

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1914.

## THE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN.

The campaign to stimulate through this province recruiting for active service with the second Canadian contingent, was successfully launched in Sussex on Thursday night at a splendidly enthusiastic public meeting, and will receive additional impetus here at the meeting to be held in the Imperia Theatre on Tuesday evening next. To date the reply to the call for men has not been as general as was expected. From western provinces comes the word that the whole force required from Canada could be raised there. This does not necessarily mean that the young westerner is more patriotic, or more adventurous, than his eastern brother, but the ready response of the west is more likely to be accounted for by the fact that work there is less plentiful in proportion to the number of young men in the country. To the majority of young men in the province of New Brunswick, enlistment in active service means a severance of business connections in which they have spent their working lives. Most young men in the east are well situated as to employment and naturally hesitate before deciding to give up lucrative positions. Such an attitude, while selfish, is natural, and it is to overcome it that a campaign to stimulate recruiting has been launched.

These young men, who, by reason of family ties or other circumstances, are prevented from offering for active service abroad should, at least, give of their time for home defence and help to fill the gaps in the local regiments caused by the departure of so many militia men for the front. There need be no surrender of employment to call for home service, and there should not be any difficulty from this source in the case of men volunteering for the front. When a young man displays the spirit of patriotism to the extent that he is prepared to give his life, if need be, in defence of the Empire, his employers, at least should hold his employment for him until he returns. A general agreement to this effect on the part of employers might prove a most effective agency for the stimulation of recruiting.

The duty of Empire does not rest upon the young man alone. Those unable to go to the trenches can do their share by employing every facility to make it easier for the young men possessing all the qualifications and who are only deterred from freely offering their services by the fear of unemployment upon their return. The call of the Empire is for men, for young men to do the fighting, and for older ones to keep the wheels in motion at home. It should never be said that any young Canadian, while assisting to save the Empire, lost his employment and mortgaged his future to pay the debt of enforced idleness.

## CONCERNING CRUISERS.

The Telegraph, yesterday morning, in the course of an editorial chiefly remarkable for its inaccuracies, charged that the Standard had indulged in misrepresentation of the liberal naval policy, and apropos of the Australian cruiser Sydney's achievement in destroying the Emden, went on to remark "a cruiser of the Bristol class could have done just such work as the Sydney did to the glory of Australia. The Laurier Naval Act, had that programme been carried out, had the Conservatives come into power, would have provided a squadron of cruisers and destroyers which would have done exactly such work as British cruisers and destroyers of the same class have been doing for the past three months."

There is abundant opportunity to show that cruisers of the Bristol class have not been especially effective during the present war, but we will consider the case the Telegraph itself uses—that of the Australian cruiser Sydney and the German cruiser Emden. Newspaper reports of the fight in which the Emden was destroyed tell us that the heavier guns of the Sydney were responsible for the sudden and satisfactory termination of the engagement. Before the Telegraph can support its claim that cruisers of the Bristol class could have done just such work it is necessary to compare the two classes. The Naval list will show that the heavy armament of the Bristol consisted of two six inch guns. The Telegraph, of Wednesday morning, thus refers to the heavy guns of the Sydney: "The Australian cruiser Sydney carried a main battery of eight six-inch guns against the Emden's 4.3 guns, thus giving her a heavy advantage over the German ship." In comparison with the Sydney's eight heavy guns the Telegraph's cruiser of the Bristol class would have mounted but two, thus giving an efficiency but one-quarter as great as the Australian vessel. But it is not even necessary to compare the armament of the vessels for, as a matter of fact, if the Laurier plan of building the ships in

Canada had carried, there would not yet be one ship afloat, the product of the Canadian shipyards which Sir Wilfrid promised to Montreal, and our own Mr. Pugsley was certain were coming to St. John. Certain Liberal speculators might have made a handsome profit in the sale of a yard-site to the government, certain other Liberals whose names the Telegraph can easily guess might have received handsome contracts for machinery, etc., but on the Laurier plan a Canadian navy as an effective fighting force, would not have existed for years to come. The very yards in which it was proposed, for raise catching purposes, to construct such a navy, would not have been half way to completion. On the other hand, the Borden proposal to vote \$35,000,000 as an emergency gift to Great Britain would have provided, not light cruisers of the Bristol class, but warships such as the British Admiralty specifically requested. And those ships would now have been afloat in the front line of the Empire's battle fleet.

