

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 3, 1915.

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THE WAR NEWS

The general outlook from the standpoint of the Allies grows more encouraging from week to week. The heaviest of the fighting continues to take place on the eastern frontier, where the tremendous pressure of the steadily growing Russian armies is gradually breaking down the defence of the Germans and Austrians. We are told that the Russians are now on the offensive along their whole front from the Baltic to the Roumanian border, and in the Caucasus. They are pushing back the Germans in North Poland and have made further advance in the Carpathians. They have defeated the Turks in Trans-Caucasia. The Russian menace, therefore, grows steadily more formidable both to Germany and Austria, while the defensive power of the latter is steadily worn down.

The official British observer with the French army says that two facts have been established by the operations of recent weeks. One is that the German front can be pierced, and that a serious attack on one point affects the enemy's plans and fighting power at other points, forcing them to withdraw men to meet the attack in force. The Germans have also been much more sparing of their ammunition of late, and this is a significant fact. The Allies have the best of the fighting in the west as well as in the east.

The German government has sent a protest to Great Britain and a threat of reprisals if the captured crews of German submarines are not as well treated by the British as other war prisoners. Sir Edward Grey replies that prisoners from German submarines are humanely treated, and adds the caustic remark that German prisoners in England are better fed and clothed than British prisoners in Germany, and are not subjected to forced labor. The British secretary further directs attention to the fact that while more than one thousand officers and men of the German navy have been rescued and are being cared for by the British there is no record of any officers or men of the British navy being rescued by the Germans. In connection with German appeals for humane treatment, there is food for thought in a little book which has just been issued, containing the official report of the French government on German atrocities in France. The record is one of such atrocious savagery as to shock the civilized world.

THE REFORMERS.

A distinguished group of civic reformers appeared before the legislature at Fredericton on Thursday with a petition said to bear some twelve hundred names, and gravely asked the legislature to give the downtrodden and sadly deceived people of St. John an opportunity to depose the ear and go back to the ward boss. Mr. Daniel Mullin, K. C., proved himself to be an out and out Britisher, despite various official visits to Washington. "Away with Yankee notions," says Mr. Mullin, and one can easily imagine that the great men of the past in our provincial history, whose portraits look down from the walls of the assembly chamber, assumed a benign expression and even smiled upon the living patriot who waved the old flag in defence of the ward boss, that noble institution of hoary antiquity which the foolish and ill-advised people of St. John had thrust into the limbo of past cruelties. But Mr. Mullin was not alone. He was nobly supported by other men whose services in the cause of civic reform have won them lasting fame. Mr. John R. Vanvar, ex-chairman of the safety board, and rigid disciplinarian of the country market, was there with an enthusiastic following of humbler reformers, eager to destroy and rebuild. It is said that some of the names signed to the petition are not found in the St. John directory. Possibly many of them are the names of men who would have signed the petition if they had been alive and had been asked to do so. It is true there are many thousands, probably thirteen thousand taxpayers who did not sign the petition, but thirteen is an unlucky number and ought not to be considered in connection with a matter of so grave importance. So that as the record goes the reformers did not submit to the legislature the names of the gentlemen whom they would elect as the new city council under the old ward system, but they probably assumed that the law makers would take it for granted that they would not elect reformers less ardent and less capable of extracting this

unhappy city from the awful situation into which it has been plunged than they are themselves; and we all know that a city council composed of the gentlemen who formed the delegations would make St. John a model city if the task were committed to its hands. The members of the legislature should be very grateful that St. John is on the map. Law-making would be a dry and dreary business but for the joyous and enlightening hours afforded the members by delegations of reformers from this eager and aspiring metropolis.

A LOST CAUSE.

A friend in the United States has sent The Times a copy of an interesting circular which is being distributed in the United States. It relates to a "German information service" which is supplied from New York. It is a daily news sheet containing war news, and is commended to "all those who believe in justice and fair play." It is explained that this information service is being carried on by private subscription, "at the request of a number of American citizens who believe that the public desires to be informed as to both sides of the war." A blank form is sent with the circular inviting the recipient to subscribe at two dollars per month. As an illustration of the accuracy of the news sent out we find a copy of the New York American's ridiculous story about a British plot to kidnap Sir George Casement. There is also a circular dealing with a new book, "Germany and England," by Bernhard. The circular says: "England as well as France and Belgium violated the neutrality agreement before ever a German soldier set foot on Belgium soil." Other headings are: "War was forced by England, Germany is not to blame," "World power, not world dominion," "Germany friendly to the United States." Of course the purpose of this bureau is to create sympathy for Germany and arouse prejudice against Britain. As a matter of fact, however, American feeling against Germany grows all the time stronger.

