

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., SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1916.

"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 RULES OF THE GAME.

No one will deny that the English are the finest sportsmen in all the world. They have never been known to approve of the policy of winning the game at any cost. If there remains anywhere any little spark of patriotism within the British mind it is to be seen perhaps in the all but idolatrous regard entertained by the average Englishman for the "rules of the game."

All the world over the Queensbury rules are recognized as demanding the highest standard of fair play in all pugilistic encounters, and they have, therefore, been more or less universally adopted by the sporting fraternity. Some of the Standard's readers may find interesting a brief summary of the modern Queensbury rules under which all present day glove contests are fought.

"To be a fair stand up boxer—match in a 24 foot ring or as near that size as practicable; no wrestling or hugging allowed; the round to be of three minutes' duration and one minute time; if either man fall through weakness or otherwise he must get up unassisted; ten seconds to be allowed him to do so."

It is unnecessary for the purpose of this argument to quote all the various items of these well known rules governing the many art of boxing, but we desire to direct attention to the fact that all the subsequent rules of the list are applicable upon condition that the meeting takes place in a proper ring and under mutual consent and that both parties be bound by them.

John Sholto Douglass, thorough sportsman that he was, though he drew up these rules would, himself, have been the last man to have applied them had he suddenly and unexpectedly been held up by a thug in a dark street at night, and had the noble Marquis discovered that his adversary had a dagger in one hand and a gun in the other while an accomplice stood behind with a bottle of vitriol and a bag of poison gas ready to administer whenever he got the chance. He would not have hesitated to reject them.

The Queensbury Rules were not devised for the bandit in the back alley, but for the gentleman sport who desired to give and to take according to the chances of the game but to do all in perfect squareness and fairness.

The experience of Mr. Hanson in Hamburg and of the firm of William F. Malcolm and Company, referred to yesterday, not to cite many others, ought to convince the Imperial Government that in this war we are not fighting against an honorable enemy but rather against a foe who will stop at nothing to throttle our national strength and utterly destroy beyond all hope of recovery our commercial life.

There is only one thing that we all want to get firmly seized of, if we can, both here in Canada, as well as in Britain, and that is this fact: We are at war with the Germans, and since such is the case we have either got to down them or they will assuredly destroy us, take away our liberties, ruin our trade and enslave our children.

There is no doubt of our ability ultimately to master this Prussian foe if we really wake up and realize that we have got this contract on hand, that it is serious and that we have got to get busy at it and keep busy at it till the enemy is crushed.

No half measure will do. The time has come when it is absolutely demanded that we apply to the adversary every possible ounce of our strength commercial, and economic as well as military. Unless this is done then let us make up our minds that in the time to come Europe will assuredly be Prussianized and America will not be long thereafter in following suit. This must never be.

MR. PUGSLEY'S CHARGES.

The discussion arising out of the sensational statements made in the House of Commons by Mr. Pugsley, has developed the fact that in at least two cases to which he referred, his charges that shells were being manufactured and sold at exorbitant prices and the Canadian and British taxpayers were being mulcted out of huge

sums of money, are absolutely without foundation.

The more partisan Liberal newspapers have supported Mr. Pugsley in his wild outburst, but the decent papers, papers which have been consistent advocates of the Liberal policies in power and out of it, find his conduct too miserable for them to endorse.

The Telegraph and Times, ignoring the fact that their principal owner is one of the many shell contractors to whom Mr. Pugsley has applied the general term of "graffer," take the ground that the former Minister of Public Works has done a great and a noble thing in endeavoring to cast suspicion on a commission that has done wonderful work in organizing the shell industry in Canada and systematizing the assistance this country has been able to render to the equipment of the Allied forces in the way of war munitions. Also, they claim he is justified in demanding an investigation and seek to defend that view by quoting from the Toronto Telegram. The Toronto Telegram, while an excellent newspaper in many ways, has been known to permit the private grievances of its owner to warp its judgment on more than one occasion. The prejudice that newspaper tried to create against Sir Sam Hughes is a matter of recent history; yet it has been unable to find fault with his administration of the militia department and the few imputations it made against him have proven groundless.

