

POOR DOCUMENT

MAY 20 1917

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1917

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 29, 1917.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Campbell Street every evening, (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.

Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier \$4.00 per year, by mail \$5.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, Brunswick B.T.'s

CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Associated B.T.'s—MONTREAL, J. C. Ross, Based at Trade B.T.'s

British and European—Frederick A. Smith, 25, Lakeside Hill LONDON, E.C., England

BALFOUR'S MESSAGE

The message of the Rt. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour to the people of Canada should be carefully read and pondered by every citizen of this country. Addressing the Canadian parliament yesterday, in that singularly clear and simple style which marks his every utterance, he set in vivid contrast the respective aims of Germany and the nations arrayed against her, and the danger that threatens the great cause of democracy, which is the cause of human liberty, infinitely more important than all the jarring claims of faction in this or any other country. Mr. Balfour pointed out that democracy from its very nature caused differences and difficulties which do not exist under an autocracy, when occasion rises to throw all the forces of the nation into one supreme, united effort; but, said he, "when democracy really takes the task in hand, I hold the autocracies in the world." And that is the task in hand today, in which Canada as well as the other democratic countries is engaged. Autocracy has made the issue. It has attempted and is now attempting to strangle democracy. This is Canada's war because Canada stands for liberty and democracy. Not part of Canada, but all of it, is virtually concerned in the outcome of the struggle.

Mr. Balfour has thrown down a ringing challenge to the Canadian people. The same challenge was thrown down by M. Viviani of the French delegation. Parliament has heard and cheered the great Frenchman and the great Englishman. It has given them the unqualified assurance that Canada will not fail in her duty. What will be its first act to redeem the pledge? Is the country to be rent by faction and confused by the babel of discordant tongues, or are we to have a leadership worthy of the hour and the crisis in our history? More than ten days ago Sir Robert Borden announced conscription. For more than ten days he has failed to translate words into action, while all over the country the forces opposed to conscription have been carrying on a diligent agitation, making his task a thousand-fold more difficult. Let us hope Mr. Balfour's visit to Ottawa will help to overcome the inertia of the government and inspire parliament with a new and wider vision. Every day, every hour of delay gives a greater advantage to the element which would paralyze the arm of leadership by diverting the minds of the people from the real issue and dragging them into the realm of local bickering unworthy of a free people.

THE NATION'S TASK

The disposition of the average man at this crisis in Canadian affairs is perhaps to take counsel of his prejudices, political, social or religious, and to be greater or less extent governed by them. And yet in such a course lies the supreme danger of the hour. The worst that could happen Canada today and for the future would be to have a cleavage on racial or religious lines, or to have the real issue and the party of their country. We are face to face with a situation full of unpleasant possibilities. If the people will but take the broad view, realizing that Canada is indissolubly bound up with Britain and her Allies in the struggle for the very existence of democracy in the world, and that whatever weakens the arm of Canada in this war is a crime against liberty, they will see that any prejudices and party slogans are pitifully small and out of place. Are there some in Canada who do not want Canada to do her duty? Then it is the duty of every other citizen to be the more zealous and determined, and at the same time wise enough not to drive any out of the ranks who ought to remain. The attitude of the extreme partisan newspapers on the side of the government is such as to arouse resentment among Liberals, whose loyalty is beyond question and whose sons are facing death or already have given up their lives in defence of Canada and the Empire. The attempt to lay upon the Liberal leader or party the blame for the condition of affairs in Quebec is a shameful misuse of partisanship. So long as a Nationalist sits at the elbow of Sir Robert Borden it does not lie in the mouth of any Conservative to assail Sir Wilfrid Laurier. So long as Lieut. Col. Armand Lavergne is free to breathe disparagingly the people will place the responsibility where it belongs. But what the great mass of the people of Canada desire today is a leadership that will not weigh partisan against national considerations, or esteem the patronage committee of the chief engine of war. They are ready to respond to such leadership, and it is the business of the prime minister to give it to them or give place to a man who has the courage and the will to thrust difficulties aside and march straight to the goal. Canada must send more men to the front, to fill the thinning ranks, but she must have much more. More conscription of men will not do. The situation is admirably presented by the Toronto Star, in the following article:

under the title: "Nothing Sacred About Money."

