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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 5, 1916.

WAR COMMENT.

"When the Romans were besieged by Hannibal in their own capital they put up a public sale of the very ground upon which the Carthaginian army was to be pitched."

This paragraph is taken from a coldly critical review of war conditions by the Hon. St. Joseph Compton-Ricketts, M. P., in the Contemporary Review for December. He looks not at incidents in the war but at its broad trend.

He considers where we are today, but he looks rather to where we reasonably may be in the future. He warns everyone against the hope that half-way measures may serve, or further grave sacrifices may be avoided.

He insists that Germany must be beaten in the West, and possibly expect peace on reasonable terms, and before the British Empire may regard its future secure.

He says that the probability we have crossed the watershed of the war already, "although we failed to realize, at the moment of crossing, its full significance."

For on continental plains of great extent the gradients are almost imperceptible, but there is a point of cleavage which determines the trend of the rivers either to the Polar Sea or to the tropics.

"Let us take things at the worst," he says, and proceeds to assume, for the purposes of argument, that the Germans and their partners will for the present keep open the road to Constantinople.

Germany's general scheme of war. In one striking sentence he sums up the German effort against Russia. "Germany battered at the gate of the Russian Empire, and when it yielded to her tremendous efforts she fell headlong into illimitable space."

And the United States merchant fleet is steadily increasing. There was no increase in the number of ships during the fiscal year ending last June but the tonnage of the merchant fleet during that period showed a record-breaking increase.

For example, the number of vessels under American registry on June 30, 1914, totalled 26,948, with a gross tonnage of 7,928,588. On June 30, 1915, the number had decreased to 26,701, but the aggregate tonnage was 8,890,429.

These figures are explained by the fact that the size of vessels has been steadily increasing since steel and steam came into general use. The development of water transportation has been rapid, with the result that there has been a decline in the number of vessels and an increase in the total tonnage.

Figures given out at Washington recently showed that since the fiscal year closed there had been a steady increase both in number of ships and tonnage, the American merchant marine on December 31 comprising 26,898 vessels, aggregating 8,444,298 tons, gross.

A feature of the Commissioner's report that is of interest to local shipping men is the statement that "vessels in the foreign trade increased 389, the coasting trade showing a decline of 681."

Most of this "foreign trade" is the result of the demand for bottoms for lumber shipments to the United Kingdom and for munitions to the Allied countries. The war has increased the demand for all kinds of ocean going craft, and it has also injured the coastwise trade.

Another thing that is noted in the report is the steady decline of sailing ships under the American flag. The year's figures show a decrease of 998, due largely to the purchase of United States sailing vessels by the Norwegians.



The Cory Agricultural Exhibition Building, West Mountain-Colleged F. V. Wedderburn's Doughty 115th Battalion is being housed. One of the Best-Built and Most Comfortable of the Exhibition Group in South End.

might of our sea power could be fully applied the enemy, long prepared and striking without warning, was almost knocking at the door of Paris.

Germany, in a word, failed to win a decision, East or West, though she struck at her own time, when she was at her strongest, and the Allies were at their weakest.

Reckoning the things that count and not the mere incidents of the conflict, looking at the trend of events and not at local successes or defeats, 1916 is the Allies' year.

With becoming modesty the provincial government announces a surplus of \$7,443. So far as this has any relation to the real financial condition of the province they might as well have made it \$100,000.

The provincial treasurer's figures admit interest charges of \$808,897, or an increase of \$65,000 over last year's figures, which were startling enough. This increase in one year tells part of the story.

Last year the province collected from succession duties \$20,108, and this year \$18,511. This accidental and wholly unusual increase of revenue assists the government in its effort to produce a surplus, but the bond issues and the interest charges measure the increase in the public debt.

With an increased revenue of some hundreds of thousands as compared with that of seven years ago, the government is not only unable to live on its income but is rapidly bringing the province face to face with direct taxation. Ask the people of the province what they are getting for the increased expenditure.

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Here at the turn of the year, the Allies, as they look back over seventeen months of the red road of war, find firm ground not for hope alone but for the conviction that their star is rising. "We shall never again be so near defeat as we were in the early months of the war," the Allies may say, studying the past. And that is true. Before the

tion principle is sound enough, and has many advantages as compared with the old plan, but strong men, commanding public confidence, are needed as commissioners. To get them requires public activity and vigilance—the sustained interest of taxpayers in their own affairs.

Russia is striking telling blows along a battlefront of 800 miles. Military observers look upon this activity as the beginning of a great and sustained offensive. With her new equipment and her new millions Russia's striking power is bound soon to make itself felt in a most effective manner.

