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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 21, 1914

WHAT IS THE GERMAN VIEW NOW?

From Berlin there is issued a stream of official despatches purporting to deal with the course of the war and pretending to express confidence in the outcome. This Berlin "news" is manufactured for consumption by the rest of the world, in the hope that some of it may be accepted as genuine.

But what is the real German view, after three and one-half months of war? Even the great German siege guns have no more terrors for the Allies. The Allied armies refuse to coop themselves up in fortresses, and as the guns are chiefly useful for battering down fortresses and not very effective against armies in the field, the German advantage which proved so great at Liege and Namur is no longer reckoned formidable. Of the tremendous armies which poured over the French frontier in a flood which Germany believed irresistible, that of Von Kluck alone scored a temporary success. But Von Kluck turned back of necessity when almost within cannon shot of Paris, and retreated to the Marne, only to be driven from that position to the present German lines.

The quick, smashing defeat which was to be inflicted upon the French and British, and upon which Germany depended for winning the first campaign, has never been achieved. The battle of the Marne was, perhaps, the nearest approach to a great pitched battle in the western theatre of war, and it resulted in the defeat and retirement of the flower of the German army.

Well informed persons in Germany must long ago have begun to ask themselves how any outcome is now possible except complete defeat. If the German battering-ram could break through the French lines today, it could scarcely reach Paris, for so immense are the Allied forces in the field that the German advance would be broken by flanking attacks in tremendous force. Germany is always in danger of a great French turning movement on the left of its line. Moreover, across the Channel, Kitchener, the "organizer of victory," grimly drills a million men, and is preparing to drill another million, to be thrown into the fighting line when the right hour strikes. British naval losses have not been sufficient to diminish the striking force of Britain's superb sea power. Thus, when the time comes, Kitchener's army can be safely convoyed to the proper landing place on the Continent.

On the eastern front the menace of the Bear comes ever closer and looms ever more formidable. In a winter campaign the Russians have manifest advantages, just as they have manifest advantages in the power to make good their losses and to draw an endless stream of fresh troops and supplies from the vast Empire at their back. The hope that Germany would be able to hold the Russians by defensive warfare at the Vistula, and so draw off a great force to throw into the fighting in France and Belgium, has been dissipated by the recent Russian successes. While the grim struggle along the Channel goes on, and one side or the other gains a mile of territory after many days of tremendous sacrifice, it must occur to well informed Germans that to find themselves in the fourth month of the war in such a deadlock in Belgium can only mean the ruin of the ambitious plans which their strategists formed for the quick rush that was to paralyze France and seize its capital.

The general outlook is gloomy enough from the German standpoint. It is necessary at times to look at all of the territory involved in the terrific struggle in order to see the picture in its proper proportions; and when the fighting qualities of Germany's soldiers are exalted, it is well to contrast what they have succeeded in doing up to this time with what their strategists hoped to succeed in doing in the first three months of the war. Nevertheless, it is the part of wisdom to realize that the struggle may yet be long and that it certainly will be desperate, and that, therefore, we in Canada, following the glorious example of the people of the United Kingdom, must set ourselves ever more grimly to work upon the one great task before the British race, that of raising with all possible speed enough brave and loyal men to hammer the German legions back across their own frontier and drive them, defeated and broken, through the heart of their own country to Berlin. This is the greatest military work ever undertaken by the British people, but it is the work of justice as well as of self-preservation, and there can be no hesitation, no halting, until the task is done.

MEETING THE SITUATION.

Ottawa reports indicate that while the blow to business in all the provinces of the Dominion, following the announcement that war had been declared, was severe, in some instances almost staggering, most branches of trade are now on the upward turn. Canada in the first shock of the news that nearly all Europe was up in arms, for a time almost lost herself, and so did the United States. Both countries, however, soon recovered and made rapid progress in the work of trade readjustment. Today, in Canada, there is a spirit of optimism from coast to coast, and business is encouraging, although in many cases the effect of the conditions brought about by the war is severe. Success is crowning an honest and well-directed effort to carry on business as usual and to stimulate manufacturing by demanding made-in-Canada goods wherever possible, and in various other ways.

