

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1916

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 21, 1916

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NATIONAL SERVICE

From the principle of compulsion which would call upon one man to enlist and another to work in a munition factory, and which would in a general way enforce national service, Sir Robert Borden is not exempt. It is clearly his duty to place himself at the service of the country, and not of the Conservative party. He cannot expect others to respond to a leadership which does not lead. A government is not national that does not possess the confidence of the people. The great majority of the people of Canada are dissatisfied with the Borden government. It holds power today because the Liberal party agreed to an extension of the parliamentary term, and not by the vote of the people of Canada. That being so, there is no excuse whatever for failure on the part of Sir Robert Borden to give the country, and give it at once, a national government and a national programme. That his colleagues believe they ought to hold on to their jobs is no more a reason they should do so than that any private citizen who objects to interference with his pleasure and profit should be made exempt from national service. The wisdom of this country is not confined to one party, and certainly not to a do-nothing administration which fails to receive any inspiration from the trend of events in the United Kingdom. The people of Canada are not indifferent. They want leadership. Given real national service at Ottawa, they would respond, and accept their own responsibility as the people of England have done. It may be that the greatest service Sir Robert Borden could perform today would be to give place to a man with a programme and the courage of his convictions; who would not hesitate to abolish the patronage committee, forget partisanship, and call to his councils the ablest men in the country to form a real war government. If Sir Robert fails to meet the situation as it exists today, the people should be given an opportunity to speak.

MUNITION MAKING

Next in importance to providing men, and indeed quite as essential, is the production of munitions. Nothing has done so much to impress this truth upon the public mind in Canada as the very striking series of advertisements in the newspapers, prepared by Mr. Mark H. Irish, director of munitions labor. One of these appears in the Times today. Nothing can be more true than that the man is helpless without munitions, and the fact that the Allies have the best of the fighting on the western front is due to their superiority in munitions. Hence it is of paramount importance that the supply be not only kept up but increased, for that way lies victory. Fortunately munitions can be produced very largely with the labor of persons who are rejected by the recruiting sergeant. Already thousands of women have become skilled workers in munition plants. The Toronto Globe says:

"When the New Year opens Toronto will see the opening of five new munition factories in Toronto, three large ones, and two smaller ones. One of these factories has already a waiting list of 700 women, and there are 1,000 women on the books at the employment bureau at 104 Bay street. This does not mean that there are 1,700 potential women munition workers, as all of those who register will not be able to pass the tests required. This means that there will be a number of openings in a few weeks for women who are ready to face a nine-hour day and factory discipline for the sake of helping their country. There will be a few positions for women who will be willing to look after luncheon and tea for the employees, see that the rooms are bright and attractive and clean, and mother the girls generally."

"For the sake of helping their country—that is the thought to keep in mind. The munition factories must be kept busy and yet every fit man must, if possible, be set free to go overseas. He or she who helps to make munitions helps to win the war. As Director Irish puts it in one of his terse statements: 'The munitions you make may save the life of someone near and dear to you.'"

The munition maker is not merely offered an opportunity to work, but to perform one of the most needed of patriotic services. Next to going to the front it is the most important work, and no mere question of comparison of wages should weigh for one moment in the mind of the workers.

WE PREFER LINCOLN

Nothing President Wilson has done since the war began is less becoming to the president of the United States than the peace note just sent to the belligerent nations. When he says that "the objects which the statesmen of the belligerents on both sides have in mind in this war are virtually the same, as stated in general terms to their own people and to the world," are that "each side desires to make the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small states as secure against aggression or denial in the future as the rights and privileges of the great and

powerful states now at war," he conveniently forgets the violation of Belgium, the trampling under foot of solemn treaties and all the crimes and the openly declared ambitions of Germany. He is playing into the hands of Germany. What does he mean by the remark that his suggestion comes "from representatives of a neutral nation, whose interests have been most seriously affected by the war, and whose concern for its early conclusion arises out of a manifest necessity to determine how best to safeguard those interests if the war is to continue?" The war has enriched the United States beyond its wildest dreams of what might occur. But it has done more than that. It has shown the world that a great nation may choose as its president a man who presumes to offer advice to other nations while consistently declining to vindicate the honor of his own, when its citizens are wantonly murdered by the Hun.

We turn from President Wilson to a greater president, and refer the author of this last peace note to the words of Abraham Lincoln:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right—let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan; to do all which may achieve and cherish a great and lasting peace."

