

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH is issued every Wednesday and Saturday by THE TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING COMPANY, ST. JOHN, N. B., a company incorporated by Act of the Legislature of New Brunswick.

**E. W. McCRADY,**  
President and Manager.  
Subscription Rates: Sent by mail to any address in Canada at One Dollar a year. Sent by mail to any address in the United States at Two Dollars a year. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. In mailing price of subscription always send money by P. O. Order or Registered Letter.

**Advertising Rates:**—Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper, each insertion, \$1.00 per inch. Advertisements of Wants, For Sale, etc., one cent a word for each insertion. Notice of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 20 cents for each insertion.

**Important Notice:**—All communications must be sent by post office order or registered letter, and addressed to The Telegraph Publishing Company.

Correspondence must be addressed to the Editor of The Telegraph, St. John, N. B. All letters sent to The Semi-Weekly Telegraph and intended for publication should contain stamps if return of manuscript is desired in case it is not published. Otherwise, rejected letters are destroyed.

## Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

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

MR. MURRAY AND THE HAPPY FARMERS.

It always is a pleasure to peruse the luminous remarks of the Hon. James Alfalfa Murray, Provincial Minister of Agriculture, even though that statesman does not always see eye to eye with this journal. The other day The Telegraph quoted some figures from a Dominion publication, purporting to show that the acreage under crop in New Brunswick had diminished instead of increased during the last few years. When the lamentable tendency of these official figures was brought to Hon. Mr. Murray's attention he hastened to explain to the Standard that statistics issued by the Borden government on this subject are by no means reliable. The Standard reports Mr. Murray as saying:

"These statistics in regard to the acreage under cultivation are not of great significance. Larger crops may be raised on a smaller acreage if improved methods have been adopted, and that is what the department is interested in. However, the statistics collected by the census bureau in ordinary years are not very accurate. My department collects statistics about our crops in much the same way, and we don't get the same results. I am not going to say the figures of my department are altogether accurate, but they approximate actual conditions. These figures show a considerable increase in the number of cattle, horses, swine and in the potato, turnip and onion crops. There has been a falling off in the crop of wheat and also in the number of sheep. My department is now trying to work out a policy to encourage the farmers to raise more wheat and also to give more attention to sheep-raising."

Mr. Murray evidently means that the Provincial, like Dominion statistics on this subject, are no better than they ought to be. He wishes it to be inferred, however, that ever since his benign influence upon the crops of New Brunswick began to make itself felt, both the just and the unjust began to raise larger crops per acre; but, as no farmer can be in two places at once, the number of acres under tillage is smaller than of old, notwithstanding the personal attention which Mr. Murray has brought to bear upon these matters in every part of this fortunate province. Mr. Murray, according to the information furnished by the Parliamentary Guide, was formerly a manufacturer's agent, and it was no doubt while acting in that capacity that he prepared himself for the great task of stimulating farm production in New Brunswick.

Mr. Murray, we judge from his remarks as published in the Standard newspaper, is now the man who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before. He says that the farmers are more prosperous than ever. They will be glad to hear it. We hope they are, and that they fully realize that their prosperity is not due to any efforts of their own but to the time which Hon. Mr. Murray has played upon the Horn of Plenty since he was promoted to the Department of Agriculture, an event which, if recollection serves, was of comparatively recent occurrence. Reassuring speech flows from the Hon. James like water down a hill side. Without perceptible effort he can make a noise like a bumper crop. His copious words fall upon his happy land like a shower after a long time. When he is not making speeches or preparing to be, he spends his time happily among the loving line. It is downright wicked on the part of the Dominion statisticians to be careless in recording the joyful results of Mr. Murray's policies. The farmers, of course, know how successful Mr. Murray has been in making them prosperous. He has told them himself.

