

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1918

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AFTER THREE YEARS.

Three years ago yesterday the people of St. John received the first definite word of the second battle of Ypres, in which the First Canadian Division immortalized themselves by holding the line for four days until they were relieved, and by their devotion barred the way to Calais. Only about two thousand and out of twelve thousand remained standing when relief came, but they had held the line. "The Canadians," said Gen. French, "undoubtedly saved the situation." All England rang with their praise, and all Canada was thrilled by the story, although it also brought grief to many homes.

Three years of war have passed, and the Germans are again driving toward the Channel ports. The Canadians have thus far been out of the heaviest of the fighting, but we know how they will bear themselves when the test comes. Yesterday there marched through the city streets, as so many have marched before them, men who are long will join their comrades at the front. This is our war. We must spare our men and provide food, and so order our own lives as to be worthy of our fighting sons. The fate of civilization hangs in the balance. This is a time for war effort such as we have not hitherto made. On that swaying front where armies clash by day and night, our fate is being determined. Do we realize the deadly nature of this strife and all that it involves? One is shocked now and then to hear an expression of views or observe an attitude of indifference or detachment which indicates ignorance or worse. We do not doubt the final result. The Hun must be defeated; but how long must the struggle last, and how great must be the sacrifice? Men and food are needed. Canada must provide them, and to the limit of her ability, for if the Hun should win nothing else on earth would matter to the people of the British Empire. Knowing our enemy, knowing the need of men and of food, who can be indifferent? Knowing the justice of the cause for which the great democracies of the world stand, who can for a moment doubt their ultimate success, if they are but true to themselves and in deeply earnest in their war work?

A FRUITFUL SESSION.

The session of the legislature which closed last night was the most fruitful in advanced legislation of any session for very many years. The Foster government has made good. It is a business government, and its success is the more marked because of the muddled state in which it found the departments and the very serious state in which it found the finances of the province. Its members set themselves earnestly to the task of bringing order out of chaos, and they have done well. Not only has much valuable legislation been framed and carried through the house, but the members on the government side have proved themselves quite capable of dealing with the criticisms and the partisan tactics of the opposition. The latter are learning lessons in the art of government which ought to be of considerable value. The province is to be congratulated on the better outlook, and the assurance that it has a government which really seeks to serve the public interests and to make a record that will stand the test of any time of full enquiry as to its aims and practices.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

We are told that the 1918 estimates for the Central Technical School in Toronto amount to \$197,012, as against \$192,552 last year. The amount to be provided by the city council out of this is \$172,012, and the estimated amount to be received from students' fees, government grants, etc., is \$25,000. The value of such an institution to Toronto and the province of Ontario is not to be estimated in dollars and cents. The mere establishment of a great technical college, however, does not begin to meet the needs of any province in the matter of vocational training. There must be pre-vocational training in the public schools, and there must also be secondary vocational schools within reach of students who cannot take a technical college course. The people of New Brunswick must be made to realize the truth of this statement, and in this connection the Times commends to its readers a letter written by Mr. H. R. Thompson, secretary of the Maritime Branch of the Canadian Manufacturers Association. Mr. Thompson wrote in reply to an enquiry from Mr. B. J. Lawson, chairman of the Amherst school board, as to the attitude of manufacturers toward education. Mr. Thompson said:

"I wish to say that if Canada is to successfully compete for the world's trade against nations whose population has better facilities for obtaining special training for the industrial trades, she must take immediate steps to put her men and boys on the same footing and give them equal opportunities. The demands of efficiency and economy are subdividing and specializing many branches of the work in our industries and at the same time the apprenticeship system has almost disappeared. We will

not only need higher skill but will need more of it in proportion to our population and in ever increasing ratio, in the future. The only way in which we can get this skill in grade and volume, adequate to the demands, is to give industrial education to our boys, beginning in the low grades and in making it as free as the air and the sunlight.

"The present system in our public schools has been drafted with a view to turning out a product for the universities. From the first book to the high school, the course of instruction lays the foundation for the entrance to college, and a professional career. This is not a democratic form of public education if we understand by such a form of education which meets the needs school statistics of almost every town or city will illustrate the statement that our present system is not preparing the majority of our children for their life's work. Not more than 5 per cent ever get to college, the balance of 95 per cent enter industrial life with very little preparatory training and without having a chance to find out what particular trade they might be adapted to or would prefer to follow up. The result is as you know, that scholars get disinterested and leave school prematurely and go from one industry to another and a great many never specialize in anything. Statistics show that two-thirds of the convicts in our prisons are men without a trade or profession. This is another result of men drifting about aimlessly, without some legitimate and interesting task to specialize on.