It is quite true that at this time, the duty of men of all parties is to the Empire; that duty was quite as plain when the Borden Government policy was before the Canadian Senate, but it is not apparent that the Laurier controlled Crisis in the Upper Chamber permitted it to divorce them from their sense of obligation to the party which placed them in positions of ease and to which they owed their very political existence. It was the voice of partisan advantage rather than Empire duty to which they listened, and all the Telegraph's attempted explanations cannot change the fact.

It is quite within the range of possibility that when the war is over the people of Canada will be given an opportunity to decide between the Laurier and the Borden proposal, and if expressions of opinion heard on every side can be taken as a standard from which to judge the verdict may not be so favorable as the Telegraph supposes. In the meantime, if the Telegraph's naval expert desires to go further into this matter The Standard is quite prepared to oblige him to the fullest extent.

## THE DAY OF BIG GUNS.

The naval expert on the Telegraph staff declares that there is, in Canada, a feeling of regret that the Dominion does not possess a squadron of fast light cruisers. We have been unable to discover traces of such hunger for vessels of the Bristol class, either in Canada or in Great Britain. Instead, the evidence to hand seems to show that the most successful ships in the present war have been those with the superior armament. The victory of the Sydney over the Emden was due to the fact that the Sydney mounted the greater gun-weight; the German success off the coast of Chile was won by the superiority in gun-weight enjoyed by the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. If there had been one single big-gun ship in place of Admiral Craddock's squadron the fate of the German vessels would have been speedily sealed.

The Monmouth and the Good Hope were fine vessels of the diversified armament type but that type is not now regarded as the most effective. Naval warfare was practically revolutionized by the Dreadnoughts and the huge battle cruisers which combine heavy armament with speed. Light cruisers have their uses, but it will probably be demonstrated that they will not settle the question of naval supremacy. In the big battle which is bound to come in the North Sea, victory must rest with the fleet owning the greatest aggregate gun-power, and that is one of the causes for the supreme confidence with which the British people await that struggle. On land and sea the present conflict has proven to be a big-gun war.

That proposal to arm the firemen with sporting rifles for purposes of defence might be all right if the fire-fighters were to do all their fighting at long range. But a bayonet will not fit a sporting rifle, and if the Germans should come this way and the firemen should be called upon to charge, they would probably find their natural weapons of more value. You cannot charge, even a German, with an empty rifle barrel.

The Allies have driven the Germans from Dixmude and maintain their positions along other parts of the line. Meanwhile that Russian bear has his fore-feet well planted in Germany and is "going strong." His roaring will soon be heard at the gates of Berlin.

As the result of the cattle embargo a big order for dressed meat has come to a local firm. Which goes to show that even embargoes may have their compensations.

It is not too early to think of your Christmas shopping. Remember the slogan, "Business as usual" and govern yourself accordingly.

## Turkey Must Lose Whoever Wins

Austria's swift collapse as a military power has been the outstanding surprise of the war up to the present time, but if Turkey is able to cut any figure in the struggle it will be a greater surprise still. In the opinion of Prof. Bushnell Hart of Harvard University, Turkey is entering the war with less preparation than she had for the Balkan War, in which she was ignominiously defeated. She is practically bankrupt. She is without any large store of military supplies. She has nothing that a nation at war should have except a great number of able-bodied men, but they are, for the most part, untrained and unarmed. In Prof. Hart's opinion the Sirk Man of Europe is on his deathbed. Why Turkey should have entered the war is difficult to understand, and the likeliest theory is that she has been "sold out" by Enver Bey, the real ruler of Turkey, and a man who has always been under German influence. Turkey stands to lose no matter who wins. Even in the event of Germany proving victorious Turkey in Europe would find herself ringed in by the hostile Balkan nations, who were only kept from chasing her out of Constantinople by Britain and France and Russia. With the Allies victorious Constantinople will pass to one or other of them, with the chances favoring Russia.

One does not expect much of the Turk, but the fact remains that Turkey's entrance into the war is one of the most striking illustrations of national ingratitude that history supplies. For more than fifty years she has owed her position to Great Britain. On numerous occasions she has been saved by Britain, not, of course, because Britain was actuated by any altruistic ideas, but because Britain felt that it was necessary to keep Turkey in Europe in order to keep Russia from Constantinople. She has kept floating by borrowing British money time and again. Abdul Hamid was a master of diplomacy, and it was largely due to his machinations that Britain and Russia were kept at arm's length, each distrusting the other, and each fearing a power behind the scenes for an opportunity to strike a blow and renew the fight of the Crimea.

