

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1918

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A WORD OF CHEER.

We need the encouraging words of Premier Lloyd George, quoted in today's cables. With the British driven yesterday from a great portion of Messines Ridge, and the Germans in possession of Wytschaete and driving hard with what Sir Douglas Haig describes as overwhelming forces against Hazebrouck, there is need of a reassuring statement to counterbalance our fears.

Premier Lloyd George gives us new heart. He says a British general direct from the front is confident, and Gen. Foch is confident that the Germans will exhaust themselves before they can clear the road to the Channel ports. Those familiar with the country where the present desperate fighting is in progress assure us that there is still high ground to which the British can withdraw and yet hold very strong positions. Before each withdrawal they exact heavy toll. The amazing fact is the apparently limitless number of German reserves that are brought up in the hope of smashing a way through by sheer weight of numbers. And yet there must be a limit, and Gen. Foch believes it will be reached before the object of the great drive has been attained. What counter stroke he has planned or whether he is able to deliver one we are not told, but his expressed confidence in the ability of the Allies must have some basis of which we are at the moment ignorant. The situation is very critical, and keen anxiety will trouble us for days to come. The latest German success imperils the Ypres salient, the scene of so much desperate fighting earlier in the war. The London press does not attempt to minimize the present danger, but points out that so long as the line is unbroken there is hope that the exhaustion of German forces may save the situation. These are the most anxious days of the whole war. Upon the ability of the British lines now to withstand the enemy assaults depends the duration of the war.

THE FACTS RE-STATE.

If the St. John Railway Company had not sold out to the New Brunswick Power Company it would have gone on with only \$2,057,000 in stock and bonds outstanding against it. It would only have been necessary to provide interest and dividends for that amount. The company was prosperous, making larger profits each year. It would have been able to tide over a lean year without financial difficulty.

But the New Brunswick Power Company got the property and issued stock and bonds to the value of over \$5,000,000, of which \$3,100,000 was made interest bearing at once—some of it at seven per cent. We are told that the other \$2,000,000, common stock, has been placed, and of course the only object in issuing it is to make it bear interest as soon as possible.

There has been no addition to the plant and no improvement in the service. Indeed the service is worse. The people are not asked to pay higher rates because of better service or because of the increased cost of operation. They are asked to provide interest and dividends on watered stock.

This must be as clear to every member of the legislature as it is to the people of St. John. The latter are willing to pay enough to provide a fair return on actual investment, but not on watered stock. There should be no element of speculation in relation to the affairs of a public utility. The legislature is asked to take such action as will protect the public from exploiters of public utilities.

THE CALL OF DUTY.

Never since the war began has the duty of the Canadian people—the whole people—stood out so clearly as at the present moment. Never was the Hun so nearly at the gate. If the gallant troops now straining every nerve to hold the line should be overcome, it would greatly prolong the war, for there could be no thought of peace, so far as the British Empire and the United States are concerned. This fight must be fought to a finish, or the Hun will dominate the world.

Whatever action the government at Ottawa may take to get more men, to throttle the disloyal, and to place Canada on a genuine war basis, will be approved by the great mass of the people. There must be more of sacrifice and more of labor to help win the war. We must think war, talk war, and order our lives in harmony with the thought. There is no room for frivolity in a country face to face with a supreme crisis. The iron

resolution of a people ready to do and die for their ideals should possess the souls of Canadians in this hour. The military service act is to go by the board. We are to have real conscription, and such a speeding up of the whole work of getting reinforcements as the critical situation in France today demands of us. Along with that must go more stringent food regulations, and such a readjustment of labor as will ensure larger food production in spite of the calling of so many men to the colors. The call comes to every man and woman, every boy and girl. It is a call to which all should gladly respond. Our future is at stake. The fate of civilization is at stake.

THE WAR GARDENS.

