

# The St. John Standard

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## THE WAR SITUATION.

Advices from the war zone indicate that the first stage of the campaign is about over with, every advantage resting with the allies. The Germans are hastily retreating all along the line, except at Verdun, where one army still holds out. While military experts refrain from saying that the success achieved by the allies is decisive, yet they admit that the German plan of striking a lightning blow at the French army, and then pouring their forces back across Germany in time to meet the Russian advance has been utterly frustrated, and that not only is the allied army not crushed, but, during the past few days, has had much the better of the struggle. The result is that while the Russians on the eastern frontier, the Germans are not in position to aid, as they in turn are meeting defeat at the hands of the allied forces.

It should be only a matter of a few days until practically the entire German force is hurled back across the border and again on German soil. Then the onward march to Berlin will commence and as none of the allied powers will make terms until the task they set out to do, has been thoroughly performed, it looks as if the Germans will be given a taste of defending their own capital from a foreign invader. It remains to be seen if the Kaiser's men will fight as doggedly in retreat, as they did the French and British on the occasion of the German march in the direction of Paris.

The most startling news of the day comes from the eastern frontier, where it is reported, the troops of the Czar have signally defeated large armies of Austrians, reports placing the Austrian losses in killed, wounded and prisoners, in the vicinity of 100,000 men. Throughout the campaign the Russians have borne themselves nobly and now that the allies are sufficiently strong to cope with the enemy on terms approaching numerical equality, the second stage of the campaign should bring them more notable triumphs. Altogether the situation could not well be brighter than it is today.

## NO COMPROMISE.

The statement of Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the British Admiralty, that the present war between Great Britain and Germany must be a fight to a finish, that there can be no compromise, will strike a chord of approval in every heart in Canada. Germany forced this war, there can be no successful refutation of that even though the Kaiser tells enthusiastic mobs in Berlin that he labored for peace until the "sword was forced into his hand." It has been Germany's dream and secret ambition for years to control the sea and although there can be no doubts that the German Emperor, in picking his quarrel with Russia and France, cherished the hope that Great Britain would remain neutral, yet the desire to fight Britain burned fierce within him—all he lacked was the opportunity.

It is probably true that the Kaiser and most of his officers hugged the belief that they could defeat any one nation in the world in armed conflict and with such belief it would only have been a matter of time before the cause for war with Britain would have been discovered, even if the Empire had remained a passive onlooker in the present struggle. The German plan then would have been to defeat France and Russia first, and later, after a period of recuperation, prepare for the supreme grip with Britain. Had that plan worked out and Britain and Germany without Russia and France on the British side or Austria as a German ally, the ensuing conflict would have been long drawn out and probably disastrous to all parties concerned.

Fate, however, was with Britain and, although the quarrel was not of her seeking, it presented the most favorable of opportunities for the humbling of Germany. The British Government will press that opportunity home. An early peace might prove commercially beneficial in that it would hasten the restoration of business to a normal condition, but that advantage must be overshadowed by the greater accomplishment of subduing forever the German power and making British control of the seas doubly sure.

The task has been undertaken and Mr. Churchill indicates it will be finished in such fashion that it will never again demand attention. If it should mean the end of war it would be a culmination that would more than recompense for the cost, terrible though it is. But before there can be world-wide peace there must be an absence of contentious elements.

Germany has been the contentious element in Europe for the past decade and consequently must be placed in such position and circumstance that will prevent her from becoming dominant in the future. From the statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty the opinion of the British Government is plainly observable. Peace cannot result until the allied operators have drawn the teeth of the German war dogs. It may be a prolonged and costly operation but it is absolutely a necessary one. "It is our life or Germany's."

## THE EXHIBITION

The members and directors of the Exhibition Association are to be congratulated upon the success which attended the fair. It is understood that the receipts from admissions and other sources may not be sufficiently large to balance all expenditures, but when it is considered that the public mind was distracted by the struggle in Europe, the showing made is an exceedingly favorable one. Had the competition, which existed for some weeks before the opening of the big fair, not been an extraordinary one, there is no doubt the efforts of those who worked so hard and so well would have been as successful from a financial standpoint as from the other results by which an undertaking of this sort is rated.

