

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1915.

"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.

TRIST VS. CAVELL

When the steamer New York of the American line docked in New York a few days ago she had as a passenger a young man who stands as a living testimony to the magnanimity of British rule. Kenneth Triest, a Princeton student, came to Canada and enlisted in the British navy as a wireless operator. While serving on a battleship in September last he was arrested as a German spy, fairly tried, found guilty and sentenced to death. The Department of State in the United States government bustled itself in his case and many prominent Americans also exerted themselves to save him. It was shown that young Triest had been subject to periods of insanity and this was strongly urged as an argument that he was not responsible for the action which led to his arrest and conviction.

Probably his most notable champion was Col. Theodore Roosevelt, ex-president of the United States, who, with characteristic energy, placed the case before the British government. The British authorities agreed to allow Triest to return to America, provided his father would go to England and take charge of him. This was done and the young man is now in his home in New York.

The manner in which the British government handled the Triest case stands out in direct contrast to the brutality and duplicity displayed by German authorities in the case of Edith Cavell. That heroic young woman had committed no offence of which she could be condemned to death. Triest, on the other hand, was guilty of espionage and as a spy merited the punishment prescribed by military law. Yet, because it was claimed that he was not always responsible for his actions, British justice was tempered with British mercy and the unfortunate young man restored to his parents.

Britain loses nothing by her humane treatment of this case. On the contrary she has gained the admiration of the whole civilized world. A good idea of the light in which her action is viewed in comparison with the German crime in the case of Edith Cavell is afforded by a letter written by Theodore Roosevelt to the lawyer who, during the negotiations, acted as counsel for the family of the accused young man. Mr. Roosevelt after announcing that Triest would be permitted to go home with his father contains the following:

"Mr. Triest should bring him to me and give me the opportunity to explain to him in the presence of his father and of yourself the terrible character of the offence he has committed and the heavy load of obligation he and his family are under to the British government. I wish him to understand that the offence in his case is not only an offence against the laws of nations, but an offence against the laws of honor as understood by gentlemen, an offence which, if it had not been committed when his mind was unbalanced, would unfit him for association with any soldier or of a high standard of professional and personal probity and honor. Moreover, he should understand and appreciate the contrast between the conduct of the British government in his case and the conduct of the German government in permitting and sanctioning what in order to be truthful I can only describe as the butchery of Miss Cavell."

"Miss Cavell was butchered for actions such as were taken by hundreds, probably by thousands of women in our civil war, and it never entered the heads of either the Union or Confederate governments that it was possible so much as even to consider putting to death these women. The execution of Miss Cavell was a deed of black horror, and when I saw the account of it I confess that I did not believe the British government would be inclined to show mercy to young Triest. For, of course, the British government had a thousandfold more justification for insisting upon the execution of Triest than the German government had for putting to death Miss Cavell. The boy should be made to understand the mercy and magnanimity with which the British government has treated him."

"Sincerely yours,
"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

The Triest case will stand as a monument to British magnanimity and generosity. The Cavell murder puts but a darker stain on the escutcheon of Germany's honor.

WHY NOT VON BERNSTORFF?

American newspapers while rejoicing that the recall of the naval and military attaches of the German embassy in the United States had been demanded, express surprise that Von Bernstorff, himself, is not also placed in the list of undesirable. It is held that Captain Boy-Ed and Von Papen were simply held to account by the United States for doing what the American government had known about for more than a year. Their offence was not of recent origin but ever since the outbreak of war they had been flagrantly guilty of improper activities in behalf of their home government. Yet it is only now that the authorities at Washington have thought it necessary to have them removed.

The Boston Transcript protests vigorously against discrimination that removes minor sinners and permits the arch-villain of all, to remain as the official representative of the German empire to the free people of the United States. The Transcript says:

"Boy-Ed and Von Papen go, Von Bernstorff, their master, stays. Von Bernstorff is where he is because, as ambassador to England, he had laid there the foundation of a diplomatic warfare against that country which he could continue to the best advantage from our shores. The operations of all these German diplomats are as much a part of the war as are the 42-centimetre guns or the poison gas. Their activities have little reference to the United States. We are merely a convenient emplacement. They are trouble-makers for us as well as soldiers for Germany. Boy-Ed and Von Papen should be followed by Von Bernstorff. He is the chief offender."

Of course it is just possible that if the United States government made a demand for the removal of Von Bernstorff, Germany would reply by handing passports to Mr. Gerard the United States ambassador accredited to Berlin. Possibly Germany desires just such an opportunity. While it would be most unfortunate should the United States become embroiled with Germany, yet it does not appear that Mr. Gerard has rendered invaluable service to his government while in the Kaiser's capital. At least that is the view of the Transcript, which caustically asks why he is kept in Berlin. Is it merely to note the insulating silence of the German government in regard to such crimes as the Lusitania disaster? One thing is certain. After the war is over the relations between the United States and Germany will never be quite the same. The American people, take them as a whole, are safe and sane white men, and they are possessed of quite as much pride in their national honor as any other nation. The events of this war may not prove sufficient to move them to open conflict with Germany, but there will always be a smouldering resentment which cannot but work to the future prejudice of the Teutonic people. And Germany cannot afford to add to her enemies. While it might be good politics for her to anger the United States to the point of open rupture in order that she might cry for peace on the ground that she was single-handed opposing the armed might of the world, yet in the years of peace to come German prestige will suffer terribly as the result of the mistakes and crimes for which the Kaiser and his advisers have been responsible.

What The British Fleet Has Done

It is hard for the landsman to realize that the silent pressure of Sea Power may decide the ultimate issue of the Great War without any matched and pitched battle whatever.