Lincoln's words express the purpose of the Allies. That purpose will be achieved. President Wilson has weakened his own influence as a mediator at a later period, and has lost for himself a great historic opportunity.

A Boston paper gives currency to the rumor that if British merchant vessels are armed they will use Canadian instead of American ports. The difficulty is that the Canadian winter ports are without the necessary facilities. A lot of damage has been done by the recent storm to the new terminals at Halifax, and the question is even raised if they have not been wrongly located. In any case they cannot accommodate much extra business. With regard to St. John, the citizens know that the facilities here have not been enlarged as they should have been, and that any large increase in traffic could not be accommodated. Will our rulers heed the lesson?

The prohibition of treating in Quebec province will do even more good than the reduction in the number of saloons, although the saloon itself will not long survive. The time is ripe for nationwide prohibition. It is to be noted that the triumph of license in Boston has not discouraged the prohibitionists. An effort is to be made to get a state-wide vote on the question of prohibition.

Appeals in behalf of the sailors reminds us that the Seamen's Institute in St. John is an excellent institution, doing a valuable work and deserving of financial support.

Not long ago Harry Leon Wilson, novelist, and Charles E. Van Loan, short story writer, were making a trip together on a western road. Wilson, who looks more like a rancher in comfortable circumstances than a literary man, fell into conversation with the hay grower from the coast, and they spent some time discussing crops and conditions. Presently Wilson had occasion to go into the sleeper, leaving Van Loan and the hay grower in the smoker.

"That's a mighty sensible talkin' feller," said the man from the coast to Van Loan, indicating the vanishing figure of Wilson. "What does he do for a livin'?"

"He's a writer," said Van Loan.

"He's a writer," repeated Van Loan; "he writes books—novels—stories."

The hay grower's face fell. For a long minute he looked through the window at the passing landscape. "Well," he said at length, "they ain't none of us perfect!"

Cheyne's Special Christmas Announcement of Low Prices FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DEC. 22 AND 23

ORANGES
Choice Florida 40c. doz.
New Navel 50c. doz.
New Navel 60c. doz.

APPLES
Red California Apples 45c. doz.
Ontario Spy Apples 25c. and 35c. doz.
Bishop Pippins 40c. peck
Bishop Pippins 50c. peck
Blenheim 50c. peck
Gravenstein Apples 20c. 25c. 30c. peck

New Raisins (choice) 14c. pkge.
New Raisins (fancy) 15c. pkge.
Cluster Raisins 25c. pkge.
Malaga Grapes 20c. lb.
Currants (the pick) 22c. pkge.
Small Raisins 15c. lb.
Seedless Sultana Raisins 15c. pkge.
Popping Corn 10c. pkge.
Crackers, From 30c. doz. box to \$1.75
Stockings, From 15c. to \$1.50 each

HOLLY AND MISTLETOE IN STOCK

New Western Grey Bucksheath 7c. lb.

CHEYNE & CO., 2 Stores, 166 Union Street
Telephone 803 Cor. Pitt and Leinster Streets
Telephone 2262-21

LIGHTER VEIN

The stranger was ushered into the society saloon's presence. "Ah, you wish my aid?" said the great seer. "Well, madam," said the visitor, "in a way, I do. You see, I've just called."

"Certainly, I know all about it. Just sit here. Ah, I see you have met with various disappointments lately."

"Quite true," interrupted the caller. "Hush! Let me go on. Something which you have written for and striven hard to get has eluded time and again."

"Right you are," murmured the victim.

"But patience. Your end will be attained in the near future. Success is yours."

"I'm sure I'm very glad to hear it, madam," said the subject, as he flourished a blue paper. "I've called five times with the gas bill. It's a good thing I'm to get it at last."

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LaTour Flour

PURE MANITOBA AT MILL PRICES

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\$5.00 per 1-2 bbl. bag

\$1.35 per 24 lb. bag

Delivered to all parts of the city

TELEPHONE WEST 8

St. John Milling Company

HOCKEY
BOOTS
and SKATES!

Make good Christmas Presents for Boys

If your dealer has a "run on Hockey Boots" he can easily get all sizes from

J.M. HUMPHREY & CO

Gaiters
Make a Most Acceptable Christmas Gift

Call and See Our Assortment of

BLACK CLOTH GAITERS at 60c., 75c., 80c., 90c., \$1.00.

BLACK CLOTH LEGGINGS \$1.00 to \$1.50

Light Grey Dark Grey and White

CLOTH GAITERS at \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50

Other Dainty and Useful Gifts:

FELT SLIPPERS or BOU-

DOIR SLIPPERS

Store Open Every Evening Until Christmas.