Hon. Lewis Harcourt, who is expected to be the next viceroy of India, has been in public life for many years. He has twice been a member of the cabinet as First Commissioner of Works and once as Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A shipment of milk powder is being prepared in New York for German and Austrian babies, and Great Britain and France are to be asked to allow it to go through to Germany.

The road through Albania to the Montenegrin and Serbian armies is a rough one to travel, but the Italians are making headway. They have occupied the Albanian coast of Durazzo which gives them a powerful advantage.

Thirty members of the faculty of Vassar College have sent a petition to President Wilson urging an immediate break in diplomatic relations between the United States and both Germany and Austria.

We earnestly submit that we should no longer maintain diplomatic relations with the government which still refrains from disavowing the destruction of the Lusitania, and with its allied government which has done nothing to discontinue the mischievous interference of its accredited representatives with our internal industries, and which has now followed the example of its ally by sacrificing the lives of American non-combatants.

The Secretary of the War Committee of German industries declares that Germany must not accept peace terms which would make Belgium an obstacle to the strengthening of our national power and economic progress.

TOO NOISY FOR HORSES AT FRONT

Member of the 6th Mounted Writes Home After Experience in Hospital

St. George, Dec. 30.—Arthur Dewar, son of H. V. Dewar, of this town, who is a member of "B" squadron, 6th Mounted Rifles, in a letter to his father, gives some interesting details of life in the army.

"Since leaving the hospital I have been with the trenches. On Wednesday I was up to where the regiment is, right back of the trenches. The racket was pretty bad that day as the Germans were sending over a few shells, but doing very little damage."

"Our guns were sending back far more than double they sent over. The reason we do not keep our horses up there is on account of the noise and the German shells. A good many of the shells do not explode or the damage would be worse."

"I got back I have been living in a hut built of sand bags with a few old boards for a roof. There are four other fellows besides myself in the hut; it is very comfortable."

"We have a stove built out of a fire-gallon can and a stove pipe, made of the sides of biscuit tins. It works very good, only it smokes a little when we put on new coal."

"It rains a good deal, about every night and sometimes all day. The mud is something awful. You would hardly believe the weight of the boots we are issued out here. Took mine off and put my other ones on while in the hospital and they felt like alippers."

"The English boots are much larger than ours and size to his another size of a Canadian eight. The soles are nearly three-quarters of an inch thick. The leather is very thick and when they keep out the water fairly well, but would be better if they would sew the tongues up the sides."

"We are well clothed and well fed, so we cannot do a size about the size of a Canadian eight. The soles are nearly three-quarters of an inch thick. The leather is very thick and when they keep out the water fairly well, but would be better if they would sew the tongues up the sides."

"I am getting the best care here—roomy quarters, clean sheets, reminds me of home. I am taken on a motor ride four times a week and have attended some parties given for the patients. I am feeling fine and am out on milk diet so long that I asked the doctor if he could not give me a change."

U.S. CONSUL BIG BRIG SUNK

London, Jan. 2.—The U.S. Consulate at Crete, No. 7, was sunk Thursday and Saturday.

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OUR SHARE IN THE WAR. An army of 300,000 for overseas service from Canada would mean about 27,000 men from New Brunswick. Perhaps we have already raised one-third of that number, in which case we have some 14,000 more to be enlisted.

THE DIGNITY OF CIVIC GOVERNMENT. We take from a very reliable Toronto newspaper a few examples of aldermanic courtesy and dignity recorded during a City Council meeting in Canada's second city a few days ago.

WHAT NOW? Instead of asking what the United States will do about the sinking of the Persia on which one of its consuls lost his life—instead of asking whether there will be one more "note" to Berlin or Vienna, let us quote just a part of a Christmas editorial from that staunch American newspaper, the Providence Journal:

DOUBLE WEDDING. Fredericton, Dec. 30.—A double wedding took place at the Reformed Baptist parsonage yesterday afternoon, when Miss Eleanor, daughter of Parker Howe, of Burton, was united in marriage to Clowes Tull, son of Henry H. Tull, also of Burton, and Miss Hazel, daughter of Curtis McFadden, of Taymouth, was married to William Howe, son of Emery Howe, of Burton.

NEW TREATMENT TH... KNOCKS RHE... 50c. Box Free to Any... Up in Syracuse, N. Y., for rheumatism has been... have failed entirely. It is... in the blood, driving all... clogging waste from the... to meet away and vanish... Delano is so good that its... everybody who suffers from... has a friend so at... penny is spent. My... will positively overcome... matter how severe, stubb... standing the case, and... have failed entirely. It is... you have never previously... sent you a full size... free if you will send your... dress with the help pay... distribution expense to... F. H. Delano, 538-K... Syracuse, N. Y. I can... Free Package to an addre...