

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH is published every Wednesday...

Subscription Rates - Sent by mail to any address in Canada at One Dollar a year...

Advertising Rates - Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper...

Important Notice - All remittances must be sent by post office order or registered letter...

Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 10, 1915. A PLAIN WORD TO NEUTRAL NATIONS.

Sir Edward Grey said a plain word to these neutral nations from time to time concerning peace, the conduct of the war, the state of Belgium, and other issues involved in the great conflict in Europe...

From some individuals in neutral countries there have come from time to time suggestions as to the terms on which peace might or should be concluded...

It may well be that the time will come when mediation by one or more neutral nations will be welcomed, but that is another matter...

WAR-TIME PERSONALS. The "Personal" column of the London Times, commonly known as the "agony column," is interesting enough in time of peace...

"CON AMORE" - Will alone in full. Love, life and soul. I gave and took. Antepostumate magnanimity.

"PRETENTIONS" - presumptuous, pedant's, pusillanimous, perfidious, and presumably punitive, polysyllabic pretensions, presumptuous, perfidious, pedant's, pusillanimous, perfidious, and presumably punitive, polysyllabic pretensions...

"LAURAS" - all men interested in a Laura - Will you send a DONATION towards my ambulance before the end of February...

"THE LAME DOGS MOTOR-AMBULANCE" - Will every invalid, man, woman, or child, who sees this notice, contribute to an invalid lady...

"DOGS AND CATS OF THE EMPIRE!" - The Kaiser said: "Germany will fight to the last dog and cat." Will British dogs and cats give each to provide Y. M. C. A. SOLDIERS HUT at the Front?

"LADY leaving London will SELL PET YORKSHIRE TERRIER at one-fourth cost to real dog-lover. Personal interview. No dealers - Mrs. Speaker, Gifford Lodge, Twickenham Green."

"URGENT" - Will someone with means help some who were in good positions? All is gone. References - Box P. 769, The Times."

"WIFE OF PROFESSIONAL MAN" - hard hit by war. NEEDS £20 to meet rent, school fees, etc. - Box P. 789, The Times."

"CRUEL" - True love is indestructible. Its flame burneth forever. - "Unknown."

"If thought so, all would have ended long ago. So don't worry dear. I hope some day to know you trust me too."

"JAMES A. - Once again I do assure you most sincerely that your presence is as intolerable to me as your personality is repulsive. Your friends would be better employed attempting to bully out the ocean with a teacup than in trying to overcome my insatiable detestation of you."

"WIFE OF YOUNG WOUNDED OFFICER" - in great trouble. Will any kind person ASSIST? Full information given - Box T. 160, The Times."

"TO THE POWERS THAT BE" - Re Sentence on Soldier's Wife, Middlesex Sessions, Saturday, February 7. "The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as the gentle rain from Heaven. Upon the place beneath, it is twice blessed: It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes; 'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; 'Tis more than his own seed; 'Tis grace that shows more than his own; 'When Mercy seasons Justice." - "Humanitarian."

"OFFICER and his WIFE would like their PORTRAITS PAINTED at moderate charge. - Kindly communicate Box P. 864, The Times."

"CATS" - Have returned, dearest. Well, I am glad to see you. I hope you are well. I hope to see you - DOM."

"APPEAL FOR FRENCH SOLDIERS" - During a recent visit to several Red Cross Hospitals in France I was much impressed with the destitution of many of the French soldiers, who in face of the cold and rain, have to return to the trenches without even blankets. I am most anxious to send immediately to the hospitals at Dieppe, 5,000 blankets, and to collect £2,000 to be expended in this country on requirements as detailed in the official list of the Croix Rouge. No good is gained in accumulating the terrible condition in which these brave heroes are thus placed, the contrast between them and our troops in respect of comforts being so well known. Any response, whether in blankets or money, should be sent to me at the Royal Chapel of the Saviour, Strand, W. C. - (Signed) HUGH B. CHAPMAN, Chaplain."

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The Conservatives profess to be more devoted to Great Britain than the Liberals. Their preference is shattered by their own tariff policy. The Liberals created the British preference and increased it to thirty-three per cent. Dr. Pugsley touched a sore spot in his reference to the "war tariff."

The people of St. John know how much credit is due Dr. Pugsley for the improvements carried on at this port for many years past, and they also know pretty clearly what Mr. Hasen has done and what he has left undone. The excitement in the Standard's editorial column and in its Ottawa correspondence finds no response in the public pulse. A few days ago the Standard was going to bring on a general election unless Dr. Pugsley mended his ways. What has become of that proposed emendation? It begins to look as though that gun wasn't loaded."

