

The St. John Standard

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H. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor.

ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 23, 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.

THE RIGHT MAN.

The first session of the Dominion Parliament following the return of Union Government has abundantly demonstrated that Sir Robert Borden is the one and only man for Prime Minister. No other Canadian has his wonderful grasp of the questions now agitating the country, the mighty problems to be solved, the difficulties to be surmounted; no other Canadian possesses a clearer mind or higher courage with which to meet the situation, admittedly a complex one.

When the session opened there were reports that Sir Robert might be succeeded by another, and in that connection the names of several Liberal-Unionists received passing mention. But Parliament had not been long at work before the premier manifested his capacity in such striking fashion that his supporters from both the old parties were convinced at once that he was the only possible man for leader, and it is safe to say that the end of the session finds the whole party, as well as the country, solidly and unitedly behind him.

On two occasions during the past ten days Sir Robert showed his courage in a manner to win the approval even of those opposed to him. First, he faced the largest delegation ever gathered in the capital, representing the greatest Canadian industry, a delegation, if not openly hostile to him and his administration, at least very determined in its opposition to the amendments to the Military Service Act. That delegation, composed of 5,000 farmers and representing possibly one-fifth of the population of Canada, demanded that farmers' sons should be exempt from military service, and endeavored to impress the Premier that legislation to the contrary was all wrong. It was a situation that might well have caused the leader of a government, or of a political party, to pause, more particularly when he knew that refusal to grant the delegation's request would be manufactured into political capital by the men and newspapers of the opposition party. But Sir Robert Borden proved himself of different kidney. At once, and plainly, he told the farmers that while he recognized the importance to the country and the Empire of the great agricultural industry, he felt the country's pledge to the men in the trenches must be kept before consideration could be given to anything else. The effect of his honest, courageous statement was electrical and many who came to jeer remained to cheer.

It is true there were some who departed feeling that the Government and the Premier had been unfair but the great majority of that delegation left the capital fully willing to accept the situation and patriotically determined to continue to give to the Empire the best possible measure of service with the means at their disposal.

Another, though minor occasion, came on Tuesday, when, scenting an opposition effort to jam through the House, what was practically a want of confidence vote against his own amendment to the resolution concerning the abolition of titles, the Premier frankly stated that if his amendment were beaten he would feel called upon to ask the Governor General to relieve him from the duties of government. Needless to say, the amendment was adopted with a majority so large as to leave no doubt of the position occupied by the Premier and his administration. Not only has Union Government shown itself to be impregnable in the session just closing, but the Premier has established himself as the recognized big man in the most remarkable and most fearless government Canada has ever known.

AN ANXIOUS TIME

Word from London, Paris and Washington is to the effect that the start of the second German drive is hourly expected. A New York stock market report, received early last evening, stated that it is already under way, and that an army of 2,000,000 Germans is engaged in a furious attempt to break the lines of the Allies in the direction of the Channel ports with the object of dominating the Channel if those ports can be captured, and retained. Even discounting this report, as stock market rumors in the past have usually proven premature, it is evident that, at the latest, the next few days will see the greatest conflict to date in the time of anxiety, of weary waiting for news from the battle lines, coupled with the hope that the Allied troops will prove equal to the heroic task imposed upon them, and that

the one, two or three particular soldiers in whom the individual is most intimately interested may have the fortune to endure the perils of conflict unharmed.

While it is natural there should always be anxiety as to the fate of loved ones doing their bit "over there," there is no special reason to worry over the outcome of the present operation. As far as can be gathered from the reports of correspondents and reviewers the Allied troops are stronger now than when the last offensive was launched while the enemy has not yet replaced the men lost in that fruitless attempt to advance on Paris. Americans, in far greater number than before, are side by side with the British and French in the fighting lines while the premier of Italy is authority for the statement that 250,000 of the best fighting men of the Italian army have also been placed on the Western front. The Americans or Italians did not figure to any large extent in the struggle that resulted in checking the March drive, so their presence in our lines on this occasion is a distinct advantage we did not formerly possess.

The French armies have been maintained in their former effectiveness while the British line has been considerably strengthened by the addition of new units. The indication therefore is that Hindenburg and Ludendorff will find themselves opposed by an army superior in numbers, and in equipment, and possessed of the confident belief that victory will crown their efforts.

Germany is not undertaking this second drive because she feels she possesses the strength to win through it; with her there is no choice, for every week the attempt is delayed adds to the American forces will make the odds against her that much heavier. Consequently it is now or never. She must win decisively this summer or give up the struggle, hence her generals are taking the plunge now because the alternative of further delay is not to be considered.

But, while encouraging, these facts should not be allowed to give us false confidence or cause us to forget that the situation is still serious, that there still is, more than at any time since war commenced, a need on the firing line for every man who can shoulder a rifle. The result of the war is no longer in doubt but it rests with the people of the Empire whether that result shall be attained this year or whether there will be two or three more years of slaughter.

HAVE A HEART!

