

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1915.

"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.

## GERMANY'S FOOD SUPPLY.

An article from the New York Times, published in another column, this morning, is worthy of careful and thoughtful perusal. If the writer of that article is correct in his contentions, and it must be admitted that he makes out a most plausible case, then the German Empire has already commenced to wince under the pressure being applied both on land and on sea. The Kaiser's armies may display unprecedented bravery in battle, they may overrun Bukovina and drive the Russians out of Poland, they may even gain successes against British and French troops in the western fighting area, which will give Berlin cause for noisy and ostentatious celebration, but all of this is of little moment compared with the practical admission of official Germany that the food question has already become one of major importance, and that the British threat of blockading German ports will have the effect of producing, if not actual starvation among the civil population, a condition closely akin to it.

Napoleon once said that an army advanced on its stomach and while the expression may be considered somewhat inelegant in this twentieth century there will be none to question or deny its truth. While a soldier can eat regularly he can conserve his strength and fight, but once the food supply becomes irregular all the military equipment and organization in the world will not avert disaster. Possibly the German government is genuinely concerned regarding the fate of its civil subjects, but it is more likely that the well-being of the soldier has been the factor most contributing to the frenzy at the prospect of a blockade and consequent interference with food supply.

It has been said that Germany was well stocked with foodstuffs, that the war party, during its years of preparation for this supreme conflict, had seen to it that the granaries and warehouses were filled with substantial supplies for all requirements during the tenure of ordinary war. But this is not ordinary war and Berlin realizes it. Britain has hardly commenced to fight, and this knowledge, in conjunction with the hardships the German people have already experienced, plainly suggests that the circumstances of the Kaiser's subjects, both civil and military, will be worse before they are better. Consequently when, so early in "the game" the spectacle is presented of Germany appealing against threatened food shortages, one is tempted to doubt the elaborate stories of her preparation against the contingency of famine.

Yesterday's despatches indicated that German newspapers regarded the attitude of the United States as an artificial "bluff." Possibly, if those publications reflect the thought of the German government, they speak with experience, for no more palpable artifice has ever been presented to the world than the offer of Germany to abandon her threatened blockade of British ports if Great Britain would reciprocate. The wily Teutons desired to trade the shadow for the substance.

The position may be taken that it would be inhuman on the part of Britain to attempt to starve the civil population of Germany in an effort to subjugate the military force. Such argument is capable of being answered, also on the ground of humanity, for there is no doubt the pressure which a successful blockade would exert could have no other effect than the shortening of the period of war and the saving of hundreds of thousands of lives to Germany as well as to the Allied nations. Instead of being inhuman it appears that the British plan, if adopted, would work to the greatest good of the greatest number and on that ground would be fully justified even by those who, professing for humanitarian reasons, oppose it.

While the decision of the British Government has not yet been officially announced it is easily evident that Germany fears it and for this reason makes frantic appeal to the United States to use her good offices in dissuading Britain from carrying out her threat. The United States Ambassador has already transmitted the German appeal to London and it is unlikely that the Washington Government will do more. If German submarines, or German armies, in attempting to give effect to the German proclamation of a war zone, should shed American blood, or damage American property, Washington would have good and sufficient reason to demand and secure immediate satisfaction. Otherwise the advice

of the New York Herald, given in the early stages of the war, should prove to be wise counsel. The Herald said: "It is a very good time for Uncle Sam to sit tight, keep his hands in his pockets and his mouth shut."

## THE CAUSE OF LIBERAL FEARS.

Each day of the parliamentary session as it passes brings more plainly into the limelight the peculiar position occupied by the supporters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. A general election is the last thing they desire and it is in the hope of avoiding a battle at the polls that Grit newspapers publish inspired articles dealing with the party truce, etc. At the same time there are men behind Sir Wilfrid whose minds are so warped and twisted as the result of four years of opposition that their partisan venom gains the ascendancy and they give vent to unfair criticisms of the Government and the Government policy which, if persisted in, can have but one result.

The Government of Canada is desirous of doing the business of Canada on a business basis, and in a business manner. It has decided that this country shall give the last dollar and the last man, if need be, to the cause of Empire and in this it has the approval and hearty endorsement of the whole people irrespective of political affiliation. It agrees with the opinion expressed in England that, during war time, there should not be an appeal to the people unless such a proceeding becomes absolutely necessary. And if it should happen that the Canadian Government should decide to procure an endorsement of its policy from the people of Canada during war time it will be because the Grit desire to manufacture political capital has made it incumbent upon the Government to settle once and for all the questions on which there exists a vast difference of opinion between the two political parties.

