

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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 WAR OUTLOOK.

There seems to have come over the allies a feeling of depression that is not at all justified. True, the occurrences of the past week have not been encouraging. The Roumanian defeat and the political crisis in England, have been disturbing factors, no doubt. But in what particular have they operated to cause misgiving to the Entente? Is Russia less strong? Has Great Britain been weakened? Is Italy affected? Has France lost strength? Not at all. The Roumanian army itself is intact. If there has been loss, it has been to the Germanic forces fighting with the Roumanians, and to these but lately added friends of the Entente. The Roumanians fought fiercely and must have occasioned heavy losses to the enemy armies.

As for the British political crisis, what does it matter? says the London Free Press. The more so, since the issue in no sense involves a suggestion of weakened resistance to the enemy. There have been many political crises in English politics in war time. There were six or seven British ministries during the war against France. War is a disturbing element, unsettling and enervating to politicians and statesmen. And yet, through all the eruptions at home the British have maintained a bold front abroad, and have finally won out. So it will be in the present day. Asquith, Bonar Law, Lloyd George—all these may disappear from the scene. But the war will go on to a conclusion. Other statesmen will arise, if need be, to give effect to the indomitable will of the British people.

Rather we should take courage in that there are men in the British Government who feel impelled to give the nation yet more vigorous leadership. It will be cause for surprise if Lloyd George does not bring to bear a "speeding up" in the military operations of the Empire comparable with his achievement in the production of munitions. The slack must be uneasy today as he regards the little Welshman as Premier. Inactive wealth and every latent resource of the British people must feel that at length there will be no dodging the issue, no avoiding playing the game.

SCHOOL TEACHERS' SALARIES.

The request of the city school teachers for increased salaries, which was brought before the Board of School Trustees last evening and will be specially dealt with at a later date, is one that should receive the most sympathetic consideration which the times and the circumstances permit. In most cases where public employees ask for increased remuneration they are met with the statement that war conditions and the necessity for public economy render it impossible to advance salaries. Such a rejoinder may have much to commend it, but it should not be forgotten that the same increased costs that cause a department of public service—be it schools or police force—to hesitate before adding to the salary list, furnish the reason why more salary is necessary.

In the case of school teachers this is particularly apparent for no branch of public service is more poorly remunerated than that which should be the most lucrative, as well as the most efficient. The education and training of the youth of the land is the most important of all public undertakings but, as it stands now, and in the Maritime Provinces, particularly, the teaching profession is the most poorly paid of any in which a young man or young woman can engage as a life work. In many cases, regrettably too many, teachers use the school as a stepping stone to more lucrative life work. This tendency is frequently deplored by the wise men and women of the nation when they gather in public convention, but the most potent of all reasons why a young man or woman hesitates before deciding to tie for life to a school room is just as frequently overlooked. No department of the public service is deserving of more consideration at the hands of those it serves, than that which has to do directly with the education of the young. The school teacher should be paid to the last cent of the ability of the municipality in which he or she

is engaged, even if some other "thought to be needed" improvements must await a more favorable season.

LLOYD GEORGE'S TASK.

It is not surprising to find some newspapers inclined to question whether Lloyd George's plan of concentrating the Empire's management of the war will prove successful. His proposal is a radical change from traditional political methods in Great Britain. Also the cabinet with which he has surrounded himself differs very materially from its predecessors. Lloyd George, a Liberal, has called fifteen Unionists to the council board of the nation, including several men who, in normal times, differed strongly from the proposals laid down by "the little Welshman." It must not be forgotten, however, that this man of dynamic force has not yet failed in anything he has undertaken to do.

