

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 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.

"A CRISIS IN CANADA."

With a fine affection of patriotic concern the Evening Times has discovered that Canada faces a crisis with which the Borden Government has failed to cope and, in the mind of the Times, the only remedy lies in the selection of a coalition ministry which would, presumably, contain at least several of the gentlemen in whom the people of this country voted want of confidence on September 21st, 1911.

While there is no desire to connect Mr. Pugsley with the Times' discovery, yet it must be admitted that when Grit newspapers of the Times' stripe want anything for the gentlemen for whom they affect to speak they manage to discover that the country faces a crisis from which only their particular friends can save it. Thus it is that while the Empire is convulsed by the most terrible war of all time, and the Canadian duty should be to give the utmost support to the administration of the day, the Times endeavors to create the impression that the government has not realized its opportunity and has fallen far short of what the people expected.

The most serious count in the Times' charge is that in awarding contracts for war supplies, and selecting officers to command the Canadian forces, the government has been influenced by considerations of political importance rather than by merit. The government, says the Times, should have agreed to recognize neither Liberals nor Conservatives in war time, and then unflinchingly continues to say that

"with such an understanding the patronage list would go by the board, and a man would not be favored either in getting an army contract or a commission in the army by the fact that he had been a Conservative in politics. Merit and honesty would rule, the country would get value for its money, and there would be no discrimination based on partisan considerations in selecting officers for the army."

From this remarkable statement it is reasonable to infer that the Times has found grave cause for dissatisfaction with some of the officers selected by the government to hold important military posts and is paving the way for further criticism of these gentlemen by the contention that they were selected not because of their military ability but as a reward for political activities.

In approaching consideration of the merit or demerit of the Times' contention one should first search the evidence nearest at hand. Naturally, New Brunswick is most interested at this time in the fortunes of the principal military unit we have with us—the 26th New Brunswick Infantry, and merely to keep the record straight we invite attention to the chief officers in that unit. The battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. James L. McAvity, and as far as The Standard knows he is a competent officer; certainly we have never suggested that his appointment was due to the fact that he has been a life long Liberal, or happens to be a brother of one of the chief owners of the Telegraph and Times. Up to a short time ago his second in command was Major Malcolm McAvity, who has been promoted to the office of brigade major. Does the Times suggest that this promotion is due to that officer's relationship to one of its owners? Major A. E. G. MacKenzie was a Liberal candidate for a New Brunswick constituency in a recent election. Was his activity at the polls responsible for his selection for important duty in the service of the Empire? We do not think so, and we doubt if any of the officers named would agree with the Times' suggestion that in their appointments there was "discrimination based on partisan considerations."

In the case of the New Brunswick officers with the first contingent there is equal opportunity to disprove the Times' base insinuation. Does that newspaper dare to suggest that Major Frank Magee, who saved the guns for the Canadians at a crucial time, owes his appointment to political influence rather than military ability? Did Dr. Duval, already wounded in the service of his country, secure his majority through "pull" or ability? What was

the sinister political influence at work in the case of Major Powers, of Major Mercereau, of Lt. Col. Guthrie, Lt. Col. McLaren, Lt. Col. McLeod, Captain Sturdee, Capt. Morgan, or a score of others who could be named?

When the Times makes insinuations such as those of last evening it should have facts to substantiate them. Can that newspaper point to any officer in New Brunswick, qualified and expressing a desire to go to the front, who was refused because he was a Liberal? As a matter of fact the recommendation of officers by the present Minister from New Brunswick is in striking contrast to the course adopted by the late government in compelling Col. Beverley R. Armstrong to surrender his commission and go to South Africa as a private when he wanted to serve his country. In that day it was politics first, but the Times dares not state that the same condition existed in the selection of New Brunswick's officers either now at the front or waiting to go.