When Sir Robert Borden introduced his naval aid bill the Grits managed to defeat it through the medium of the unrepresentative branch of the administration. The proposal to grant assistance to the British Navy in the form the British Admiralty asked for was hailed all over the Empire as a great feather in the cap of Canada and there can be no question that the defeat of that measure was responsible for the incorrect opinion in other parts of the Empire and, indeed, in the Motherland itself, that, in Canada, politics came before patriotism. The injurious effect of that view has been in part wiped out by Canada's splendid response to the Empire appeal in the present crisis.

Canada has already been placed in a false position in the eyes of the world by the Liberal opposition to the naval aid bill. The Premier would be absolutely correct if he should decide that never again shall a similar opportunity arise. If the Grit fear that there is to be an election should prove to be founded on fact the followers of Laurier will alone be responsible. The Government and the Conservative party can well afford to regard the situation with entire confidence.

## INCONSISTENCY.

It is amusing to say the least to see Grit newspapers of the stripe of the Telegraph and Times working themselves into hysteria because the Canadian Government has found it necessary to increase the customs duties against Great Britain, as well as against the rest of the world. The proceeding is not patriotic is the favorite cry of such papers. Yet it must not be forgotten that the newspapers now attacking the increase in duties are the same papers that wept and wrung their hands when Canada refused to become an "adjunct to the United States" and the same papers which fought with might and main against the highly patriotic Conservative proposal to give assistance to the British navy. Do they for a minute imagine the people have so far forgotten their inconsistencies, that now their silly partisanship can pass for patriotism? If so the people should not permit themselves to be misled. If Sir Wilfrid or Mr. Pugsley were to advocate that Canada should secede from the British Empire and become a German tributary state the Telegraph and Times would play the Laurier-Pugsley tune—always provided, of course, that some one did not come along and buy them off—as has happened on previous occasions.

In borrowing money for war purposes Canada really is borrowing for the greatest of public works. Today the Canadian people are engaged in assisting to build safe and sure the British Empire and the reward in days to come will be such as to demonstrate to future generations that we build surely well.

## Germany Confesses to Shortage of Food.

(From the New York Times.)

In the comments upon the war zone matter and our note by the press and the public men of Germany there is a surprising insistence upon the hardships put upon the Germans by the English policy of isolating the empire and cutting off the food supplies. The tone of these comments would indicate that there is real alarm in Germany about the stock of provisions not merely for the army but for the people themselves. The proclamation of a war zone seems to reflect the prevailing uneasiness on that score, since it was avowedly a measure of retaliation against England for her interference with German commerce, and the position undertaken to have been taken by the German ambassador at Washington, that the Berlin Government would not withdraw or modify the war zone declaration unless England consented to the free passage of food supplies intended for civilian use in Germany, bears out that construction. There is something almost pathetic in the appeals made to us by England to desist from her interference with commerce and food stuffs intended for Germany.

The spectacle of the hardships and sufferings of the German people under the conditions brought upon them by the war would be as painful to us as to any nation on earth, but the Germans should remember that we have not caused those conditions, nor can we remove them. It would be well for them to take thought about the probable effect upon the English mind of their surprisingly frank admissions of the straits to which they have been brought. If they confess to shortage of food, so far from relaxing the pressure, England will almost certainly increase it. It is the first sign of exhaustion, the expected and earliest sign of the proximate ending of the war. Englishmen will argue that it would be inhuman to permit Germany to get the food supplies she urgently needs. That would prolong the war; it would condemn hundreds of thousands of Germans, Frenchmen, Russians and Englishmen to death on the battlefield or in the hospital, without any iota of gain to anybody. If the stock of provisions in Germany is nearing exhaustion, then unquestionably the war is nearing its end. The numbers of troops in the field, their bravery and the efficiency of their munitions cannot make up for the shortage of food. When there is nothing to eat fighting must stop.

The very measures taken by Germany to assure the conservation of food supplies have given England a plausible excuse for interfering with shipments. Foodstuffs intended for the use of armed forces are always contraband. When by imperial decree the Government forbids their export, it is open to England to say that there was no determinable difference between public provisions and the military provisions. England, given accent or relief, the assurance given that food imported from neutral countries will be distributed only to the civilian population. It is time of war the needs of the soldier must be supplied. That was why the German military authorities in Belgium declined to assume the burden of feeding the starving people of that kingdom. They left it to American generosity to supply the Belgians with food, explaining that they were so far from their base of supplies that it was only with great difficulty that they could bring forward provisions enough for the German soldiers. We are ready to supply provisions to Germany in any quantity she can transport. But she will have to convince England that food is for civil, not military, use.