It has been said that one single error in the Fleet might end the history of England; yet men have asked in wonder and scepticism—where is the Fleet? What is it doing? Where are those boasted monsters of mystery that slip in and out of the fog, the watch-dogs of the Empire, bound whither and whence no man knows? Isn't this policy of secrecy being maintained too rigidly? We, the public, have paid the bill; and it has been a whale of a bill—£1,000,000 in 1905 for dreadnoughts, £1,500,000 in 1906 for dreadnoughts plus some new wrinkles in guns and plating and speed; £2,700,000 in 1910 for super-dreadnoughts, with such speed and

hitting power as the world has never before known. We've paid the bill and whooped huzzas, and trusted the fate of the Empire to the fleet. What's the Fleet doing? We have a right to know.

Just what the Fleet means to England is best appreciated when you remember that the German naval base is less than 375 miles from London, or 560 miles from the Firth of Forth, which is the base for the English North Sea Fleet. Put it another way! It would take the German Fleet less time to reach England than it would take a New Yorker to hop on the train and reach Montreal. To be explicit, the fleets of the two greatest rival powers are only sixteen hours apart. Maxim says that a European power could land 200,000 men on the Atlantic shores of the United States a month before a defensive force—naval and land—could be mobilized to repel invasion. If that danger exists for the United States—300 miles, or ten days, away from hostile base—how much greater is the danger to European Powers at war only sixteen hours apart!

What the Fleet has been doing has already been guardedly answered by Premier Asquith. The fact that England has not been invaded is the silent work of the mysterious Fleet; and it hasn't been negative work. It has been positive, though every move has been shrouded in mystery and secrecy. The Fleet has guarded the transport of 2,500,000 men. It has brought home more than half a million invalids. It has protected the carrying of 3,000,000 tons of food and supplies for Great Britain. It has made safe the conveying of 800,000 horses. It has ensured the Allies' supplies and munitions to the value of a billion and a half dollars. It has patrolled and policed the sea lanes of the world for a year and a half; so, though the most colossal war that ever shook the world is in progress, the remotest sea lane outside the mined areas is safe as in times of peace.—From "What Sea Power Means to England," by A. C. Laut, in the American Review of Reviews for December.

The British Submarine

When the last great battle ended and far off the marital thunder And the tramp of many armies died across the enshrouded scene, Shall be written on the scroll of fame, for coming ages' wonder, All the prowess and the glory of the British Submarine!

How it met the German warships (mighty tongues shall tell the story!) How it struck them and it sank them many fathoms deep below! And how Drake off Nombre, sleeping, swore it carried on the glory Of the British Privateers who sank the galleons long ago!

Then across the old grey hills of Time 'T' immortal tale shall thunder, And the leagues of ocean trumpet what the Fleet of England's been! And the dead, cold hand of Nelson shall salute with pride and wonder All the daring and the splendor of the British Submarine! C. J. S.

REGARDING RETURNED SOLDIERS

Special to The Standard
Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 6.—Every week for the next three months 150 Canadian soldiers who have been either discharged or invalided will be brought back to this country. The military hospitals commission and the various organizations throughout the Dominion for helping returned soldiers will thus know what to expect and will be better able to make the necessary preparations. The men who are discharged will have to be provided with suitable work and those who are invalided will go to their friends or to the convalescent homes.

LABOR TROUBLE MAY TIE UP HARVESTING OF PORTO RICO SUGAR CROP

San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 6.—With the largest sugar crop in the island's history to be harvested, and with the grinding season barely a month ago,



Don't go home without
Conan's Maple Syrup

Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.

Mr. Higgins rang our bell late last night saying he would like to see pop, and pop came down in the parlor and Mr. Higgins took a lawning piece of paper out of his pocket, saying, 'Is just a little petishin I wood like you to sine, Mr. Potts.'

It looks like a pretty big petishin to me, sed pop.
O, yes, seerly evvrybody elts awn the block has sined it, sed Mr. Higgins, was I ment was, the matter is ony of sile importans but I wood like to get your signature to it.

Well, gess there wout be anything hard about that, sed pop. Id rather sine petishins than eet, sining petishins is the best thing I do, Im a grate littel petishin sinner, wat is it, a petishin to have the street paved agen, goodniss nos it nosed it.

No, not that, tracky, sed Mr. Higgins.
Perhaps a petishin to have moor placemen around this way at nite awn account of awl the robberies, sed pop.

No, not precisely, sed Mr. Higgins, see, heers ware Mr. Simkins sined it, and heers ware Mr. Rorer sined it in fact, noboddy has refused so far.

Far be it from me to be the ony dissenting voice, sed pop, but at the same time, much as I love to sine petishins, I cant help feeling a sille curiosity as to jest wat petishin I am sining, I no its weak of me, but thats the way I am.

Then you have anuthr thawt coming, sed pop. And I took Mr. Higgins to the door and pop went upstairs and rote a lettir to the government.

sugar men are facing serious labor trouble.

A general demand is being made by Santiago Inestras, head of the local labor organization, and representative in Porto Rico of the American Federation of Labor, for an eight hour day and a dollar wage for all agricultural laborers.

The demand for an increased wage follows a general and successful strike during the last harvest, in which it was estimated at the time that 40,000 laborers were engaged. In the end the field laborers returned to work, after an increase of from ten to twenty-five per cent. had been granted them. The average wage following the strike was from seventy to eighty cents a day.

The sugar crop of the past year was in excess of 350,000 tons, and was valued at more than \$30,000,000. It is estimated that the crop due to be harvested will be from twenty to twenty-five per cent. larger than that of last year.

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