Those citizens who are interested in gardening and who failed to attend the meeting at the rooms of the Natural History Society last evening to hear the illustrated talk on insect pests by Mr. William McIntosh lost a great opportunity. Mr. McIntosh knows his subject, and knows how to deal with insect pests. He also knows the insects that are beneficial because they destroy others which damage the crops. It is estimated that twenty per cent of the crops are destroyed by insect pests, and therefore the successful gardener must have knowledge of them, of their mode of attack, and how to destroy them. Fortunately Mr. McIntosh is to be the director for the War Gardens Association, and his knowledge and services will be at the call of all its members.

Mr. T. H. Estabrooks was able to tell last night's audience that the war garden movement is taking on unexpected large proportions. Only the day before a citizen had laid before him a scheme to plant a hundred acres near the city. There is a plan to plant a large area at or near Westfield, and other suburban places will take up the work. It is hoped that the citizens generally will join the War Garden Association, secure lots, and do some work this season to increase the food supply and incidentally do themselves good. The daylight-saving plan affords an additional hour each afternoon, and there could be no more patriotic work for those at home than that of increasing the supply of food for famine threatened Europe. The more gloomy the war news the louder is the call to patriotic service on the part of every man, woman and child. St. John this year should produce in the city and its suburbs more vegetables than have been produced in any two former years. The thing to do is to choose the crop that will grow and then cultivate it under the supervision of someone who knows. Mr. McIntosh will do all in his power to spread knowledge, both personally and by printed leaflets of instruction, and there are many practical gardeners who will be glad to give advice. All owners of vacant lots should prepare to cultivate them or hand them over to the Association.

THE DEFECTIVES.

A Toronto paper makes the suggestion that many persons who are termed feeble-minded are not sufficiently defective to warrant placing them in an institution. It says—

"A large proportion of this class could be cared for in comfortable homes adjacent to large towns and cities, under the supervision of local benevolent people and with self-supporting employment for them both to the community and the community. Surely there are wealthy men who could donate a home for these young people and who probably would if the right appeal were made. To gather this class into one great provincial centre would remove them from the friendly interest of Christian and social-minded citizens, and this would be a distinct loss to all concerned."

In other words it is suggested that each large community care for those of its own defectives who are merely undeveloped children, by placing them in a home in the country under proper direction and care—the home to be donated by some wealthy citizen. This is admirable in theory, but not likely to be carried into practice. The community as a whole should for its own protection care for its defectives. If they can be well and good; but if not there should be one large institution for the province. Benevolent people would not be denied the opportunity to aid in making it a real home.

There was an interesting discussion of this subject by the Toronto school authorities last week on a motion "To provide auxiliary classes for those pupils who are declared by the chief medical officer to be mentally and physically deficient." One of the trustees declared there were 1,200 feeble-minded in the city schools, but Chief Inspector Cowley doubted if there were more than 300 whose mental defects were serious. There is a difference of opinion between the chief medical health officer and the chief inspector. No action was taken, pending a further report.

Germany is calling up another half million men. That is another reason for calling up more Canadians.

AMERICA IN ARMS.

Let us who come so late into the war go quietly, and keep a humble heart. Praying that we may bear a worthy part in the great task with those who went before.

Firm is our faith in these, our nation's youth. Let us not wrong them by the idle word. Nor let our eyes be blinded to the truth by all the brightness of an untried sword.

Ah, let them go, with wonder and with prayer, into the fields of war. What can be said, Truly, by us? They shall encounter there. The quiet presence of the silent dead.

If victory be ours, as we believe, It shall not ours at last, then we shall know. It is not ours indeed, but we receive This gift from those who were the first to go. Theirs is the victory. This our only pride; In the same cause we serve, endured, and died.

—D. B. in New York Times

LIGHTER VEIN

German Potato-Bugs. "The way Germany prepared for a generation for this war was positively uncanny," said a congressman. "Yes, Germany's forty years of minute war-preparation is as uncanny as the story of the potato-bugs."