Mr. A. B. Copp, Laurierite member for the County of Westmorland, must be a hard hearted man. He must know that Ottawa in the summer months is not the pleasantest spot in Canada and yet, yesterday, he deliberately added to the discomfort of hardworking members of Parliament and some 100,000 overheated Ottawans by injecting into the usually uncomfortable summer weather of the Ottawa Valley a new supply of hot air direct from the Tantramar. And his blast did not even have the merit of originality, usually found in the oratorical efforts of members from the Maritime Provinces. His charges of scandal in connection with the soldiers' votes were not new. They had been launched before by Mr. "Hug the Machine" Preston, who attained more than a little odor of notoriety in connection with Ontario scandals of some years ago. Mr. Copp merely acted as a repeater and the second telling of the story was not as good as the first. Comparison of the mental equipment of the windy member for Westmorland and the notorious gentleman, whose mouthpiece he has become, renders it unnecessary to explain why.

Mr. Copp did not convince the House and he will not convince the country that his charges have the slightest foundation. The only effect of his outburst will be to earn for him in Ottawa the same sort of reputation he enjoyed in Fredericton—a man playing with words, but sadly lacking in ideas.

This is wartime, also summer is approaching. There are sultry days ahead, when the ingenuity of most Canadians will be taxed to continue the war and keep cool at the same time. In such an extremely hot time, where his outpourings of superheated atmosphere will not add to the general discomfort. To ask Canadians to suffer the productions of two such gentlemen as Mr. Copp and "Burr" Hawks of the Moncton Transpore is to ask the same thing as to ask a man to stand in the rain and

ing it on altogether too thick. Westmorland County should be more charitable.

MERCHANTMEN BEATING THE GERMAN U-BOATS

The other day a sailing ship was proceeding leisurely on her course, when the look-out sighted a submarine. She waited until the U-boat came within range, and then opened fire. The gun crew knew their business, for they soon found the target, and out of 13 shots eight direct hits were scored. Suddenly the U-boat, which had been vainly twisting and turning to get out of range, went down by the bows, and her stern stood clear of the water for nearly half a minute. Then she dived perpendicularly, and came up again to the surface stern upwards at an angle of 30 degrees above the horizon. For a short space of time she remained in this position, and then she disappeared like a stone, to be seen no more. There was no doubt as to her fate. A German submarine three miles away to port hurrying in her direction. Suddenly the enemy opened fire, but without effect. Owing to the effective zigzagging of the steamer.

As the fire became hotter the steamer was brought round until the enemy was well astern, and then the British gun crew took a hand, their shots falling all around the submarine. The master then ordered a smoke-screen to be thrown up, and after the exchange of a few more shots the German dived.

Within a very few minutes a second submarine broke the surface of the starboard quarter—a larger boat than the first, and at least 300 feet in length, with guns fore and aft. The coming tower.

The state of the wind rendered the smoke-screen of no avail against the new comer, so the steamer opened fire, and a brisk duel ensued. Sharpshooters on the steamer's decks, for half an hour the fight continued, and then a British shell covered the German with spray. The submarine dived, but only just in time, for, attracted by the gunfire, two British patrol boats put in an appearance.

The master and crew have received special commendation for their plucky fight, for they have beaten off two submarines without sustaining any damage to their own ship.

FARMERS AND THE DRAFT.

(Peterboro, Ont., Review.)

The Bobcaygeon Independent speaks of some farmers in that vicinity who have been drafted and who now declare that they will not grow on their land any more than they will absolutely necessary to feed themselves. Some of them are said to have declared that had they known earlier that their boys would not be left at home they would not have planted a single seed.

There may be few farmers, but their number is few. It will be found too, that the new anti-drafting law can meet these cases. It is easier to believe that the majority of the farmers are of the same mind as the delegation that waited on the government recently. When assured by Premier Borden that there was no hope of further exemption, they declared that they would go back home and do the best they could with the limited means left them.

There are other essential war industries besides that of production. The railways of the country must be kept running and the munition plants in operation. The draft has intensified the labor problem in these lines just as it has on the farms, yet the railways have not stopped running and the munition plants have not closed down.

Hundreds of girls who have patriotically volunteered for farm work have been unable to find places. The boys of the country have answered the call for farm recruits in sufficient numbers to meet the present requirements. The year's grain crop has been planted unusually early and the number of acres under cultivation makes a new record. When the berries and fruit begin to ripen, the hundreds of girls still unattached will be available. The crops will be harvested just as they have been sown. There is really no cause to be pessimistic. At all events, brooding over possible misfortunes will not save the situation.

THE KAISER IN THE BIBLE.

(Toronto News.)

"These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

This indictment, in the sixth chapter of Proverbs, is complete.

DEMAND FOR WORKERS

(Calgary Daily Herald.)

According to reports from all parts of the Dominion there is a shortage of experienced men in many lines of industrial and commercial life. It is a condition that was to be expected and one that employers will have to adjust themselves to. Where there is a lack of experienced men it will be necessary to train others who are now inexperienced. It is one of the unpleasant but necessary effects of the war. And where men cannot be found women will have to be brought in.

