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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1915

The Evening Times and Star

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THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE

Mr. Winston Churchill, the American novelist, told the Canadian Club of Toronto the other night that more and more Americans are realising the mistake their country made when she failed to protest against the violation of Belgium. He said further that nothing since the civil war had caused such a shock to patriotic Americans as the discovery that they were not a united people, but that there existed among them a body of so-called Americans who spoke "alien sympathies," and forgot their allegiance to the government under which they lived. This, of course, was a reference to the German-American.

Commenting on Mr. Churchill's speech, the Toronto World quotes the following from the New York World—"It may be improbable, but it is not impossible that soon or late the duty will devolve upon the United States of making the last stand for democracy and free government." The Toronto World very pointedly observes that before such a call would come to the United States the destruction of Britain and her democracies must be accomplished, and it would then be too late for the United States to make a stand. As Mr. Churchill says, she should have made the stand when Belgium was invaded, although it is not yet too late for her to make a stand for what President Wilson has termed "the rights of humanity." Mr. Churchill looks forward to a time when there will be "a closer affiliation of the Anglo-Saxon people, bound together by ideals, not merely of common interest, but of loyalty to truth and frank dealing, and to all that liberty and self-government mean to humanity." Such an affiliation has been the dream of many British as well as Americans, and if it has seemed to fade of late it is because the United States government did not appear to realise that liberty and self-government and the common interests of free nations were threatened by a central military autocracy which sought world-dominion. As time goes on, however, it is made more and more apparent that the great mass of the American people are in sympathy with the Allies, and the destruction of the steamship Ancona, with the loss of more American lives, will bring home still more forcibly the realization that the sooner Germany is crushed the better for "the rights of humanity." As the Toronto World says—"The democratic nations must range themselves together against the embattled hosts of tyranny, autocracy and militarism; for against militarism triumphant, nothing can prevail but the struggle of thirty more generations."

The London Standard, referring to the destruction of the Ancona, declares that in avenging this great crime the Allied fleets should have the sympathy of the American government; and it points out how small a thing is the stoppage of trade by British cruisers compared with the crimes committed by the German and Austrian pirates who destroy the lives of innocent women and children. The Fall Mall Gazette's comment is to the same effect. It says—"Whether England is strictly entitled to inflict a few weeks delay on suspected cargoes becomes a pitifully trivial aside to the wholesale barbarism by which our enemies have again proclaimed 'war code and illustrated their seal for the freedom of the seas.' The sinking of the Ancona and the shelling of her lifeboats recalls the attention of neutrals to the fundamental realities of what the world is fighting about."

The battles of the United States and of every democratic country are being fought by the Allies in this war, and the latest crime committed by the Central Powers must surely make it more clear that our neighbor to the south should put no stumbling block in the way of the Allied fleets.

HUNGER IN GERMANY.

From what source can Germany hope to get a supply of food? The New York Evening Post says—"The Frankfurter Zeitung can only recommend drawing one's belt tighter and hacking a way through. But hacking through to what? The west is out of the question. The hacking process in Russia has come to an end, and the conquest of the Caspian grain lands has not relieved the situation. There is only Serbia now to hack through. When Gen. Mackensen opens the way to Constantinople he has come no nearer to a source of food supply for the beleaguered German people. Asiatic Turkey is hardly in a position to feed the German Empire. Hence that very grim jest by the Frankfurter Zeitung, when it foresees the necessity of the German people 'nourishing' itself on hate."

Hate is a poor substitute for food and drink, but there is now no doubt whatever that Germany's boat that she was self-contained, as far as food supplies are concerned, was without foundation. With all her ingenuity in providing substitutes, and all her organizing ability to conserve food supplies, her own press now admits the gravity of the situation and denounces the government authorities for failure to meet the situation, although the government of course could

not prevent the crop failure of the present year.

In a significant article in the last number of the Quarterly Review, Prof. W. J. Ashley quotes figures to show the great advance in food prices in Germany. He shows that there was an increase of 70 per cent between July 1914 and July 1915, which brought forth the following comment at that time from a German newspaper:—"Everyone who has occasion to observe the facts will perceive that among the working class families the effects of under-nutrition are becoming plainly visible. Prices must be reduced soon, if the working classes are not to suffer serious physical harm."

Prof. Ashley quotes German writers and arrives at the conclusion that Germany is confronted by a very serious condition of affairs in regard to food supply. Since his article was written, the German press has become much more outspoken and it is very clear that the longer the war lasts the more terrible will be the suffering of the people of that country. Add to this the constant drain upon the manhood of the country by the fighting on three fronts and we perceive at once the basis of British confidence in final victory, with peace terms to be dictated by the Allies at Berlin.

St. John soldiers, in camp Sussex, would like to winter in St. John.

A qualified conscription, calling out young unmarried men, may be introduced in the United Kingdom after Nov. 30, if the young men fall in the meantime to come forward and enlist.

The fact that fifty-five Austrian newspapers have been suppressed for discussing the food shortage is very significant. As the winter approaches the pinch of want will be more and more keenly felt there and in Germany.

The men of the 52nd are pleased with St. John and St. John is pleased with them. They are a fine body of soldiers whose conduct is entirely creditable to them.

At St. Andrew's rink tonight Major Guthrie will present to Col. Fowler of the new 104th a sword that went with the old 104th on its historic march to Quebec. It will be a notable event in the local history of the recruiting campaign.

That sixteen youths who were members of the St. John Boys' Club are now in the ranks of the soldiers called for foreign service, and some of them already on the firing line, should cause the citizens of St. John to have a deeper interest in the welfare of that club, which is of the greatest benefit to scores of boys in this city whose evenings without the club would not be so well nor so agreeably spent.