About 1890, however, Russia and Britain began to draw closer together, and after the proposal to form an alliance between Germany and Russia had fallen through. Not long afterward the Sultan and the Kaiser established friendly relations. Turkey had found a new sultan, and in the past fifteen years or so Germany has gradually improved her position in Turkey until she was recognized by the rest of Europe as the power behind the throne. For a while after the Young Turkish revolution it appeared that German influence was waning, but Germany had taken care to have agents in both camps, and Enver Bey, the leader of the Young Turks, soon showed that he was just as much of a despot as the deposed Sultan, and quite as willing to accept suggestions from Berlin. The people of Turkey have no more to say now with regard to their own affairs than they had twenty or thirty years ago. Instead of being ruled by a Sultan, they are ruled by a khalifa.

Two hundred years ago Turkey was one of the four great powers of Europe. The reason she is not a great power today is that she was never anything but a conqueror. She was never a civilizer. She acted upon the theory that Germany has revived, namely, that a country must not be only conquered, but ruined. So pushing her frontiers through Europe, she destroyed as she went. She broke down one civilization, and was unable to supply another. She made no attempt to assimilate the people she conquered. She had neither the machinery nor the desire to do it. Her victims she regarded as "Christian dogs," who were unworthy to be received as Mohammedans even if they desired to embrace this religion. Her rule was the rule of the soldier.

Within the memory of many people now living Turkey owned Wallachia, Moldavia, Roumelia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Macedonia, Albania and Greece. Today Turkey in Europe consists of the city of Constantinople and a district extending a few miles westward to Bulgaria. One Christian province after another has been able to throw off her yoke. The present weakness of Turkey, as Prof. Hart explains, is that the empire is not Turkish. Before the Balkan war there were six million Turkish subjects in Europe. Not two millions of them were Moslems. The great majority were Christians of various sects, each hating the Turk with a fierce and abiding hatred. Even today in Constantinople only about half the population is Turkish. It is probably true that if it had not been for the friendship of Britain the Turkish Empire both in Europe and Asia would long ago have been destroyed. The conquered people

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It is not too early to think of your Christmas shopping. Remember the slogan, "Business as usual" and govern yourself accordingly.

## Little Benny's Note Book.

My cousin Artie always has sum kind of a joke to tell and this afternoon he calm erround and I was out awn the front steps and he sed, "Wal, a regular cap, I sed." Yes, a regular cap, sed Artie, and I sed, I havent got anything to bet, but I bet you havent. Yes I have, to, I got a nee cap, sed Artie. You sed a regular cap, I sed. Well, its a regular nee cap, aint it, sed Artie. And aftr a wile I went in the house and ma was in the kitchen with her hands full of dough awn akcount of making a pudding, and I sed, Ma, wat do you bet I havent got a cap undir my stocking. If you dont stop asking me to bet about things I dont no wat ill do to you, sed ma, a persin mite think I was a regular gambeler, and now get out of the kitchen, dont you see im busy with this pudding. I no, ma, but I got a cap undir my stocking, I sed. I shoudnt be surprised, you do sum krazy things, sed ma. But dont you see how smooth my stocking is, I sed, how do you think I can get a cap undir it and still keep it so smooth. I dont think anything about it, now will you leave the kitchen, sed ma. Its a nee cap, I sed. Awl rite, now get out, sed ma. Dident you evvir hear of a nee cap, I sed, and ma sed, No, I cant say I evvir have, and I sed, its sumthing in the fizeology book. I no, ma, but I got a cap undir my stocking, I sed. O, G, I sed, And I went out of the kitchen to see if pop had calm hoam so I cood spring it awa him.

They would have risen and freed themselves. Having been checked, it is only just that they should be freed of them, with the chances favoring Russia.

## TEA AND SALE FOR RED CROSS FUNDS.

The Girls' Association of St. John's (Stone) Church held an afternoon tea and sale of choice eatables yesterday in the schoolroom. The function was a pronounced success and the proceeds will be given in aid of the Red Cross Society and other objects of a patriotic nature. It was held under the patronage of Mrs. L. F. D. Tilly, president of the Girls' Association, and Miss Edith Skinner. The schoolroom was tastefully decked with flags, and the tea tables looked very pretty with a profusion of silverware and choice flowers. Mrs. G. F. Smith and Mrs. Vassie poured, and the tables were in charge of Mrs. Herbert Wetmore, Mrs. Blanchard Fowler,

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