"On an autumn evening a group of Minnesota farmers sat around the fire in the general store and complained of the potato-bugs' ravages. 'The pests ate my whole potato crop in two weeks,' said one farmer. 'They ate my crop in two days,' said a second farmer, 'and then they roosted on the trees to see if I'd plant more.' 'A drummer for a seed-house cleared his throat and said: 'Gents, I've said, all that's very remarkable. Let me tell you, though, what I saw in our own store. I saw a couple of potato-bugs examining the books about a week before planting time to see who had bought seed.'"

A man who was traveling in the mountains stopped at a cabin and asked for a drink of water. An old woman brought it out to him, and after drinking he had quite a talk with her, telling her great stories about some of the wonders he had seen in the outside world. Finally, when he stopped to take breath, the old woman took her pipe out of her mouth and said: "Stranger, if I knowed as much as you do I'd go so're and start a little grocery."

The Politician—I see you farmers be lieve in putting good men in office. The Farmer—Yup! The best that money can buy.



I shall be at my St. John office, Room 12, Robinson Block, for five days: Tuesday, April 16; Wednesday, April 17; Thursday, April 18; Friday, April 19; Saturday, April 20. Office hours, 9 a. m. until 6 p. m.

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TORONTO CANADA

Is It Worth While?

(Philadelphia Ledger.) While the great battle of the war is raging on the Western front, America's hearts are turning there with dismay, with apprehension, with dread, and through many minds there passes the thought, acknowledged or suppressed: Is it worth while? Are the ideals we are helping to win worth the sacrifice of ease and comfort, of food and money and men? Are they worth the sorrow and pain and loss that we must pay?

We are so used to living within the little circle of our own interests that most of us do not look at the big things of life with a broad vision, we are like the hub of a wheel, with the spokes of events centering in ourselves, and we think only of how we are personally affected by their contact.

To get the broader vision we must sweep over the past and read what history has to tell. In 480 B. C. the Greeks flung back the hordes of Persia, checking the conquest of Europe by an Oriental despotism; there followed the most brilliant period of Athens, and the Greek dead who lie under the mound of Marathon said it was worth while.

Three centuries later the Romans defeated the Carthaginian army, preventing them from conquering Europe. Freed from this danger, Rome, the mother of republics and the law-giver of the world, developed the strong government of its virile age, and the victors of the Metaurus said it was worth while.

In 132 Charles the Hammer drove the Saracens out of France, and Europe was saved from Mohammedan conquest; conquering the soul of France with northern Africa, dominated by Mohammedanism, the Franks who fell at Tours said it was worth while.

When Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo ended the menace of another world conqueror Europe breathed freely once more, and the lion, looking from his mound over the plains of Belgium, where thousands were buried, said it was worth while.

When our country reached its crisis at Gettysburg the dead at Culp's Hill and Cemetery Ridge that liberty might not perish from the earth join with the thin lines of the blue and the gray who kept the South from the sea, and the sacred ground insaying it was worth while.

Each of those battles was the supreme effort of despotism to throttle freedom, of a conqueror to bind his will upon a subject people, and we, the heritors of the ages, know that the sacrifice of those who died was worth the cost.

It is not how long we live, but what we do with our lives, that counts. In the vastness of eternity a thousand years are but as yesterday and our life is measured by a single day.

And how can man die better Than facing fearful odds For the ages of his kind And for the temples of his gods.

—for the fathers who fought to secure and preserve liberty and for the temples of righteousness, justice and peace?

SGT. G. M. POLLARD DIES AT FERNIE

Mrs. William Edmundson of Moncton, has received word from Ottawa that her

son, SGT. G. M. POLLARD, has died at Fernie, B. C.

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brother, Sergt. George M. Pollard, Batt. C. E. F., has died at Fernie, B. C.

Sergt. Pollard was, in April of last year, severely wounded. After spending some months in hospital, he was able to join his unit in August, only to be taken a prisoner a few days later. Two letters have been received from him since, in which he stated he was getting along all right. Nothing definite has been heard from him until the sad news of his death. How or when he escaped from Germany is yet unknown. Death was due to pulmonary tuberculosis. Sergt. Pollard is survived by his father, Captain B. F. Pollard, who resides at Point du Chene, P. E. I., and Mrs. William Edmundson, of Moncton; also two brothers, both in France. Mrs. Edmundson just a month ago received the sad news that her husband had fallen "somewhere in France."