CIVIC GOVERNMENT. While St. John has had civic government by commission for some years, it has not yet had real commission government. The first election under the new system resulted in a fairly satisfactory and representative board, to which the presence of Commissioners Schofield and Agar lent no little strength. Until the system was tested by actual practice it was not realized that the charter, which was weakened before it went to Fredericton and which was amended further in the Legislature, had, in its final form, certain weaknesses of an unfortunate character. At the outset, the Commissioners went wrong on a very important point. They held their committee meetings behind closed doors. That one joyous real commission government, for its success in a large measure upon complete publicity. Later on, after the departure of Messrs. Agar and Schofield, the commissioners showed an increasing lack of unity of purpose, and it became clear that changes in the board would be necessary in the public interest at the next election.

With the assistance of the St. John members of the Legislature it should be possible to secure such changes in the commission charter as would greatly improve it. It has been asserted that the language of the charter does not make open committee meetings mandatory. If so, the charter should be changed in such a way as to make the meetings frequent, regular, and open to the press and public. That is a first essential. The charter should also make it necessary for any commissioner to resign before becoming a candidate for any position other than the one he holds. The Mayor should be given power to veto measures which he considers dangerous or prejudicial to the public interest, or to refer them to the people by a plebiscite. It should be understood that the Mayor's supervision of all departments is to be more than nominal, and that dissatisfaction in the department of any one commissioner shall be made the subject of inquiry and decision by the whole board. No doubt other changes may be necessary, not because of any inherent weakness in the system itself, but because, properly speaking, we have not yet commission government at all. There is no reason why the commission plan should not be satisfactory if the taxpayers will display interest enough in their own affairs to elect even three safe men out of five.

To return to the ward system would be to put civic government back where it was five or six years ago. At that time frequent efforts were made to raise the level of ability and public spirit in the City Council, but although four or five good men were occasionally elected they found it impossible to overcome the tendencies of the majority, and the result was constant and bitter dissension and the virtual control of affairs by one or two bosses. It is very unlikely that the taxpayers as a whole desire to return to the old conditions.

LOSSES AT SEA. The First Lord of the Admiralty the other day reminded the House of Commons that British losses at sea in the first six months of the present year, though severe, are light - if compared with those sustained in the Napoleonic period. At that time, between 1793 and 1814, no fewer than 10,871 British merchant vessels were sunk or captured by the enemy. (Even after Trafalgar, says Mr. Churchill, when Great Britain held undisputed command of the sea, "so far as it can be tactically and strategically attained," the loss of British ships went on at a rate of more than 500 ships a year. He gave the House of Commons these figures, beginning with the year after Trafalgar.

U. S. Senator Stephenson, a native of New Brunswick, is the subject of this editorial reference in the New York Sun:

Uncle "Ike" Stephenson of Wisconsin retires from the Senate today at the age of 84, unconcerned about the probability of resisting mental and physical deterioration. Like the Kaiser, Uncle "Ike" says, "I'll rest I rest." Accordingly he will resume the business of lumbering he owed everything to his wife."

A Queer Time to Boast. Two men sat on the river bank, fishing. One had a bite, and in the excitement fell into the water. The other man watched him struggle, but did nothing to aid him. "I can't swim!" shouted the man in the water. He went under, and when he came up he shouted again: "I can't swim!" The man on the bank watched him with languid interest. "The man in the water sank again. When he came up he gasped, 'I can't swim!'"

"Well, my friend," commented the man on the bank, "this is a queer time to be boasting of it!" - The Bits.

"What makes you think he is a foreign nobleman?" "I overheard him say he owed everything to his wife."

Those Alleged Dum-dum Bullets. Washington, March 5 - Investigation of alleged manufacture of dum-dum bullets in the United States for the Allies has been undertaken by the state department as the result of the submission of new evidence by the German embassy.

Ontario, March 4 - sent on political pamphlet fulfilled in his 2,000 dismissals at appointments in the present government (rigorous and illuminating) last week. Hon. Mr. Rogers' unfair, disingenuous, and unscrupulous matter the house and mail comment from a man in the man who has honest and fair means to the civil service substitution or. The government a hate the criticism expected trap. Today Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the minister after another Prof. Short had a resignation or other the civil service, a