

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 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.

COTTON CONTRABAND

The decision of Great Britain and France that cotton is absolute contraband of war is likely to cause no small amount of indignation in the United States, the cotton exporting nation which will be most affected. Cotton finds its way into the manufacture of all kinds of high explosives and Great Britain's action is taken to prevent supplies of the staple from reaching their enemies. Without cotton the manufacture of high explosives will be greatly interfered with, if not prevented altogether.

Within the past couple of weeks the claim has been made that German chemists have discovered a method of treating wood pulp whereby it will be available for explosives, but the discovery has not yet reached the stage where it can be seriously considered, and it is not at all likely that the effect of the decision to keep cotton away from the Germans will be offset by employing the new substitute.

Sir William Ramsay contends that wood pulp cannot be successfully used, in explosives, without necessitating a change in the gun ordinarily intended to carry propulsive explosives in which cotton is the base. With cotton contraband his opinions are likely to receive the test of experiment.

The declaration of cotton as contraband of war will of course strike an immediate blow at the cotton export trade of the United States. The New York Evening Post of Thursday last had an article forecasting the possible effect of such an action. The article was published before the announcement as to cotton had been officially made. The Post says in part:

"All sorts of predictions have been made, varying from those extremely alarmist in tone to assertions that the effects of such a step already have been discounted. But the strict fact seems to be that wise men, who try to speak conservatively, are willing to admit that they are all at sea. If the expected crop should be as small as the government forecast allows, namely, 12,000,000 bales, things may not be so bad. If, on the other hand, the crop attains the dimensions claimed for it by others—and it is said to be quite possible that it will—it may be 14,000,000 bales or more, or only some 2,000,000 bales less than last year's bumper crop.

"What will be done with it? That is the question which every one who has the remotest interest in cotton is trying to solve to his own satisfaction. The answer seems to be, that, large crop or small crop, if cotton is put in the contraband list, the two chief factors in tackling the resulting situation will be, first, the organization of adequate financial machinery to tide over the growers, who will be left with a large part of the crop on their hands, and, second, sufficient warehousing facilities to store the surplus. This last factor is, if anything, the more important of the two. The south lacks proper warehouse facilities, but if cotton can be stored, it will not deteriorate in quality, and sooner or later there must be a market for every pound of it."

The Post goes on to predict that with Germany and Austria-Hungary removed from consideration as possible cotton customers the stocks of cotton held in the United States on German account will not be needed and may be thrown on the market in an effort to break the price and thus entail great loss to the American interests. Such a result can be but temporary as, eventually, the market for cotton must return.

In view of the British pronouncement it is interesting to recall that the Northern States, during the Civil War, found it necessary to adopt drastic action in regard to the cotton export of the Southern States. The federal government of the United States shut off the export of cotton by their southern neighbors, not because cotton at that time was employed in the manufacture of high explosives, but for the reason that to close off the cotton export was to strike a blow at the most vital interest of the Southern States. Consequently when the United States today is inclined to restrict Britain's action it is well to remember

that when their own interests were threatened by King Cotton they did not hesitate to take an action which had a very similar effect.

WAR COMMENT

The declaration of war by Italy against Turkey should prove an important factor in hastening the development of the situation in the Balkans. It will also make available for service in the Dardanelles hundreds of thousands of Italian troops and a large portion of the Italian navy which, hitherto, has confined its operations to the Adriatic Sea.

Last week the cables brought advice of the mobilization of Italian army corps with instructions to hold themselves in readiness to leave at once for service in other fields, while it was also stated that Italian naval squadrons were awaiting orders to sail for the Dardanelles.

Now that Italy has decided to throw herself actively into the campaign against Turkey the task confronting the Allies in the Dardanelles should become easier of accomplishment and it would not be surprising if the added force should bring about developments in that campaign which would more than offset the successes gained by Germany in the campaign against Russia.

