

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1916.

"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.

BORDEN, THE MASTER MIND.

As time goes on it becomes increasingly evident that when Canada, in 1911, entrusted the affairs of administration to Sir Robert Borden she called to her service a statesman with a master mind. Hardly had the new premier become settled in his office and accustomed to the various departments of public administration when the country was called upon to face the gravest crisis that could arise in the history of any people or any nation. That emergency was met with a wisdom and absolute control which robbed it of many terrors it might have had. Canada has come through two years of war in which many new and unexpected problems were presented and called for immediate solution.

The war cloud had but appeared above the horizon when the statesmanship of this country divined its true character, and without loss of a moment sent word to the motherland that if war should come to her this daughter nation would be found standing firmly at her side, in proof of which an offer of 20,000 men was made. The promptitude of the Government in this matter clinched the whole case for Canada. It found a responsive chord in the hearts of Canadians everywhere. The Government implemented its promise to the motherland. It caused to be ready against the critical day in France not 20,000 men, but 36,000—a force that saved Calais, with all the train of disaster that the loss of Calais would have entailed. Today Canada's forces at the front or in training number ten times the original strength sent overseas; the Government has steadily pursued its course of supporting to the utmost the war of defense.

There came very early in the war a cry for munitions. British soldiers were being shot down without the guns or the powder and shell with which to make effective reply. What obtained among the British forces was true also with the armies of Britain's allies. The Government of Canada here again gave evidence of the high character of its statesmanship. It summoned the manufacturers of the country, and it said to them: "This war cannot succeed unless our men have guns and munitions. You can, if you will, give great assistance. We know you are engaged upon work that is remote from shell-making; we understand thoroughly that you know little or nothing about the production of shells. But you can help if you will. Will you do it?" And the manufacturers said they would, until more than 400 shops in Canada are helping in this work today. And the work was so well done that recently in the British House of Commons it was announced that Britain and Canada can now supply all the munition needs of the Empire and are wholly independent of outside assistance.

Participation in the war involved the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars in ways that could easily lend themselves to the operation of the unscrupulous grafter and profiteer. There was the danger, as there always is in operations of such magnitude, that some of the money voted by Parliament for the prosecution of war measures would find its way into the pockets of private speculators, but practically nothing of the kind has happened.

Two members of Parliament dabbled in petty graft, and promptly were required to "walk the plank." Aside from this there has been no development of graft, despite the most searching and even bitter hunts for wrongdoing. A fuse contract netted a commission for the brokers who secured it and who organized the handling of the contract, but the royal commission declared this was a usual practice, and found no fault with it. Sir Robert Borden, speaking at Halifax the other day, said:

"I wish to say that if any man in this city, in this province, or in this Dominion, knows of any graft in relation to the Government of Canada, let him bring the charge to my notice, and if an investigation is necessary an investigation will be made without one moment's delay. If proceedings in the courts are required to deal with any public official, those proceedings will be instituted."

This has been the unwavering attitude of the premier toward dishonesty.

est, and the consequence has been the remarkable absence of graft from the war contracts. There has been no lack of will to suggest graft. But the premier's invitation to bring a scintilla of proof to his knowledge has gone without acceptance. We have in this matter alone the evidence of a strong hand. That hand is the hand of Sir Robert Borden. To his possession in these days of great storm and stress Canadians look confidently without respect to politics.

IN SOUTHWEST TORONTO

There can be no mistaking the lesson of Southwest Toronto. When a Conservative candidate, supporting a strong government and appealing to the people on a platform of prohibition, is defeated in a constituency which had not previously elected a Liberal for many years, when his opponent, while not a straight Liberal, though nominated in a Liberal convention, announced as openly as did the opposition candidate in Westmorland, that he was not in favor of prohibition or prohibitory legislation, and when anti-prohibitionists, after the contest, made the statement that they supported the Liberal to "show Premier Hearst where he got off at," as they did in Southwest Toronto on Monday, then it is very evident that the prohibitionists who, without regard to political affiliation, should have rallied to the support of a candidate so particularly their own, fell short in their duty.