"My experience during the last year has proven that too many of our business men lose sight of the fact in this enlightened age that education, which is necessary to develop scientific methods, is the backbone of the country, and if we are to maintain the position among the industrial nations, which the war has given us, we will have to take more interest in educational matters and accept the responsibility of, and assist in, developing a more efficient educational system. This is a national duty."

Rev. J. J. O'Donovan, whose death is announced today, was a priest greatly beloved by his people, and held in the highest regard by all who knew the man and his work. His death is a great loss to the congregation for whom he ministered for so many years, and his sincere piety, his never failing smile and kindly deeds will keep his memory green.

A significant proof of the changed relations between governments and the representatives of labor was given last night in Ottawa, when the cabinet tendered a banquet to the president of the American Federation of Labor and had also as guests a large number of Canadian representatives of labor. The war is bringing all classes of the community closer together.

Hon. B. Frank Smith charges that there were frauds in connection with road work in Gloucester county similar to those which were committed when the old government was in power. Hon. Mr. Veniot has promised a full investigation. If any such misuse of public money has really occurred, prompt action will of course be taken against the guilty parties.

If the farmers feel that it is their duty to help win the war they must see that men as well as food are wanted, and they will also encourage the Soldiers of the Soil movement. It is not what we prefer in these fateful days, but what will best help to save our civilization that should really concern us all.

A tremendous battle is now raging around Mont Kemmel. The British and French have a difficult task, but they are fighting with all their old time ardor to dislodge the enemy, realizing the grave issues that hang upon the result.

Anti-German sentiment is said to be growing in Russia. It would be surprising if the new democracy did not in time learn who are its real friends and allies.

Canada is in this war to the last man and the last dollar. This is our war. Whatever the result of the present great battle on the western front we must still fight on.

Large numbers of young men in Quebec province are voluntarily joining the colors ahead of time. The director of military service says the reports are "extremely gratifying."

All leave has been stopped for land and sea forces in Holland. Relations with Germany appear to be strained almost to the breaking point.

The comment of the London press reveals the intense gravity of the situation on the western front. The need of men is sorely felt.



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GOOD ROADS NOTICE

The New Brunswick Automobile Association request their members and all other automobile owners to refrain from driving their cars outside the city and town limits until the frost is out of the ground. 80440-4-27-30-7.

Canada's War Parliament

Ottawa, April 26—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, addressed the senate and commons this afternoon in a speech which was at once an inspiration and a challenge. As the minister of justice put it, it was "a new inspiration which shall revive in us our determination."

It was a challenge to autocracy and reaction. "Somehow I feel," Mr. Gompers declared to ringing applause, "somehow I feel that I would rather drop while fighting for the right than not to fight. We cannot fail. We must not fail. We shall not fail. But it is better to fight than to submit to the yoke. A willingness to submit to the tyrant's yoke simply means stifling and stamping out the spirit of liberty."

The scene was impressive. The speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house sat by side on the dais. Public galleries were crowded. Stars and Stripes and Union Jack were knotted in simple decoration of the chamber. As he entered, accompanied by Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of justice; Hon. N. W. Rowell, president of the privy council; Hon. T. W. Crothers, minister of labor, and Hon. Senator Robertson, chairman of the labor committee of the cabinet, Mr. Gompers was greeted with applause. He took his seat on the front government benches and it was from here that he addressed members of the two houses of parliament.

An official welcome was tendered to Mr. Gompers by Speaker Rhodes of the commons. "Our welcome goes out to you," Mr. Rhodes said, "not only as the chairman of labor council of national defence and as president of the American Federation of Labor, but also for those sterling personal qualities which have sustained you as the natural head of that great organization which you have led with such distinct success for a long period of years."

Following Mr. Gompers' speech, the minister of justice in the absence of the prime minister, who is in New York, welcomed Mr. Gompers on behalf of the government. At the conclusion, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the opposition, crossed the floor to extend a personal welcome.