### WAR COMMENT.

Not since the Japanese-Russian war has the world seen any great conflict which it has attempted to follow day by day through the news, and the war in Manchuria was a small and simple operation compared with the present struggle in Europe. The Japanese bottled up the war correspondents in their campaign, and made it a practice to give out news some days after the event. But that was a struggle on a comparatively short front, and an "onlooker" world could understand how the Japanese were driving the Russians before them by pointing their front and continually making great flanking movements which threatened to cut the Russian line of retreat.

The present war is being fought in the dark so far as the public is concerned to a much greater extent than the war in Manchuria. Frequently we read announcements in the despatches as to Russia's plans, and as to the probable

movements of the British and French, yet obviously the commanders of the Allied forces would take the utmost pains to conceal from the world any real information as to projected movements of armies, or as to the part assigned to each of the Allies during any phase of the great struggle.

A short time ago the Russian General Staff casually announced the invasion of East Prussia by the Tenth Russian Army. That invasion was a failure on the ordinary layman's standpoint, and the Russians lost heavily in killed, wounded and prisoners; yet we read now that in spite of a very hurried retreat by the Russians, the Germans are acknowledging that the Russians carried off a great deal of their artillery and transport, and that their achievement, considering the forces opposed to them, was a highly creditable one. Recent light upon the East Prussian exploit has led to the surmise that it was intended merely to cause the Germans to draw heavily upon their strength in the Carpathian region for the purpose of defending their northern territory, and that Russia therefore did not send into East Prussia a force strong enough to hold that region, its real purpose being to gain ground further south, where the Russian road to Germany lies through Austria-Hungary. While it is a common practice to describe defeats as strategic retreats forming part of some general plan, and while such explanations are usually received with considerable scepticism, the success of Russian strategy up to this time lends considerable support to this version of the occurrences in East Prussia.

Applying a similar line of thought to the fighting in the western theatre, it can be seen that the plans of the Allies have been hidden from the public ever since the battle of the Marne. In a general way it has been known that, ever since the rush upon Paris was checked, the French and British have been content to hold the Germans on a substantially the battle line of today, while they massed new forces and supplies such as would in time give them a preponderance in men and in all kinds of artillery. It has been taken for granted by nearly all observers that the strength of the Allies would be hurled against the German front early this spring, but where the point or points of penetration will be is necessarily a matter for speculation only so far as the public is concerned. The campaign on land is dependent in some measure upon events by sea. Great Britain has apparently easily overcome all German attempts to interfere with the transportation of troops across the Channel, and is able to place its new armies on the firing line as rapidly as they are equipped and trained. Recent German activity along the coast, where the enemy has been preparing bases for submarines and positions for heavy land batteries, indicate a German expectation that the Allies will attack in that quarter simultaneously by sea and land, for the purpose of smashing the German right, driving it from the coast, and making a turning movement possible there. But while such a plan is among the possibilities it is quite as likely that the main assault will take place elsewhere, or that the British may roll up one end of the German line while the French are doing the like at the other end.

The latest advices from the East certainly justify the belief that the Russians, instead of being shaken in the course of the recent operations, they will be ready to strike even more heavily than they have yet done when the British and French are ready to press home a general attack in the West.

### A HOPELESS CONSERVATIVE INDUSTRY.

Certain Conservative newspapers, the Standard among them, attempted in their Ottawa despatches the other day to create the false impression that the Liberals in the House of Commons were unwilling to give a vote to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The fact is that both Liberals and Conservatives are in favor of giving votes to our soldiers. The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Daily Mail, writing of the debate in question, sent the following to his newspaper:

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 22.—A short discussion of the proposal to give Canadian soldiers on active service the right to vote in case a general election should be held before the war is concluded, showed that members on both sides of the House were heartily in favor of the idea if a practicable scheme could be devised for doing so. The opinion was expressed that there would be no trouble in enabling the men who are mobilized in Canada to vote. Reference was made to the New Zealand legislation which allows all their volunteers to vote, whether they are of age or not.

