

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1916.

"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.

ITALY TAKES ACTION.

The decision of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, last night, in conferring extraordinary powers upon the government to handle the war situation as it deemed wise, which was adopted by a vote of 407 to 74, amid scenes of the greatest enthusiasm, definitely places the Italian people side by side with those of Britain, France and Russia, in the fight against German militarism and aggression. Formal declaration of war may not be made for some hours, or, indeed, may not come until after the Italian forces have struck at the foe, as was the case with Germany and France, but Italy's action last night constituted the most important step towards German defeat that has been taken since the Kaiser's armies were first checked on their march to Paris.

Whether the first blow of Germany's new foe will be struck on land or sea is a subject for interesting speculation. Armed forces representing both powers are concentrated on the Austro-Italian border, and ships of both navies are in the Adriatic. It is believed the Italian frontier is well guarded against invasion, and that her navy can adequately protect her ports and still have a large fleet to meet the Austrian ships on the high seas. An early attempt at the bombardment of the Austrian naval bases is expected, while it has also been the opinion of military men that when Italy entered the conflict she would at once dispatch a large force to fight the Turks against whom she has long harbored a grudge.

The action of the Balkan nations will now command attention. Roumania has already announced that Italy's entrance would be the signal for her to send an army into Transylvania, while Greece and Bulgaria have intimated their willingness to participate with the other Balkan kingdoms. With the Balkan peoples acting in concert it is not impossible that one outcome of the war may be the actual organization of the Balkan federation, mooted after the close of the campaign against Turkey but which was abandoned because of hostilities between Bulgaria and Serbia.

Whether the Balkans federate, or continue as separate kingdoms, the entrance of Italy and Roumania on the side of the Allies, marks the end of German influence in the near east. When the war is over Turkey will have been driven into Asia and the Teutonic influences succeeded by others more conducive to the peaceful development of that corner of Europe.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN.

The Standard, this morning, devotes considerable space to an article taken from the Christian Science Monitor of Boston and concerning Sir Robert L. Borden. Sanely phrased, written from an independent standpoint, the Monitor writer concludes that the premier of Canada has gained his popularity by his honesty and the manner in which he implemented his pre-election pledges. The Monitor is inclined to be uncompromising to the governments preceding the present one, as it says that the people of Canada faced a new experience when they found a premier who would honestly endeavor to carry out the pledges he made while in opposition. During the Laurier regime political promises were made to be broken, and the word of a politician came to be regarded as worth something below par.

Sir Robert Borden's advent to power found the people still rather skeptical; they could hardly realize that conditions had changed. But the first session of parliament convinced them that, on September 21st, 1911, they had entrusted the reins of authority to a man who looked upon a pledge as an obligation of honor and who, as an honest man, would not rest content while such an obligation remained unfulfilled.

The natural result of this realization on the part of the Canadian people was to greatly enhance the esteem in which the premier was held and in his career to the present time he has done nothing to forfeit that esteem and complete confidence; in fact the opinion of the American news-

paper is that Sir Robert Borden today enjoys the confidence of Canada to a greater extent than either the late honored Sir John A. Macdonald, or Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Canada was indeed fortunate in that the outbreak of Empire war found a high-minded, clear visioned Imperial statesman in control of the popular branch of the government; true, he was, and is, hampered by the non-representative Senate and consequently the benefit of valuable legislation which otherwise would have been enacted is withheld from the people, but even the Grit Senators, steeped in partisanship as they are, dared not oppose many of the war measures submitted by the Borden government. Canada has done, and is doing her Empire duty well and honestly, a fact not alone due to the desire of the people themselves but also to the admirable manner in which a complex situation has been handled by the ministry led by the subject of the Monitor's able and illuminating sketch—Sir Robert Laird Borden, Canada's safe and sane premier.

THE WAR SITUATION.

While developments on the battlefields of Europe are overshadowed in public interest by the scenes and incidents in the crowded Chamber of Deputies in Rome, events in all areas where fighting is in progress are moving well for the Allies. In the West there has been little fighting, but the British and French troops have availed themselves of the lull to completely occupy the positions gained during the week. Reports from the eastern front indicate partial successes for the Germans, but Petrograd claims the Russian troops are reorganizing and will make a speedy come-back. With Italy in the war, Germany and Austria will be forced to divert troops to meet the new enemy and this is expected to give the hardworked Russians a much needed breathing spell.