Even judged financially the exhibition did well. Exhibitions are not arranged in a week or a month. Long before war clouds broke over Europe, the Association was busy, planning and making arrangements. When events reached a point where doubt as to the success of the undertaking arose in the minds of some, expenditures had been made and undertakings contracted for which, if no fair were held, would have entailed a heavy financial loss. Consequently the course was adopted of going on with the fair, even in face of the probable deficit rather than meeting expenditure already accumulated, and abandoning the undertaking. And the results justified the decision. What it would be almost a miracle if the Association should be able to pull through without some deficit, yet it is understood the sum they will lose will be much smaller than would have been the case had the project not been carried through.

And there is another side to the undertaking. The fair last week brought a goodly number of visitors to the city. It stimulated business in many lines and merchants reaped benefit therefrom. Also it served to illustrate to the province that, the people of St. John had complete confidence in the success of the British arms and in the future. It was a cheering note of optimism at a time when it was most effective. For generating that feeling of confidence, those responsible for the undertaking deserve the thanks of every citizen who believes in St. John.

## OPTIMISM JUSTIFIED.

That business in Canada must very soon show marked improvement and that there is every reason for optimism on the part of our business men is pointed out by the Toronto Mail and Empire which, in a thoughtful and logical article, says: "When the German offensive is broken definitely and the Kaiser's forces in France are compelled to retire into Belgium, with the Russians pressing toward Berlin from the east, the decisive part of the war will be over. The strength of the Allies continually growing, will be able to survive any isolated reverses and keep the thumbscrew of military pressure applied until Germany cries for quarter. The coming of that decisive turn in the campaign ought to be the signal for a general relaxing of pent-up confidence in the commercial and financial outlook. When that time comes the war will be merely a wearing-down process on a huge scale, and the world, outside of Germany and Austria, will be able to go its way as usual in peace, secure from the outbreak of war. Business men and others in Canada, especially those in control of credits, will then feel reassured, and their renewed confidence should lead to a general reviving of commercial energy."

The South African War did not hurt Canada in a business way. That was because it was too small and too localized for its financial effects to reach the Canadian business fabrics. When the present great war evolves into a defense of and attack on Germany and Austria—if Austria has not been crushed out of it before then—we on this continent can go our way with as much confidence as we did played in the Boer War. Apart from the cost of keeping the troops in the field, and some financial untidiness, left as a legacy of the uprooting of German commerce, the remainder of the campaign need not prejudice Canadian enterprise. It may be only a few weeks, at the outside a few months, before that decisive turn in the war arrives. It must inevitably come, and perhaps now is in sight. Business interests should, therefore, keep stout courage in the hope that bright days will soon be dawning. The

outlook now is full of cheer. Business enterprise has reason to bud like a blossom in the Spring. The worst seems over, and optimism should soon have its reward."

Despite the fact that the great bulk of the United States newspapers are pro-British in their opinions on the European war, an occasional German sympathizer is found. One of these is authority for the statement that "up to date the Germans have had a good deal of satisfaction." We imagine communication with a few German shipowners whose vessels have been swept off the seas, or German business men, whose business has been strangled by the events of the past five or six weeks, would rather cause that newspaper to change its opinion.

As to the duration of the war the Toronto Mail and Empire says:—"There appears to be a very general notion that Lord Kitchener estimated the duration of the war at three years. Lord Kitchener made no such estimate. What he said was that he had taken office as Secretary of War for the term of three years, or for whatever it was the duration of the war. Three years is the period of enlistment for volunteers in the British army. Kitchener has said nothing to indicate that he expects the war will last longer than three months, or that it will be over inside of thirty years."

