

The St. John Standard

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 ST. JOHN, N.B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1918.

"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.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE WEST?

What will happen on the western battle front is the question now uppermost in the minds of all who turn first to the war news in their morning newspapers. For several days the cables have told of preparations for what some reviewers expect will be the greatest, and possibly, the decisive battle of the war.

We are informed that the Germans are moving great bodies of fighting men from the eastern lines and that when the battle opens the enemy will present an array more formidable in comparison than any the Allies have been called upon to face since the first few weeks of the war when the daily despatches told of Allied heroism, but also conveyed the information that the crush of the enemy to Paris had not been stopped.

We may be assured that no matter how many men and guns the Germans bring into battle they will not find the Allies unprepared. Nor will they find the road as easy as when they last essayed to travel it. In those early days Britain had not marshalled a tenth of her strength, the French troops were but commencing to fight, there was an insufficiency of guns and munitions, and in fact, a shortage of all the plant necessary to the waging of a successful war. Germany, on the other hand, was a trained military force—fresh, well armed, well supplied and flushed with the thought of victory. The civilian population of the Kaiser's empire was well fed, had not felt the war pinch, and firmly believed that their troops would make short work of the "contemptible little British army," thereby assuring a victorious peace with its consequent war booty and commercial aggrandizement. That was in the autumn of 1914.

But the late winter and early spring of 1918 finds a reversal of conditions. The victorious peace expected to make certain Germany's place in the sun is farther away than when the Kaiser's hordes made their first drive on the French capital. The "contemptible little British army" has grown into a fighting machine as mighty as that at the Kaiser's command. Heroic France, with tightened belt, is not "bled white," contrary to the reports of sensational pessimists, but stands today, as ever, ready to exchange blow for blow with the foe in defence of home and liberty. And on this drive Germany will face a new and vigorous enemy. The American soldiers, in very considerable force, are on the firing lines and can be depended upon to fight as well as the best. Moreover they are eager for the fray. Those who have visited the American lines, and who are qualified to speak with knowledge of the spirit of that army, say that from officer commanding to youngest private, all are eagerly awaiting the call to "go over the top" and by force of arms wipe out the grudge resulting from three years of Prussian insolence and savagery.

The morale of the Allies, who see victory ahead, is immeasurably superior to that of the foe fighting a hopeless war. No matter what has happened in Russia, Germany, by this time, must realize that it is a physical impossibility to overcome the nations arrayed against her. She may succeed in prolonging the struggle to a degree beyond the pessimistic predictions of dyspeptic calamity howlers, but win she cannot.

It is not the belief of military experts that the enemy will go into the western drive with a force of men and guns superior to that opposed to them. Even though German lines may have been greatly strengthened by men from Russia, and all the additional strength Germany can bring to the western front for months will be soldiers who were engaged on the eastern lines, for the vast number of Germans and Austrians held prisoner in Russia will not be released for a long time, the Teutonic armies will not match those of Britain and France, to say nothing of the American forces which are gaining strength daily.

Von Hindenburg may be expected to put all his strength into one mighty attack delivered at the point in the Allied line where he will expect to have the best chance of success. That attack will be met with sufficient force to check it and, indeed, it is the opinion of some military critics that the Allies may anticipate the German offensive by intercepting a drive of their own. In this connection one interesting guess is that the great German fortress of Metz, in the Lorraine, will be the objective of that movement. It is on that sector of the Lorraine line that the American troops are established under General Pershing, and one view of the Allied plans which has gained not a little currency is that the

Americans may be given this opportunity to open the way to the Rhine. Whether this prediction proves correct, or whether the brunt of the action falls first upon another sector of the line, it is certain that all three divisions of the Allied army, British, French and American, are prepared for whatever may happen and in the great battle which is certain to come will press home upon Fritz the unpleasant truth contained in the lines of that popular bit of war verse:

"We beat you at the Marne, we beat you at the Aisne.
 We gave you a— at Neuve Chapelle, and here we are again."