For the last year or two the Standard's Ottawa correspondent has been marked by frequent and vicious misrepresentation of the ordinary facts of the House of Commons debates. Evidently the Standard and its correspondent entertain the delusion that constant repetition of what is false will deceive the country. Fortunately, the average man is not wholly dependent upon the worst class of Conservative newspapers for his information about public affairs.

### THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

The duty of every Canadian of active service age, who has not some valid reason for being excused him from military service, should be set forth in moving words recently by Archbishop Patterson-Smyth in the course of a sermon from the text "Quit you like men." A few sentences are reproduced here, at a time when the duty of the hour is to fill up the 40th Battalion and the Mounted Rifles.

"First this. The primary duty of your young Christian manhood today is to offer itself for active service in this war for defence of your nation and

Empire. Some of your comrades are already gone. We are following them with our prayers. Go after them if you are free to go. But be honest about that. Let no laziness or cowardice settle it for you. Your country is out on one of the noblest expeditions of her history, fighting for the freedom of Europe, for the defence of weak nations, for the honor of her plighted word—nay, I might say for the defence of our holy Faith. For this is no ordinary war. It is a war of great principles, of might against right, of low ideals against high, almost of Paganism against Christianity. I hate to say this of my great people, but I have been studying the question as deeply as I could and I fear that the paganism of the wild German tribes of old is breaking forth again in the lives of their descendants. If we are to judge by their acts and by the utterances of their most popular teachers, the old pagan spirit is breaking through their veneer of Christianity and Germany is tearing up the Sermon on the Mount.

"I don't know what has possessed this fine people so to be led astray. They are a young nation, and God is very patient with young nations. Some day, please God, they will come right again. But, as things stand today, if they win this fight and become the lords of Europe, religion and civilization will be set back indefinitely.

"Nay, even England herself may be in danger in spite of all our optimism. You can never tell how the whole position may be altered in a few months for peace or the other. You do not want another Belgium for the women and children of the Motherland. And it is the last men out that will make the difference. Go out to prevent it. Be worthy of those who went before you and leave to your children the richest of all inheritances, the memory of fathers who in a great cause put self-interest before ease and honor, above life itself.

"I never thought, with my deep horror of war, that I could one day stand in this pulpit to send men of my parish out to fight. I am proud of our Men's Association; some of them are gone. I am proud of our fine men's choir; some of them, too, are gone. But I would gladly see the choir cut down to a few boys, I would gladly see the whole Men's Association disappear, if I could feel that they had gone out at the call of Duty. God guide you, men, to decide aright."

If it had been possible to continue recruiting at the time the Twenty-sixth Battalion was completed we should have had at present all of the men required as our proportion of the Third Conington. But unfortunately, it was not possible to continue putting recruits on war pay, and to some extent this province lost the advantage of the stirring recruiting campaign which filled up the Twenty-sixth so rapidly. But the right spirit is abroad in the province nevertheless, and if the need for men can be brought home to the people of every community they will be provided. The war will be won by the Allies because they are able to keep pouring fresh men into the field after the strength of the enemy is on the wane. There is, in fact, just as much necessity for going to the front now, and for going during the next six months, as there has been at any time since the war began; even more. And New Brunswick is one of the sources of strength from which the Empire must draw in this crisis. To men of service age in New Brunswick today the words of Archbishop Patterson-Smyth must appeal with the force of conviction: "Play the man. Be manly. Quit you like men."