The repeated cry of "scandal" from Liberal members and newspapers is becoming just a bit nauseating to the great majority of Canadians who have had ample evidence of the honesty and ability with which the Government is handling the various problems imposed by the war. Early in the campaign there was a great potheer about the boots served to the Canadian soldiers. Every shoe manufacturer in Canada was branded as a grafter even more indiscriminately than Mr. Pugsley has applied that appellation to the shell makers. Yet when the "charges" were thoroughly investigated, first by the Public Accounts Committee and later by a specially appointed commission, the slanders were utterly confounded and unable to produce the first tithe of evidence to support their wild contentions. As with boots so with shells. There is no scandal or evidence of it but the charges of Mr. Pugsley are simply in line with the general Grit policy of throwing a lot of mud in the hope that some small portion of it may stick. Mr. Pugsley has only been a little meaner and a little more treacherous than some of his party colleagues.

The Telegraph and Times also attempt to find fault with the Government because it refused to humor Mr. Pugsley's whim and at once permit him to conduct a fishing expedition into the whole Canadian shell industry. The Borden Government has no authority to do anything else and on this point the opinion of the Toronto Mail and Empire will probably be regarded as of much value as that of the Telegraph or even the Toronto Telegram. Discussing the Pugsley charges the Mail and Empire says in part:

"Mr. Pugsley demands that the work of the Shell Committee be investigated. If there is reason to believe that the committee was not faithful to its trust an investigation ought to be made, and any dereliction of duty that is brought home to its members ought to be exposed and justice done. But upon whose motion is the investigation to be made? Not, we should think, upon that of Mr. Pugsley, unless he is instructed by the British Government to proceed in the matter. He will hardly claim to be so instructed. Whatever may be the information he professes to possess, we may be sure it is not the brief of the British Government that is in his hands."

"Ought the investigation to be ordered by the Canadian Government? Not without the concurrence of the British Government, and not unless it can bring before its Commission of Parliamentary Committee the agents of the British Munitions Department who dealt with the late Shell Committee in this country. Mr. Thomas, Mr. Lionel Hitchen, and Mr. Brand were entrusted by the British Munitions Department to look after the purchase of shells in Canada. The committee appointed to deal with them, through whose instrumentality large orders were placed and executed for the British Government, may or may not have satisfied those British

agents. That is a matter for those agents to answer for."

And again: "Britain recognizes Canada's rights of self-government, and Canada must recognize those of Britain. This Shell Committee's dealing with Mr. Lloyd George's department are Britain's business. If the British Government wants an investigation it will so advise Ottawa, and will put in the hands of the government, that is, the Canadian investigators, by which he professes to possess, we may be sure it is not the brief of the British Government that is in his hands."

This seems to be a fair and logical view of the situation. Did Mr. Pugsley say his evidence before the British Munitions Department? Not for a minute. That was not his way of playing the game. He preferred to stand up in Parliament and employing all the appearances of outraged virtue in which practice he is a past master, spread his insinuations broadcast where they would be seized upon and elaborated by a particularly venomous Grit press and in this miserable manner to create a temporary prejudice against the Government. It was a dirty game, such as one might expect from the gentleman who introduced it.

French troops landed on the Greek island of Corfu, and the action was at once followed by a German protest that the neutrality of Corfu had been guaranteed by an international agreement and that therefore the French action was indefensible. The Germans forget that the neutrality of Belgium was similarly guaranteed, and yet the Kaiser's armies showed no compunction at trampling that country under foot. Corfu's case is different. The German Emperor has a castle there and information in possession of the Allied governments is to the effect that the island has been used as a German submarine base, consequently the landing of French soldiers instead of violating neutrality will tend to preserve it. It is the intention of the Allies that the people of Corfu shall be neutral in fact as well as name.

Dr. Edwards, of Frontenac, has a question placed on the parliamentary order paper asking whether Armand Lavergne is still a colonel in the Canadian militia. It is to be expected that ex-Captain F. B. Carvell will support the doctor's request for information, for Dr. Edwards is the gentleman who waited in the corridors of Parliament to exact physical satisfaction for remarks made by Carvell on the floor of the House. And Carvell escaped by a rear door. The Dark-Lantern Brigadier has had a wholesome respect for the Frontenac man ever since.