The German armies may expect their drive in the west and they may make some gains. But they will not penetrate the wall of steel that separates Hindenburg from Paris. To the question "What will happen in the West?" may safely be returned the answer "nothing that can in any way prevent the defeat of Germany." The events of the next few weeks in the western front may prove prime factors in the termination of this war and the downfall of Prussian militarism. As a German propagandist has said "1918 will be the year of decision." And to Germany decision and defeat will be synonymous.

"AN ASTONISHING CAREER."

Under the above heading the Toronto News pays editorial tribute to a young New Brunswick boy, after making a name for himself in the business and financial world of Canada and Great Britain, entered politics in the Motherland, was knighted, then elevated to the peerage and has now entered the British Government as successor to Sir Edward Carson as Master of British war propaganda.

Referring to the meteoric rise of Max Aitken, son of a Northumberland County clergyman, and well known in this city, where he spent some time, the Toronto News says: "Thirty-nine years ago a boy was born in a poor Canadian manse. His upbringing was frugal. Of Scottish parentage, he was disciplined in thrift and given a good education. When he got out into the world he began to show unusual shrewdness in business and remarkable skill in the handling of men. In a few short years he acquired considerable wealth, and then sought a wider field for his ambition. Going to England he entered politics and captured a difficult seat for the Unionist party. He was knighted at the age of thirty-two, and at thirty-seven became a peer of the realm. To day it is announced that he has been sworn in as a member of the Lloyd George Government.

"The hero of this story is Max Aitken, later Sir William Maxwell Aitken, and now Lord Beaverbrook. As successor to Sir Edward Carson in the British Administration he is to have charge of British propaganda. No more important task could be assigned to anyone. It calls for a wide understanding of human psychology, and for instinctive knowledge regarding the best means of supporting Allied morale and of breaking down enemy morale. Beaverbrook is to be the publicity agent of the British Empire. He is to counteract the evil propaganda constantly carried on by the Central Powers all over the world. He is to make British ideals understood of others. He has not been pitchedforked into this high and responsible office. He would not have been chosen for it had he not shown capacity of a very unusual order. His strong personality seems to have made him an important factor in British affairs ever since the war began.

"He is widely credited with being the man who drew Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law into co-operation, and so made possible the formation of the present War Cabinet. Why is it that the young Canadian who has won his way in such an amazing manner from very small beginnings is continually followed by the sneers of Canadian newspapers? The fact that he has accepted an hereditary title should not blind us to Aitken's ability. His rapid ascent is proof of England's boast that the poorest child may climb to the topmost place in the gift of the nation. If we find satisfaction in eulogies of Mr. Lloyd George, who was a shoemaker's foster son, and of General Smuts, who was a South African Boer, why should we decry their youthful Canadian associate? What is the motive of those who decry him? Is it the petty jealousy of the village lout who says: 'Why I used to play with Max Aitken. He cannot amount to anything?'"

THE BREAD REGULATIONS.

Common sense seems to be the basis of the new regulations governing the production and sale of bread by bakers which were announced by the Food Controller on Tuesday of this week. Briefly these regulations make it illegal after March 1st for any baker to make bread, rolls, pastry, or other bakery products, without written permission from the Food Controller, from wheat flour other than the standard flour, recently prescribed; prohibit the manufacture of fancy loaves requiring extra hand labor, and provide for a standard loaf in the various provinces.

These regulations will impose no hardship on any one and as they are obviously designed to make for economy they should be faithfully observed by everyone. The regulations will not only conserve wheat and other necessary ingredients of the fancy loaves but will also eliminate wasteful practices from the bread-making industry. The new rules are sensible and will prove effective in attaining the object sought. Under them, consumers cannot be injured, bakers will be placed on an equal footing and the bread-making industry will be standardized to a degree that could not be possible if such regulations did not exist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTER FROM J. M. ROBINSON.