The naval engagement between the German and Russian squadrons in the Baltic apparently brought no great advantage to either side. From reports of the numerical superiority of the Germans it was expected the Russians would have but indifferent chance of success. But the Czar's sailors appear to have at least held their own, while the land forces have considerably stiffened in their opposition to the advancing Huns and brisk fighting is reported along the line of the Kovno-Vilna railway, where the Germans, a few days ago, were reported to be sweeping all before them.

It is futile to look for much success in the east until after the completion of the Dardanelles campaign. When the famous straits are forced, and the gateways thrown open for the shipment of supplies into Russia, the Muscovite armies should be able to make a stand. Probably by that time the much heralded Allied advance in the west will be underway. To date the Russians have done the major part of the fighting, but Petrograd knows well that the turn of the other allies will come and that the last shattering blows at Prussianism will be struck by the British Empire.

It is reported that Roumania will call a partial mobilization of her troops on Wednesday of this week and that Bulgaria is also on the verge of casting in her lot against Germany. If the now waiting nations of the Balkans hope to profit from the struggle now being waged they must not delay too long before acting. With the Dardanelles forced Russia will be greatly strengthened, and the value of the Roumanian and Bulgarian participation will be lessened in consequence. The market for Balkan armies should now be at its best. When the demand lessens it will be too late to trade to advantage.

WAR AND IMMIGRATION

Immigration figures for the fiscal year show that the war has been a revolutionary factor in more ways than one. Arrivals in Canada from foreign lands during 1914-15 were fewer than in any similar period in ten years. Each twelve months since 1909 arrivals have been over a quarter of a million, and in 1913 they numbered nearly half a million. Last year the figures dropped to 144,000. The cause of this drop in the immigration tide, is of course not far to seek. Continental Europe is an armed camp, and the young men of the British Isles have either felt the call of patriotism or found higher wages and more plentiful employment at home turning out munitions of war.

With the end of the war, says the Ottawa Journal, it is reasonable to expect that the flow of immigration to the Dominion will reach and even surpass the old dimensions. Labor invariably goes to where wages are highest, industry greatest and the standard of living best; and we have every ground to believe that in years

to come Canada will have the same attraction for those seeking better conditions of livelihood that it possessed during the past twelve or fifteen years.

An Election or An Agreement

(Toronto News, Aug. 19.)

Ever since the war began there has been talk of a dissolution of Parliament and a general election. It is idle to suggest that the leaders and organs of the Liberal party have abstained from partisan controversy. It is not pretended that there has been no partisan writing in the Conservative organs or no partisan utterances by Conservative politicians. Even in time of war in a free country there will be active and vigorous political debate. The Daily News, however, has always maintained that the Opposition should be free to choose grounds of attack and the Government be less free to choose grounds of defence. In short there can be no real freedom from political controversy until we have had a general election or the parties have entered into an agreement to postpone the contest until two or three years after peace is restored.

In the course of twelve or fifteen months the natural term of this Parliament will have expired. It has not been the practice in Canada or in Great Britain to allow Parliaments to run for the full statutory period. There were four-year Parliaments under Sir John Macdonald and under Sir Wilfrid Laurier. No Parliament expired by effluxion of time during the years of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier held office. The Liberal leader understood that in a fifth session the Government would be practically at the mercy of the Opposition and that no expedient to embarrass Ministers would be neglected. An Opposition with great power to hamper a Government facing the country. This power is invariably abused. In practice we have established the right of a Government to dissolve after the fourth session and this is amply supported by British precedent. It is true that they have fixed elections in the United States, but there they have a very different political system, and a wholly different relation between Ministers and Parliament.