In the light of the result in Southwest Toronto and the previous experience in Bruce there will be few to blame Premier Hearst of Ontario if he should conclude that, although asked for it, the people of Ontario do not want prohibition to a degree where they are prepared to forsake their political party to gain it, and after reaching this conclusion should decide that his legislation was stronger than public sentiment or public support and, consequently, prepare to amend it. No government is bound to give the people better legislation than they want and if prohibition is not desired in Ontario—and from the evidence at hand it does not seem to be—then the premier of that province would be perfectly justified in withholding it until a more pronounced opinion in its favor makes itself manifest.

The prohibition advocates of New Brunswick have much cause to think over the result in Southwest Toronto and to compare it with experiences in this province. The first Government candidate to appeal to the people after the passage of prohibitory legislation in New Brunswick—Mr. Mahoney in Westmorland—was defeated, yet there is little doubt that a plebiscite on immediate prohibition in the county of Westmorland would have shown a strong majority vote in its favor. The same result would probably have been shown in the Ontario constituency which on Monday for the first time in many years elected a Liberal.

The Hearst Government in Ontario and the Clarke Government in New Brunswick gave the prohibition people a prohibitory law without the formality of a plebiscite. It is up to the people who benefitted by that legislation to demonstrate that they are not ungrateful. So far they have failed to do so. Consequently there probably is some reason to ask whether, after all, is sentiment in favor of prohibition as strong as its advocates believe; or are the temperance men, having gained their point, losing interest in the whole proposition? The question is one for the temperance workers themselves to decide.

THE NEWSPRINT SITUATION.

Rather unusual conditions have been brought about, as a result of the war, in the newspaper situation, and for the first time in many years the United States tariff is operating in favor of the Canadian consumer. How long and how successfully it will so operate is problematical, for although it is hot customary to introduce amendments to the tariff at every session of Congress, intimation is now made that action may be taken at the earliest opportunity to correct a situation as unique as it was unforeseen.

Because of decreased production

abroad, and an increased foreign market, the newspaper mills of the United States have in the past two years found themselves in enjoyment of a demand much beyond their power to meet. At ordinary times approximately sixty per cent. of the Canadian output is sold in the United States, and as a result of the now practically unlimited and constantly increasing opportunity for export, these Canadian mills are called upon for an even greater proportion of their product. But it is provided by the United States tariff that newspaper of which the fair selling price in the home market is less than two and one half cents per pound, may be admitted free to the United States, while paper selling at home at a higher price than that mentioned, is subject to duty. Consequently, in order that seventy or seventy-five per cent. of their production may enter the United States—free, Canadian millers are content to keep their prices in Canada below two and one half cents per pound. It is more to their advantage to do this than to increase prices in Canada and pay the duty, but how long this condition will continue does not appear, for prices in the United States are going up proportionately with the increasing demand and, no doubt, unless united action is taken to reduce the consumption, a point will eventually be reached at which the Canadian market, at present prices, will become an almost negligible factor. Meanwhile Canadian publishers who have felt the advance only to a minor degree, are enjoying the protection of the United States tariff and hoping that if less fortunate conditions should arise, the Federal Government may come to their assistance with the imposition of an export duty stiff enough to meet the situation.

In the United States, however, the advance in prices has become so serious, and possibilities of an actual shortage of white paper so apparent, that publishers are uniting in their endeavors to eliminate waste and to reduce the gross consumption. New York and Philadelphia newspapers have agreed to lessen the number of pages daily, and by various organizations this movement is being warmly advocated all over the country. In Canada this stage has not yet been reached, for so far the only action has been a more or less desultory attempt on the part of scattered publishers to advance the subscription prices of their papers.

The Kaiser's Latest

(New York Sun.)

The Kaiser is said to have designed the following memorial card to be sent to relatives of German sailors lost in the war:

On the card is a picture of Christ, holding out both hands in blessing over a sinking ship. Surrounding the figure of Christ are the words: "Which stilled the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves and the tumult of the people." Under the picture is this inscription: "To the memory of ———. He died for the Fatherland."

"Wilhelm I. R." The New York Sun suggests that a picture of the Lusitania might be substituted for the sinking ship, with the following instead of the Kaiser's inscription: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." On the reverse side, to complete the memorial, this warning might appropriately appear: "And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were cast into the sea."