Leading business men in the United States, including some of the most prominent bankers in America, declare that there are unmistakable signs that the country is on the eve of a period of great prosperity. What is true of the United States, commercially, is largely true of Canada, for the trade relations of the two nations with Europe are practically alike, and the process of readjustment to changed conditions in Europe is to all intents and purposes the same in Canada as in the United States.

Canada's industries are still unsettled, but far less so than they were several weeks ago. Much has been done to restore public confidence, and the people are coming to realize that their national resources are such as to provide plenty of work to do at home. The lumbermen are planning for extensive operations this winter, which means work for the mills next spring; many factories are opening up, and while general trade in central and western Canada is reported to be below normal, the money situation is not so discouraging as it was and there seems to be no reason for depression.

Clearly this is a time for Canada to make every effort to increase her industries and encourage trade expansion. For instance, Ottawa officials explain that the Canadian canning industry stands to benefit enormously as a result of the situation created by the war—a situation that, for the first time in the history of the industry, on account of the tremendous falling off in foreign competition, gives it an opportunity to supply the bulk of the domestic trade, to increase supplies to the outside markets to which it has already access, and to make new trading connections that will be of a permanent character.

It is the expectation of the Trade and Commerce Department that the war will have a tremendous effect on the sugar industry, that the shutting off of sources of supply with respect to woollen fabrics and garments will present great opportunities to Canadian enterprize and energy, that advantage of the opportunity to secure increased trade will be taken by makers of iron and steel products, and that many other lines of manufacturing will be permanently benefitted.

The situation demands courage—which apparently is not lacking—and a strong determination to adjust matters to the changed conditions. There seems to be good reason for optimism, and no doubt Canada's industrial leaders will be alert to every legitimate opportunity.

A STIRRING MEETING.

What will the harvest in the matter of recruits be as a result of Tuesday night's great and stirring meeting in the Imperial Theatre? This is a question which every citizen must be asking himself this morning. It was in all respects a meeting admirable in purpose and in the quality of the moving and earnestly patriotic speech-making. Perhaps one could have wished that the audience had contained a greater percentage of men of the active service age, but we must remember that, in addition to the direct appeal to the prospective soldier, such men are influenced to a great extent by others, by their elders, and by noble and patriotic women.

The principal speakers of the evening delivered a message that must have thrilled deeply all who heard it, and that must haunt all that read it with a renewed sense of personal responsibility in this hour of peril to the Empire. Those who spoke, and who will speak again on this supreme subject, are doing their utmost in their own way to bring victory to the good cause. Surely everyone who heard them, or who reads what they said with such striking power, must feel an enlarged sense of national duty in this hour when only the real gold of sterling patriotism and sacrifice can save the honor and integrity of our Empire and beat down the savage foe.

Perhaps it may be useful to introduce in this connection a word which the Earl of Selborne addressed to a recruiting meeting in England a few days ago. That distinguished Briton, in the course of a striking speech at a great meeting said that Great Britain was confronted by two great dangers. "One is defeat," he said. At this some of those in the audience cried, "Never." His lordship challenged that interruption sharply. Let us quote:

"No, don't let us be like the Germans. It is a very stupid thing and a very cowardly thing not to face all the possibilities of a problem. Defeat would be so terrible in its consequences that some of you do not dare to hear it mentioned. There is something not so bad as defeat, but still very bad, and that would be a peace of exhaustion—a peace that would lead to no settlement, that would mean renewal of this struggle as it suited the Germans. This great fight has got to be fought out both by sea and by land. It is entirely and solely owing to the shield of the navy that this war is being fought out in Belgium and not in England. The silent economic pressure which sea power is bringing to bear on Germany, and will bring to bear more and more as the months go on, is going to be a very potent factor in the settlement of this war.

"But, still, war has got to be fought out on land, too. You can only meet immense numbers by immense numbers. Think of these men—not fighting a battle today and another a month hence as in the old wars—think of these men who have been fighting day and night ever since they landed in France, not quite three months ago. Do you think they never look over their left shoulder to England and say, 'When are our brothers and our friends coming to help us?' (Cheers.) The point I want you to face now is that if the struggle is to end in victory for the French and for us, then we want the men and we want them now. It is no use waiting until you see your country defeated and then coming forward."

