

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 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.

MORE MEN WANTED.

The announcement from Ottawa that Canada will send 35,000 more men to the fighting lines in Europe has been looked for. Recent events in the war zones have shown that the end of the struggle is yet far away, and that, if Germany is to be crushed, many more men will be needed on the western front. The British and French troops report gains, but they are not of a magnitude to afford hope that the task of driving the Germans back into their own country will be accomplished without a great outlay of men and munitions of war. These must be furnished by the British Empire, for it has been evident that France is nearing the limit of her resources. General Joffre, himself, has suggested that the French people can create no new armies, but express confidence that they will be able to maintain their lines at least at the present strength.

If the situation is as all as it is now understood to be, Germany has not yet reached her limit of men. Only yesterday despatches intimated that another huge army was to be sent to the western front, and the men to make up that army must have come from somewhere, there is no evidence that Germany has appreciably reduced the strength of her forces engaged against the Russians, and the Italians have not been in the war long enough for their splendid armies to exercise the pressure hoped for.

To date, Germany has been fighting outside of her own country, and in positions which she has had to prepare as she occupied them. When she sets on her own territory the story will be different. It has been known that she has been preparing for this struggle for many, many years, and if she displayed the same thoroughness in providing defenses in her own cities and towns that she has shown in all other matters connected with her prosecution of the war, then the many important towns lying between her present fighting lines and Berlin should be most impregnable. To assault and subdue such positions will require a vast number of men, more, it will likely prove, than have yet been assembled, and there will be very heavy casualties, for it is a well known truth of war that casualties are always heaviest in the ranks of the attacking party. For reasons already stated that attacking party must be British, hence the call for more men.

The Montreal Gazette, in a thoughtful article along this line, says in part: "The new force that will break the German line, restore the enemy-occupied departments in France and free Belgium, if it is to be found in the west, must be British. It has not been landed in the fighting zone yet. It would seem, and part of it may have to be created. There is a chance, of course, that Italy will by its invasion of Austrian territory create such a situation that the German line will collapse. Italy's army, however, has to operate in the hardest field of the whole war; many months will be required for the development of its campaign; and the possibility of another winter's trench fighting is not lightly to be regarded. So this country, as well as the United Kingdom, is called upon to put forth greater efforts."

Of course, as the Gazette points out, there is the possibility that before the new armies are ready the German war power may collapse, but this hope is not as strong in Britain now as it was two or three months ago. The more reasonable, though less rosy, view is that this will be a long hard war, and every man who can be sent to the front will be needed. Canada has a very apparent duty, and it should not be neglected.

THE RUSSIANS COMING BACK.

That the Russians would gather new strength from reinforcements and make a counter-attack against the German and Austrian armies, was expected by close followers of the campaign in that area of fighting. Despatches on Thursday night indicated the expected reinforcements had arrived and this information was followed yesterday by the statement that the Russians had turned, checked the advance on Lemberg, and inflicted a serious defeat on the enemy.

It is not altogether unexpected, if the previous achievements of the Russian forces may be taken as criterions from which to judge. All through the war Russia has shown a wonderful faculty for turning defeats into successes and that she should do it once more is not surprising. Apparently Russian authorities have never felt a doubt as to the outcome. The correspondent of the Journal de Geneva, describing a visit to the Russian headquarters, quotes the Grand Duke's officers as follows: "Russia has not yet used a fifth of her reserves. The majority of able-bodied men have not yet been called upon. Millions of soldiers are still available. We are not hurrying. Ten months hence Germany will be exhausted. Then we will begin our real campaign. For each of our men fallen, six will replace them. Our resources are inexhaustible. We can fight for two or three years without the slightest embarrassment, while Germany will be exhausted."

While the foregoing statement may be unduly optimistic yet it certainly does not indicate that Russia is at all dissatisfied with her prospects, a decidedly healthy sign. Taken in conjunction with the despatches of yesterday it furnishes ground for the opinion that the Muscovite forces have accepted the expected "come back" and that the news from the eastern war zone should become decidedly more favorable.

LAURIER'S MONUMENT.