## Unreliable War News From German Sources

Proofs are constantly accumulating as to the absolute unreliability of the war news communicated to the press by the German Government—either directly or indirectly through the German news bureaus and agencies, which are subsidized and directed by the German authorities. It is necessary to compare the reports emanating from these sources with the facts as subsequently revealed to prove this. The paragraphs of alleged British news circulated by the official German news bureaus and the Wolff and Havas news agencies are simply grotesque in their absolute untruthfulness. On August 3rd, for instance, the "Pester Lloyd" announced on official authority:—"The efforts of the British Government to raise an emergency force of half a million men have failed completely, only two thousand reporting themselves for military service. In spite of this, however, the British declare that 100,000 men have been enrolled in two weeks."

On the same date the people of Berlin were told by their papers that the same authority:—"Abnormal conditions continue to reign in the English money market, notwithstanding the fact that the government and of the Bank of England. Even the leading houses are refusing to meet bills of exchange in London as well as bills of lading and confirmed credits."

The following veracious item of war news, issued officially at Berlin August 22nd, was circulated through the German wireless stations and received by the Marconi Company: "It is reported from Constantinople that British students arriving there from England describe the situation in that country as bad. Opposition to the war is growing, and is feared among the working classes."

The Hamburger Fremdenblatt of August 20 published the following telegram from the Wolff Bureau in Berlin: "The two small cruisers Stralsund and Strassburg in the last few days have made a forward movement to the southern part of the North Sea. During this operation the Strassburg sighted on the British coast two hostile submarines, one of which she sank with several shots, at long range. The Stralsund was engaged with several torpedoed destroyers at long range. Two destroyers were damaged. The two German cruisers were quite undamaged."

The fighting referred to was described in the following brief report issued by the British Press Bureau early on the morning of August 19: "Some desultory fighting has taken place during the day between the British patrolling squadrons and U-boats and German reconnoitering cruisers. No losses are reported or claimed. A certain liveliness is apparent in the southern area of the North Sea."

As a matter of fact no British submarine was sunk and no destroyers were damaged. The Kolische Zeitung of August 21 published an official list of the officers and men who lost their lives through the sinking of the German submarine U-15 by the British cruiser Birmingham on August 8, but the circumstances under which the submarine was sunk were carefully suppressed, the report merely stating: "Submarine U-15 did not return on August 12 from a submarine reconnaissance. The dead are twenty-three in number, and include Kapitänleutnant Zerrath and Marineoberingenieur Grudner."

An outstanding illustration of the utter unreliability of the "officially" communicated news published in Germany and sent to neutral countries was the famous story that forty pounds sterling a month was being offered to sailors on board German fishing smacks to join the British navy. Prior to the acknowledgment of the Russian advance into East Prussia, on various dates, German semi-official Communiqués had told the public that the German troops in Russia had defeated the Russians at Shalupones, and had then driven them on ambulances, taking 8,000 prisoners and eight guns. Similar Communiqués reported other German successes, which in each case were said to have forced the Russians to retreat towards the frontier. It being possible no longer to conceal the truth, on August 23rd, a Communiqué issued admitting that Russian troops were in "possession of Combier." This incident alone is enough to demonstrate the worth of these German semi-official military Communiqués.

agency, according to this correspondent, is a mere creature, of the official German press bureau. He writes under date of August 5th:—"I do not see in the English papers which I have as yet received any news from the 'Agency Wolff' of Germany, and for obvious reasons. Wolff, however, is exceedingly busy in the Swiss press, and indeed, I believe in that of all neutral countries. One day we were told by this assiduous educator of public opinion, that all the German Socialist members of the Reichstag waited on the Emperor recently, together with the other members of that body (to tender an assurance of their loyalty and devotion). Unfortunately, however, presently comes a copy of the Berliner Tageblatt, which stated that no Socialist members were present. Quite recently I read Wolff's solemn assurance that no British troops had landed in Belgium. A day or two afterwards the same veracious agency reported that 'General French has left for Belgium to take command of the English troops there.' On the same day I read an article by an independent witness, who knew nothing of Wolff, describing the landing of British troops in Belgium and France. And the campaign of German misrepresentation is not confined to the neutral countries of Europe. A dispatch to a London paper from Peking dated August 24th, stated: 'Attempts are being made to stir up anti-British feeling in Peking by inspired German telegrams and malicious circulars.'"