The Germans in France and Belgium appear to be especially anxious to destroy churches. The religion of "kultur" has no use for edifices of this sort.

There is much interest in the action to be taken by the United States in connection with the death of an American citizen on a vessel torpedoed by a German submarine.

The Canadian artillery is praised for its splendid work at the front. Every branch of the Canadian service has acquitted itself nobly under the test of actual warfare.

If those who supported the tax exemption bill at Fredericton this week claimed to represent eight thousand voters, they sacrificed far too much. There is no evidence that they represent any such number. The great majority of the workingmen of St. John do not wish to escape the payment of their fair proportion of taxes. They do favor such a revision of the assessment law as will make everybody pay their fair proportion of taxes.

The Times prints today the 1222 names signed to the petition in favor of the return to the ward system of city government. A careful scrutiny of the list fails to reveal the names of any large number of persons who have contributed ably in the past to the task of civic reform. There is no guarantee in this list that a return to the ward system would improve the administration of the city's affairs.

For an hour on Thursday afternoon the boys and girls of St. John came into their own. They marched through the streets of the city without fear of street cars, automobiles, delivery teams or even policemen. At some points traffic was actually held up while the procession passed. It was a reminder to the citizens of that boy and girl life which means so much to the future of St. John. Today an appeal is being made throughout the city for funds to carry on work for the better care and training of boys and girls, and it cannot be doubted that the response will be generous.

MOTHERS PRAISE

BABY'S OWN TABLETS

Mrs. S. E. Laurie, Grafton, Ont., writes: "I have used Baby's Own Tablets ever since my baby was two weeks old and would not be without them as I consider them the best medicine in the world for little ones." What Mrs. Laurie says thousands of other mothers say. Simply because they have found the Tablets safe and sure and pleasant for the little ones to take. They are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

A marked increase in the population of the various state prisons, reformatories, penitentiaries, county jails and New York City institutions reporting to the State Commission of Prisons for the year ended Sept. 30, 1914, is shown in statistics collected by the commission. The total prison population on that date was 18,678, an increase of 1,817 over the preceding year.

LIGHTER VEIN.

O. A. Millon, of Kansas, has taken a bride, who was Miss Iva Everett. Now she is Iva Millon, and will probably present to her husband several millions as the years pass by—Buffalo Commercial.

Hokus—"I feel like the oldest person in the world."

Pokus—"What are you talking about? You're not a day over 35."

Hokus—"Yes, but I've just been listening to a 16-year-old boy tell about the things he used to do when he was a kid."

A Young Diplomat

"Pa, would you be glad if I saved you a dollar?"

"I certainly would, my son."

"Well, you remember you promised if I brought a good report from my teacher you'd give me a dollar, and I didn't."

She was leaving the city for home, and by way of making her departure pleasant for those who had served her gave a nickel to a chambermaid, saying: "Mary, you take a nice, long car ride." To which the maid replied: "Yes, ma'am; thank you, ma'am, but how will I get back?"

A young officer rather new to his work was drilling a squad of recruits and gave the word of command, "Lift the right leg." One of the soldiers by mistake raised his left leg, so that it joined closely to the right leg of his neighbor.

"Good gracious," exclaimed the astonished officer, "that fool has lifted both legs!"

"I say, is this here the novel you advised me to read?" said the cabman to the librarian.

"Yes," replied the librarian, "that's the one."

"Well," said the cabman, "you can just take it back. There's nine people in the first chapters who hired cabs, and each one of 'em when he got out flung his purse to the driver. Now, when I want that sort of literature, I'll go to Jools Verne and get it pure."

Agent—Here is a book you can't afford to be without.

Victim—I need no books.

Agent—Buy it for your children.

Victim—I have no family—only a cat.

Agent—Well, don't you need a good heavy book to throw at the cat sometimes?

