

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1918

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## THE ALLIED TASK.

Sir Eric Geddes believes U-boats are being sunk as fast as they can be built, but on the other hand merchant ships are not being built as fast as they are being sunk by the U-boats. He therefore calls for "ships and yet more ships" to carry food and munitions and men. He appeals especially to the United States to speed up her shipbuilding programme. If the launching of new ships can overtake the destruction of those in service, the U-boat problem, in his opinion will have been solved. Until that is assured the danger will not pass.

Lord Riddell adds another note of warning and appeal. There must be greater production of food, or the Allies cannot hold out for a prolonged struggle. The seriousness of the food situation cannot be too strongly emphasized. There is also the question of men. Mr. Bonar Law says that the government fully realizes the grave importance of conserving man-power to the utmost, which is another way of saying that more men are needed.

From every standpoint therefore, the need of the Allies putting forth the greatest possible effort to provide more food, more ships and more men is very urgent. America must provide the most of these, and Canada must do her share. We hope that internal troubles in Germany will increase and paralyze the arm of the government, but it will not do to take anything for granted. The war must be waged unflinchingly, for Germany knows of our need of ships and food, and may fight on for a long time, hoping that her enemies will be exhausted and their troubles force them to abandon the struggle.

## WHERE DEMOCRACY COUNTS.

The Toronto Globe makes an interesting comparison between the autocratic type of efficiency as represented by Germany and the democratic type as represented by Britain and France. Admitting the wonderful efficiency of German vocational and technical training, and the application of science to industry, as well as the great organization for commerce, the Globe points out that there is one great defect. It says: "The weakness of Germany's boasted organizing power is its autocratic character. It is an inverted pyramid. The direction and initiative come from a specially chosen few, a hierarchy of talent, as in the German political and military systems. The German people are regimented in every department of life. The precise and mechanical type of efficiency produced by German conditions contrasts with that in a democratic country, which draws upon all classes for ideas and leadership. The moral qualities of personal independence, of private judgment, and of self-reliance developed by free institutions have enabled the Western democracies to meet German preparedness, and to beat German efficiency on its own ground. The rapid improvisation of Britain and France would not have been possible if the average Briton or Frenchman had not been in the habit of thinking for himself, and had not breathed the atmosphere of liberty. The masses have not been the initiative drilled out of them by a ruling caste. In Great Britain, for instance, the heads of most of the departments and sub-departments of government today, who control the vast machinery of war organization, are men who had no experience of public life or service before the war. They have come to the front by their merit. Only in the army is the door closed against the non-professional element, but there is a formidable agitation for the admission of civilians, who have proved their capacity in the war, to the higher military commands. In all her activities Germany depends upon the will and mind of the few, in the privileged circle and has no reserves outside of it. Democracy has justified itself in war, its duty after the war will be to adapt its organizing faculty more effectively than in the past to social and industrial problems."

## WELFARE WORK.

There has been some local discussion of late concerning welfare work for the benefit of working girls. An attempt to do work of this kind was made by the Playground Association with its Girls' Club, but though some degree of success was achieved the results were not sufficient to warrant its continuance. To succeed called for better quarters and more funds, and these were not available. There are several agencies of a limited character which aim to meet some of the needs of working girls, but there is no large and concerted effort. The most active and successful agency in many cities is the Y. W. C. A., and this organization is now seeking plans in the life of St. John. In many large cities there is a great Y. W. C. A. building, providing for the physical, mental and moral care of young women, and the work done is of the greatest value. In Halifax there is an association, but it is without a building of its own. It has, however, a general secretary, with, at present, a skilled helper from Toronto, and has secured suitable rooms, and opened a Girls' Club to be a social centre for working girls. There is a reception room, rest and reading room,

kitchen and office for the Y. W. C. A. secretary. A trained worker will also be engaged. Of the nature of the work the following from an interview with Miss Glass, the general secretary, gives interesting information—

"The idea is to organize all the girls into industrial clubs. Each large firm of the city or where girls are employed, will have a club of its own with its own officers and all the clubs will be formed into a big federation industrial club, with headquarters at the Girls' Club. A central committee will be formed of the presidents of each industrial club and one representative. In this way the responsibility will be thrown on the girls. The standard of our association, you know, is to make an all round girl, to develop four sides, the physical, intellectual, spiritual and service. This we try to do in our Girls' Club. We try to make up to the working girl the home life that she misses and needs, and I want the club to be a home and a happy one for the Halifax girls away from their own homes."