An official message sent by a German government long-distance wireless station to the German Embassy in the United States and intercepted in England, on August 17th, indicates an elaborate and systematic attempt to influence public opinion in the Asia and reveals the unblushing methods of German officialdom in "cleaning and decking out" news to suit the occasion. This precious message, in full, read as follows:

"The above message was among a number of German despatches intercepted by Sir Henry Norman, M. P., the well-known journalist and author, at his wireless station at Haslemere, who he had been authorized by the Admiralty and Post Office to continue working. It has recently become evident from the German press and from reports emanating from Amsterdam and Rotterdam, that the German public department, despatching of security any credence in the world for men's faculties sent by wireless from Berlin, is using Holland as a base of its operations. So newspapers readers do well to take press reports from Holland, as well as those from Germany with a grain of salt."

With reference to the unverified story from Berlin that on the seventh or eighth of September Emperor William forwarded a communication to the President of the United States stating that the British army on the continent was using dum dum bullets, and protesting that as a violation of the Hague Convention, it is interesting to find in the despatches from Paris to the English papers on August 23rd, the following:—"A further note has been sent to the Hague by the French government protesting against the use of dum dum bullets by the Germans. The text of the note is as follows: 'The government of the French Republic has the honor of informing the Powers signing the Hague Convention of the following facts, constituting on the part of the German military authorities a violation of the convention signed by the German government on October 18, 1906:—'

"On August 10, 1914, after an engagement between French and German regiments, a major in the medical service sent to the general commanding the infantry brigade a clip of cartridge

found on the Munster road near the German customs office which contained five cartridges loaded with cylinder-coal bullets out at a point, the nickel covering of which was incomplete and left exposed the fore end of the leaden core. Other similar bullets have been found in the bodies of the French dead and have been sent to the war office. The declaration of the Hague dated July 29th, 1899, and signed by Germany, condemns the use of such bullets in the following terms: 'The contracting Powers forbid the use of bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body, such as bullets with a hard envelope either does not completely cover the core or has an incision in it.' The government of the Republic protests against such proceedings."

The British government has emphatically denied that expansive bullets have been used in the British army during the present war; but so far as is known, the German authorities have not denied the circumstances charged by the French government. It might be explained that Dum Dum is the arsenal in India where the ammunition for the Indian army is made and that no expansive bullets have been used in the rifle cartridges manufactured there for many years. The name Dum Dum became identified with expansive bullets on account of an issue of cartridges with bullets of that description turned out at the Indian arsenal for use in one of the many border wars, the object being to increase the stopping power of the small calibre cartridge when used against hordes of fanatical tribesmen. There was a violent protest aroused against the use of this ammunition in England and none of it has been issued since at Dum Dum.

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FUNERALS.

Mrs. Samuel Dunlop.  
The funeral of Mrs. Samuel Dunlop took place yesterday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock from her late home 158 Paradise Row. The services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Cotton of St. Luke's church and interment was in Fernhill cemetery.

Mrs. Alice Cox.  
The funeral of Mrs. Alice Cox, wife of Lewis Cox, took place yesterday afternoon at two o'clock from her mother's residence, 125 Erin street. The services were conducted by Rev.

HOTEL A  
T. T. Mortimore, Re- man, Ottawa; P. G. grove, Montreal; A land; P. H. Godfrey, line; W. H. Bell, T. land, Pictou; O. A. Mass; T. G. Robert, gle; I. B. Mackay, M. and wife, Chicago; Wand, New York; to; H. E. McKen, V. Walkerville; I. B. S. Fraser, Mrs. J. Miss K. Kirk, Susse Clark, Fall River; wife, Boston; J. W. M. Simpson, G. H. Je Morser, Worcester, Miss Metcalf, Phila ville; J. A. Pelletier, wife, J. P. Leves, J. August 22nd, J. B. Mass; S. H. Parker, et al wife, Pto; ton; J. B. Barbeau, Puller, Halifax.