### HITTING THE FARMER.

While the farmer is being urged to increase his production this year as a patriotic duty as well as a sound business investment, the Dominion government has just made an increase of seven and one-half per cent. in the duties on many farm implements. Harvesting machinery escapes the new increases, but as the Manitoba Free Press now points out, "before the crop can be harvested it must be sown. Here is what has been done to the duties on tillage tools and on other implements essential to farming:

	Old.	New.
Plows	20	27 1/2
Drills	20	27 1/2
Harrows	20	27 1/2
Cultivators	20	27 1/2
Wagons	25	32 1/2
Rakes	20	27 1/2
Straw cutters	27 1/2	35
Grain grinders	27 1/2	35
Thrashing machines	20	27 1/2

"The increase to the farmer is greater than it appears. Owing to unduly high valuations, the duty is really higher than is shown; and, as is the case with all duties, jobbers and handlers calculate their margin of profit on the augmented price, so that by the time it reaches the farmer the tariff burden is substantially increased."

These increases in the tariff on implements are not made for the purpose of raising revenue, but for the purpose of giving the Canadian manufacturer of such implements a larger control of the home market. The price of these implements will be raised to the extent of the duty, or more, but the government will not secure enough additional revenue to amount to much. And the farmer was assured by the present government that it was in favor of a substantial decrease in the duties on agricultural implements. "Here we are," says the Free Press, "in the midst of a great crusade to induce increased production; everybody is pleading with the farmers to bring under cultivation every possible additional acre of land; and just as the movement gets well under way, the government claps a heavy additional duty on the imple-

ments necessary to make this increased production possible."

Mr. A. K. McLean was right the other day when he described the new tariff as protectionist rather than patriotic. The government is now paying off some of the tariff beneficiaries who contributed to its campaign in 1911.

### THE VALLEY RAILWAY.

Mr. A. R. Gould, of Valley Railway fame, is at present attempting to interest the Maine legislature in a railway which he proposes to build from River de Chute, on the St. John River, about ten miles south of Andover, across the State of Maine and Province of Quebec to the Quebec Bridge, and is seeking assistance for that portion of this railway which would traverse Aroostook County, Maine. This activity on the part of Mr. Gould does not lend support to the professions of Conservatives in New Brunswick and at Ottawa that they are anxious to extend the Valley Railway to Grand Falls, and to build the bridge at Andover as a necessary preparation for making a connection between the Valley Railway and the Transcontinental at Grand Falls. In fact, there are many points in connection with the Valley Railway about which definite information should long since have been given to the people of this province. At the present time the St. John connection is up in the air. The route has not been settled finally, and the time for construction is indefinite. The construction of the line above Centreville is similarly doubtful. And it now appears that while the Intercolonial is giving special service from Fredericton to Centreville, and a weekly service from Fredericton to Gagetown, the Province of New Brunswick, instead of receiving forty per cent. of the gross receipts, is getting nothing, and is under agreement to pay one-half of any deficit which may result from this operation.

Yet Mr. Carvell showed in the House of Commons on February 15 that construction can and should be proceeded with and that the government of New Brunswick has no valid excuse for delay at the present time.

A peculiar statement was made by Hon. Frank Cochrane, Minister of Railways, in the House of Commons on that date in reply to questions by Mr. Carvell in connection with the Valley Railway. Mr. Cochrane said, in discussing the bridge:

"I think, however, that it would be a great mistake for the two railway companies, or the people of Canada, to spend millions to run the line to St. John unless the traffic proves to be much heavier than we estimate it will be. It is the intention of the government to try to make some connection between the Transcontinental and this road. I do not know whether it is best to build a bridge or whether it would be better to make it at some other point. We cannot possibly make a connection which will not get us a disaster of some kind. The connection with the Transcontinental at the cheapest possible point, we can get through traffic from Montreal and other points to St. John. This would not only be a disaster of some kind, but the resulting traffic would help to pay the cost of operation and keep the road up to a standard."

It will be noted that the first part of the Minister's statement is a seeming contradiction of the latter part. Mr. Carvell asked Mr. Cochrane to be a little more explicit as to the point of connection with the Transcontinental. Mr. Cochrane said that was a matter of engineering which could not be determined at the present time. As a matter of fact, it should have been determined long ago, and was supposed to be definitely determined by the legislation which fixed Grand Falls as the point of connection. Mr. Carvell asked the Minister for a more definite statement as to his intentions to build the bridge at Andover, but Mr. Cochrane declined to speak on that point, merely saying that the railway is not there yet.

