

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 6, 1915

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## ARE WE CRIMINALS?

Armand Lavergne, friend of Bournas, friend of Pelletier, Nantel, Coderre and Patenaude, and the man who claims to have influenced Sir Robert Borden in the choice of the Nationalist members of his cabinet, in his recent reply to Sir Sam Hughes, refusing to raise and command a battalion for the defense of Canada abroad, said:

"Let me repeat that I consider it unwise and more than criminal to place Canada in danger for a war in which we have not had, have not, and will never have any control whatever. I will ever oppose any contribution by our country of one man, one ship, or one dollar until England believes it just that we should participate with her, not only the danger, but also the full control and responsibilities of the affairs of the Empire. It is not for us to defend England. It is for England to defend us."

Are the people of Canada in a mood to listen to this sort of thing? Some of Sir Robert Borden's former and present colleagues are named by Mr. Lavergne as sympathizers with his own views. Is it true? If not, why do they not repudiate Mr. Lavergne and all his works? Why do they not answer by entering into a vigorous recruiting campaign? The Montreal Mail says:

"Mr. Lavergne is quibbling, just as all those who take his stand must quibble. Canada is being attacked and defended in Europe today. Let Prussia win in Europe the domination of the world, at which she is aiming, and not even the heroism of Colonel Armand Lavergne would give pause on her march on Canada. If he is depending on the United States, let him glance again at recent history and see that Germany already has taken the measure of the neighbor nation."

Is Mr. Lavergne to be permitted to retain his rank as a Lieutenant Colonel in the militia of Canada? Are those who share his views to be tolerated in high places? We rail against the hyphenated American in the United States. What about the hyphenated Canadian of the Lavergne type in Canada?

## THE WAR NEWS.

An outstanding feature of the news today is the defeat of a Bulgarian army with heavy loss, in a battle in which British forces participated. The military critics say that the situation in Serbia is more encouraging, but the German claim to have made important gains.

A very cheering fact is the assurance that Germany's food problem, because of crop failure, is much more serious, and that the people are in a far worse state to face the winter, so far as food is concerned, than they were a year ago. The government has found it necessary to take drastic measures to conserve the food supply. No doubt Austria is facing somewhat similar conditions. The Allies, on the other hand, thanks to the British navy, have the world for a forage ground.

The Turks continue their attacks at the Dardanelles, but without being able to gain any ground, and the like is true of German attacks in the west, while in the east the Russians are continuing the offensive, having apparently brought the Germans to a standstill at every point.

A renewal of attack by German submarines is reported today, but they are no longer regarded as a serious menace in British waters.

The new military council has met in London, without Lord Kitchener. The rumor that he had resigned as war minister is officially denied. London is buzzing with rumors about him, and they excite more interest because of attacks leveled against him by a portion of the London press. It is now announced that he has been sent on an important mission to the near east.

The situation in Greece is gradually developing, but the action to be taken is still uncertain, while Roumania still remains neutral.

## THE CANADIAN OFFICERS.

The question of the ability of officers of the Canadian forces is just now being discussed in a somewhat interesting way. London Truth says there have been "wholesale changes" in artillery commands at Shorncliffe and men who went over in command of their batteries from Canada have been transferred to a reserve brigade. Truth thinks the Canadian militia authorities should make enquiry into this matter and declares that "Such wholesale shunting of men at such a short notice will require a good deal of justification."

Sir Sam Hughes is reported from Ottawa to have lately held back more than one battalion because of the incapacity of some of the officers. On this point a Montreal paper agrees with Sir Sam, and says:

"Canada is by no means well supplied with good officers, and there have been occasional reminders of the fact from the front. It would be better to send men forward slowly than to send them out poorly led. Every inefficient officer sent to the front means the loss to the service of all the strength under his control and it may mean a greater loss. The

greatest weakness of the voluntary system of raising armies is often to be found in the incompetence of the officers, who require exceptional qualities and thorough technical training. This cannot be imparted to them in a brief time."