Now we come to the matter of war contracts and, here, too, we should be guided by the evidence nearest at hand. Does the Times know that large supplies for the medical services of the army have been purchased from the St. John branch of the Canadian Drug Company, whose manager, Mr. John Russell, Jr., is not altogether unknown in the Times office? Looking across Market Square we find the firm of H. Horton & Sons, Ltd., doing admirable work on saddlery contracts, in spite of the fact that the firm is Liberal in its political leanings. We also imagine that if the editor of the Times were to go direct to headquarters and enquire of Mr. George McAvity he would be informed that the McAvity firm had received large contracts for munitions of war? The Wilson Box Co. has also acknowledged the receipt of profitable war contracts. Did political considerations govern these cases, or were the contracts meritoriously awarded? The Times is welcome to the solution which best pleases it, but we think it will find itself in deep water in any case. There is plenty more evidence, similar in character, waiting for the Times if it desires its production. Possibly, however, it would prefer a return to the days when Sir Frederick Borden placed many militia department contracts through the assistance of his son-in-law, Mr. L. S. Macoun, a period in political history with which the owners of the Times should be fairly familiar.

The attack made by the Times is merely a piece with the false reports the Telegraph has been circulating regarding the retirement of Hon. Mr. Hazen. What that newspaper wants is not a coalition government but a return to the graft days when "dog biscuit" were served to the Canadian troops in South Africa in the guise of emergency rations. It would include in that "coalition" government, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the patriot, who had to be forced by the indignation of loyal members of both political parties to send Canadian soldiers to fight against the Boers.

There is no necessity of a coalition government in Canada. Conditions in Great Britain are different. While people will give to the Asquith Government full credit for having risen to the occasion and grappled with the situation as it exists, the fact remains that the Liberal party in England has not been the most Imperial party. The Conservative party in the Mother Country has never minimized the danger of a conflict with Germany but constantly gressed upon the government and the nation the fact that an emergency stared them in the face.

In reconstructing his government, Mr. Asquith is calling to his councils men who have never taken the attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the German Emperor always desired peace, and, in fact, in discarding his colleagues, one of the most notable cases was that of Lord Haldane, who goes simply because he admired German philosophy and culture. Judged from this standard if Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been a member of the British ministry he would have to go into the discard for the same reason.

In its consideration of the Canadian

"crisis" does the Times say that the government of this country would be strengthened by the admission of Mr. Carvell with his pratings of the Canadian militia and his contempt for General French? Would the councils of the nation become more powerful by the inclusion of men like Mr. Oliver, Mr. Pugsley, Mr. A. K. McLean, Mr. Ned McDonald, Mr. Kye, Mr. Verville, Sir Rodolphe Lemieux, Mr. Graham, and others, who filibustered with the Borden naval proposals, denied the existence of an emergency and deprived Canada of being represented by three battleships on the Empire's fighting lines? Would it strengthen the cause of Empire to have Sir Wilfrid Laurier announce that the keels for the Canadian ships were to be laid down in Montreal, while the saccharine Mr. Pugsley was promising the same ships to St. John? Or are the men who protested against the purchase of submarines by Sir Richard McBride apt to give strength to the nation through the medium of a coalition ministry?

The Times expresses entire dissatisfaction with the present government and offers a coalition as a remedy. Now let it come down to specific cases. If it desires to engage in this sort of discussion The Standard is willing to oblige, but the Times' future utterances should contain a greater percentage of truth and a smaller element of ignorance and political spleen.

THE N. T. R. AND ST. JOHN

Discussing the National Transcontinental Railway and its relation to St. John, Mr. Walter E. Foster said at a meeting of the Board of Trade, last evening, that he desired to deal with the matter from a non-political standpoint. We are willing to forget that Mr. Foster has accepted the call of a Liberal convention to be a candidate in a constituency in this province and to give him full credit for his wish to treat the matter under discussion only from the viewpoint of St. John, but it is a pity that his interest in St. John was not sufficiently keen some few years ago to lead him to join in the protest against the New Brunswick routing of the National Transcontinental Railway in the first place.

Had the desires of the Conservative party at that day prevailed the railway would have been built by the natural route down the valley of the St. John river, instead of to Moncton, and there would have been no room for doubt as to the part St. John would have played in the development planned. Mr. Fielding and "the solid eighteen" from Nova Scotia, however, had the influence with the Liberal government and the road was built to Moncton at their demand.