In a word, the aim is to organize the girls, give them leadership, and provide them with a social centre where all the influences are good and helpful. It should not be necessary to pay rent for such centres. They should be provided in the school buildings, and in this connection a letter written by Mr. B. Osgood Morse to the Halifax Herald, pleading for a wider use both of church and school buildings for social welfare work is of special interest and value. After contending that church buildings should be planned and built for community service, Mr. Morse turns to the school and says—

"But what shall be said of the public school houses which represent the last word of democracy and of fitness for the use of a democratic people? How many of these were planned with even a thought to community needs and betterment? And answer says how few! Throughout our province there have been of recent years a number of expensive school houses for which the people have been taxed heavily for a long period of years. These school houses may be admirably adapted to the use of the school during the few hours of the day while they are so used. But there has not been a thought of community service in their planning. It has never entered into the minds of those charged with their building that these school houses, the property of every person in the community, might be used for community betterment, and so they have not been at all adapted to such work. It is time that we awake to realize that we are living in a new age which demands that the community service shall be the outstanding characteristic of public utilities. There is no plausible excuse for the perpetuation of the conditions of which I have spoken. We have in this province a supposedly highly efficient education department, but when the call is for practical things there seems to be a dullness of response that is amazing. This educational department should be able to give the lead in public school architecture that is adapted to the use of the community betterment. We are living in a day calling for initiative on the part of those charged with public services. It will not do for such officials to longer hide themselves behind the excuse of the department. Let them come out and give the people a lead, and in no place is that need more urgent than in the matter of school buildings adapted to the idea of community betterment. The church and public school buildings should be planned and adapted to community needs so that they may become the social clearing houses of the community, and thus prevent the multiplication of needless public buildings and stand for the uplift of the community in every respect."

The Standard and Globe were much worried because Mr. Teed was not invited to be present at the closing of the Valley Railway enquiry to show what the Hon. W. P. Jones was brutally dragging up and down the stage. Hon. Mr. Jones has spoiled the story by informing the Standard and Globe that he had withdrawn from the case.

The situation in Russia is still such that no stable government is apparently in sight. The Bolsheviks have more trouble at home than they have with the Germans, and they could not at present bind their own country to any international agreement. They still appear to be, however, the dominant factor.

The German military authorities have shaken the mailed fist at the workmen of Germany. The latter are told that if they persist in striking they will be treated without mercy. The threat may suffice for the present.

The Greek army is at last to be mobilized. This means that conditions in that country have greatly improved, and that supplies and equipment are now available. The Greeks may yet do some vigorous fighting for the Allied cause.

Argentina has severed relations with Germany. German influence in South America will hereafter be a far less important factor in commerce than in the years before the war.

## LIGHTER VEIN

Psychological Moment.

He—I think the psychological moment has arrived to speak to your father, darling.

She—Oh, Percy.

He—If I ask him for your hand do you think he will kick?

She—I am sure he won't—he has the gout.

Bright Youngster.

"Ethel, can't you tell us the shape of the world?" asked teacher dear earnestly.

"Yesum; it's in a pretty bad shape just now," replied the precocious child who had heard her daddy say a few things at home.

Or Blow a Shoe-horn.

Mrs. Johnstone—Can't stay long, Mrs. Snow; I just come to see if you wouldn't join de mission band.

Mrs. Snow—Fo' de lan' sakes, honey, doan come to me! I can't even play a mouf organ.

A Pica.

"And why should I give you a kiss?" "Scientists say a man needs sweets."

"What of it?"

"You go without sugar. Now's your time to encourage patriotism, girlie."

## WAR THRIFT AND DAYLIGHT SAVING

(Halifax Chronicle).

The United States Committee to march ahead of Canada in the adoption of daylight saving time, has already approved of the innovation and a bill is now before the house of representatives for bringing daylight saving into operation.

The press of the United States is strongly supporting this bill, including big New York Times. It is in line with the war spirit, and it endorses learning and learning to like, it probably will become a habit that will be retained even after the war is over.

"While the nation is learning the lessons of war saving it should not look back the big saving in daylight that would be effected by the passage of the bill now before the house."

Providing to be made for the selection of the sun an hour earlier in the morning is a good one for any summer, as has been proven by every community which has tried it, but it is of increased value now that the war has laid its demands for economy in all things upon us."

Like many other things that are new, and, therefore, open to suspicion, the daylight saving plan has as the Regina Leader, which has seen its success in its own city, even applied locally, heretofore, to the daylight saving plan, and it is recognized as a war necessity and a substantial saving to the public service.

Seems assured in the United States, and we hope in Canada, as it has already triumphed in Europe. It is in line with the war spirit, and it endorses learning and learning to like, it probably will become a habit that will be retained even after the war is over.

Extension of the civil service act to all branches of the outside service is the main reform under consideration. This was announced in the programme issued by the union government in October, shortly after its formation, in these words:

Civil service reform, with a view to extending the principle of the present civil service act to the outside service, and thus to abolish patronage and to make appointments to the public service upon the sole standard of merit."

An official statement deals with the proposed reforms. It reads:

At the time of the announcement by the prime minister on behalf of the union government that civil service reform would be carried out, the civil service commissioners were asked to make a report outlining the steps and measures which would be necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect the policy of the government in this regard. It was impossible for members of the government to take up the subject, but the absence of the prime minister for about three weeks after the election the subject was taken up by the Hon. Mr. McKenna with the members of the civil service commission. Since

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