The Montreal paper adds, however, that recruiting ought to be stimulated by the news that the greater care will be taken in future in the selection of the officers. The Toronto Telegram, it must be noted, carries the criticism beyond the officers for overseas, and has a shot at Sir Sam Hughes himself. Discussing the question of machine guns and how many of them a battalion should have, this Conservative Journal says:

"Can Sir Robert Borden afford to have a machine gun bungle piled on top of the performances of the Shell Committee and other administrative triumphs? The Minister of Militia is only able to discuss machine guns as a hearsay soldier, who can have no first-hand knowledge of what he is talking about. Sir Robert Borden should consult Canadian officers who have learned wisdom in the school of actual fighting. The battalions of the Canadian expeditionary force ought to be equipped with machine guns not according to the theories of Canada's Talking Generals, but according to the experience of Canada's Fighting Colonels."

We may be quite sure that Sir Sam Hughes will not be disturbed by this criticism. Whether in seeing that battalions are well-equipped or properly equipped, he is the man on the job, and is entitled to a good deal of sympathy. If in the past there has been too much politics in connection with the appointment of officers for overseas service, any effort by Sir Sam to do better in future will be heartily endorsed.

The appeal for apples for wounded soldiers, which has been issued by Lady Osler, should especially appeal to orchardists in this province.

Yesterday was another notable day in the recruiting campaign in St. John. The sense of duty grows more widespread as the campaign continues.

There has been comment on lack of enthusiasm on the part of the people here on occasions when bodies of troops marched through the streets. There will be a good opportunity to get out from this lackadaisical way of doing things when the 52nd Battalion arrives. Let us give them a rousing welcome.

The appeal of the Lord Mayor of London made through Premier Clarke for a small universal contribution on Nov. 10th, for the relief of the Belgians, reminds us again that there are still 8,000,000 destitute Belgians in their own country in urgent need of help. In a very real sense Belgium helped to save the British Empire. She should not be forgotten in the hour of her great trial.

Rev. Geo. D. Rutten, who was proponent of political and social science in the destroyed University of Louvain, and director general of social work in Belgium, speaking in Toronto this week, told of German atrocities he had actually seen. Under their martial law more gross offences had been largely stopped, but, he said, a reign of terror continued to exist, and suspected Belgians were liable to be put to death at any time. Dr. Rutten declares that all the findings of the committee presided over by Lord Bryce had been justified by what he himself knew and had seen, and that when the war was over, documentary evidence of a frightful character would be forthcoming.

Ottawa is to have a ten-days' whirlwind recruiting campaign to get four hundred men for the 77th Battalion. An Ottawa letter says: "The campaign will start on Wednesday, November 10, and last until Saturday, November 20. There will be a big meeting to open the campaign on Wednesday night, November 10th, when the Premier, Sir R. L. Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other prominent men will speak. The arrangements are being made with the merchants and manufacturers for permission to address the employees during noon hours or at other times. Permission has been granted to have speakers address the audience in the movie shows between the reels. The clergy will be asked to assist and the labor leaders in the city have agreed to help."

In regard to the revival of business in Canada the Montreal Gazette utters this timely note of warning:—"The recent revival of trade in Canada and the States is due in good part to the war orders and the immense crops; but it must not be forgotten that the war order goes on forever, and when it ceases there is sure to be a reaction in the munitions industries. Moreover, the world will be vastly poorer for a long time afterwards, and borrowing countries like our own must feel the pinch, so that if they are wise they will not spread their sails for another boom just now. A fresh boom, assuming we could coax one into existence, would necessarily be short-lived and the after-clash disastrous. Let all therefore be satisfied to go slow till the skies clear. This is not pessimism but common sense."



## LIGHTER VEIN.

"Willie, did you tie that tin can to the dog's tail?"  
"Yes, sir," replied the small boy.  
"I'm trying to do a kind act every day. That dog chases every rabbit he sees. I tied the can to him so that it will make a noise and warn the rabbit."

## Very Clever

Mrs. Dents (excitedly)—Isn't our pitcher perfectly grand, Tyras? He hits the club nearly every throw!

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HE'S A REAL JOLLY TAR

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Adventures Today—Good Shows  
For Next Week at the Gem

In the double-policy feature show at the Gem Theatre today "The Tattered Parment" another two-reel episode found hearty favor with the patrons who are following the adventures of "Neal of the Navy" so enjoyably. It is a striking picture and will be repeated tonight together with winning feature successes. The next chapter in "Neal of the Navy" will be shown next week-end. "A Message from the Past," while there will also be given at the same time another episode in the Kaleidoscope series "The Mystery of the Grand Hotel," entitled "Under Oaks."