"Voluntary recruiting was badly hampered by the evidence presented on all sides that while some were enlisting and while the casualty lists were steadily increasing, others were rolling in a prosperity actually caused by the world disaster. Soldiers are shedding blood and women are shedding tears, but there are some who insist that the great engine of money-making must not be interrupted nor interfered with in any way. This fact was fatal to voluntary recruiting, but it would be indecent to expect that men can be taken from among us by selective draft, to fight in France without those of us who remain behind accepting new obligations on account of it. The principle of forced and equal service must apply not only to those to whom uniforms are handed out, but to all who have other things less than life which can be of use to the state in ensuring the country's safety and welfare."

"Shall some men continue to go on gleaming wealth in the field of war's red harvest? Do business men see nothing unnatural in increasing their incomes a hundred per cent, when 400,000 other Canadians are facing death for a dollar a day?"

"The present condition of affairs will not bear examination for a moment. There is no sacredness about business that exempts it from whatever interference the government may find necessary in organizing this country and its people for the successful carrying on of the war. The country that can take over the lives of men and utilize them cannot long hesitate to take over anything else whatsoever that the country possesses which will help in the great purpose in which the lives of men are being spent. When husbands and sons are taken out of the homes of Canada to fight for the safety and welfare of the country and of civilization, those homes must not be left dilapidated, those homes must not be taken advantage of the distractions of war to enrich themselves."

A partisan government cannot meet the needs of this hour. It is because we had a partisan government that Canada suffers her present grave humiliation.

It was Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose loyalty was the worst element of the Tory press impugns, who said in parliament yesterday, addressing Mr. Balfour: "I have nothing to add to the message you will bring back to England with you, the message of the noble words quoted by the prime minister. But if I had to add one word and one only, it would be that you report to the people of England, to the people of Europe, to the people of the whole world that we British allegiance than we were three years ago."

Mr. John A. Humble, who in years past told early and late for the Tory party in York county, is described in today's Standard as "one Humble." It refers also to a "man named Pond." These two obscure persons had made certain affidavits concerning the activities of Mr. John A. Young in highway affairs. As a result, they are "one Humble" and "a man named Pond." Sir transit gloria mundi.

The decision of the Foster government to abolish the commission on the collection of succession duties is in the public interest. There have been years in which the commissions were far too large and wholly unjustified. It is time business principles were applied and the money that belongs to the province placed in the public treasury. Last year the commissions amounted to nearly \$2,700.

So far as can be gathered from a careful reading of an editorial in today's Standard the Borden government is too strong, too united, and too capable; and therefore it should be weakened a little by taking in a few Liberals. Isn't that fine?

La Presse, La Patrie and L'Evenement, all influential French-Canadian papers, are in favor of conscription. Let nobody be deceived by partisan and racial and religious clamor. Quebec is not and will not be sold against compulsory service.

The Italians continue their successful drive toward Trieste. If now Russia would throw herself into the struggle and create a diversion on the eastern front, the situation would be further greatly improved. But Russia is still a very uncertain quantity.

The Standard says the Foster government is unprepared. Well, it is preparing some medicine for its predecessors. And that explains the wry face of the Standard.

Brazil is now definitely ranged on the side of the Allies, and it is said Chile may follow her example.

Every day Sir Robert Borden hesitates as to the difficulty of his position.

Is money more sacred than life? Shall life be conscripted and wealth go free?

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OLD FRIENDS ARE BEST

Old friends are best! Old friends, old hearts, old faces That haunt the memory of the passing years, And seem to dwell among deserted places, Reproving us for all our nameless fears.

Old friends are best! The roses softly blowing, Close by the door, they always seem to know, "Old friends are best," although we're never knowing Where they are faring at the close of day.

Old friends are best! Somehow the memory clinging, Brings back the faces that we used to know, And in the winter of the heart are ringing The songs we loved so many years ago.

Old friends are best! When autumn twilight falling, Brings respite from the daily toil and care, I seem to hear their vibrant voices calling, Although I know—I know they are not from the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Poor Management.

Hicks—By the way, they have triplets at Quiver.

Wicks—Isn't that rather poor management for a family living in a flat?

Unpopular.