Hon. Arthur Meighen, Solicitor General, in a speech delivered in Westmount on Thursday evening referred to the National Transcontinental Railway as likely to prove a monument over Sir Wilfrid Laurier's political remains and, in this connection said: "Two hundred million dollars have been planted on two streaks of rail between Moncton and Winnipeg." Possibly, some of our Liberal friends, the Telegraph, for instance, may consider Mr. Meighen's appraisal of the road as rather harsh, if so they will be interested in reading the opinion of an English financial paper, which said "the dealings of the Grand Trunk with Canada have been singularly unfortunate from the first, but no one can blame it or the Grand Trunk Pacific for refusing to take over and ultimately pay three per cent. per annum of rent on the 1,500 miles of Government line from Moncton to Winnipeg, which Sir Wilfrid Laurier launched with such a flourish a few years ago."

The reason the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company refused to take over the eastern section of the road is well known to every Canadian. The Laurier appointed commission, under whose supervision the eastern part of the road was built, wasted so much money on the line that no railway company, under existing freight and passenger rates, could take it over and operate it with success. Interest charges, eventually to be paid as rental, would more than consume the earnings. Consequently the line has been thrown on the hands of the people of Canada and they must bear the burden of Laurier's incapacity or worse. That is why, when Mr. Meighen said the National Transcontinental would remain as a monument over Sir Wilfrid Laurier's political remains, he spoke the simple truth and the members of the Liberal party know it.

The Times has not yet apologized to the patriotic Liberals who accepted commissions in the Canadian forces, or the Liberal business men and manufacturers who are filling war contracts for the Canadian Government, and who, it intimated obtained their commissions and their contracts by questionable methods. That is quite in accord with the Times' conception of journalistic ethics. It is absolutely fair to make miserable and unwarranted insinuations about any person provided that by so doing the cause of the glorious party of Pugsley, Carvell and Kyrle may be advanced—but when it comes to correcting false and misleading statements—that, as Abe Potash says, "is something else again."

Every battalion of the Canadian second division is now reported to have safely landed in France. Not only is the new "Victoria" but the next news will be that they are doing splendid work against the common foe.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE. Wilyum, wat on erth have you got that peec of string tyed around yure finger for, it looks to redickilus for eything, ma sed to pop last nite. By Jukiter, I put that awn at the orfiss this afternoon to remind me of sumthing, sed pop. And he looked at his fingir as if it was the first time he evvir saw it and then he got up and startid to wawk around the room skatching his hed.

Current Comment.

So Angry Still. (New York Evening Sun.) Some of the German papers are still angry at the Americans who perished on the Lusitania.

Say 20 Minutes. (New York World.) The remark of Herr von Jagow, German foreign secretary, that the United States should give Germany plenty of time to discuss prevailing differences seems reasonable. How would the time given to the Americans on the Lusitania do as a starter?

The Poisonous Gases. (Winnipeg Telegram.) Curiously enough, if the United States were to go to war with Germany, the use of asphyxiating gases by any or all of the belligerents would become lawful warfare.

The Northcliffe Way. (Hamilton Herald.) At present the Northcliffe papers in Britain are bitterly attacking Kitchener. But make no mistake about Northcliffe. If it appears that the public are unpopular, and that the confidence in Kitchener cannot be shaken, the Northcliffe papers will promptly turn completely around and extol Kitchener as the one man who can save the country. That's the Northcliffe way.

To My Son. (Wounded—Somewhere in Flanders.) The British Baker. Last of my race; As brave a lad and true As ever yet rejoiced a father's heart.

A Double Resignation. Mr. Bryan has refused but you've got to bear in mind That he's not exactly lonely in that act.

Biblical Instruction. Who was Shylock, Aunt Ethel? "My dear! And you go to Sunday school and don't know that!"

Beck's Weekly suggests as a motto for Canadian recruits, "Drill ye, train ye, drill ye."

The Italians have occupied Gradiska—news despatch. If this is true, it is a trueska it'ska seemka as it'ska that townski should be located somewhere near those Russian towns whose names sound as if they had been sprinkled out of a salt-celler.

Przemysl has fallen twice, but Niagara falls all the time. So they caught four submarines in the bay. Getting into the bay was sure to bring them into hot water.

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