Mr. Gompers went on to say, that in this hour of world suffering there must be unity of spirit among the people of the allied nations. He believed that the time would come when the great English-speaking peoples of the world, allied with the other powers of the world, are going to spread this doctrine, even until it reaches the innermost recesses of Germany. There must not only be unity of spirit and co-operation and idealism, but there must be unity of action in all walks of life in the country. There must be a willingness to do and to dare, to sacrifice, that the common cause may live and survive. "I knew before I came to Ottawa," Mr. Gompers continued, "as I know now and am convinced, that the war of Canada did not need to be heartened or encouraged in this war. They are determined, as are the people of the United States, to fight this battle to a finish and not conclude it by any peace negotiations founded upon the map of Europe as it is today. My primary purpose in coming here was to receive inspiration from my visit, as I have already received it, and to give a word by way of suggestion, if need be, that unity of action and of spirit on the part of the government and of the workers and of the business men of Canada should prevail in order that we may win the war."

"There is no course of generosity or consideration which can be shown but what the workers will give most heartily of their co-operation and their energies and their service. After all, out of this struggle the old conditions will never enter our lives again. We must dismiss from our minds the thought that after the war is over we shall return to pre-war conditions and jog along somehow. Through this war there are going to be new concepts of duty, responsibility and service. There is a question as to whether the thousands of years ago which this crusade will answer: Am I my brother's keeper? The events and the sacrifices and the deaths of the last two years will answer that question in the affirmative.

"We are fighting and sacrificing that peace may come to the world. No peoples have ever had a greater opportunity to win for themselves from all future generations the concessions of peace and service, as have the people of our own time. God grant that day-day is near at hand when the forces, not only of arms, but the forces of the spirit dominating the mind of the peoples of all democratic countries shall prevail, and our boys come home to us with the triumph of glory."

Hon. C. J. Doherty, after referring to the important position held by Mr. Gompers as chairman of one of the most important branches of the national defense committee of the United States, said: "We welcome you today as the representative of your great nation in this day when the clouds seem to lower their very darkest and when we realize, as perhaps we have never realized before, how absolutely it is going to take the supreme efforts of our land, of our land and of the allied nations who are banded together in defense of the flag of democracy, to attain and bring about the victory for which we are striving."

"You have said to us, Mr. Gompers, that you came here looking for inspiration; let me say to you that your words have brought to us a new inspiration, that shall revive in us the determination which you have assured us your people realize animate the people of this land. When you go back to the land from which you have come I trust that you will carry with you pleasant memories of your visit here and assurances of the welcome of the people of Canada."

The Red Triangle Club gave an entertainment in the armory last evening for the convalescent soldiers. A feature of the programme was two motion pictures.

Springtime's Spirit



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N. B. LEGISLATURE PROROGUED

Fredericton, N. B., April 26—The second session of the seventh legislative assembly of New Brunswick is at an end. The house prorogued this evening and many of the members were able to catch trains tonight to take them to their homes. By tomorrow the remainder will be away and quietness will reign over the assembly chamber for another year.

In many ways the session has been a memorable one. It has continued for seven weeks and two days, making it one of the longest on record. More notable, however, is the amount of work which has been accomplished in these seven weeks. It is doubtful if any session has seen so much new and advanced legislation introduced and adopted, or so many bills of such importance to the province at large. While getting through so large an amount of work the members have found time to make long speeches and more of them than usual and the official report of the proceedings will be a bulky volume this year.

The session has been an eminently satisfactory one to the supporters of the Government. The administration has fully justified its pre-election promises by presenting accounts and reports for the first year in office showing that the affairs of the province had been administered in an efficient and businesslike manner. That the Government is able and willing to cope with problems which confront the province was proved by the progressive legislation adopted and the plans made for the future which will bring the province into line with other advanced communities. Opposition criticism have shown a striking lack of material to criticize and those which have been offered have been satisfactorily and effectively answered. On the other hand their year in office has revealed to the government serious irregularities in the conduct of the affairs of the province by their predecessors and questions have been asked which the opposition members have refused to answer to justify their stewardship while in office.

The last day was a busy one and a great number of bills were put through the committee stage and passed. Among these were the bills providing for the new assessment system for St. John, and that authorizing a commission to investigate the affairs of the New Brunswick Power Company.

When the house reassembled at 7.15 in the evening for the last sitting, the report of the public accounts committee was presented by Fred. Magers. The committee reported that unsupported information regarding improper expenditures on permanent road work had been received and the minister of public works had promised a searching and prompt investigation.