A Regular Customer.

Parson (to parishioner who had come to have the banns put up)—"Well, Peter, you must be a rich man now. This is your fourth wife, and they say you got money with every one of 'em."

"Aye, parson, so I have, but what w' marryin' on 'em and buryin' them there's precious little left."

An amusing incident took place in one of the most splendid of the Eastern hotels. A Southern gentleman, formerly a member of the cabinet, was a patron of the hotel, and, after a long stay, he was about to leave. He had his meals served in his own room, with all the elegance for which the establishment is noted. Being somewhat annoyed with the alms of the servant who waited on him he desired him one day at dinner to retire. The Negro bowed and took his stand directly behind the gentleman's chair. Supposing him gone, it was with some impatience that a few minutes after the gentleman saw him step forward to remove the soup.

"Fellow," he said, "leave the room I wish to be alone."

"Excuse me, sir," said Jasper, drawing himself up stiffly, "but I am responsible for the silver!"

Diamond's Peculiar Position

The South African Diamond Mines are closed. The cutting and polishing industry of Antwerp is ruined. The only other centre of the kind, Amsterdam, is little better off.

At present there are no diamonds being put on the market. The controlling syndicate is holding their surplus stock.

The Canadian government has recently levied a war tax of 7½ per cent.

Diamonds must just naturally go much higher. The American continent, which is being deluged by the war, buys about 70 per cent of the world's output.

We have a beautifully selected stock of this kind of gems. Our prices have not been changed. They are the lowest in the land.

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PREFER
BUTTERNUT
HAVE YOU TRIED IT?
Wax-Paper Wrapped, At Grocery Stores

GIRL PROVED A SPY.
Handed a Letter in France to Suspectible Officer.
Paris, March 19.—(Correspondence)—The following story of a pretty girl and a susceptible officer, which ended in the discovery of a system of espionage, is published here: An officer up the line, about to take the train to rejoin his regiment, was accosted by a pretty girl who blushing asked if he would post a letter for her at Paris, so it would arrive more quickly at its destination. "I'm writing to my sweetheart," she explained.

The officer promised to render this little service. The girl in a burst of gratitude threw her arms about his neck and kissed him. "I have your word," she cried after him as the train started, "you'll post it at Paris this evening."

Before reaching Paris the officer had time to reflect upon some of the curious circumstances of the affair. He pulled the letter out of his pocket and found the address read: "Mme X—." Then he recalled that the girl had told him she was writing to her sweetheart.

"Mme X—" in that case could only be an intermediary.

He reasoned that the peculiar circumstances justified him in looking into the letter. He opened it and read: "My dear friend—Contrary to the information I have already given you, my aunt Jane will be at Z— with her baggage on the 2nd. You know that my relation

still has a great deal of baggage. I think that she will arrive during the night."

The officer needed no more, but carried the letter to the intelligence headquarters, where it was figured out that this letter reported the arrival of important French reinforcements at a critical point on the battle front.

Hints for the Cook
Light Omelet
Take as many eggs as you wish to use, beat whites and yolks separately. Beat whites very stiff, beat yolks and add milk to yolks, a scant tablespoon for every egg used. Beat milk and yolks a little, then pour whites over yolks and just fold or mix carefully together. Don't beat. Heat spider, put in small pieces of butter only enough to keep omelet from sticking to pan. Run knife around edge to loosen, and when it is brown underneath, set spider in oven a minute or two to dry off top, then fold over and serve at once.

Fillings for Cream Cakes
Apple cream cake filling—One grated sour apple, white of 1 egg and 1 cup powdered sugar. Beat 15 minutes and flavor to taste.
Orange cream cake filling—Juice of 1 orange, confectioner's sugar added till of right consistency to spread. Stir till smooth and cream-like. One teaspoonful of yolk of egg can be added if liked.
Sour cream cake filling—One pint sour cream and one full cup light brown sugar. Simmer 20 minutes, when cool add one cup nut meats (chopped) and flavor with vanilla.
Rice With Sauce
Wash two cupsful of rice and put in a dish suitable for the oven. Cover with about three pints of water in which salt to taste has been well dissolved. Bake until soft and do not stir while cooking. If the water cooks away too fast a little hot water may be added. Be-

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