These words of Lord Selborne's require no emphasis. They carry enough. He said another thing which should interest us here. It was that when reverses were reported in Great Britain, recruits came forward in great numbers, but when no reverses were reported, recruiting fell off. He said that "the young man who is sound in body, and who has not got an obviously greater call of duty elsewhere and does not come forward now, is a shirker." This was greeted by an outburst of cheering. Then he asked what defeat for the British Empire would mean, and answered his own question in these words:

"Defeat for us would mean the loss of the whole Empire. It would mean the loss of all the trade which the Germans would take from us, and that would mean loss of the means of livelihood of the vast number of our people. Defeat would mean a war indemnity put upon us of such a size as would be deliberately intended to crush us as a nation. Do you think Germans would take two hundred millions from us? It would be deliberately imposed so as to put us out of existence as a great nation. There is absolutely no end to the material loss which defeat would mean to us.

"But the material loss would be by far the least part of it. After all, we are not fighting for all that has made England materially great, we are fighting for all that makes life worth living at all to a free people. Sooner than be under the heel of the Prussian military caste, sooner than accept their law of right and wrong—sooner than that, I say, let there be annihilation for the English people." (Cheers).

Those who know the patriotic people of this city and this province are convinced that nothing will so quickly stimulate recruiting as a plain and frank statement of the desperate character of the need, and the fact that men of our own blood, fighting day after day in one long desperate battle on the Continent, are, as Lord Selborne suggests, looking over their shoulders to their home lands and asking, "When are our brothers and our friends coming to help us?"

What is our answer?

HOME GUARDS.

The movement to raise forces for home defence in St. John and in other parts of New Brunswick leads a subscriber, who is a student of history, to send to The Telegraph the following facts concerning the volunteer militia of New Brunswick at various periods in our history.

In 1834, when the population was 119,457, the militia force of New Brunswick was 34,000.

In 1847, when the population was 192,867, the militia force numbered 55,000. These men, says our informant, were maintained at no cost to the province, service being purely voluntary. He quotes from Gesner's history of New Brunswick concerning local defence in 1847. Speaking of the militia the historian said:

"They are regularly organized, and a number of companies at St. John, Fredericton, and at other places, are armed and trained. The habit of shooting has made many of the country militia very expert marksmen, and in a new country they would be found very dangerous adversaries to an invading army."

This, says our informant, is interesting as showing what the province can do if it really tries. It now has a population exceding 350,000, of which the active male citizens would number nearly 100,000 men. A very formidable number, it should be plain, could be enrolled, armed, and trained, if measures were taken to convince the people generally of the necessity for such preparation. The figures referred to have a bearing not only upon home defence but upon recruiting for service abroad, and the number of active militiamen in training in the province of late years gives some indication of the capacity of the population to produce some thousands of soldiers at short notice once the spirit of the people is aroused. It must be thought that the patriotic meetings and other measures lately adopted to awaken a sense of responsibility among the population at large will result in greatly stimulating recruiting for active service, and such steps as those best advised may deem essential and wise in the matter of home defence.

These are matters not for next year, or next month, but for today.

THE FIGHT FOR PURE MILK.

The war on impure milk is being carried on with increased force in the large cities of the United States, and during the last two or three years much has been accomplished. In Massachusetts, so far as statistics are a guide, hopeful progress has been made.

The Milk Consumers' Association of that State reporting to the American Association for Study and Prevention of Infant Mortality, explains that while it has not yet succeeded in securing legislation that would provide the most adequate protection against impure milk, it has carried on a campaign of education which has had a beneficial influence upon the general supply from within the State borders. The announcement is made, the Boston Transcript says, that the bacterial tests of car milk, which comes chiefly from without the State, have not been satisfactory, but that as a result of more careful inspection the shop milk and wagon milk in Boston and other Massachusetts cities have been freer of bacteria than ever before, with a corresponding decrease in infant mortality.

In New York city, where the milk associations and the pasteurization processes have made a record which ought to attract the favorable notice of every board of health in Canada, infant mortality shows a very low rate; lower than in the rest of the State, where the inspection and treatment of milk are not so well conducted.