While there is ground for questioning the ethical standard of his action in taking to himself powers which he denied to his former chief, yet, if he succeeds in his undertaking to speed up the Empire's war programmes and policies, everything else will be forgotten. The British press, excepting only the most rabid opponents of the premier, are inclined to regard the new cabinet with favor, but however they view it all must agree that the premier has cast aside all conventionalities in his selection of his colleagues. He has picked his men, not for past performances or their political affiliations, but because he believes they can best accomplish the task before them. In this he has shown rare courage and for it he will be very generally endorsed. The Empire's chief business today is to win the war and it does not much matter whether the men who do it agree with the premier on other questions or not. If they hold together on this their selection will be amply justified and the Empire will be satisfied.

THE "COMMODORE'S" OPINION.

Our friends of the Telegraph and Times oftentimes find much comfort and inspiration in the writings of "Commodore" Stewart of the Chatham World and occasionally they think so well of his opinions as to give space to them in the columns of their own journals as representing the highest political wisdom.

As they have not published Mr. Stewart's opinion of the Grit candidate in the county of Westmorland it is quite evident that this important contribution to political discussion was inadvertently overlooked, and that they may not be deprived of the enjoyment to be found on perusing it we reproduce it herewith. Mr. Stewart, in the current issue of the World, has this to say:

A GRAMAPHONE CANDIDATE.
"Mr. Copp, on being recommended for Parliament by the Westmorland Liberals, the other day, accompanied the country by speaking briefly instead of voluminously. It was, he said, a battle between the masses and the masses. Several parrots have learned to say that, so often has it been said and sung, and a gramophone record could have been as original as the member for Westmorland. Mr. Copp ought to start something new. He ought to have more sense than to repeat old played-out cries like that. All legislation, all governmental policies, all parties, are for the masses, because the masses have the majority of votes, and no party could get in power that appealed to the masses and not to the masses for support."

The Times is pleased to quote Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the effect that "when England is at war Canada is at war," and use it as indicating the high patriotic character of his statesmanship. But the Times carefully refrains from stating that the first occasion on which Sir Wilfrid used those words was when he was fighting with might and main to prevent the people of this country from contributing to the support of the British navy. If the Times desires to quote Laurier on this point it should at least have the decency to print the whole sentence.

"When England is at war Canada is at war," says Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It is too bad that "the Old Cock" could not drive that much of his opinions home to his own people in the Province of Quebec. The recruiting returns for this country indicate that the people

of Canada realize that Canada is at war—also that Quebec is not.

Hotels in Great Britain are to be limited to the two and three course meal. This may be a hardship, yet there are very many in this country who would be quite willing to worry along indefinitely on one course, provided they got it regularly.

St. John welcomes the Calgary Battalion. The Province of Alberta in proportion to her population has supplied more men to the Empire armies than any other part of Canada, and judging from the fine specimens of sturdy manhood seen in the ranks of the 21st the quality is up to the quantity.

THE ANSWER IS WEAR RUBBERS

Many People Will Don Gaiters Early This Season To Combat The High Cost of Leather Footwear.

"Buy rubbers," says the shoeman, the dealer who plays fair with his customers. Leather is up and shoes are up to such an extent that the buying of a pair of shoes is almost on a level with the acquiring of a new suit or coat. Shoes must be worn, but the economical person will don rubbers as soon as the weather gets the least bit "damp under foot," not only for the protection to the health that the rubbers afford, but to save the costly shoes he or she wears.

There was never a problem in economics that was not solved sooner or later, and rubbers and overshoes seem to be the answer to the augmented price of shoes this winter.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