Good progress is being made in the Dardanelles. Important positions have been taken by the Allies and sea and land forces are gradually working their way nearer to the goal. The German submarine campaign is being continued, reports to hand indicating the loss of a French steamer, but no notable events have been reported from the underwater pirates since the sinking of the Lusitania. Generally the situation is regarded as eminently satisfactory.

The German reply to the American note has not yet been delivered. It is not easy to see how Germany can satisfy the demand of the government of the United States that reparation shall be made for the Lusitania crime. The sinking of the giant Cunarder was not an accident, but ordered or organized murder, and the Germans have intimated that they have no intention of departing from the system under which it was planned and put into effect. It is not impossible that Germany should offer to make reparation for continuance of such crimes, but it is impossible that the United States should continue to accept it.

Mr. Dernburg is apparently anxious to leave the United States and is reported to be desirous of securing from the Allies a guarantee of safe conduct to his own country. Dernburg and other German propagandists proclaimed that the British navy had been driven to cover and that British command of the seas was as dead as the dodo. Now he confesses that he cannot cross the ocean unless Britain permits it.

One of the criticisms of the war budget of the Canadian Finance Minister was that it would fail to raise necessary war funds. The best answer to that is found in the fact that for the three months it has been in operation the revenues are in excess of the corresponding three months of last year, while for May to date the revenue is well ahead of that revenue for May, 1914.

We certainly cannot agree with the editor of the Kansas City Star who calls Germany "a mad dog." The comparison is most unfair to the dog, for when he is mad he at least has the decency not to boast about it.

One thing is assured, with Italy against her, Germany cannot subsist on spaghetti when the stock of frankfurters and pretzels is exhausted.

Italy's action of last night affords evidence of one more instance when the Kaiser guessed wrong.

CANADA IS BEARING UP BRAVELY

(Christian Science Monitor)
It would be difficult if not impossible to draw an acceptable parallel between the condition of popular sentiment in the United States arising from the Lusitania affair and the effect produced upon popular thought in Canada by recent news from the front. The European war has lately been brought home to both countries, it is true, in a startling and impressive manner, but with results almost wholly dissimilar.

At no time since the beginning of last August has Canada failed to recognize the weight of its responsibilities or to realize the consequences of its position; yet for months, to the mass of the Canadian people, war had appeared something to be regarded academically—as something very far distant. There were for months no greater signs of war visible in Windsor than in Detroit; in Toronto than in Cleveland; in Montreal than in Montpelier, in Vancouver than in Seattle; but beneath the surface were continuously in action forces that represented the measure of the loyalty and devotion of this important unit of the British empire. Out of the beaten paths and far from the public view the youth of the Dominion were being assembled in training camps. From Canadian ports a few short months ago the first contingent of the Canadian legion was borne across the Atlantic. It seemed only a step in distance or time from Salisbury plain to the trench-scarred Ypres district, and only a flashing moment from the announcement that the Canadian volunteers were on the first line to the receipt of news that in a stand which saved the day for Britain and her allies 6,000 of the brave fellows had fallen.

Advices from the Dominion say that for a week after the coming of this news the people were unable to grasp their capabilities or to view their future in a proper light. A period of pessimism set in, and although conscious that a large portion of the world was ringing with applause, the recovery was slow. But the recovery came, and it is complete. There is no attempt in Canada to disguise the gravity of the situation, no attempt to evade the sacrifices it demands, but now that the cost may be clearly estimated, there is greater determination than ever to go on with the task in hand, and to cling to it steadfastly against all odds and all discouragements until it is finished.

Canada knows what it has to meet. It is troubled with no doubts. And because it is dealing with conditions and not with theories, with certainties and not with probabilities, its head is erect once more, its hopes are high, and it is more confident than ever of the righteousness of the cause to which it is giving so much of the best it has to give.

WEATHER HAMPERS WORK OF 55TH REGT. IN CAMP AT SUSSEX

Sussex, N. B., May 20.—This week at camp has been exceedingly unpleasant as far as the weather has been concerned, but the men have been kept steadily at work and considerable progress was made along all lines of drill.

The men all appear to be in good health and the place least used is the fine field hospital. The overseas draft under Captain H. J. Smith, is drilling already at full strength, ready to go abroad at a moment's notice. Apart from these 250 officers and men there are still about 500 men in the ranks of the 55th. The recruiting should bring this up to the required 1,150.