In the agreement between the Province and the Dominion with respect to the Valley Railway it was provided that the road should be operated as a part of the Intercolonial system, and that the government should pay to the province as rental forty per cent. of the gross receipts, which would be applied to pay interest on the bonds. That agreement has been set aside temporarily at least, or for an indefinite time, on the excuse that the completed sections of the railway are not really finished; and the Dominion government is now operating the road from Fredericton to Centreville on the understanding that if there is a loss the Province of New Brunswick will pay one-half of it. It will be interesting to see how long this arrangement lasts, and how it works out for the Province of New Brunswick.

In the House of Commons on February 19 Mr. Carvell moved for a copy of all letters, telegrams, correspondence, contracts and other documents relating to the operation of the Valley Railway by the Intercolonial Railway since July 1, 1914. In support of his motion he pointed out that under the contract of 1911 the Dominion government was bound to operate the railway in sections, when completed and equipped as follows:

1. From Fredericton to Woodstock;
  2. From Fredericton, south, a distance of forty miles;
  3. Each twenty-five miles thereafter until the line was completed from Grand Falls to St. John.
- Mr. Carvell pointed out that a new contract was prepared when the Conservatives came into power, permitting the construction of a road with heavy grades and sharp curves instead of the railway of high character, which the Liberal government contemplated. While the people of New Brunswick were to have forty per cent. on every dollar earned by the Valley Railway, Mr. Carvell said, under the present

agreement they got nothing, and, worse than that, the Intercolonial takes all, "but if there should be a loss in operation, we pay one-half the loss. Why should the people of New Brunswick be compelled to pay the interest on the bonds to the extent of something like three or four million dollars? We are not getting one dollar out of the earnings of the road with which to pay that interest, whereas by Parliament, we are entitled to receive forty per cent. of the gross earnings of the road with which to pay interest on the bonds."

Mr. Carvell said it was not the fault of the people of New Brunswick that the road had not been built to Grand Falls and connection made there with the Transcontinental. Millions of dollars, the proceeds of bonds, had been placed in the hands of the Prudential Trust Company, and the only qualification put upon the investment of that money was a letter written by the then Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick, the present member for York in this House (Mr. McLeod) addressed to the Prudential Trust Company, and telling them they were at liberty to invest that money as they thought fit, the only condition being that every three months they should send to the government of New Brunswick a statement of the manner in which that money had been invested. Now, if they have not got the cash to build that road, the fault lies with the government of New Brunswick.

As for the second mortgage bonds, which it was said could not be sold under present conditions, Mr. Carvell told the Minister of Railways that it was not necessary to sell the second mortgage bonds; that if he could get the cash for the first mortgage bonds, or if the government or the Prudential Trust Company or whoever has the money from the first mortgage bonds, will produce it, he, Mr. Carvell, will find contractors who will take the second mortgage bonds upon their own responsibility and build the road. He said that the contractors who built the road from Woodstock to Centreville—Kennedy & Macdonald—never received a dollar of the \$100,000 a mile second mortgage bonds, but took the bonds themselves. The same was true of the Hilliard Company which built the road from Fredericton to Woodstock, and of the Corbett Company who built the road from Fredericton to Gagetown. They took the second mortgage bonds of \$100,000 a mile and financed them themselves. These contractors, Mr. Carvell said, were perfectly willing to take the bonds themselves and build the railway, providing they have the assurance that the money which ought to be in the hands of the Prudential Trust Company is forthcoming.