Undoubtedly there is feeling in Canada against a general election under existing circumstances. The opposition professes profound antipathy to an appeal to the country. But if the Government foresees the right to dissolve when circumstances have matured so that the opposition will not profit to the utmost by the concession? At the moment when the legal life of Parliament ends an election may be most inopportune and undesirable. Is the Government to carry all the tremendous responsibilities of the war and yet be denied the right to dissolve, the right to defend itself, the right to offer free criticism of its opponents while the war continues? In short is the opposition to enjoy all the advantages and the Government to submit to all the disadvantages which are inseparable from the management of public affairs in the very difficult period through which the country is passing? If there can be no dissolution at the will of the Government should they begin preparation of its defence for the constituencies. Fairly and inevitably its defence must extend to the record of its opponents. Whether in peace or war a general election has very human manifestations. If, therefore, the country does not desire an election, and if the opposition is against a contest, there must be an early agreement between the parties to extend the life of Parliament.

It is surely fair to ask that the life of parliament shall be extended for two or three years after peace is proclaimed if the Government is to forego the right of dissolution. If such an agreement could be effected between the parties Ministers would be free to give all their energies to the prosecution of the war, and to the great problems of finance and administration which demand unremitting attention. Such an agreement would enable the two parties to co-operate in the conduct of the war as they cannot co-operate if an election is imminent, and if the Government has no security beyond the immediate professions of the opposition. Under the constitutional practice of a generation the Government is now free to dissolve Parliament. It cannot be contended that a Government has less freedom in a time of unparalleled stress and difficulty than under normal and normal conditions. It is impossible to have freedom from political controversy for many months if the Government must begin preparation of its defence for the constituencies. Fairly and inevitably its defence must extend to the record of its opponents. Whether in peace or war a general election has very human manifestations. If, therefore, the country does not desire an election, and if the opposition is against a contest, there must be an early agreement between the parties to extend the life of Parliament.

The Vale of Shadows

(Clinton Scollard.)
There is a vale in the Flemish land,
A vale once fair to see,
Where under the sweep of the sky's
wide arch
The winter freeze or summer parch,
The stately poplars march and march,
Remembering Lombardy.
Here are men of the Saxon eyes,
Men of the Saxon heart,
Men of the Fens and men of the Peak.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Threes wattr in the clouds
And wattr in the sea,
Threes wattr in the spikkit,
We drink it, for its free.

We use it to put out fires
And to skwert the garden path,
O, wat wood we do without it
When we take our Sattidday bath?

Wattr has no feelings,
Yet in summer it gets warm,
When it rances it comes down lightly,
Exseping in a storm.

It is fun to swim in if you can,
And splash in if you cant,
A elephant drinks a barril a day
But a drop wood drown a ant.

Wattr is nice and even
And not bilt in humps or ridges,
You always see sum in leminade
And you always see sum undir bridges.

It runs down hill verry eazy,
But you haf to push it up,
And if you dont like to put yure mouth awn a spikkit,
We dont you use a cup?

O wattr is the helthiest drink thare is,
Wich nobuddy shoold despise,
But if we coodent have ice tee and root beer any moar,
It wood cause mutch pane and seprize.

Men of the Kentish meadows sleek,
Men of the Cornwall cove and creek,
Men of the Dove and Dart.

Here are men of the killed class
From the heathery slopes that lie
Where the mists hang gray and mists
hang white,
And the deep locks brood 'neath the
crazy height
And the curlew scream in the moon-
less night
Over the hills of Skye.

Here are men of the Celtic breed,
Lads of the smile and tear,
From where the loops of the Shannon
flow,
And the crosses gleam in the even-
ing glow,
And the hills of Tara now are low,
And Donegal cliffs are sheer.

And never a word does one man speak,
Each in his narrow bed,
For this is the Vale of Lons Release,
This is the Vale of the Lasting Peace,
Where wars, and the rumors of wars,
shall cease—
The valley of the dead.

In the dusk of death they laid them
down,
With naught of murmuring,
And laughter rings through the House
of Mirth
To hear the vaunt of the high of birth,
For what are all the kings of earth
Before the one great King?

And what shall these proud war-lords

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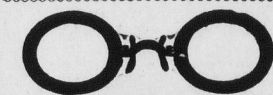
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