That the demand on the 55th since it has been formed is great is seen from the fact that yesterday the battalion was called upon to furnish a draft of fifteen French-speaking Canadians for the 25th battalion now at Amherst. This is less than three weeks the battalion has been required to supply three drafts from its incomplete ranks that of the double company for overseas work, that for the 25th battalion and yesterday's demand.

Recruits are not coming in as rapidly as would be liked but each day brings its quota, some ten or fifteen arriving yesterday. A class of instruction in signalling has been opened at the armoury under Sergeant Instructor Dean of the R. C. R., Halifax. This class is open to all who desire to take the course. The school will be under the direction of Lieutenant R. A. Davidson, O.C., No. 2 section, No. 6 Company, C. S. C. The school is open not only to present and former members of the signalling section, but to prospective or intending members as well.

A reading room is to be opened at once under the supervision of Chaplain Thomas. Any books or magazines which citizens may have to spare will be thankfully received and placed in the room for the use of the men. Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas is very popular with the men of the 55th.

The football and baseball teams expect to get down to business next week and some good games may be expected. The grounds have been so wet and muddy of late that nothing could be done along these lines.

There was a blow out under the concrete work of the dam at Rockville on Wednesday, which let through several hundred logs and some remain standing on end in the hole made. The damage will be repaired at once.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Me and pop was taking a walk yesterday before supper and a man started to walk up to us wearing a high white hat with letters on it saying Smoak Indian Maid Cigarettes.

Ah, heers wun of those fellows that give away sampal packages of cigarettes, sed pop, he will probably tawk me to death, but I dont mind taking a littel gas for a free pack of cigarettes.

And just then the man calm up, holding a pack of cigarettes in his hand and saying, Good day, sir.

Greetings, sed pop.

Do you smoak cigarettes, sed the man.

O, occasionally, sed pop.

Well, I am representing Indian Maid cigarettes, the biggist value for the munny awn the market today, they absoollutly can't bite the tung, and you get a valuebll free coopoo with evvry package, sed the man.

Eh heh, sed pop. And he keep looking at the box of cigarettes in the man's hand, and the man sed, I repeat, its absoollutly impossibl for these cigarettes to bite the tung, impossibl, I say, impossibl.

They cant do it, eh? sed pop.

They dont try to do it, sed the man.

That must be nice, sed pop, still looking at the cigarettes in the mans hand, and the man sed, y3s, sir, thare the biggist value for the munny awn the market today, thare made of pure Jenuine Turkish tobacco, and a valuebll free coopoo is given without cost with each and evvry package.

Eh heh, sed pop, still looking at the cigarettes.

Now, sir, I want you to try this package: I want you to give them a fare trial, and I assure you you'll never regret it, sed the man.

Ahats verry good of you, sed pop.

Give them a fair trial, now, a fare trial, sed the man.

I promise, sed pop. And he held out his hand, and the man put the cigarettes in it, saying, you will never regret it.

Thank you, sed pop.

It will cost you a dunc, irend, sed the man.

You poor simp, sed pop, I never buy cigarettes. And he gave them back to the man, and we keep awn vawking, pop saying, That jest goz to show, only a boob will try to escape pane by taking gas.

and it is expected that the mill will commence sawing in about ten days.

On Thursday William Brown of Hammond was drowned in the East Branch River.

The deceased was engaged in working on the dam, and in crossing it Thursday afternoon some of the covering gave way, and he was plunged into the water. Mr. Brown was a good swimmer and fought hard for his life but the rapid motion of the water soon dashed him against the rocks and rendered him insensible.

His body was found about an hour after the accident, two miles down the river, within a few feet of the falls. The deceased, who was fifty years of age, was in the employ of T. A. Kelly & Son.

The body was brought to Mr. Kelly's home, from where the funeral was held Sunday, May 14th. Rev. H. H. Brown conducted the service. Mrs. Richard Scott of Hammond, and Mr. George Brown of St. Martins are sister and brother of deceased.

Schooner Hits Tug.

Yesterday morning the Liverpool, N. S., fishing schooner Lydia May arrived in port to secure bait. The skipper of the vessel did not come to anchor in the harbor but attempted to reach the Turnbull wharf without the assistance of a tug. As the vessel neared the wharf she was caught in the strong current with the result that her bowsprit ploughed through

the wheelhouse of the steam tug Mildred. Nearly one half of the wheelhouse was torn away but no one was injured. The tug proceeded to Hill-yard's wharf to receive repairs.

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