St. John, N. B., Feb. 14, 1918.
 To the Editor of The Standard.
 Sir—My attention has been called to your editorial of this morning in regard to the new issue of province of New Brunswick bonds.

For some years past my firm has handled practically all the provincial government issues which have been made, irrespective of what party was in power. It has always been a plain question of finance, in which politics in no way entered, and we have been in the fortunate position of having been able to render to the government a service equal to and, in many cases, much superior to that offered by our competitors. To quote an instance in point: About six months ago we were offered an opportunity to place for the government an issue of \$500,000 twenty year 5 p.c. bonds. Representing my firm, I met the government and made them an offer which they accepted. Some time afterwards I learned that my offer was two points better in respect of price and \$200,000 more in respect of the liability we were willing to undertake than other firms then offered.

In respect of the present issue I can assure you that the province of Manitoba recently sold an issue of bonds at a price which cost the province over 7 p.c. interest. The province of Ontario's last issue cost the province about 6 p.c. interest and in view of these facts I can state that the province of New Brunswick received a good price for its securities, and we and our partners in the transaction undertook a greater liability in the matter than was undertaken in the case of the Manitoba issue.

Yours truly,
 J. M. ROBINSON.

A BIT OF VERSE

LIGHTS OUT.
 "Lights out" along the land,
 "Lights out" upon the sea.
 The night must put her hiding hand
 O'er peaceful towns where children sleep.
 And peaceful ships that darkly creep
 Across the waves, as if they were not free.

The dragons of the air,
 Lurking and prowling everywhere,
 Go forth to seek their helpless prey,
 Not knowing whom they maim or slay—
 Mad harvesters, who care not what they reap.

Out with the tranquil lights,
 Out with lights that burn
 For love and law and human rights:
 Set back the clock a thousand years:
 All they have gained now disappears,
 And the dark ages suddenly return.

Kaiser who loosed wild death,
 And terror in the night—
 O grant you draw no quiet breath,
 Until the madness you began
 Is ended and long-suffering man,
 Set free from war words, cries, "Let there be light."
 —Henry Van Dyke, in "The Red Flower."

A BIT OF FUN

SEISMIC DISTURBANCES.
 "Here's where I give you the slip," remarked the icy pavement to the fat man.

FOR LOVE OR SHELTER.
 Edith—"Jack's been calling on me every evening lately. What do you suppose it means."
 Marie—"Can't say positively, dear. Either he loves you, or his landlady has run out of coal."

HADN'T MET IT.
 Collector (curtly)—"Do you know anything about this note?"
 Owens (gazing at document)—"Can't say that I ever met it."

A KIND WORD.
 He—"Can't you find anything pleasant to say about the members of my family?"
 She—"Well, yes; I remember they were all down on our marriage."

JOSHING HIM.
 "Josh Billings said he was an honest man because jail life didn't agree with him."
 "That was frank, wasn't it?"
 "No, it was Josh. Never heard of Josh Billings."

LIKES THE JOB.
 When Betty lets me fasten on her skates, 'tis bliss indeed.
 I do declare I wouldn't care
 Were she a centipede.

Little Benny's Note Book

I was doing my lessons in the sitting room and pop was reading the paper, saying to himself, The man that writes these editorials certainly has an influence over the English language, his motto seems to be, Never put off on 2 syllables what you can hitch to 4.

Which just then ma came in, saying, Wat do you suppose, Willyum? You desire to become aware of the concatenations of my sarybolium? sed pop.

For mercy sakes, sed ma.
 Do I understand that you are in possession of tidings that you purpose to communicate? sed pop.

I was going to tell you sumthing, if thats wat you mean, sed ma, my goodness, I forget wat it was now. O yes, wat do you suppose?
 Agen I am requested to divulge the functionings of my excoctationery processes, sed pop.

