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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1916

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 12, 1916.

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WHY?

Why does Lieut. Gov. Wood retain as one of his advisers a gentleman who is not a member of the legislature, and therefore not responsible to the people? Have we abandoned the principles of responsible government?

MAHONEY MUST GO.

Self-respecting Conservatives, who have regard for the reputation of their party and the rights of the people, do not hesitate to characterize as it deserves the attitude of the Standard in the case of Hon. P. G. Mahoney. Its attempt to find a precedent in the case of Hon. A. G. Blair is not only brazen but utterly futile. Mr. Blair was premier of the province. He had been endorsed again and again, but in the election which the Standard refers to he was defeated in York county. There was no other vacancy, but a member promptly resigned, and Mr. Blair ran in that constituency and was elected, all within a month.

But how is it with Mr. Mahoney? He is not the leader of a government endorsed by the people. It is not necessary for any member to resign to create a vacancy for him to fill. There are several vacancies, but after his defeat in Westmorland no action has been taken. There is no similarity at all between the two cases. Mr. Blair was defeated, but promptly ran in another constituency and was elected. Had he failed he must have resigned. Mr. Mahoney has failed, but neither resigns nor tries again. Why the delay? Obviously he should have run again at once or have resigned. His retention of office is a gross violation of the principles of responsible government.

If Hon. Mr. Blair had gathered in a campaign fund when a member of the government, would that justify the recent hold-up of the lumbermen, the railway contractors or the liquor dealers?

But it is not the Blair government that is on trial. It is the Flemming-Clarke outfit, whose record is so well known that the people only await an opportunity to defeat either Mr. Mahoney or any of his colleagues—or all of them together. There is to be a new and better government, and the longer Mr. Mahoney and his colleagues defy public sentiment the more severe will be their condemnation at the polls. Moreover, the lieutenant governor will hardly permit the present state of affairs to continue for any length of time.

MAKE IT MODERN.

The school board, in deciding to erect any new school buildings, should not fail to provide thoroughly up-to-date buildings. This is a matter in which the city council, the board of trade and the citizens generally should show a decided interest. No more money should be wasted on buildings unsuited to the needs of the time. The matter of cost should be squarely faced by the people, and whatever expenditure is needed should be endorsed. Dr. Payson Smith was right when he characterized education as our greatest industry, and a school building has not served its full purpose as an educative agency when it has housed the day school. The next school building erected in St. John should have a large gymnasium, and should have its auditorium on the ground floor. Such a school building, the Times understands, has been recommended to the board of trustees, but turned down on account of the cost. This is not a wise policy. Not to provide the best kind of school building is to waste money. Business men should discuss this matter and make their influence felt. All the people should insist that every new school building be designed for the widest service, and that the matter of cost be not permitted to interfere with its design and construction. Possibly the board of trustees hesitate to assume responsibility, and they should be assured that the people are behind them. The difference in cost between an up-to-date school structure and one of the old type should not be prohibitive in a city like St. John.

A GRAVE RUMOR.

The following paragraph from the London Daily Mail indicates that all is not satisfactory in regard to the promotions among Canadian officers at the front:

"Rumors of discontent at the allocation of promotions in the Canadian contingent at the front reach London sufficiently frequently to be disquieting. The matter obviously calls for investigation. The men fight like lions, and it is up to the Canadian government to see that if things are wrong they are promptly rectified."

As the allocation of official appointments has not always been satisfactory in Canada, it will not be altogether surprising that there is some complaint at the front. There will be many interesting revelations, no doubt, after the war is over. It is a serious matter if the reports reaching London are such as to cause disquiet, or call for investigation. If the right men are not promoted the lives of the men are jeopardized, and if they "fight like lions," they should be led by officers worthy of their courage and devotion. If the London paper is

well informed, its call for action by the Canadian government must not be ignored.

THE WAR NEWS.

Each day brings news of further success by the Allies on all fronts. The situation from their viewpoint grows more and more satisfactory. In the earlier stages of the war the strategic value of the German railway systems made it possible to rush troops from one front to another, to meet attack; but now that the attack is being made in such force on all fronts, and the wearing down process has so greatly reduced the number of effectives in the German and Austrian armies, the men cannot be spared from one portion of the war theatre to reinforce those of another. With the Russians driving on, after capturing 271,000 prisoners and great quantities of guns and munitions, the situation in the east grows more and more serious, and yet no men can be spared from the western front, where the British are driving hard after capturing the first line of German defences along an eight mile front, and taking 7,500 prisoners; and where the French are also gaining ground and have taken over 14,000 prisoners. Not only so, but the vigor of the Italian drive on the Trentino front has caused the Austrians to recall army divisions they had planned to send to the eastern front.

All this means disaster for the Central Powers. They are on the defensive, with diminishing forces, while the Allies have abundance of men and have not yet reached the maximum output of munitions. It is still a long way to Berlin, but the going will be better shortly. The Germans have repulsed Kitchener's Army with a degree of contempt, but it has driven in their strongest defences and has proved more than a match for even the famous Prussian Guards.

The Turks are confronted with trouble in Arabia. The Arabs have captured another town, and the revolt is apparently spreading. Until the weather is more favorable the operations of the Russians and British against the Turks will be less vigorous, but the power of Turkey is already broken. If it is true that Austrian troops are being withdrawn from Serbia to face the Russians, the moment for a decisive blow from Saloniki would seem to be approaching.