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NEWS NOTES ABOUT PROMINENT BAPTISTS

(Maritime Baptist.)

Lieut. W. B. Thomas will spend the summer with the African churches in Annapolis county. His address will be Lequille. At the last meeting of the African Association Brother Thomas was elected vice-moderator.

We understand that the Springfield church has extended an invitation to the Northern Association to meet at Springfield in July. Pastor Sweetnam and the church are ready to do all in their power to make the association a success.

Our note of last week in respect to Rev. R. F. Allen has proved to be enlightening in error. It is true that the call to the Port Williams-New Minas field was accepted, at least tentatively. But the church at Chester so stoutly and unanimously opposed their pastor's removal that finally he has consented to remain with them.

The church at Billtown evidently has a predilection for the name of Whitman. This may be explained by the fact that Rev. A. H. Whitman spent seven happy and useful years with that church. May the pastorate of his cousin, Rev. N. A. Whitman, be as long and as fruitful.

Maritime Baptists will be interested in the announcement that Lieut. Gerald Guion has been awarded a bar to his Military Cross. His father, A. H. Guion, is a native of Havelock, N. B., a grandson of Rev. James Herrett, one of the pioneer Baptist preachers of New Brunswick. Lieut. Guion was an undergraduate of McMaster before his enlistment. His home is in Ottawa.

It seems that Dr. C. A. Eaton has not resigned as pastor of the Madison avenue church, New York, but has been given leave of absence for three months. His work is with the workers of the many shipyards, in securing additional workers and stimulating production. He also is doing a valuable work in adjusting difficulties and removing grievances.

The Tabernacle church of this city is rejoicing in the coming of its new pastor, Rev. A. L. Tedford. Last Sunday he conducted the services for the first time since accepting the pastorate. In spite of the uncertainty caused by the change of time good congregations were present. The church is very hopeful in respect to the outlook, and the new pastor is entering upon the work with zeal and enthusiasm.

The Tabernacle church, Utica, N. Y., continues to enjoy prosperity under the pastoral care of Rev. P. J. Stackhouse. Last year the benevolent contributions exceeded \$2,000. The total contributions for all purposes average \$198 per Sunday. Since Mr. Stackhouse became pastor in September, 1914, a total of 244 have been received into membership. The church will celebrate its centennial in 1920.

Rev. Earle A. Kinley, pastor of the Baptist church in Bathurst, was the preacher in Fairville last Sunday. Needless to say he was heard with much pleasure. The work at Bathurst has been placed on a firm foundation during his pastorate, and the congregation there has no intention of letting him go for the present. A considerable fund has been raised for a meeting-house (the services are now being held in a public hall) but the prevailing high cost of building

material will likely delay building operations for the present.

Rev. Ivan M. Rose, who will next month complete his theological course at the Rochester Theological Seminary, has accepted a call to the First Baptist church of Malone, N. Y., a town of about 5,000 inhabitants, near the Quebec border. The First church has a membership of more than 400. Mr. Rose expects to spend May visiting friends and relatives in Yarmouth county, before taking up the work on his new field. It is to be regretted that Mr. Rose was not secured as pastor by one of the vacant churches in his native land.

Rev. C. E. Pines, pastor of the St. Mary's field, Kent county, N. B., has been made pleasantly aware of his people's appreciation of his labors. In the early winter preachers at Little River ministered to the needs of the people, and secured as pastor by one of the vacant churches in his native land.

Rev. C. E. Pines, pastor of the St. Mary's field, Kent county, N. B., has been made pleasantly aware of his people's appreciation of his labors. In the early winter preachers at Little River ministered to the needs of the people, and secured as pastor by one of the vacant churches in his native land.

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