Prof. Reithofer, formerly professor in Woodstock College, Ontario, is doing a useful work in pointing out to Canadians of German descent the true state of affairs in Germany. In an address in Toronto a few days ago he said—"If there were a just representation by population in the German Reichstag, and that his Reichstag would be stronger than all the other parties combined, and there would be no German Emperor and no war today." Prof. Reithofer pointed out that the Kaiser controls the Reichstag, and that his will is paramount, as was that of Bismarck years ago. The defeat of Germany in this war will mean the emancipation of the German people from the curse of bureaucratic military government.

In an address in Toronto this week Sir Sam Hughes said "Not under two or three months in Canadian winter conditions can a man be trained for service. Therefore, older Canadians should encourage the youth to enlist now and be ready in the spring. No peace, no settlement of this war, no compromises must be permitted until we have conquered. We have suffered; our boys have fallen; it will not take very much more to smash through to victory." Of the quality of Canada's troops Sir Sam said—"Give me a body of mechanics, business men, farmers, free citizens trained to think and act for themselves, and after they have received an efficient military training, I'll back them against twice their number of the best trained troops Germany has."

Reviewing the new phase of the great war the Montreal Mail points out that now the Allies are getting in form to put forth their greatest effort, while the enemy is far weaker than before. The Mail says—"Germany's greatest wastage has been the loss of the flower of her armies. That loss she can never replace. Of all the nations at war, she has most to fear from the coming winter, and especially since the exertions she has been forced to undertake have carried her legions far afield and thinned her lines. Against the background of confusing reports from the various theatres of war, now favorable, now depressing, stand out the big central facts which form the bases of decisive developments to come. These facts today clearly indicate that, in this war of exhaustion, we enter the next phase stronger than we entered the first, and we face a weaker enemy."

EVERY THREE MINUTES ONE DIES IN THE U. S.

The Anti-Tuberculosis Society illustrates the frightful toll of consumption by extinguishing a light every three minutes, and shows that it is the man or woman, girl or boy, who neglects colds, whose blood is impure, who feels weak and languid, who is the very one to contract tuberculosis—and none are immune.

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LIGHTER VEIN

Old John, as we will call him, has a very caustic tongue, and his son—a young fellow with a roving objection to work—is well aware of the fact. The other morning the young man was lying on his back in the plot of ground he calls his garden, when Old John stroked up. "Well, Father," began the son, raising himself on one elbow and lazily surveying the weed-covered patch, "what do you think of it?" "Why," replied John slowly, "if you're growing food for yourself, and yourself only, there's nothing much to grumble at. It's a nice crop." "Oh?" asked the young man. "Nice crop! Of what?" "That's the name of the stinging nettle. It's a nice crop, I say, and it ought to last one donkey all winter!"

In a village not far from Ohan there are a Parish and a United Free Church. The ministers are friendly rivals. The other Sunday afternoon the parish minister preached on the parable of the Ten Virgins, laying particular stress upon the carelessness of the five foolish ones who had no oil in their lamps. At the U. F. service in the evening the stinging nettle made it necessary for the preacher to stop and light the lamp behind the pulpit. But it immediately went out. There was no oil in the lamp. The service was brought to a premature close, and the minister, who had observed it, would have failed to understand.

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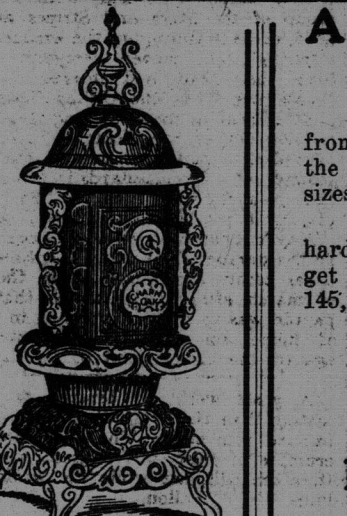
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(Northern Light)
Somewhere in France, Oct. 21, 1915.

Dear Sir—

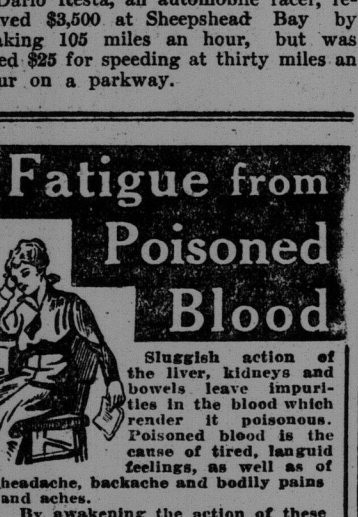
I have received several copies of your paper, The Gloucester Northern Light, and as I am an old Bathurst boy, it makes me long for home when I read of so many people and places I am familiar with that perhaps I may have no chance of ever seeing again.

I have met an old school chum of mine, and I should think he is pretty well known as his name is "Chap" Fenwick. We had some of the 20th Battalion getting their first taste of trench life, with us, and I must say we have every cause to be proud of them. They certainly showed themselves veterans from the first minute they were in the firing line.

I have been in every engagement the Canadians have been in, and although wounded slightly at Ypres, I was back in time for our glorious charge at Festubert. There are many boys from N. B. with us, and many have sacrificed themselves in the cause of right and liberty.

Yours,
DRUMMER-DOUGLAS MATTIX,
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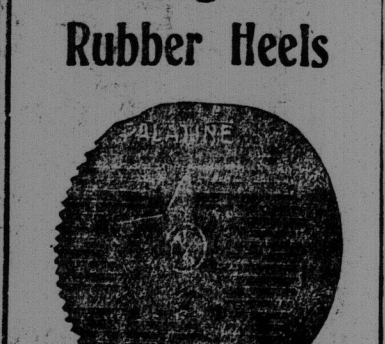
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