The fight for pure milk should be kept up unceasingly. Wherever there is legislation compelling proper inspection the results have far more than justified the expenditure. In Massachusetts, for example, the decrease in infant mortality has been steady since 1910, when the improved methods of handling milk were adopted, and it is estimated that the lives of nearly 4,000 young children have been saved during the last three years.

CANADA AND THE EMPIRE.

Driven from its contention that cruisers of the improved Bristol class, which Canada was to build, could not have performed the same service now placed so gloriously to the credit of the Australian cruiser Sydney, the Standard newspaper drops that feature of the argument as unfortunate. But in shifting its ground it only gets into further difficulties. It now adopts the transparent device of asking its subscribers to forget that Mr. Borden, and not Sir Wilfrid Laurier, has been in control of the affairs of this country since the autumn of 1911. Such an attempt is a reflection upon the intelligence of those to whom it is addressed.

We are among those who believe that in time of war partisan arguments should give way to the supreme question of the hour, and that nothing should be done to hamper the government of the day in any efforts it is making to place the strength of Canada at the disposal of the Empire. This is the one important thing. Nevertheless, since the Standard has selected this ill-chosen hour for blatant and disgraceful misrepresentation of the Liberal party, some discussion of Mr. Borden's conspicuous failure to give naval aid to the Empire during the last three years is unavoidable. A glance at the facts will show how unpleasant they must be for partizan Conservatives who invite a debate of this character now.

At the time the Liberal party went out of power the Laurier ministry purchased two cruisers from the British government for the Canadian auxiliary navy, and had called for tenders for cruisers of the improved Bristol type and some destroyers. Thus, when Mr. Borden came into office, this country had at its disposal the first class cruiser Niobe, of 11,000 tons, carrying sixteen 6-inch guns and 600 men, and the second class cruiser Rainbow, of 3,600 tons, carrying two 6-inch guns and six 4.7 guns, and a complement of 473 men. These were intended chiefly as training ships for the Canadian navy, but they have been found most useful in the present war, and their serviceable batteries must not be overlooked. For instance, in the matter of coast protection against raiding cruisers such as the Germans have had in the Atlantic, the utility of the Niobe's sixteen 6-inch guns will scarcely be denied. As has been said, the Laurier government had called for tenders for the construction of cruisers of the improved Bristol type, fast vessels, each with a primary battery of eight 6-inch guns, sister ships of the Australian cruiser Sydney which disposed of the German Emden.

Mr. Borden came into office in September, 1911. For the balance of that year he talked about naval aid, but did nothing.

He talked about it during 1912, but the only thing he did in that year was to reject the bids of the British firms which had tendered for the proposed Canadian cruisers.

In 1913 Mr. Borden again effected nothing practical for naval defence, and in 1914 his inaction continued, practically up to the time war was declared. Upon the declaration of war the Borden ministry did its best to get the Niobe and the Rainbow into active service, and these vessels, formerly despised and rejected by all of the Conservative orators and newspapers, have proved most useful ever since.

Mr. Borden has been Prime Minister of this country and his party has been in control of its affairs since September, 1911, but although Mr. Borden continually talked about imperial perils he has been guilty of a conspicuous failure to render naval aid to the Empire, and his sole excuse for this failure is that the wicked Liberals would not permit him to do anything. Nevertheless he went on clinging to office, his one idea being to avoid any chance of defeat. He was willing to do anything for the Empire except risk his tenure of office by submitting his policies to the judgment of the electorate.

Now that the Empire is engaged in a terrific struggle against the Teutonic Alliance, the Standard, in the hope of temporarily diverting attention from the blank page of Mr. Borden's naval accomplishment, persists in telling its intelligent subscribers that the real blame must be shouldered by an administration which went out of power in the autumn of 1911. While Australia was building a squadron of its own Mr Borden was attempting to placate the Nationalists, with whose aid he won the election of 1911, chiefly by means of an assault upon the Laurier naval policy in Quebec. Mr. Borden's allies in Quebec denounced the Laurier policy because they said it was designed to produce fighting ships which would carry away the sons of Quebec to be mangled and killed in Great Britain's foreign wars. Mr. Borden subsequently agreed to relieve the Nationalists from this danger by borrowing money in England to pay for ships which Canada was not to equip, man, or maintain. Proof of Mr. Borden's surrender was found in the elevation of certain Nationalists to cabinet offices, and that surrender was emphasized once more the other day when Mr. Pierre Edouard Blondin, whose anti-British utterances were the most notorious in the last Federal campaign, entered the Borden cabinet. It was not on account of Liberal opposition, but on account of Mr. Borden's surrender to Nationalist pressure, that he failed to serve the Empire in any way during 1911, during 1912, during 1913, and during the first half of 1914. What he has done since the war began, this is not the time to discuss beyond mentioning that his position would have been intolerably worse had it not been for the cruisers with which his Liberal predecessors had provided this country.