McRobbie

Foot-Fitters : 50 King St.

Cheyne's Special Christmas Announcement of Low Prices FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DEC. 22 AND 23

ORANGES
Choice Florida 40c. doz.
New Navel 50c. doz.
New Navel 60c. doz.

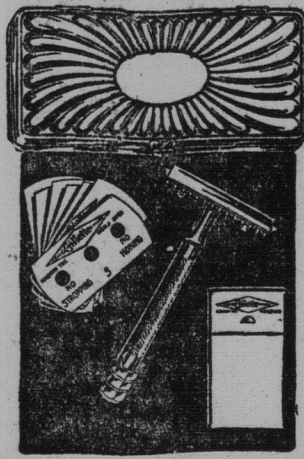
APPLES
Red California Apples 45c. doz.
Ontario Spy Apples 25c. and 35c. doz.
Bishop Pippins 40c. peck
Bishop Pippins 50c. peck
Blenheim 50c. peck
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New Raisins (choice) 14c. pkge.
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CHEYNE & CO., 2 Stores, 166 Union Street
Telephone 803 Cor. Pitt and Leinster Streets
Telephone 2262-21



GILLETTE SAFETY RAZORS

The "Safest" Gift you can select for "Him," because the appreciation will be sure and lasting.

Pocket Editions, as illustrated

Silver Plated Case and Silver Plated Razor \$5.00

Gold Plated Case and Gold Plated Razor 6.00

Standard Sets

Morocco Cases and Silver Plated Razor 5.00

Nickel Plated Case and Silver Plated Razor 5.00

Combination Sets

Morocco Cases \$6.50 and 7.50

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CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Your Boys Christmas Gift

Make This Their Happiest Christmas. This is What Your Boy or Girl Will Tell You if Their Gifts Include:



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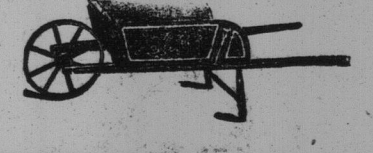
Just What the Small Boy Will Appreciate

Prices 70c., \$1.00, \$1.35, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$4.00, \$5.35, \$6.50

WHEELBARROWS and CARTS

Wheelbarrows 65c., 95c., \$1.40

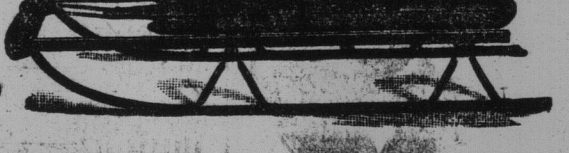
Carts 45c., 55c., 75c.



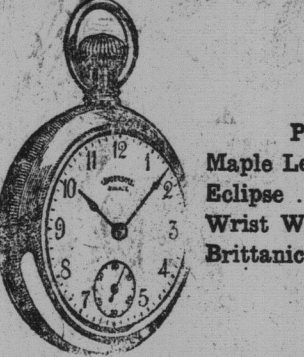
SPEEDWAY FLEXIBLE FLYERS

Strong and Serviceable

Prices \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00



SPECIAL—Brass Jardinieres, \$1.25, Hammered Brass—SPECIAL



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Practical and Useful Gifts

Maple Leaf \$1.25

Eclipse \$2.00

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Britannic Watch Fobs 25c.



SKATES

Automobile and Long Reach

Automobile Skates, \$1.25 to \$6.00

Long Reach Skates, \$1.40 to \$2.25

Hockey Skates 65c. to \$3.50

Hockey Sticks 10c. to 60c.

Hockey Pucks 15c. and 20c.

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XMAS CRACKERS AND XMAS STOCKINGS

These Will Add to the Xmas Joy of the Old as Well as Young:

Santa Claus Stockings from 15c. to \$1.00 each, all filled with British made toys.

Xmas Crackers, all English made From 25c. to \$1.50 each

MOIR'S CHOCOLATES, all kinds 60c. lb.

WILLARD'S CHOCOLATES, all kinds 60c. lb.

WILLARD'S AND MOIR'S DAINTY Boxes, all fresh chocolates From 25c. to \$1.00 box

Christmas Mixed Candy, 20c. lb., and fresh made Barley Toys 25c.

New Royal Cluster Table Raisins 35c. lb.

Shelled Walnuts, new season's crop 60c. lb.

Almond Meal 70c. lb. Almond Paste 60c. lb.

