Sir John French is a prisoner of war as a result of the gallantry and efficiency of the German army. The number of British killed and wounded has been set forth at more than double the total strength of the British army.

While tales of successes against the French and Russians have been recounted with wealth of detail sufficient to make Ananias green with envy. These stories have been eagerly and credulously consumed by the German people but those who have followed the progress of the campaign, as related in more accurate if less picturesque narratives, will incline to the opinion that there is a tall tale of explaining in store for the German newspapers and information bureaus before the war is over. As the New York Herald puts it the reason why German reports are not seriously regarded by the people on this side of the world, is that, in this country we prefer to learn the truth even though it may not always be pleasant.

The reports from London, Paris and Petrograd have, in the past, been proven by the development of the campaign, and when these centres unite, as they have done during the last two or three days, in stating that the situation on both battle fronts is very satisfactory, the world can rest assured that the statement is an accurate presentation of the facts as they exist. Consequently there is every reason for gratification in the news of present operations and absolute confidence in the future.

CANADA'S WAR FORCES.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Liberal party in Canada, made a notable speech the other evening in the city of Montreal, and in the course of his eloquent oration expressed the opinion that Canada should contribute at least 100,000 men to the defense of the Empire. Possibly Sir Wilfrid did not know it, possibly he forgot to mention it in the course of his non-political address, but the interesting fact is that even before the Liberal chieftain had voiced his view, the Borden Government had made arrangements, which, when carried out, will result in placing in the field, equipped for active service, many more than 100,000 men.

Canada's first contingent of more than 25,000 men is now under canvas in one of the great military camps in England. Despatches tell us that their appearance has drawn the highest praise from British military officials and that, already, they are affectionately termed "The Complete

Army" by their British comrades. That the physical appearance of the men, should attract such favorable attention in England is a tribute to the quality of our Canadian manhood; that their equipment and condition for service should be so much as to win for them the proud title of "The Complete Army" is nothing if not a tribute to the efficient manner in which they were organized and fitted out by the Government authorities.

Thousands of Canadians, from all parts of the Dominion, who visited Valcartier Camp, and witnessed the great reviews in which the men participated, who passed down and through the long lines of tents, and had opportunity of seeing at close range the complete furnishing of every soldier, "to the last strap and button," who noted the excellent sanitary arrangements, and the evidence of the effort and money expended for the comfort of the men, will not be surprised that the force met approval in England; it could not have been otherwise, for unquestionably they constituted not only the largest but the finest army of fighting men that ever crossed the Atlantic.

Now the Government has arranged for the despatch of as many more men as the Empire will require, even if such a course should strain the last resource of Canada. Recruiting orders were issued yesterday, and there is no doubt that the number assigned to each military district in the Dominion will be speedily raised. The expectation is that the first instalment of the additional force will sail from this country early in December, in less than two months time. Others will follow in lots of 10,000, while the work of recruiting and equipping will go steadily on. As long as Britain needs them there will be Canadians to take their positions on the Empire's battle front, no matter where that front may be.

Britain is well assured of Canada's devotion, after seeing the first contingent she is equally confident of Canada's quality, and of the certainty that every man sent from this country will be ready, and furnished with the ability and the equipment to perform in soldierly fashion any duty to which he may be called.

The young men of Canada know what is expected of them at this time and they will not be found lacking. The Government of Canada realizes the duty and the responsibility resting upon them. The despatch of "The Complete Army" is ample evidence that both will be discharged cheerfully and efficiently. History will repeat itself when the other Canadian contingents go forward.

WHY NOT PLAY SANTA CLAUS?

The New York World, backed by its great resources and in co-operation with several charitable organizations in New York, has just launched a campaign which has aroused much interest throughout the Eastern States, and which might well be followed in Canada. It has for its worthy purpose the making of "a Christmas" for the children of the Belgian families into whose young lives so much of horror and cruelty has already passed. Canadians are nobly responding to the appeal to assist stricken Belgium with food, clothing and cash donations, so those who have suffered so deeply at the hands of the ruthless and lustful Germans may be provided with the bare necessities of life until they are able to make a fresh start. Cannot something be done for the children?

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Der "Iron Cross"

Der world is only leedle folks
Und need half der cross.
Vat knows der leedle of efty man
Und handles vell der "cross."

So, I der Kaiser haff to rule
I vas der only boss
Vat underschands der leedle hearts
Und hey dey loof der "cross."

Sometimes ven bunches gid too fresh
I gif mien flat a toss
Und schmash some hundred thousandt
mans
Undt gif Mine sons der "cross."

Mine sons schust make der chest
schell out
Undt dink dey vas bees boss
Undt schlaughtur der peoples und
schmash der towns
To gid a leedle "cross."

Five millions, fighters on der landt,
Mit "busy berthas" cross
Spit fire undt iron on Church undt
field
Ven I holdt up der "cross."

Der Herbricks, treasure, art undt homes
Of Belian, Frank undt Russ
Mine soldiers schmash schust like
von straw
For Kaiser mit der "cross."

