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H. V. MacKINNON,
Managing Editor.

ALFRED E. McGINLEY,
Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 1, 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.

SEVEN MONTHS OF WAR.

The Allies have every reason to be well satisfied with the position and achievements of their fighting forces after seven months of war. Today finds the German armies while not beaten yet fighting on a desperate defensive everywhere and straining every nerve to postpone the evil day when they will be forced back over their frontier lines onto their own territory, there to make their last stand. The day when the result of the war might have been questioned has long passed and now the only point on which there is any room for doubt is not how will it end, but when will it end? And evidences are accumulating to show that an answer to this question may be furnished much more quickly than many people now expect.

The German idea of crushing France has not succeeded. Today the Kaiser's soldiers are closer to German soil than they were a month or two months ago and the spring is approaching, that time when Lord Kitchener says he will have three million men ready for the sweeping forward movement. It is only a matter of a few weeks before that advance will commence, when Britain, to again quote Kitchener "will begin to fight." In the East while the Germans have shown great bravery and an utter disregard of their own lives, they have not succeeded in stopping the slow but terrible advance of the Russian steam roller. Checked and temporarily forced back time after time, it has always gathered new strength and come on again more menacing, more deadly than ever. Advances of last night from Petrograd were to the effect that the Germans, who had made gains, were once more retreating before that terrible force, and that in some cases the retreat was almost a rout.

It must be remembered that in this war time fights against Germany. If she was to succeed she must do it in the early stages of the war, a contest prolonged beyond six months was almost surely lost. Not only six, but seven months have gone and as yet there has been no appreciable weakening on the part of any of the Allies. Great Britain has not yet got half her fighting forces into the field, while millions of Russian soldiers are waiting for the word to send them into the battle. Germany, on the other hand, has already suffered terribly both in men and treasure and resources. Already she is feeling the pinch of actual starvation, while her commercial and industrial prosperity, in a short seven months, has been set back half a century. The world war may prove a costly undertaking to every one of the Allied nations engaged in it, but from present indications as they are, what will be the effect on Germany? There appears to be more than a little reason for the ground already taken by some European economists and observers that the German nation will never recover from the "scourge of 1914-15."

CONCERNING AN ELECTION.

While the newspapers supporting Mr. Pugsley are busily engaged in attempting to clear that gentleman of any suspicion of trying to develop political rancour in the absorbing debates now engaging the attention of the House of Commons, it is amusing to note the opinion of other Liberal and Independent newspapers concerning the actions and activities of the ex-Minister of Public Works. The consensus of such opinion is that the Liberal party, that is, the better element of it, does not desire an electoral contest until after the war, but that the belligerent wing, led by the same sweet and gentle spirit whose praises are so constantly thumbed out from the strings of the Telegraph lyre, is the real "red hot sand and ginger" article of a fighting machine. Mr. Pugsley apparently has no greater compunctions in regard to smashing into places that badly twisted truth and thus increasing party strife at a time when all should be union and harmony, than he has about cutting the appropriations for St. John harbor work in half and thus throwing hundreds of men out of employment and unnecessarily delaying the time when this city shall be properly equipped to handle the great traffic to come to her. We are much afraid that the only sort of trace the Honorable William is disposed to observe is one which permits him to hit and at the same time relieve him of the necessity of guarding against a return blow. If there is to be an election Mr. Pugsley will have to bear a large share of the responsibility for it. And, we fancy, after the event happens William's

peace of mind will not be increased by the reflection "I brought it on myself."

THE TELEGRAPH'S CHANCE.

The Telegraph of Saturday, in reference to The Standard's claim that Mr. Pugsley, in Parliament, had advocated that the vote for harbor work in St. John should be cut in two, half the effect of which would be to throw half the men employed on such work out of employment, remarked as follows: "Yesterday the Conservative organ charged Dr. Pugsley with wanting to throw half the men engaged on harbor works in St. John out of a job, although the report of the debate shows that there is absolutely no excuse for any such interpretation of Hon. Dr. Pugsley's remarks."

Mr. Pugsley, we believe is in the city and if he still practices the same political tricks he was wont to use a few years ago he must have been interviewed by the Telegraph before this, or possibly, has interviewed himself for that august journal. In either event we may expect a weird and wonderful production, half indignant disclaimer, and half pathetic appeal, but with the gentle William always more sinned against than sinning. If Mr. Pugsley has neglected this little bit of routine in connection with his occasional visits to this city there is another way in which the Telegraph can give its readers what its idol really did say. Let it publish the Hansard record of the remarks passing between Mr. Pugsley and Hon. Mr. Rogers. That would be, possibly, a more convincing reply to The Standard's charge than the stock "you're another" argument, at present so evidently in favor with the Telegraph, Mr. Veniot and other paid camp followers of the Pugsley-Carvell army.