But while Mr. Borden was preparing a policy which would meet the objections of his Nationalist allies, Australia was doing better. The 1914 edition of The Naval Annual, the standard authority in these matters, gives the official record of Australia's activities:

The battle cruiser Australia, mounting eight 12-inch guns, and carrying 790 men, was launched in 1911 and completed in 1913.

The cruiser Sydney, with eight 6-inch guns, was launched in 1912 and completed in 1913.

The cruiser Melbourne, a sister ship of the Sydney, was launched in 1912 and completed in 1913.

Australia had purchased from Great Britain the second class cruiser Encounter, launched in 1903 and completed in 1906, and the light cruiser Pioneer, launched in 1899 and completed in 1900.

What Australia actually did is properly the measure of what Mr. Borden might have done between the time he took office in 1911 and the outbreak of the present war. And he did nothing.

The Standard has promised us some lively fighting on this naval issue, but up to date its noisy activities have been merely those of the parade ground. It is using saluting charges instead of live shell. Even the Standard's unfortunate circle of readers will not mistake bluster for argument or noise for facts. Conscientious Conservatives—there are some—will ask themselves who has been Premier of this country since 1911, and what he has effected in the matter of giving naval aid to the Empire. The Standard's reply is that of course Mr. Borden has done nothing, but that the Liberals and not Mr. Borden must be held responsible. But its readers know that Mr. Borden talked for three years after he got into office, but did nothing beyond maintaining the cruisers purchased by the Laurier government and rejecting the tenders for the others which they proposed to build, and which, had Mr. Borden gone ahead with the programme, would now have been serving the Empire like the Niobe and the Rainbow and the Sydney.

The Standard, with that chastity of language which so becomes it, speaks of "getting away with" misrepresentations of the naval issue. The organ will never "get away with" Mr. Borden's abject failure during his three years of power—a failure which the world war has written large before the eyes of all the Empire. But, after all, parties are but parties. The great cause that everybody has at heart today calls for united and effective action in giving Sir John French all the men he needs, a great many of which must still come from Canada. The great mass of Canadians, Liberals and Conservatives alike, are not talking politics today; they are talking war, and until the war has brought British victory with Canadian aid they will be impatient with party issues—and properly so. Naval defence is not properly a party question at all. Imperial defence is bigger than all parties. It was lifted above politics by the joint resolutions of 1909, but Mr. Borden and Mr. Foster, who subscribed to those resolutions, soon fell to their old level. Their failure in that respect has been a curse to the country.

OUR WAR.

If Great Britain falls, Canada falls. That message, which Sir Rider Haggard delivered here so dramatically many weeks ago, is being repeated in other forms all over this country today, not with the idea that defeat is probable, but for the purpose of bringing the Canadian people as a whole to a fuller realization of their responsibility at this time. If the German guns were as near as the Nova Scotia coast and could be heard in the Bay of Fundy as they are heard in the British Channel, if hostile airships were threatening our capital as they are threatening London and Paris, if ship-loads of wounded were coming into Canadian ports as they are into British ports, we in Canada would be thinking less about the ordinary duties of the day and more about the one great and supreme duty of defeating Germany and Austria.