If the German people have not enough to eat, or face the near certain prospect of not having enough to eat, it is evidently time to renew the suggestion that they should ask what they are fighting for, certainly not for victory. If there is already a shortage of food in Germany, it is not to be hoped for. They cannot be fighting for better terms of peace—the longer the fighting is kept up the harder the terms. If they are fighting only because their Emperor and his military advisers tell them to fight, is it not time for them to inquire whether they should not have a voice in a matter so gravely affecting themselves? To their ruling class the prolongation of the war means only the postponing of an inevitable humiliation; to multitudes of the German people it means death or lifelong sorrow.

## Digestive Disorders Yield When

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## Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Ma sent me to the stoar to get a 5 sent spool of wite thred this afternoon telling me to hurry up awn akount of her needing it to sew with, wich I well around to the stoar and got it and wen I cam back I wen thack in the kitchen and noboddy was back there and I took the jar of blackberry jam awt of hte shelf and took 3 big spoonfuls of it and put the jar back and then I went upstairs and gave ma the thred, sayins, Heera the thred, ma. I thawt I told you to hurry, sed ma. I did hurry, I sed.

You took yure time, about hurrying, then, sed ma, do you meen to tell me you didnt go enyware exsept strate to the stoar and back.

Puds Slinkins was down at the cornir with his noo bysickel and he let me ride it, to the telegraph pole and back, I sed.

And wat elts did you do, sed ma.

I suppose if it had nevvir got up, You wood nevvir of kum hoam, sed ma, thare till it got up, I sed.

Thats awt, I sed.

Are you quite sure, sed mar looking at me funny.

Well, the man was cleening the He awn top of the lamppos, but I didnt watch him lawing, I sed.

And wat elts, sed ma, still looking at me funny.

Well, I was going to say, Nuthins elts, ony jest then I happened to look in the mirror and saw my faze and wat was awl erround my mouth but blackberry jam, proving I had ate it, pritty fast, I gess, and ma sed, Well, think now, wasent thare enything elts you did, I sed.

O yes, I sed, I went back in the kitchen and took 33 spoonfuls of blackberry jam.

Well I am glad to heer you say so, so, I feared you were going to tell me a lie, and if you had I wood of punished you, but for being truthfull you may have a penny, sed ma.

Proving that its awlways best to tell the truth, especially wen youve got stanes awl ovir yure faze to give you away.

## WEDDINGS

Hatchette-Munro.

A pretty wedding was solemnized last evening at the residence of Rev. Mr. Clasky, when he united in marriage George R. Hatchette, late of Halifax, and Miss Barbara Munro, late of Dalhousie, Inverness, Scotland. They were attended by Mrs. Morris as bridesmaid, and Richard Morris as groomsmen. The bride was becomingly attired in a dress of lavender silk. After the wedding the happy couple spent the evening with friends in the city. Mr. and Mrs. Hatchette are popular with many friends, both being on the staff of the Provincial Hospital.

## BELGIAN RELIEF FUND.

The following subscriptions to the Belgian Relief Fund were received by Mayor Frink yesterday morning: John F. Rice, Centreville, \$5.00; Miss Carman, Houlton, Me., 5.00; Fireside Club of St. David's church concert, per S. F. Jamnades, 31.00; Willing Workers' Society, Joliet, N. B., per Hildred K. Huston, 17.00; Proceeds concert, Temple Hall, auspices Douglas avenue Christian Church, to buy flour for the Belgians, 40.00; Donation, Shediac, N. B., per Miss Elsie Jardine, secretary, Red Cross, 22.00.

Presentations to Volunteers. Messrs. F. X. Jennings, of the 23rd Battery, was presented with a safety razor yesterday afternoon before the departure of the troop train from this city. The presentation was made by Rev. Father Ryan, of St. Mary's, the

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Misses' Low Heeled 55c. Rubbers, sizes 11 to 1 . . . 39c

Men's Storm Rubbers, sizes 7 to 11 . . . 75c

Men's Plain Rubbers, sizes 9 to 11 . . . 60c

Men's Neverslip Low Rubbers all sizes . . . 40c

Men's Snag Proof, High Cut \$2.75 Laced Rubbers . . . 2.00

Men's Snag Proof \$2.35 Laced Rubbers . . . 1.50

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