THE DACIA CASE.

After crossing the Atlantic unmolested, and coming into the English Channel, the American steamer Dacia was arrested by a French war vessel on Sunday and towed into Brest a prisoner. It will be remembered that the Dacia, originally a German vessel, was purchased by a German-American and loaded at Galveston with cotton for Rotterdam, for which port she sailed on January 28. At the time of her purchase a protest was lodged by the British Ambassador to Washington and notification served on the American Government that the Dacia would not be permitted to proceed. The British Government also made certain proposals in regard to her cargo, even agreeing to purchase it if the vessel was arrested or to trans-ship to point of destination in a British ship. There was considerable talk, some of it of the jingoistic variety, in the country to the south of us, but the British Government did not recede from its attitude. The Dacia sailed, in spite of all warnings, the owners declaring that they would make a test case. Now that the arrest has been made by a French war vessel instead of a British as expected, it is not unreasonable to believe that France will be guided by the same sense of even handed justice and fair play which would have directed the British attitude. The Dacia, in all likelihood, will be turned over to a prize court, her cargo paid for and the vessel declared confiscated. That the case should cause international difficulties between the republics of the old world and the new is inconceivable. It will probably attract attention for a few days as a subject of conversation and will then be crowded out of the limelight by newer and more interesting matters.

SOCIALISTS PROTEST

HIGH COST OF FOOD AND
COAL IN ENGLAND

London, Feb. 28.—A big Socialist labor demonstration was held in Trafalgar square today to protest against the prevailing prices of food and coal. A resolution was adopted expressing indignation and disappointment at the government's refusal to take "effective measures to deal with the alarming increase in the cost of food and fuel." The resolution demands government control of carrying ships, the commandeering of home-grown supplies for sale at the lowest possible prices, and the fixing of maximum prices for the necessities of life.

The First Robin

(Grand Rapids News.)

Bill August, the soda jerk, stood at Lordorff's marble bar, in meditation deep was he. His mind, it roamed afar. To bosky dells and rippling streams where trout are apt to lurk. A vision of a joyous Spring came to the luncheon clerk. "Say, bo," he said, as he brought on our sinkers and our tea, "Spring's on the way to this burg, sure, take that tip straight from me."

When I came down at 5 o'clock this morning—just at dawn—I limped the first Spring robin hop-ling round upon a lawn."

Of course these first Spring robin guys we've very often heard. But Bill is a religious wight—we've got to take his word. He's somewhat like George Washington, to fit he's not been taught. We've not known Bill to tell a lie—or, tell one and be caught.

When that religious census thing was started in our town, Bill was the first to go to work and take the census down. We've got a lot of faith in Bill. For many years we've heard His brand of wise philosophy on all that has occurred.

If any other friends of ours had said this wondrous thing concerning the discovery of this first bird of Spring We would have taken it with salt and winked the goodward eye. But Bill is such an honest cuss—he'd tell the truth or die.

"The harbinger I saw," said Bill, "was somewhat weak and pale, And was seen wobbling on his pins. No, it was not no quail. It staggered round about a tree, as crazy as a loon.

His song was weak and seemed to say, 'I guess I'm here too soon.' 'Go back,' said I, 'Go back you nut, unto the sunny South, Before our climate stops your song by freezing up your mouth.' But that bird simply looked at me pathetic like and broke.

Into a song which seemed to say, 'I'll stay here, if I crack.' "You say that it might not have been a robin? Mow, man, if I can't tell a robin I would like to know who can! It wasn't any whippoorwill or hen or stork or crane.

A man who cannot pick out birds gives no one an angle and broke. O, yes, he was some skinny and his feathers they were rough. But for all that I know it was a robin right enough."

Popular Song Stuff

(Carl Schloss in N. Y. Evening Sun.)

In a pleasant park in Boston a nice young man proposed To his best girl while sitting neath a tree. He talked about his prospects, his salary he disclosed And depicted just how happy they would be. And as he thus enthused her face assumed an iron mask. More firmly she adjusted her princess; She bit her lips, one at a time, to nerve them to their task. And she to him these painful words did say: Refrain (con espresione). To a certain extent you're right, But your words need qualification. For it seems you've forgotten quite My male parental relation. His temper's decidedly tropic; He likes to display it too; His affection for you's microscopic, And he wears a No. 8 shoe.

Her statements he refuted, and to New York they eloped. Alas! they did not know where they were at! They did not live in happiness, as fondly as they had hoped. But in a much constructed Harlem flat. The husband fell an easy prey unto the Demon Rum; He'd come home slightly pickled every day; And when his wife to cap the climax, took to chewing gum. He thought of how she once to him did say: Refrain (as before).