Mr. Carvell made it clear that he was not criticizing the Prudential Trust Company, but the government of New Brunswick, because money necessary for the completion of the railway was not being used for that purpose. Addressing the Minister of Railways, he said, further:

"We know the minister to be a forceful man. When he takes a thing into his head he usually puts it through. And we know that if he went after this matter in that way he has the power and the ability to go on with it. He not only is able to find out where the blame lies for the condition of affairs here, but will be able to satisfy himself—and I believe will come to the conclusion—that he cannot move a moment too soon to put it in a money-making venture, but where it may be a boon and a benefit to thousands and tens of thousands of people living in the most fertile portions of New Brunswick, and I believe one of the most fertile portions of Canada."

That troublesome German-American ship, the *Decca*, has been "arrested" by a French cruiser. The expected controversy over her detention will be carried on by Paris and Washington, instead of London and Washington as the Germans hoped.

Some bright fellow on the Standard has referred to Dr. Pugsley as a "German." Flashes of wit of that sort must have deep intellectual power behind them. The Standard is almost as fond of Dr. Pugsley as if he had fathered the "For-shores Bill."

Despatches show that many of the Canadians have now been under fire, and that they are doing well. The hearts of their fellow-countrymen are there with them in the trenches. Soon Canada will send thousands more of her sons, and she is confident that all will do valiant work for the Empire.

### HON. MR. PUGSLEY AND ST. JOHN.

Hon. William Pugsley, in an interview published in today's Telegraph, brings out with force and clearness the position of this city and this province in connection with the new taxation introduced by the Borden government. This taxation, if not for the purpose of paying Canada's war expenses, which we are to borrow, but is levied to pay the deficit due to the extravagant course of the government. The share of it which St. John and the province will pay is a startling one, and it is well to keep in mind that it is not in any sense a war tax. We are being fined to the extent of \$1,800,000 for partisan purposes.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley, who has played a leading part for years in the development of this port, has been a target for deliberate and foolish misrepresentation by the Standard of late. He has been called an "enemy of St. John" and other choice names by the organ of the same group of men who fathered the Mayes conspiracy and who rejected the tender of Camm Laird & Company when that firm selected St. John as the best port in Canada at which to build the cruisers and destroyers of the Canadian squadron. The Standard's latest effort to injure

the former Minister of Public Works was made just as he was coming to St. John, and in today's interview he explodes the Standard's charges by reciting some forcible facts which will increase the affection in which he is held by the end of the Standard's backers.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley was the man who first secured recognition for St. John as a national port. It was he who first brought the Company Bay plans into being, and it is the work he prepared which is now being done there. The Standard's childish efforts to represent Dr. Pugsley as a public enemy only serve to remind the people of this city and this province that when he was in the Cabinet he did more to advance our interests than any other man who ever represented us at Ottawa.

### TROUBLE OVER THE HON. SAM.

Some Conservative newspapers would like to see Major-General Sam Hughes go to the front in command of Canada's forces, for reasons which they do not give. Others are more outspoken. The Conservative Toronto Telegram, in an earnest editorial, warns Mr. Borden against General Sam as a politician and as a commander. The Telegram takes for its text: "Canada's Soldiers Must Not Pay for 'Sam's' Robert's Mistakes." It says:

"Is the command of the second contingent of the Canadian expeditionary force a scrap heap on which Sir Robert Borden can dump the burden that has become too heavy to be borne? If Hon. Sam Hughes has proved himself unfit to command the Department of Militia and Defence, Gen. Hughes has proved himself still more unfit to command the officers and men of the Canadian expeditionary force."

"It is bad enough to coin the welfare of the country and the interests of the Conservative party into the tokens that pay the price of Sir Robert Borden's chivalrous but mistaken devotion to Hon. Sam Hughes."

"It will be worse for Sir Robert Borden to unload the consequences of his own mistake on the soldiers who would be doomed to accept the leadership of Hon. Sam Hughes."

"Sir Robert Borden is not mean. Sir Robert is not cowardly. His kindness of heart and infinitely of purpose may lead the Conservative party to ruin in association with Hon. Sam Hughes, rather than that Gen. Hughes to suffer the pangs of isolation from his portfolio. Canada will not believe that Sir Robert Borden is capable of sending the soldiers of this country to Britain under the leadership of Hon. Sam Hughes."