Dose English vat coom here to fight
I show dem who vas boss
Soldiers; schust blow der head off
efty von;
Der General, vier dis "cross!"

In Belgium, England, France, Russia
undt ad home
Der tausands mourn der loss,
Mit broken hearts, lost fortunes undt
no homes,
Id is mine der Kaiser's "cross."

I. G. Shaw, Christian Minister,
Lord's Cove, D. L. N. B.

A Peaceful Heart's Desire

(New York Sun)
I'm tired of seeing Mars preempt
the centre of the stage.
I'm tired of seeing war news spread
across the whole front page;
I'm wearying of armies, forts and
mines and fighting crews,
I want to see the old familiar head-
lines in the news.

Instead of "German Shell Fire Sets
a Belgian Town Ablaze,"
I'd read of "Kansan Victimized by
Wire-Tapping Game."
I see that "Thousand Belgians Put a
German Corps to Flight."
But want to know that "Pankhurst
Vows She Will Not Eat a Bite."
I learn today that "French and Ger-
man Airmen Clash in Air,"
But miss the "Actor, Jilted, Sues a
Pittsburg Millionaire."
What boots it that "Italians Threaten
Now to Join the Pray,"
If I can't read that "Scientist Makes
Hens Lay Twice a Day?"

And though it's true that "Russia
Captures Eighty German Spies,"
I long to learn that "T. R. Stamps
Gives Statements, Wilful Lies,"
I'm wearying of armies, forts and
mines and fighting crews,
I want to see the old familiar head-
lines in the news!

The German Obsession

(Hamilton Herald)
To what extent the Prussian idea that it is Germany's destiny to dominate the world has obsessed the German mind, is indicated by a letter written by Herr C. A. Patzig, a former member of the reichstag, to his married daughter in Chicago. It was published in a Chicago German paper and reprinted in Der Courier, a German weekly published in Regina. Herr Patzig is a member of the National Liberal party, but his letter shows that his sentiments are anything but liberal, judged by our standards of liberalism. Indeed they are the sentiments of the Prussian Junker class, and of the Prussian war party. "Which people is to be supreme on this terrestrial ball?" That, according to this German Liberal, is the question to be decided by the present war.

"The idea that people may be left to themselves," he continues, "is exploded. Just as each of the different peoples must itself have a ruler, so does the development of peoples. If it is to be progressive, demand that one of them shall exercise sovereignty. Yes, indeed, sovereignty. And for this reason the die has been cast, and had to be cast, to decide whether the Anglo-Saxon, the Pan-Slav or the continental German should fill this office."

Tommy Atkins' Style

New York Sun.
"What strikes me, continental troops most is our soldiers' gaiety," says Mr. Geoffrey Young, an English writer who has had good opportunities of observation. Several illustrations are given of Tommy's jollity on the field. German guns are called by nicknames such as "Jack Johnson," "Old Coal Box," and "Black Maria." A deep toned gun is called "Old Coughpot," and when the soldiers covered an armored train with cables for protection they called it "Harry Mary." A soldier wrote after an office of beer, "I almost fainted at the name."

The Czar's Appeal

Toronto Star.
One of the most convincing things in the German White Book is an appeal from the Czar of Russia to the Kaiser. It is in these words:

"I am sure that you are back in Germany. In this serious moment I ask you urgently to help me. A disgraceful war has been declared on a weak nation; the indignation at this, which I fully share, is immense in Russia. I foresee that soon I can no longer withstand the pressure that is being brought to bear upon me, and that I shall be forced to adopt measures which will lead to war. In order to prevent such a calamity as a European war I ask you, in the name of our old friendship, to do all that is possible for you to prevent your ally from going too far."

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Wellington and the Prussians.

(London Chronicle.)
Wellington found reason to complain of the conduct of the Prussians when they were setting with him against the French in 1815. "The Prussian army started with double my force," he told Palmerston, "but by the time they reached Paris I was as strong as they were, though I had received no reinforcements, and they had not lost any great number in battle. I brought 60,000 to Paris, and they no more. The system of individual plunder proved the destruction of the Russian army and their discipline was so relaxed that their numbers rapidly diminished." Palmerston adds that in 1815 Paris Blicher's army crossed the line that Wellington meant to take, they having got before him while he halted to take Canby. He advanced through a tract of country which the Prussians had actually been starved out of, and yet he found no difficulty in obtaining supplies. The inhabitants, who had deserted their villages at the approach of the Prussians, returned the moment our troops came up, and confidence being restored, provisions followed of course."

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THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT "NEW ARMY OF GERMANY"

Men thought to be fresh troops are really reservists summoned to first battle line.

Bordeaux, Oct. 19 (4 p.m.)—The Germans have been bringing up lately such great numbers of troops to repair their losses in the recent fighting, which appear here to have been unusually heavy, that persistent reports have been in circulation to the effect that a new German army of one million men was advancing against France.

According to advices received in official quarters, such is not the case. The troops in question belong to the reserve forces, and are constantly being sent up from regimental depots to fill the gaps in the troops on the fighting line.

The German night attack at Craon was evidently an attempt to draw the French in dark lines—Ottawa Citizen.

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