Let us consider the message of an Englishman, who believes absolutely in the coming triumph of our cause, but who is attempting to arouse the people of the United Kingdom to still greater efforts in order to remove defeat from among the possibilities. If the people of Great Britain still require such messages of warning—and they are receiving many today—how much more are such messages necessary in Canada, which is so much farther removed from the scene of the conflict, at least for the present. Writing in the English Review for November, "Britannicus" addresses these words to his fellow Britons:

"A Germany permanently established on the Dutch and Belgian coasts and accumulating, behind their defences and within a few hours' steaming of our shore, the armed plant for an invasion of Great Britain, would mean that never again in this country should we have one moment's security. We should have to live year in and year out on a war footing, with naval estimates running into the hundred millions sterling. We simply could not stand the strain. Such a power as Germany would then be would be irresistible. Our nerves, our money, would alike give out; our commerce would wither away. Whatever efforts we put forth, Germany could surpass them. Secure in half-a-dozen unreachable strongholds from Antwerp and Flushing to the Kiel canal, she would merely have to wait and prepare. Our national existence would shrink into a shameful thing of ceaseless and subservient terrors. Our policies would be dictated from Berlin. A wave of Germany's hand, and we should be obliged to dismiss any minister to whom she objected, just as France a few years ago under the proddings of the German ramrod had to dismiss M. Delcasse. And one day the blow would fall, an immensely mightier blow than Napoleon ever had it in his power to deal. It would not be a raid; it would be an invasion. We might be able to repel it once, twice, three times. But it would be incessantly renewed. Our fleet, whatever happened elsewhere, could never for a moment leave the North Sea. It would be tied down to the supreme necessity of guarding against Germany. Sooner or later, by the mere law of averages, Germany would break through, Great Britain would be invaded as Belgium and France have been invaded, but with a far greater passion of hatred, and these famous islands might sink, in the grim phrase of Sir Edward Grey, to be 'the conscript appendage' of their German rulers. . . .

"Germany is one in a sense in which she never has been one in all her history; she can place in the field probably not less than 6,000,000 men; fighting on her own territory, behind defences that nature and the utmost military skill have rendered all but impregnable, and with her back to the wall, she will put up a resistance that will cease only with the last cartridge and the last shell. Moreover, the unpredictable chances that surround all warfare, and especially by sea, may, for all one can tell, favor her fortunes. A naval force, however preponderant, is not an absolute guarantee of security so long as the hostile fleet is still in being. There is need, therefore, for a much clearer appreciation of the nature and magnitude of the task ahead of us than one can profess to discover among our people as a whole; and need also for a far greater concentration of energy and foresight than has yet been effected. We have begun a prolonged and bitter struggle in which victory will be achieved only by the maximum of effort. Given that maximum, it is hardly open to question that ultimately victory will follow. But nothing less than the maximum will be enough."

That message should be heeded here as well as in Great Britain, for their cause is ours and we stand or fall together. In a sense these are ominous words; but surely it is not more than common prudence to insist that nothing be left to chance, that the maximum of effort on the part of all British countries be exerted at the earliest possible moment. "Britannicus" wrote the sentences we have quoted before the British government decided upon its second million of men. Great Britain has more than a million men under arms, and has provided the money and the means to enroll another million or more, to raise the number of the army to 2,186,000 men, in addition to supplementing largely the forces of the navy.

Under such circumstances this country should be providing for a much larger expeditionary force than is at present in view. It is our duty to meet the menace of this day as our forefathers met the menace of Napoleon. We come, English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians alike, from ancestors who knew how to speak with the enemy at the gate. No peril was too great for their courage to meet. No force launched against them was sufficient to shake their faith either in the justice of their cause or in the prowess of their forces by flood or field. The English writer we have quoted has not exaggerated the peril represented by Germany and Austria in arms, but the British Empire and its Allies are more than equal to the task of meeting that peril and overcoming it—if in all quarters the active and courageous men of our race realize not only the imperative nature of the duty but the fact that only by bringing the maximum of force to bear at the right time can victory be achieved.

We in Canada come of a fighting stock, and we are an out-of-door folk, scattered over a magnificent country, calculated to bring out the best attributes of any people, courage, steadfastness, tenacity, and a lasting belief in right and justice. Let it be the duty of Canadian leaders everywhere, therefore, to bring home to the hearts of our men in cities, in towns, and in villages, the grave nature of the duty which confronts them—and the response will be ample.