The Telegram's mistake lies in its assumption that Sir Robert Borden can control General Sam, who is a law unto himself.

### NOTH AND COMMENT.

Evidently the fight for the Dandanelles is only beginning.

The Belgian soldiers are once more in the thick of the fighting.

The Russians are on the offensive once more. Von Hindenburg will be needed in the East for a long time yet.

"The history of this war," says Mr. Dooley, "will be written by the censor, if he can remember what he cut out."

In the words of Hon. James A. Murray, the farmer's friend, a calf in the barn is worth two in the government statistics.

The new battleship Queen Elizabeth, which carries eight 15-inch guns, is one of the ships engaged in forcing the Dardanelles. Ships of her class are the most powerful afloat. And she is not needed in the North Sea.

That troublesome German-American ship, the *Decca*, has been "arrested" by a French cruiser. The expected controversy over her detention will be carried on by Paris and Washington, instead of London and Washington as the Germans hoped.

Some bright fellow on the Standard has referred to Dr. Pugsley as a "German." Flashes of wit of that sort must have deep intellectual power behind them. The Standard is almost as fond of Dr. Pugsley as if he had fathered the "For-shores Bill."

Despatches show that many of the Canadians have now been under fire, and that they are doing well. The hearts of their fellow-countrymen are there with them in the trenches. Soon Canada will send thousands more of her sons, and she is confident that all will do valiant work for the Empire.

### HON. MR. PUGSLEY AND ST. JOHN.

Hon. William Pugsley, in an interview published in today's Telegraph, brings out with force and clearness the position of this city and this province in connection with the new taxation introduced by the Borden government. This taxation, if not for the purpose of paying Canada's war expenses, which we are to borrow, but is levied to pay the deficit due to the extravagant course of the government. The share of it which St. John and the province will pay is a startling one, and it is well to keep in mind that it is not in any sense a war tax. We are being fined to the extent of \$1,800,000 for partisan purposes.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley, who has played a leading part for years in the development of this port, has been a target for deliberate and foolish misrepresentation by the Standard of late. He has been called an "enemy of St. John" and other choice names by the organ of the same group of men who fathered the Mayes conspiracy and who rejected the tender of Camm Laird & Company when that firm selected St. John as the best port in Canada at which to build the cruisers and destroyers of the Canadian squadron. The Standard's latest effort to injure

\$1,188 and \$1,868. Since that time some other contracts have come this way. The Standard's readers would find it interesting if it would furnish details concerning the distribution of Militia Department purchases down to the end of January. So long as it is trying to make political capital out of this sort of thing it ought to produce the facts to show how St. John and New Brunswick are being treated as compared with other parts of Canada.

### A Hymn of Death.

(London Chronicle.)

At Thancourt a few days ago some sixty German fusiliers and grenadiers left their trenches by order of their commanding officer and gathered in a little church to sing (writes a special correspondent from beyond the Meuse).

Headed by a sergeant, they climbed up a shaky staircase and reached the organ gallery where, the sergeant having drawn up in two lines, they began to chant.

The congregation in the body of the church consisted chiefly of journalists, foreign newspapers. One of them relates that the military choir sang three hymns, the last being "Das ist der Tag, Heilmächtige, und Morgenrot."

Nothing, he said, was more melancholy, more lugubrious, than the chanting of the last-mentioned, which is the hymn of "Shadows of Death."

"It begins with a double invocation to 'The dawn! The dawn!' continuing: 'Thou hast a color, the color of Death, which is a splendor!'"

"Soon the trumpets will sound. They will say: 'Forward! And that will indicate the hour of my death, of my death, and of many of my comrades!'"

"A flash of lightning, scarcely more, and all is ended! Yesterday, we were so pious, so proud!"