Royal.
A W Jones, Halifax; Major Clarke, Lieut T L Tibbs, Lieut Col W M Sage, Major H Cowell, Capt Trainor, Lieut E W Spofford, Capt W E Higgit, Capt G M Gill, Calgary, Alta; S W Budith, W H Higgins, M A Tweedale, N A Edgcombe, Fredericton; Geo Logan, W W White, Montreal; E Epstein, New York; Mrs A B Holstead, Montreal; A B Fisher, Montreal; M Busby, W P Lowell, Calais, Me; Mrs Robert Gore, New York; L K Fuller, Halifax; H F Alward, Moncton; H C Fay, Quebec; N F Napier, Charlottetown; F E Neale, Chatham; T F Sweeney, Moncton; A A Bray and wife, Mount Vernon, Wash; Mrs G K Prescott, E C Harris, Lieut H Reed, Calgary; J H Dougherty, Houlton, Me; L P Carver, Howard, Me; Lieut E M Smith, O A Boucher, Calgary; H E Moss, Montreal; J W H Roberts, Moncton; H E Beek, St Stephen, N B; R H Webster, Moncton; Mr and Mrs G R Campbell, Sackville; J D Tolckner, Millerton; E G Clarke, Montreal; R W Hewson, J W Fraser, Moncton.

PERSONALS

Rev. Gordon Dickie is in St. John on a short visit.
Hon. J. D. Hazen and Mrs. Hazen expect to spend Christmas here.
Hon. W. H. Thorne has returned to the city from Ottawa.
Judge R. W. Hewson, H. F. Alward, R. H. Webster, T. F. Sweeney, J. W. Fraser and J. W. H. Roberts, all of Moncton, were guests of the Royal yesterday.
F. E. Neale of Chatham was at the Royal yesterday.
M. A. Tweedale and N. A. Edgcombe of Fredericton were at the Royal yesterday.
Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Campbell of Sackville, were guests of the Royal yesterday.

St. David's Y. P. A.
The regular fortnightly meeting of the Young People's Association of St. David's church was held last evening in the vestry of the church. The subject for the evening was "Folk Songs of Different Countries." Prior to the singing of each song Miss Ethel Shaw

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Little Benny's Note Book

WILLIAM TELL.
A Play.
Act 1.

Scene, Switzerland.
King (riding by). Wat a handsome day! Look at all the Swiss mountains! Who is that big Swiss cheese that didn't tip his hat to me when I went past?
Prime Minister. That's William Tell, the famous bow and arrow shooter, your majesty.
King. Tell him something, all right. Wats the matter with him, don't he know I'm the king?
Prime Minister. Yes, your highness, but he thinks all men were created equal.
King. Well then has got another think coming. Command him to appear before me at my palace this afternoon.
Act 2.

Scene, the Kings palace.
King. Why didn't you tip your hat to me this morning?
William Tell. Why didn't you tip yours to me?
King. Are you crazy?
William Tell. No sir. Are you?
King. Have you got a son?
William Tell. I certainly have.
King. I thawt so. Well you think your some shot with the bow and arrow, don't you? Well if you don't shoot an apple off of your sons head out in front of the palace after supper today, you will be shot at sunrise like a common villain.
Act 3.

Scene Switzerland.
William Tell's son. Go ahead, shoot, pop. You'll do it.
William Tell. Certainly I'll do it, but G, wat if I don't?
The arrow. Bzzz!
Everybody but the King. Hurray!
William Tell (opening his eyes and looking). Darn if I didn't.
The end.

gave a brief history of the song, showing how it originated and the influence it had on the people. The programme was as follows: Russia, solos, The Red Saracen and the Little Karen, sung by Miss S. Jenkins; France, solo, The Marcellaise, sung by C. Girvan; Italy, solo, Sailing on the Summer Sea, sung by Miss Ermeline Climo; England, vocal trio, Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes, Mrs. R. B. Osborne, Mrs. E. Mc Nicol and Mrs. M. Girvan; Wales, solo, All Through the Night, sung by H. Colwell; Ireland, solo, The Girl I Left Behind Me, F. J. Punter; Scotland, duet, O, We're Thon in the Cold Blast, sung by Messrs W. Spensers and Nita Brown; Annie Laurie, sung by Ralph Smith; America, Southern Male Quartette, Old Black Joe, sung by Messrs. Stephens, Colwell, Punter and Archibald; Canada, chorus, Our Own Canadian Home, God Save the King, Miss Besse Carmichael was the convener of the entertainment and Mrs. I. F. Archibald acted as accompanist.

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