Now Willyum, dont keep it up all nite, you know wen you start a thing it woodent be so bad if you wood only stop it agen, sed ma.
 Quite the antithesis, sed pop, a thing werth periptrating is werth periptrating to the full intent of potenshill potenshillity.

You may know wat youre tawking about, but if you do Im sorry for you, sed ma.

Do you mean to say that the lucidity off my perambulations transcends the status quo of your graspability? sed pop.

I mean to say that too much is plenty and if you dont stop it immediately Im going rite out and leave you and you can tawk krazy to yourself, sed ma. The only one thats enjoying it, anyway, sed ma.

But I havent imparted to me the presumably momentous information wen of you were in such a condition of precipitation, sed pop.
 No, and Im not going to, and besides, youve made me clesen forget wat it was agen, Im going erround to the movies till you izastut yourself, sed ma.

Which she did, leaving me go with her, and wen we came back pop had went to bed.

QUEEN ST. HOUSE

BADLY DAMAGED

Firemen Called to Fight Blaze
 Last Night — House Had Been Used for Boarders — Fire Was Between the Floors.

An alarm from box 35, about half past eight last night called the firemen to the house at 20 Queen street, which has been used of late as a boarding and rooming house by a number of Bulgarian and Austrians, and it was there, in the vicinity of \$1,000. The loss on the building will probably reach the same amount.

The damage done was mostly by smoke and the necessity for chopping to reach the blaze, which was principally in the walls and floors. The building is owned by John Scott of Winnipeg, and H. W. Frink of this city acted as agent. The damage to the building will be covered by insurance as there was \$4,000 with Allison and Thomas, but Charles Mika, the man who rented the building, and conducted a store in addition to the rooming house, had no insurance and his loss will be in the vicinity of \$1,000. The loss on the building will probably reach the same amount.

Shortly after eight o'clock a still alarm was sent to the hook and ladder station which took the chemical to the scene of the fire. When they arrived seeing that more help was needed an alarm was sent in from box 35 and the department quickly responded. The house was full of smoke and very little light could be seen, but the fire was finally located between the floors and in the eastern wall of the house. Holes were chopped in the floor and the ceiling of the shop in the east end of the building pulled off before the fire was put out.

Mr. Mika, who had been running a boarding and rooming house had vacated the premises last Friday and stated that the last time he was in the building was Wednesday morning. So far as could be learned last night the only person in the building when the fire broke out was Bert Godard, who occupied a room in the rear of the building and the third floor, and he knew nothing of the fire until the apparatus had arrived and the water was turned on. Mr. Godard stated to The Standard representative that he saw Mr. Mika in the building last evening.

No reason could be assigned for the fire as it was claimed by Mr. Mika there had not been a fire in the building for a week. It is supposed the blaze started around the chimney. The home of R. M. Magee, next door, was damaged to a certain extent by the smoke as during the evening it was completely filled with smoke from the fire.

MANY FARMERS FOUND AMONG THE DRAFTIES

James S. Scott Made Examination Yesterday—Of 150 Interviewed Only One Was Found Not to Be a Farmer.

The exemption of farmers now in barracks in St. John promises to make quite a hole in the 1st Depot Battalion. Yesterday James S. Scott, appointed by the provincial government to attend to the men applying for exemption on the grounds that they are farmers, visited the armory and examined about 150 men personally. The result of the 150 men called before him was that only one was found not to be a farmer. The great majority of the men stated that they would just as soon be on the farms. Every case was attended to in detail and the number of men who prior to the act were engaged in farming was surprising.

It is stated on good authority that in one company alone no less than one hundred men are from the farms of New Brunswick. Owing to the immediate need of production, the government has decided that these men will be of more service home on the farms, and with this in view they have asked the provincial governments to co-operate with them in the work of weeding out the farmers.