Why Canada Fights

(Mail and Empire.)

What is the idea of public speakers, like Sir Wilfrid Laurier, for instance, insisting that Canada is in this war of her own free will, and not because she is forced into it by Great Britain? Why should the obvious thus be emphasized? Whoever supposed that Canada was coerced into fighting? The suggestion underlying the remarks of certain speakers on the subject is that to fight for Britain alone would be unworthy, a sacrifice of Canada's autonomy; that in this country is at war, but because Canada, having thoughtfully debated upon the various white books and red books, has come to the conclusion that, upon the whole, the balance of right and justice is upon the side of Belgium, France, Russia, and incidentally Great Britain, and that Canada has made up her mind, like any judge, that this is the side upon which she should stand. The inference is that, had the rights of the matter been more obscure, Canada might have refused to participate in the war, or even, conceivably, might have cast in her lot with the other side.

Some time ago the theory was put forth that in a war in which Great Britain was engaged, Canada became automatically a belligerent; that when Britain was at war Canada was at war, but that Canada might remain a non-combatant, and apparently it is to bolster up this notion that so much stress is laid upon the fact that while Canada is actively participating she is doing so of her own free will, and not because of any obligations to the British Empire. For this suggestion there is no warrant in the action of the Canadians who have enlisted have done so, not because (Canada enjoys autonomy, not because of the wrongs of Belgium, but because the British Empire is in it; and they would have enlisted just as readily without autonomy as with it. Speakers who harp upon the entire freedom of choice left to Canada in regard to the present time an equal freedom of choice has been left to the people in the British Isles. Canada is in this war just exactly as Ulster or Leicester or Arrahire is in it.

Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE

Ma made pop make a Noo Year's resolution at Noo Year's not to smoke any more sears, and yesterday he hadent smoked any yet, but after supper he kep wapping over to the drawer ware he keeps his sears and opening and shutting it agen, and after a while ma sed, Willyum, how about taking in the movies tonite for a change.

My goodnes, youve dum nothing but grumble and grouch ever sints you left off smoking, sed ma.

Who forced me to leave off, sed pop.

And he went over and opened the drawer and shut it agen and picked up the paper and started to read it.

Anything new about the war, sed ma.

Wat do I care about the war, darn the war, confound the war, sed pop.

O, all rite, I didnt start the war, did I, sed ma.

I shoodent be surprized, sed pop.

And he kep on reading the paper and rattling it, and ma sed, Theres a Charley Chaplin movie billed for tonite, ta.

Dont tawk to me about that blithering fool, sed pop.

But I thawt you always liked him so much, sed ma.

Its a free country, you can think wat you like, sed pop.

And he kep on reading the paper and not looking happy, and aster a while ma sed, Do you no, Willyum, I dont think its a good thing for you to give up smoking altogether, I think its harmful after being accustomed to it the way you were.

By Jorge, thats the only settable remark Ive herd eround here for days and I believe theres sumthing in it, sed pop.

Well try one and see if it makes you feel any better, sed ma. And she went and got a sear and held a match while pop lit it, and pop leened back taking grate big puffs, and after it was all smoked he sed, Wats all this about a Chaplin picture, come on, put your things on, everybody, and lets go eround and give it a tosa. Wich me and ma and him did.

At a late hour last night the chemical and No. 2 hose were called out on a still alarm for a fire in a shed in the rear of W. E. Raymond's residence on Germania street.

On arrival the fire had been caused by some hot ashes having burned through a wooden box in which they had been placed. If the blaze had not been discovered when it was it is thought that considerable damage would have resulted.

Police Taking Action

Chief of Police Simpson has issued an order to all officers of the force to clean the city of street walkers and break up houses where soldiers and others congregate to drink liquor.

Detectives Barrett and Briggs have been working hard on these cases for some time and it is reported that a number of wives whose husbands are at the front fighting for their country have been getting disagreeably in their homes. These people have been reported to the proper authorities and their allowances from the Patriotic Fund have been stopped. In the case where there are children in the homes, the girls and boys are looked after, while the mother will be obliged to make out an existence on what portion of her husband's pay she receives.

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