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New Mines For
The U. S. Coast

Artillery Perfects an Improved D-vic

Excels All Other Kind

Mechanism is Kept Secret by Military Experts Who Are Enthusiastic Over It

A new type of submarine mine which has recently been perfected by the Coast Artillery branch of the United States army, and which will be issued to forts guarding American harbors as soon as possible, was described yesterday by of-

Please see our display before you buy. We would like to know that you had seen all the others first. But if you do not care to lose time, follow the example of those that have inspected the rest, and bought from us.

Prices from 25c. upwards.

SPECIAL BEAUTIES \$5.00.

J. M. ROCHE & CO., LTD. - 94-96 King Street

ficers who have been following tests of the mine. All are enthusiastic over the possibilities which the new weapon affords of simplifying and making more effective the nation's coast defenses.

While the mechanism of the mine is a secret, it is known that its effectiveness lies in the fact that the depth of the tide and the strength of the current in a harbor may be entirely disregarded when the mine is planted. An automatic device inside the mine itself can be set for any desired submergence which will keep the mine at that place (usually eight feet below the surface), no matter how the tide may rise and fall, and in spite of any drag by the current.

This type of mine can be planted in a harbor and then left alone on the bottom, controlled by the operator at the mine field switchboard in the fort. To this switchboard every individual mine in the field is connected by a cable. From his post the operator can send the mine, on a moment's notice, to its war position just below the surface. He can tell how far up it has gone by a small signal device in the casement, a gong, which sounds a ringing note for every foot upward the hidden destroyer travels.

"There are really no up-to-date text books on mining," said an officer yesterday who has made harbor defense a life study, and who is certain that in its latest submarine mine the United States has devised the simplest and most re-

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AT YOUR GROCERS

liable system of mines in the world. "We are always trying to get something which the other fellow has not thought of, and the scramble for results practically amounts to spring models in mines," said he.

Military Mines Present Problem

"There are two kinds of submarine mines, naval and military. Each has its function, and, inasmuch as that function differs, so each kind of mine is different. The naval mine is of necessity smaller. It must be carried on a fighting ship and is sown as a protection against attack by torpedo boat destroyers on the ship itself.

"When we come to the military mine, the army's specialty, we have another problem. Where the navy mine is sown in a hurry, the ship commander knowing only in a general way where the field lies, the army officer in charge of the mine field carefully plants the mines, and the field is mapped with the utmost care.

"Friendly shipping as well as enemy vessels must be watched. Since there is usually plenty of time and plenty of facilities for planting military mines, the mines themselves are larger and more powerful than those of the navy. A navy mine will carry on the average a 100-pound charge, and the military mine as high as 400 pounds of explosive.

"One of the most important conditions which the army faces in the problem of coast defense is reckoning on the tide in the various harbors. Along the Atlantic coast the tide varies from five to ten feet; it is from ten to twelve on the Pacific coast, while at the Pacific end of the Panama Canal it is from fifteen to twenty. Of course, you can see that a mine which is submerged at low tide at the proper depth from five to ten feet, at the entrance to the canal, would at high tide be down as low some times as thirty feet, useless so far as coast defense is concerned. A swift current may drag an ordinary mine about five feet, and so this, too, has to be considered.

"The old method of mining has been to plant two or three rows of mines submerged at various depths so that there will always be one line at the right depth. The disadvantages of this method lie in the fact that at low tide the mines which are submerged the least are afloat and may easily be photographed by spy or hostile airplanes. And thus, when the tide has risen the enemy fleet will be able to sail straight through the mine field by compass as easily as one of our own vessels.

Put Ships at Operator's Mercy

"It is to do away with these conditions, and also to do away with having the mines disarranged by the currents, that army engineers have long been working to construct just the sort of mine we have perfected, a mine which will automatically adjust itself to the correct submergence.

"There have been two different schemes tried; the first has been to get some sort of mechanical device—a coiled spring has been the most popular—which is released by water pressure and raises or lowers the mine. Another method has been to construct a small electric motor which is run by a current generated in the fort nearby, and transmitted down the wire along a cable.

"Our mine accomplished just what we have wanted it to do. It can be pulled down to the bottom of a harbor out of sight of prying airplanes and out of the way of friendly shipping. With ten minutes' notice or less, every mine can be sent up to the proper submergence and the life of any ship venturing within its field is at the mercy of the operator."

According to this officer, every harbor defense fort in the United States has the material and equipment to mine the harbor within forty-eight hours after war is declared. The new mines have not yet been issued.