Farewell

Sir Henry Newbolt, in London Times. O Mother with unbowed head, Hear them across the sea; The farewell of the dead— The dead who died for thee. Greet them again with tender words and grave. For, saying these, themselves they could not save.

To keep the house unharmed, Their fathers built so fair, Deeming endurance armed Better than brute despair, They found the secret of the word that saith, "Service is sweet, for all true life is death."

So greet thou well thy dead, Across the homeless sea, And be thou comforted, Because they died for thee. Far off they served, but now their deed is done, Forvermore their life and thine are one.

HILLSBORO

Hillsboro, August 21.—Misses Grace and Lillian Sherwood, who have been guests of friends here, have returned to their home in Fredericton. Mr. Hannibal Stevens was in Moncton on Thursday last attending the funeral of his brother, the late Edward K. Stevens. Mr. Sawyer and Miss Bentley, of Winchester, Mass., were recently

Little Benny's Note Book

Us fellows played court room this afternoon, the court room being my front steps and me being the judge, Puds Simkins being arrested for murdering Ed Wernick, and I sat on the top step and sed, Bring in the prisoners.

Yes sir, sed Sid Hunt and Skinny Martin, being the plesemen, and they went in the next store vestibule and browt out Puds Simkins and stood him up in front of the steps.

Bring in the corps of the murdered man, I sed. And the 3 plesemen went back in the vestibule and carried out Ed Wernick, skinny holding him by the head and Sid holding him by the feet, and laid him down on the pavement, and I sed, Wares the witness?

Being Sam Crows, and he got up and saluted, and I sed, Witnise, do you rockernize this corps?

Yes sir, it ust to be Ed Wernick, sed the witness.

Are you sure? I sed, this is a very important occasion.

Im pretty sure, sed the witness. And he went and stuck his finger in Ed Wernicks stumick and the corps yelled Hay, cut that out.

Yes, Im sure, I rockernize his voice, sed the witness, and I sed, Well then persued with the witness.

I saw Puds Simkins shoot him 3 times, sed Sam, and the judge sed, Wat with? and Sid sed, Ferst with a pistol, and then with a gun and then with a cannon.

Prisoner, wats you got to say for yourself before I pemsents you gilty, sed the judge.

Innocent, sed Puds.

Has a liar, he killed me, sed the corps.

That proves it, I sentsents you to be electrocuted, I sed. Wich he was, everybody helpin gto electrocute him, inkloding the corps, which we did it by putting a pece of cold ice down his back, the prisoner making more noise than if he was being electrocuted the regular way, and then we got up a game of baby in the hat.

guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Sherwood.

Rev. Miner Cleveland, of Wilmot, N. H., is the guest of his sister, Mrs. Joseph Irving.

Miss Marjorie Erb has returned to her home in Fredericton.

Miss Jene Marshman, of Boston, was the guest of Mrs. Walter Slater last week.

Messrs. Lloyd West and E. B. Irving were in Moncton on Sunday.

Miss Gladys Schurman, of Amherst, is the guest of Rev. and Mrs. S. W. Schurman.

Mrs. Brighton and son, John, of Fall River, Mass., were guests in town on Sunday.

Mr. C. W. Steeves has returned to Boston.

C. W. McLatchy spent Sunday here. Rev. Miner Cleveland, of Wilmot, N. H., occupied the pulpit of the First Baptist church on Sunday evening.

Miss Kathleen McLatchy has returned to Moncton, having been the guest of Dr. and Mrs. B. J. Dash.

Gunner Charles O. Blake, of Petawawa Military Camp, Ont., has been the guest for a few days of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Blake.

Miss Fraser, of Moncton, was the guest of Hon. and Mrs. C. J. Osmen. "Granlinden" last week.

Miss Lulu Duffy has returned to Sussex.

Miss Garda Robinson spent Sunday at her home in Moncton.

Miss Mollie Lockhart, of Moncton, is the guest of Miss Alice Thistle.

The Ladies Village Club was entertained last Wednesday at Weldon, at the home of Miss Sara Steeves.

Miss Muriel Barrett, of Moncton, is visiting friends here.

Mrs. James Connor, of Boston, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Frank Taylor.

Mrs. A. B. Lauder and daughter, Miss Mary, are guests of Moncton friends.

Miss Nan Carlisle, of Picton, N. S., is visiting friends here.

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