"Now we are overthrown, our hearts pierced!"

"And tomorrow we shall be cold corpses!"

"What matters nought! It matters nought! God's will be done!"

"But I want to fight with courage! When I fall, Oh! Lord! at last let me fall bravely!"

### The Wounded Soldier.

(Canada, London.)

Mrs. George McLaren Brown, the honorary secretary of the ladies' executive of the Canadian War Contingent Association, gives a charming picture of the wounded soldiers in the Queen's Canadian Military Hospital at Beachburg, near Folkestone, in a letter. She writes:

"The first thing that impressed me was their skin. I never saw such skins, pink and white, and with the peculiar blue-lined look that you see on the face of a baby; and this after weeks of shot and shell and dirt and disease, and unceasing nerve strain. But the thing that struck me most was their eyes. There are no adequate words to describe the look in them: clear, steady, friendly, but detached, above, beyond you; a look that seems to say, 'I was in pain and now I rest. I was with horror on my way here and now I am in peace; I was starved and mad with thirst, and now I am content and all my wants are satisfied; but do not think me a martyr. Not pain or ease, nor horror, nor peace, nor hunger or thirst, nor anything here counts, but those things that lie behind them, and on which I have looked, the things for which there are no words in terms of description, but which are the meaning of life and eternity, those things which I know, for I have faced them, and lived through them and understand. If I wrote for hours, I could not describe their faces, very graceful, very respectful and very shy, but quite above you in dignity and simplicity."

### "The Soul of a Battalion."

In a recent speech at the Mansion House to the recruiting bands committee, Rudyard Kipling said:

"No one, not even the adjutant, can say for certain what the soul of the battalion lives, but the expression of that soul is most often found in the band."

One may remember a beautiful poem by Sir Henry Newbolt, in which he describes how a squadron of weary big dragons were led to renewed effort by the strains of a penny whistle and a child's song, sung from a tabor in a wrecked French town. I remember it in a cholera camp, where the band of the 10th Lincoln's started a regimental song and went on with that queer, quaint, unlovely, but so brave and so true, it was their regimental march that the men had heard a thousand times. There was nothing in it—nothing except all England, from the coast all the way, and daring and horseplay of young men bucketing about big pastures in the moonlight. But as it was given very far from home, in that terrible camp of death, it was the one thing in the world that could have restored, as it did restore, shaken men back to their pride, humor and self-control. (Cheers.)

### In the Trenches.

All day the guns belched fire and death and filled the hours with gloom. The fearful music smote the sky with tremulous bars of doom; But as the evening came forth, A truce to death and strife, There rose from hearts of patriot love A tender song of life.

A song of home and fireside, Swelled on the evening air, And men forgot their battle line, We sang and drank and danced; The soldier dropped his rifle, And joined the choral song. As high above the tide of war It swept and pulsed along.

That night while sleeping where the stars Looked down upon the Meuse, French Trenchon valor coupled with Frank, Where rallied most deadly dews, A soldier youth, in khaki clad, Rocked where the maples grow, Smiled in his dream, and saw again The blue St. Lawrence flowing.

—Thomas O'Hagan.

### An Irregular Drinker.

"Show me an anti-suffragette, and I'll show you a woman of the Mrs. Mallory type," said Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont at a luncheon in New York, according to the Washington Star.

"A suffragist star worker visited Mrs. Mallory in her wretched East Side home, where Mrs. Mallory bent over her wash-tub—she was a washwoman by trade—and while three small Mallorys sprawled at her feet, she talked with contempt of the English militants. What woman would vote for Mrs. Mallory couldn't see. 'It unsexes 'em,' she said."

"The talk turned then to Mrs. Mallory's home troubles, and the visitor asked: 'Does your husband drink regularly?'"

"No'm, the anti-mockery replied. 'No wages ain't steady.'"

## CROTONA AT APPEAL