However, the situation is one that must be met, although its aspect has very largely changed from the days when it was thought necessary to make every possible concession to get the National Transcontinental to St. John. It must be remembered that the Grand Trunk Development Co. has no connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company except by name, but does include several gentlemen said to be rather close to the Telegraph and Times.

The National Transcontinental was a colossal blunder in which millions of dollars of the public money were wasted or worse. Despite the protests of the late Mr. Blair, who held that the road, if built at all, should come to St. John, the line was laid out to Moncton and it is not on record that the Liberals who today are loud in expressions of concern lest this port should not benefit from the traffic of that road, displayed either interest or energy in aiding Mr. Blair with his protest. Mr. Pugsley or Mr. Carvell did not stand up for New Brunswick in that day, although both of these gentlemen defended the N. T. R. steals. The N. T. R. will ever stand as a monument to the graft and incompetence of the Liberal government, the remnant of which the Times would seek to include in its suggested coalition administration.

So excessive was the cost of that railway that the G. T. P. Company refused to take over the eastern section of it. The New Brunswick portion of the road is being operated by the Intercolonial Railway and the Valley Railway by the same system. And there is no doubt in view of the repeated statements of Mr. Hazen that the work at Courtenay Bay is to be accelerated rather than abandoned, that the government will take such steps as it deems necessary to secure for St. John a full share of all development to come through that agency.

Despite the political disclaimer, we are strongly of the opinion that the whole movement of the Board of Trade, in this case, emanates from certain gentlemen who are desirous of embarrassing the present Government. Several activities of the Board of Trade have given ground for the impression that it has at times been notoriously partisan as a Grit body and the disclaimer in the present case does not tend to change or remove that impression.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

I awlmost made a sent today, tumbling head from school and passing a house with a pair in front of it, and a lady opened the front door, saying, Little boy, Little boy.

Meaning me, and I stopped and sed, Mam.

Wood you mind tumbling in hear and making this letter for me, sed the lady. And she held out a letter, and I started to open the iron gate to go in and get it, and a big farsee looking bull dawg jumped out of sumware and ran up to the gate and started to bark and show his teeth like anything, and I quick shut the gate agen and stayed on the outside.

Kum rite in, he wont touch you, sed the lady.

And the bull dawg keep awn barking and looking farser and farser and farser, as if he was saying, Won't I tho, you jest kum in and see.

Yure not afraied of him, are you, sed the lady.

No mam, I sed.

Then wy dont you kum in, sed the lady.

Awn akkount of the dawg, I sed.

But im not dressed to go out to the male box, kum awn in and get the letter and I'll give you a sent, keep quiet, Spike, keep quiet, sed the lady.

Spike beeing the bull dawg, and it keep quiet till I started to open the gate agen and then it jumped up at the gate and carried awn farser than ever.

Wy, I really believe yure afraied of him, sed the lady.

No mam, I got to go sumware, I sed.

And I started to wawk away quick, looking back to see if the bull dawg cood jump ovir the gate aftr me, wich he looked as if he was trying to do.

Beeing how I pritty neer made a cent.

Boat Club Races.

The racing programme of the St. John Power Boat Club will commence on Thursday next when a race will be held over the harbor course at six thirty o'clock. The race scheduled to take place last Saturday was postponed through lack of entries. The race this week will be for motor boats twenty-five feet long and having a horse power of six and under. All entries should be handed in to the secretary of the committee, Mr. Wm. Wright, and it is hoped that a large number of the fast ones will line up on Thursday evening.

26th Battalion.
Company and platoon drill was carried on by the 26th Battalion yesterday morning. During the afternoon several detachments held route marches, while a voluntary detachment attended the funeral of Sgt. Horseman under command of Major C. I. Dunfield.

Yesterday the Construction Corps were engaged in kit inspection and company drill.

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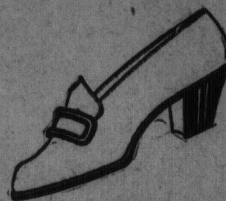
"I understand," said Uncle Bill Botletoop, "that the Turks are total obstainers."

"Yes."

"Well, maybe they are. But I can't see how any total abstainer could think up some of the designs they put in Turkish rugs."

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