Mr. Scott told The Standard last night at the Victoria Hotel that he requested the military authorities to summon men who claimed to have had farm experience, and who were supposed to have stated that they were

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actively engaged in farming. The result was that in all about one hundred men were examined. It is the intention to carry out this work among the men of the 1st Depot Battalion until they have all been heard. Just how soon the men will be discharged it is not known, but it is likely that but a few days will lapse before many of them will be on the homeward trip.

RICHIBUCTO

Richibucto, Feb. 10.—Mrs. P. Dickson has received word that her brother James Irving who went overseas in the 24th Battalion, has been shot to the hospital suffering from gunshot wounds. Pte. Irving has been overseas since the first year of the war, being one of the first Richibucto lads to volunteer for King and Country. His many friends are wishing for his speedy recovery.

LIFE OF TENNYSON.

W. F. Burditt gave a lecture at the Art Club last evening, giving a sketch

WHAT DYSPETICS SHOULD EAT

A PHYSICIAN'S ADVICE.
 "Indigestion and practically all forms of stomach trouble are, nine times out of ten, due to acidity; therefore stomach sufferers should, whenever possible, avoid eating food that is acid in its nature, or which by chemical action in the stomach develops acidity. Unfortunately, such a rule eliminates most foods which are pleasant to the taste as well as those which are rich in blood, flesh and nerve building properties. This is the reason why dyspeptics and stomach sufferers are usually so thin, emaciated and lacking in that vital energy which can only come from a well fed body. For the benefit of those sufferers who have been obliged to exclude from their diet all starchy, sweet or fatty food, and are trying to keep up a miserable existence on gluten products, I would suggest that you should try a meal of any food or foods which you may like, in moderate amount, taking immediately afterwards a teaspoonful of bisurated magnesia in a little hot or cold water. This will neutralize any acid which may be present, or which may be formed, and instead of the usual feeling of uneasiness and fullness, you will find that your food agrees with you perfectly. Bisurated magnesia is doubtless the best food corrective and antacid known. It has no direct action on the stomach; but by neutralizing the acidity of the food contents, and thus removing the source of the acid irritation which inflames the delicate stomach lining, it does more than could possibly be done by any drug or medicine. As a physician, I believe in the use of medicine whenever necessary, but I must admit that I cannot see the sense of dosing an inflamed and irritated stomach with drugs instead of getting rid of the acid—the cause of all the trouble. Get a little bisurated magnesia from your druggist, eat what you want at your next meal, take some of the bisurated magnesia as directed above, and see if I'm not right."

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S. Kerr,
 Principal

The death of Henry Wednesday night at 11 o'clock. He is a young children—three boys; three brothers, Thur W. and Fred, all two sisters, Mrs. H. John, and Mrs. Charles W. John. He has been employed with S. Company.

Mrs. Edith L. C. Frederickton, Feb. 14

Excellent Program
 Street Church
 ces of Young
 sionary Societ

A very enjoyable social was held at Main street Baptist auspices of the Young ary Society, who had for the evening the Ladies' Aid and the Pastor, Rev. D. elied and conducted cises after which t gramme was carried. Piano duet—Misses and Madeline Adams. Reading—Miss A. Piano solo—Miss A. Solo—Mrs. Blake. Reading—Miss O. Solo—Miss Grant. Instrumental trio, Mr.—Master Ronald Miss Hutchinson. Solo—Mrs. Edwards. The accompanist, Miss Edith Hutchinson. At the conclusion refreshments were s

OBITUARY
 Robert S. F. The death of Robert aged eighty years, home, 4 Courtney morning, Mr. Fether resident of St. John very well known here was a ship carpenter of the old volunteer He leaves, besides his wife, one daughter, J. C. Fetherston, of V ing, and one daughter home. The funeral afternoon at 2:30 from dence.

Henry H. The death of Henry Wednesday night at 11 o'clock. He is a young children—three boys; three brothers, Thur W. and Fred, all two sisters, Mrs. H. John, and Mrs. Charles W. John. He has been employed with S. Company.

Mrs. Edith L. C. Frederickton, Feb. 14

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