Indigestion.

An unfortunate altercation took place at a well known restaurant at dinner the other night.

One of the diners asked for some Turkey without Greece, and the waitress rudely replied—

"You must be German!"

"No; I'm Hungarian," replied the diner. His friend nudged him.

"Don't Russia or she won't Serbia?" The waitress then retired, but returned, saying—

"Do you intend to Rumania?"

The man replied—

"Yes, I want Samoa."

The waitress then became annoyed, and exclaimed—

"Bring the Belgium, and I'll call Nancy."

She turned to the diner, "This will cost you a New Guinea," she added, with a toss of her head.

His Best Cartoon.

When Sir John Tenniel, a famous cartoonist, retired from the staff of Punch his associates gave him a dinner. Sir John's ability to make graceful after-dinner speeches, impromptu, to all appearance, made his friends expect a most interesting response from him on that occasion. In "John Forster and His Friends" Richard Kenton describes the dinner, and the toast of the evening, which was proposed by Arthur Balfour. So great was Sir John's emotion that he was utterly overwhelmed, and having risen to acknowledge the toast, which had been wonderfully acclaimed, he could only utter the words, "My lords and gentlemen." Then, utterly overcome, words failed him, and he had to resume his seat speechless. The effect was marvellous.

The eloquence of silence was, after a brief pause, electrical, and the speechless speaker was acclaimed even more heartily than he had been when he first stood up to speak. It was a touching and memorable event, and none of those present are ever likely to forget it.

It would take a lot of commercial submarines to supply Germany with what she will need during the remaining period of the war. Britannia still rules the waves and the blockade is being made more effective.

The Standard is making some progress in its Biblical studies. It is now able, with the assistance of other Bible students, to correct some of its own mistakes. Perhaps presently it will run across a passage which refers to "the tracking of thorns under a pot."

The 800,000 prisoners taken by the Allies during the last few weeks, along with the great number of killed and wounded, greatly reduce the effectiveness of the armies of Germany and Austria. They must even now be calling up their last resources in fighting men.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McAvity and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin N. S. Stewart, the principals in a double wedding on July 10th, fifty years ago. An exceptionally wide circle of relatives and friends join in the good wishes expressed today.

The Standard says the Conservatives lost North Perth because "the German vote has been lost to the Conservative party ever since the outbreak of the war." Does the Standard expect to get away with this assertion? The Borden government has been very kind to the Germans. One minister retained a German as his private secretary. Another extolled his German intelligence officer at the front with the Canadian troops. Germans have continued to hold responsible positions at Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada. The Borden government has been their champion to an extent which has been resented by many Conservatives. North Perth proves this resentment, since a great number of Conservatives voted for the Liberal candidate.

Here is Sir Wilfrid Laurier's own answer to those who accuse him of double dealing—"I am here today," said Sir Wilfrid, in his speech at Bromont, Quebec, "to ask all who can go to take their place amongst those who are contending for the cause of civilization on the fields of France and Flanders. I especially ask my French-Canadian friends to do their part. There are men amongst them who tell them they must not enlist because they claim we have grievances in Ontario. Let me tell them that the grievances will be settled by the law courts, and that there are duties and obligations as well as rights, and those who want their rights recognized as citizens of the Empire must be prepared to do their duty to the full."

Yuba City, Cal., has had nobody in its jail for six months, not a marriage in a year, all the undertakers have moved, and the city marshal's only duty in a year was to kill a dog.

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LIGHTER VEIN.

Teacher was trying to elucidate the meaning of the word "recuperate" to one of the pupils.

"Now, Tommy," said she, "if your father worked hard all day he would be tired and worn out, wouldn't he?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Then when night comes and his work is over for the day, what does he do?"

"That's what mother wants to know."

Mrs. Youngwood—Well, dear, I've found a flat and the cars go right past the door.

"When you contradict something you run the risk of bringing the matter to the attention of a whole lot of people who never would have heard about it if you had kept still."—Washington Star.

"Do you intend to take any steps to contradict the people who misrepresent you?"

"No," replied Senator Sorghum. "When you contradict something you run the risk of bringing the matter to the attention of a whole lot of people who never would have heard about it if you had kept still."—Washington Star.

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Workmen's Narrow Escape.

Many workmen engaged on the new chimney at the McAvity plant on the Marsh road miraculously escaped injury or death yesterday afternoon when the electric bell used to signal the engine failed to work at a critical moment. Three men who were working at the top of the chimney at the time escaped death by a narrow margin. A large bucket is used to carry the material needed by the men who are engaged at the top of the chimney. As the bucket approaches the top, an electric bell is used to let the engineer know when his load has gone far enough. As the heavily loaded mortar bucket came near the top of the staging the engine was signalled to stop, but the bell did not work and the entire mass, including pole, staging, tackle and mortar bucket plunged out over the top of the chimney, carrying with it twelve feet of solid brick work. Fifty men or more below escaped injury. There were three men on the top of the chimney at the time, J. Anderson, A. Philbey, and J. Sullivan, whose escape from death was miraculous. The men, however, escaped in getting on the sound side of the chimney.

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