WHAT IS LUXURY?

(New York Tribune.)

What is a luxury, anyway, but the thing a little more luxurious and expensive than you yourself can afford? It is a beautiful, endless chain of luxuries. What you yourself use is always a necessity, and not a luxury. You can prove the point by any amount of excellent arguments. If a "movie" is more than a "movie," it is a "movie."

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and pop was taking a walk after supper, and we met Mr. Lewis, and him and pop had a arguement about how long the war was going to keep on lasting, pop saying, Well I'll tell you wat I'll bet, I'll bet you 10 dollars that the war will be over in less than 4 months.

Wich Mr. Lewis betted him, and me and pop kept on wawking, pop saying, 10 dollars would be a lot to me, with the cost of living the way it is and everything, but then on the other hand 10 dollars would be a lot to win.

And pritty soon we met Mr. Simkins, and him and pop started to talk about the war, and Mr. Simkins sed, Do you know, Potts, it woodent surprise me in the least if the war wood last for 5 more years, 10 dollars, I mean 5 years? sed pop, wy, thats nonsense, thats absoolytly stilly.

Well, you'll never win an arguement by growng abusive, sed Mr. Simkins looking mad. And he kept on going, and pritty soon we met Mr. Parkins on his way to see my sister Gladys, and him and pop started to talk about the war, and Mr. Parkins sed, If you want my opinion, Mr. Potts, my opinion is that it will be at least 10 years before the war is over.

Parkins, I'm ashamed of you, you talk like a Germin, sed pop. I must say I resent the comparison, sed Mr. Parkins. And he kept on going, looking mad, and pritty soon we met Mr. Russel saying, And the ends not in site, Potts, not in site.

Wat do you mean, not in site? sed pop, I suppose you mean something less than 4 months.

4 months, ha ha ha, sed Mr. Russel, Wy, it woodent surprise me if it wood last long enuff for Little Benny, harr, to take part in it. I must say, I respect a man to talk as if he was sane, sed pop, and Mr. Russel sed, Well then you better talk wat way yourself. And he kept on going, looking mad, and pop sed, Benny, some lunatick asylum seems to be of declared a holiday, lets go home before we are mistaken for inmates.

Wich we did.

You can't be expected to give up "movies," war or no war. If your limit is a parlor car seat, it is a necessity, not a luxury. If it is a limousine, how can anybody expect you to give up a limousine just to win a war? If you have always traveled in private cars, nothing seems more unreasonable than that a mere war should cut off this simple, inexpensive way of proceeding from spot to spot. Let's stop talking of luxuries and begin to cut ourselves instead of safely jeering at the other fellow.

PEP.

(Philadelphia Record.)

Pep is the word that fits the deed, and just now Pep's the word. Pep stands for Prompt, Efficient Performance, and Pep is what we want in every form of business, municipal, state and national endeavor. Pep does not stand for Peevish, Evasive Procrastination, neither does it stand for Political Expediency. True, True Pep is never the prerogative of Eminent Partisanship. Pep endures only where it finds Purpose. Essentially Pure, Prussianism Emanating from Potsdam is a metal no purer, no more worthy than German silver, and therefore it can endure but for a time—and the time is at hand. Patiently, Earnestly, Purposefully, one clear mind in all the welter of moil and toil burdening this country is working to a single holy end. The man in the White House, with untiring zeal, is practising essential patriotism, which no man dare deny. Predicates Early Peace. And there is the apotheosis of Pep!

A BIT OF VERSE

OUT THERE.

Out There, the salt spray whips
The blood from frozen faces and dumb lips.
Young eyes grow old with watching,
hair turns white,
In the long vigils of the North Sea night.
And the white crest of every curling wave
Is the grim headstone of a sailor's grave.

For those who sweep the Seven Seas,
Lord of the Deep, we pray;
If theirs be the sum of Sacrifice,
Grant us the right to Pay.

Out There, grim fragments lie
In awful heaps beneath the laden sky
And Noise unceasing stuns the reeling brain;
Colder than Death, the bullet's sharper
Unheeded passes, and with scarce a moan
Young lives go out into the Dark, alone.

For those who suffer Death in Life
Lord God of Hosts, we pray;
If theirs be the sum of Sacrifice,
Grant us the Right to Pay.

Out There, where e'er they be—
Wasting with fever by some Southern sea—
Braving the heights where mind and senses reel,
Death's icy fingers clutching at the wheel,
Find that at last, unsought, the Great Reward,
They lay their manhood on Thine Altar, Lord.

For those who suffer, starve and die,
That Honor and Truth may live,
Shed our own self complacence,
And teach us How to Give,
—Elsbeth Honeyman.

TOO OLD AT FORTY.

(London Daily Telegraph.)

And, whatever the truth is about the past, the future, so far as you and I will live to see it, cannot be dominated by the young. When the war ends "too old at forty" will sound like bitter irony. So many of the young will have done their work and gone to their rest. From all the great nations

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