"He seems to be very unpopular."

"Stranger, you've hit it. He's about as well liked around here as a pacifist in a patriotic meeting."

The Best Way

"There's one sure way of getting promotion."

"What is it?"

"To do your work so well that the firm can't afford to lose a man of your ability in an inconspicuous place."

Consistent.

"Mary," said the sick man, "I wish you'd take my dress suit out in the yard and burn it."

"Why?" she asked.

"Well, I never did like that outfit, and if I should die I want to be absolutely sure that you won't bury me in it."

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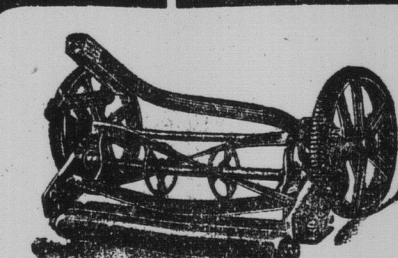
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CARING FOR BLINDED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

Wonderful Work in a Wonderful Place, St. Dunstan's Hotel in England

A report just issued relative to St. Dunstan's Hotel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors covers the year ended March 31, 1917, and is a heartening record of progress.

A well known author who has frequently been over St. Dunstan's after recent visit told Sir Arthur Pearson he deplored of ever mastering the geography of the place, for the building seemed to have a way of springing up in the night, and directly each building was completed its extension was begun.

The facts recorded in the report confirm this view.

"At the time of writing this report," we are told, "the blind inmates of St. Dunstan's and its annexes are 554 in number, and the accommodation has recently been extended to a degree which will make it possible to welcome nearly as many more."

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F. S. FARRIS—Provincial Manager—ST. JOHN, N. B.

newly-blinded soldier is not allowed to slip into the domain of dependency which usually engulfs the man who has suddenly lost the precious gift of sight. Instead, the fighting spirit of the man is roused, as he hears to what full and wonderful lives others can win through closed eyelids do not mean defeat. He can make and already his spirit is enlivened as he eagerly plans his new campaign."

The opinion of those in the dominions overseas regarding the training at St. Dunstan's Hotel is very clearly evinced by this statement in the report.

"It is interesting to note that the Australian and Canadian authorities use every inducement to persuade blinded Australian and Canadian soldiers to remain in England for a sufficiently long time to acquire practical training at St. Dunstan's. There are in the Hotel, at the time of writing this report, blinded soldiers from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Tasmania and Newfoundland."

The report speaks of the excellent progress made when blind blind blind in the workshops: "St. Dunstan's principal staff of members of Voluntary Aid Detachments," we are told, "strengthened by a sufficient number of orderlies and trained nurses. In the workshops, while there are sighted foremen in each department, the instruction is mainly given by men who are themselves blind. The more intelligent and apt soldiers are kept to be pupil teachers, and it may be readily imagined how stimulating must be the effect on the newly blinded man to find his first training efforts directed by one who himself was blinded on the battlefield but a few months back."

Of very special interest is the description given of the poultry farming done by blinded soldiers trained under expert tuition on the farm attached to the Regent's Park Hotel.

"Beyond the workshops is the poultry farm. Here," we are assured, "an almost untried industry for blind people has been proved to be wonderfully successful. Men are taught poultry-keeping on practical and up-to-date lines. They learn to distinguish birds of different breeds almost instantaneously by touch, to manage incubators, to prepare and truss birds for table, and generally to conduct a poultry farm on methods which, when intelligently followed, ensure paying results."

The last few weeks of training are given at a poultry farm at King's Langley. Here the men put into practice the theories they have learned at St. Dunstan's. Another very important adjunct to poultry instruction is the opportunity which is afforded to wives, mothers and other relatives to learn the methods taught at St. Dunstan's in a well-known poultry farm in the Midlands. Here they are given six weeks' course of instruction free of all charge. This arrangement ensures intelligent co-operation from his womenfolk when the blinded poultry farmer leaves St. Dunstan's to take up work for himself."

The excellent work being done by blind orderlies is described in the report. "Massage is the one occupation in which, if properly instructed, the blind man can more than hold his own with the sighted," so his report tells us. "The massage training is conducted on the most modern and scientific principles. Men acquire a knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathology

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