The Monday-Tuesday show next week contains several attractive features, including the Biograph, two part story "Ashes of Inspiration," "His Golden Grain," a two part Vitaphone feature, unfolding the romance of a wealthy bachelor who marries a girl who tries to rob him and a Billy Reeves comedy by the Lubin Players, "Billy Jones the Navy." It is one of the best opening shows for some time. "The Ear in the Wall" is the title of the next "New Exchanges of Maine" serial at the Wednesday and Thursday show, showing the wonderful development of science and the cleverness of Craig Kennedy in again outwitting Wu Fang. More topical scenes will be presented in the British Canadian News Weekly. Special matinees are given daily, and the Gem orchestra has bright new lists of popular hits at every show.

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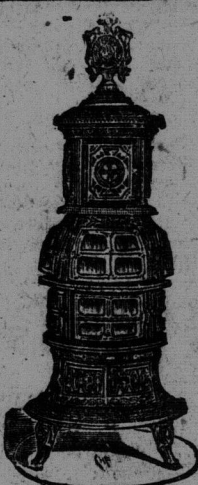
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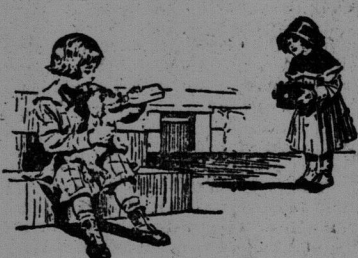
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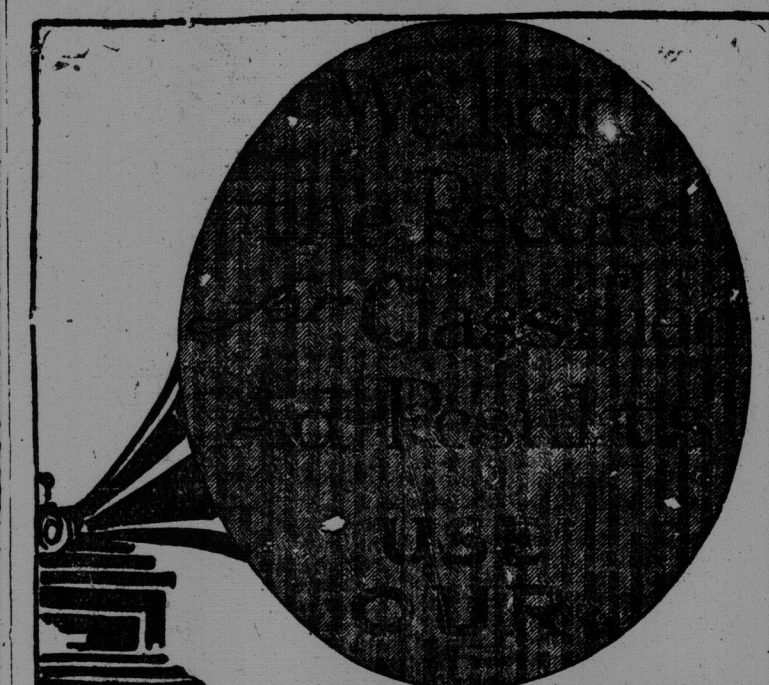


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## The First Star-Spangled Banner.

The original Star-Spangled Banner, which inspired Francis Scott Key to write the song by that name during the bombardment of Fort Mifflin on Sept. 18 and 19, 1814, is now on exhibition in the National Museum in Washington. This flag, much faded and torn, which flew over Fort Mifflin during the British attack, is now 27 feet 6 inches wide and 38 feet 10 inches long—almost 8 feet shorter than it was in 1814. Because it was made before the standardization of the American emblem, it has fifteen stars and fifteen stripes. It was made, says Popular Mechanics, by the wife of Colonel Henry S. Pickersgill, of Baltimore, and after the bombardment of the fort was kept by the commandant Major George Armistead. His grandson, Elen Appleton, of New York, gave it to the government in 1912. The famous song was written by Francis Key while he and two friends were held on the ship Minden during the bombardment of Fort Mifflin. They watched the flag through the battle smoke all during the day and into the night. When morning showed it still flying over the fort, Key wrote the poem on the back of an old envelope.

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