GR. BRITAIN'S MAGNA CHARTA RESTORED

Parliament modifies the Defence of Realm Act

London, Feb. 27.—The House of Commons passed unanimously on second reading today a bill restoring to British subjects to whom the military law or naval regulations do not apply the right to demand trial by a civil court and jury when charged with offences under the Defence of the Realm Act. This Act, which was passed hurriedly at the beginning of the war, provided that all persons charged with offences under its provisions should be subject to court-martial. The operation of the new bill, however, may be suspended by proclamation, either generally or in any specified area, in case of invasion or any other emergency resulting from the war. Lord Parmoor gave some "unanswerable reasons" on Feb. 5 in support of his bill for amending the Defence of the Realm Act and the code of regulations made under it. Lord Haldane, speaking on behalf of the Government, accepted the principle of the measure. Lord Parmoor's bill provides that civilians charged with offences under the Defence of the Realm Act shall be tried by the ordinary courts, in conformity with the usual procedure and the constitutional safeguards against injustice. An innovation without a precedent

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

Say, mother, pop sed to ma last nite, yure awlways tawking about the high cost of living getting higher, well jest think of a regular class 5 course dinner for 15 cents. Wy, Willyum, nerrir, sed ma. Jest think of it, a regular, first class, kumplest, bona fide 5 course dinner ofr 15 cents, jest think of it, I say, sed pop. Wat, 5 full courses, sed ma. 5, count them, 5, sed pop, first, soup, 2nd, fish, 3rd, entry, 4th roast, and 5th, dessert, jest think of it. Ware, for mersey sakes, ware? sed ma. Noware, but jest think of it, sed pop, ha, ha ha, you sartany bit proptir awn that wun, ha ha ha. Is that supposed to be a joak, sed ma. Sartany its a joak, and a good wun, to, sed pop, noware, but jest think of it, haw ha ha. By the way, I dropped yure meersham pipe and broak it today, sed ma. Wat, wat, sed pop awl excited. Jest think of it, sed ma. Do you mean to say you can axually sit thare with a strate face and tell you yuave gone and bustid my 7 dollir meersham pipe for whose sake I have bin poisoning myself with nicketeen for 3 lawng years, sed pop. Jest think of it, sed ma. Dont make that idiotick stateamin agen, if you value yure hubbins sanity, sed pop, for the luv of fragments how did it happen. O, dont get awl werked up about it, I didnt brake yure old pipe, sed ma. Then wat in the nam of Tom Dick and Harry did you say you did for, sed pop. I sed, Jest think of it, aftirwards, didnt I, sed ma, it was a joak. A wat, sed pop, and ma sed, A joak, if you can make a joak by telling a lie and then saying Jest think of it, wy cant I. Good nite, sed pop. Good hee, sed ma.

since the revolution was made in the Defence of the Realm Act, and Lord Parmoor's bill puts an end to it, and restores to all persons not subject to military law their fundamental rights. Some of the offences falling within the new legislation or the rules under it might amount to treason or treason-felony. Some of them might be punishable as of the nature of seditious libels; some might be offences under the general powers of the crown in time of war, or misdemeanors at common law. Others, again, are distinctly novel, though it may be, necessary in these times. The provisions of regulations 18 and 27, for example, as to information likely to be useful to the enemy, may be required in the present circumstances. They concern especially newspapers, and on their part there will be no complaint merely on the ground of stringency. The criminal courts are open as usual; and if promptly in bringing offenders to justice is needed, a point urged by Lord Haldane and others—this is compatible with observing fundamental constitutional practices. If breaches of the Defence of the Realm Act were of one mind, and every offender would be sure to meet with his deserts.

The procedure contemplated by regulation 56 and some other provisions was too much of a German type, says the London Times. They might be in place in Berlin; they are wholly alien to our ways. It may be, as Lord Haldane urged, that persons who are not British subjects have not the same rights as Englishmen to constitutional methods of trial; that is a point of detail upon which there may well be difference of opinion. Above all coun-

RUSSIA PUTS WAR TAX ON MEN IMMUNE FROM MILITARY SERVICE

London, Feb. 28.—A Reuter despatch from Petrograd says a war tax has been imposed on men immune from military service, and who are under 43 years of age. The tax varies from six roubles (about \$3) on incomes of \$500 or less to \$100 on incomes of over \$10,000.

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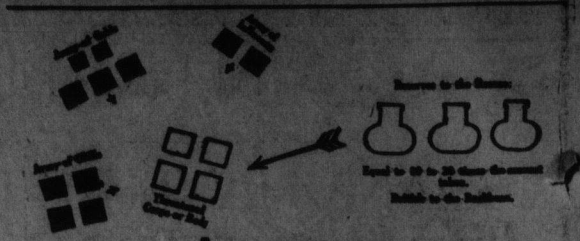
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