His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Pugsley entered the assembly chamber at 7.40 attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Osborne, A. D. C., and the minister of private secretary, and ascended to the remainder of the bills which had been passed during the session.

A total of 116 bills had been introduced during the session and of these 108 had been placed upon the statute book.

His message to the house was read by the lieutenant-governor and on his behalf the clerk announced the house prorogued.

At the departure of his honor the members joined in singing the National Anthem, in cheers for the king, the premier and the opposition and other leaders. Then pandemonium broke loose as the members in high spirits over the end of a long and arduous session proceeded to celebrate the occasion.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Message.

His honor the lieutenant-governor entered the chamber at this stage and after assenting the remaining bills passed by the house, was pleased to prorogue the house with the following speech:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—At the close of a somewhat lengthy and strenuous session it affords me much pleasure to express my appreciation of the careful consideration which you have given to the various matters which I have from time to time submitted to you, as well as to other important legislation which has engaged your attention. While you have passed measures for the purpose of enabling the people of New Brunswick to cope with their numerous difficulties, and to stimulate increased production rendered so vital by the war, you have not overlooked the need for improving conditions throughout the province. In this connection I might refer to the highways act intended to provide good roads, an act to provide for compensation to workmen for injuries sustained and diseases contracted in the course of their employment, and the act relating to the public health—measures which are likely to produce most beneficial results. The act for the prevention of forest fires, and an act to establish a provincial advisory commission, both of which are designed to conserve the vast forest wealth of the province; also the act respecting the taxation of wild lands are measures of great public importance. A special reference may well be made to the act making provision for vocational education.

Not Absolutely Proven.

The freshman class in trigonometry rectified.

"And have you proved this proposition?" asked the "math prof."

"Well," said the freshman, "proved is a strong word, but I can say that I have rendered it highly probable."—Los Angeles Express.

A Puzzling Problem.

Willis—What are you doing with all those charts and time-tables?

Gillis—Those charts are lists of the various meatless, wheatless and butterless days in the various states. I'm trying to figure out a trip whereby I can get a ham sandwich a month.—Life.

New Man—I found this five-dollar bill upon your desk, sir.

Employer—I'm glad you are honest. I put it there on purpose to test you.

New Man—That's what I thought, sir.—Bystander.

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A GOOD DIGESTION

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To be able to eat what you want and to digest it properly is a priceless blessing. Good digestion is not only necessary until you lose it. Then you cannot afford to experiment, for strong medicines are hard on weak stomachs. If you have indigestion do not be persuaded into believing you can cure yourself by the use of pre-digested foods or so-called stomach tonics. There is no tonic for the stomach that is not a tonic for every part of the body. It is through the blood that the stomach gets its power to assimilate and digest food, and as the blood goes to every part of the body and improvement in its condition not only results in strengthening the stomach but every organ in the body. Rich red blood is absolutely necessary to good digestion. If your stomach is weak and you are troubled with sour risings in the throat, a feeling of pressure about the heart, nausea after eating, try the tonic treatment with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Many dyspepsias have been cured by this medicine that every sufferer from stomach trouble should try. You will soon know the joy of good digestion and enjoy better health in other ways, if you give this medicine a fair trial. Mr. Fred J. Kendall, Darlin Ave., Toronto, says: "For upwards of five years I was a great sufferer from indigestion, which gradually undermined my general health, leaving me in a weak and anemic condition. I spent considerable money with one doctor and another, but failed to receive any lasting benefit, and had become quite discouraged. One day my wife urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills but I thought it would be the same old story. But she had so much faith in them that she got me a box, and to please her I began taking them. By the time the box was finished, I noticed a slight improvement, and I continued taking them and soon found myself gaining. I could sleep better and my appetite improved, without the distressing symptoms that had previously followed eating. I think I took in all about a dozen boxes, and today I am a stronger man than I ever was in my life. When I began the use of the pills I weighed 143 pounds while now I weigh 167. I may use this letter as you choose, hoping it may reach some poor, distressed sufferer as I was."

MANY YEARS BEFORE ENGLAND BECOMES FINANCIALLY EXHAUSTED

London, April 25—If England's enemies are counting upon her financial exhaustion they will have many years of hard fighting before them, asserted Lord Cunliffe this week in his last speech as governor of the Bank of England. The governor's position is now occupied by Sir Brien Cokayne.