Expressmen moving a clock from one house to another in Waycross, Ga., and thus giving it a good jolting, set it going. Jewelers for seven years had been trying in vain to start it.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Panama Canal, according to Colonel Goethals, has cost $353,559,000. It is a big sum, but the Canal is worth it.

* * *

A famous French alienist declares the Germans are mad. The Kaiser, he says, has megalomania, and the malady affects the whole nation. He looks upon the German discipline as in reality nothing but a lack of individuality. Many of the doctor's countrymen agree with him.

* * *

Major-General Hughes is authority for the statement that Lord Roberts had intended to go to the front with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Had the great soldier been spared to accompany the troops to France his presence would have been to them at once an honor and an inspiration.

* * *

Not only is the British government ready and able to provide the money needed to carry on this war against the German menace, but it is also in a position to finance several other countries. Since the Kaiser began the struggle in Europe, Great Britain has more than once proved her wonderful resourcefulness.

* * *

Alarmists who predict disaster to Britain's navy as a result of huge guns of superior range on German warships should take some comfort from the report made by the governor of Tsing Tau to the Kaiser. "Our artillery was completely overcome," he said. No doubt the Germans have very powerful guns—but so have the British.

* * *

Before the present struggle in Europe began a great many military experts were of opinion that the bayonet was no longer useful as a weapon of modern warfare. They were wrong as the recent fighting in France has proved. Its effectiveness at close quarters has been demonstrated again and again by British and French soldiers. In the tactics of this war the bayonet is playing an important part.

* * *

It is a matter of regret that a few of the Canadian contingent in England have proved that they are unworthy of the trust and confidence of their officers. Their conduct, however, will not cloud the fact that, with possibly a few exceptions, the Canadians now in training at Salisbury are a splendid lot of men who may be depended upon to give a fine account of themselves when they reach the firing line.

* * *

A St. John Conservative puts forward the coy suggestion that the Dugal report ought to be kept under cover until the Legislature meets again. What Legislature? The one that almost unanimously supported the Hon. James Kidd Flemming in his every act? The Dugal report, the understanding has been, would be made public after this evening's meeting of the government. We shall now see if the government has decided upon one more trick of dodging.

* * *

Another German cruiser has been interned. Germany now has eight or nine cruisers at large. Five of these, the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipsig, Dresden and Nurnberg are in the Pacific, and the Karlsruhe, Bremen and Kron Prinz Wilhelm, and possibly one other light cruiser, are in the Atlantic. Their pursuit is being carried out systematically by the warships of the Allies and their capture or internment may be looked for at any time.

* * *

The Admiralty is still silent regarding the reported sinking of the battleship Audacious off the coast of Ireland on October 27, but it may be noted that Dr. Beaumont, the surgeon of the Olympic, which is said to have rescued the crew, flatly denies the whole story. He declares that no disaster of the kind occured on October 27 or at any time between that date and October 29, when he left the ship. Meanwhile the mystery surrounding the fate of the dreadnought is as deep as ever.

* * *

If we conquer—and conquer we must—we shall continue to cultivate militarism to our utmost ability in order to preserve the fruits of victory and promote the full expansion of our arts and sciences.—Professor Neisser in the Berline Tageblatt.

It was this barbarous state of mind that caused the war. The Germans with a ruthless disregard of justice and freedom of thought have developed the doctrine that might makes right. Professor Neisser's confession shows how absolutely necessary it is to crush forever the selfish spirit of Prussian militarism.

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The Standard solemnly suggests that the action of the Canadian Senate may have encouraged Germany to go to war. If there were anything in that sort of argument would it not be more reasonable to say that the failure of the Conservative government of this country to do anything effective in the way of Imperial naval defence from the autumn of 1911 to midsummer of 1914 might well have affected German opinion? The Standard's German argument will be seen on examination by that journal to be a two-edged weapon which requires somewhat careful handling.

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The New York Evening Post regards it as a most remarkable fact that after three and one-half months of war all of the capital ships, that is, the first class modern battleships, of all the nations involved, have escaped destruction. The Post thinks the fact that the British battleships have thus far all escaped is most surprising—"That the British have been able to protect their battleships is really amazing." Not only have the British been able to do that, but they are now putting more battleships into commission, new ones, carrying heavier guns than any other vessels of war afloat.