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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1917

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 6, 1917.

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

### THE WAR SITUATION

"It is time that the Germans be made to feel that there is an abyss between them and humanity which cannot be crossed except after long years of penitence, suffering and humiliation."

In these words Maurice Maeterlinck, the eminent author, gives expression to a feeling that has grown steadily since the war began. The keenest disappointment was therefore felt when President Wilson in his peace note conveyed the impression that in his mind both sides were fighting for the same ideals, and there was a corresponding feeling of relief when the United States senate refused to endorse that view. The greatest of the neutral nations, with its traditions of democracy, should be the last to give comfort to Germany.

The Allied conference at Rome has given out an expression of confidence and determination that it is both welcome and reassuring. There is perfect unity of purpose, and there will be no faltering in the prosecution of the common task. Germany began the war as the Entente Allies will end it when Prussian militarism has been crushed.

The signs multiply that the food problem will cause great trouble in the Central empires before the next harvest. The conditions in Hungary are the worst, but they are increasingly bad in Austria and Germany. The internal situation explains the eagerness to make peace before complete collapse is forced by the Allied pressure.

It is true that there are still great difficulties in the path of the Allies. Tonic success in Roumania continues, and Greece threatens serious trouble. On the western front, however, the Allies still have the advantage, and it is possible that the Russians and Rumanians may soon be able to check the enemy in that quarter.

Canadians have a plain duty to perform, and there should be such a shaking up at Ottawa as would give the country the fearless and non-partisan leadership the crisis demands. What will parliament do when it meets next week?

**IDLE CANADIAN OFFICERS**  
One of the problems General Turner had to solve when he was made commander of the Canadian troops in England, after the resignation of Sir Sam Hughes as minister of militia and defence, was that of the surplus of Canadian officers under full rank and pay in England, where they were not needed at all. It was hoped that they would be given a free hand, and that such officers would be given their choice of accepting lower rank and going to the front, or returning to Canada. Sir Julian Byng has sent numbers of them back from France, where they were merely supernumeraries, but now it is announced that a large party has been sent to France, not to fight, but "for instruction."

What is the hope that something may turn up, or at least that they may be got out of England, where the presence of so many of them has become a scandal, at a time when they should either be fighting or cease drawing pay. The men who are doing the actual fighting have little or no chance of promotion while in England after being wounded and restored to active duty because there are always officers who have never been and never will be at the front, to hold down all the jobs in sight. The Toronto Star deals with the matter in trenchant fashion. It says:

"It is not an easy job nor a pleasant one that General Turner had on his hands when he set out to clear away the accumulation of unnumbered senior officers left in England by two years of bad management. These officers do not want to come home discarded. They want to wait and come home triumphant. They want to go to the front, to be in the thick of it, but they do not want—and on this point we are not without sympathy for them—to revert in rank and in salary and enter the war as lieutenants. Yet most of them were lieutenants early in the war—and some of them fairly late in the war. The whole trouble has been caused by political mismanagement, by the fact that a political party in office can never neglect or defy its interests as a political party. Officers have been created far in excess of the need for them and sent to England far in excess of the demand for them. But they cannot get to the front because there is a war at the front, and Cook's tourists and letters of introduction from politicians are a nuisance to men who are dealing with life and death at every hour of the day and night. These officers should not have been allowed to accumulate in England. They should have been sent home when not needed there. Instead of that fictitious jobs were provided for them in all directions. The manufacture and shipment of senior officers should have been stopped in Canada long ago. The whole situation is one that Sir Robert Borden, while in office as a party leader, would not handle. He cannot while in office as a party leader. A thousand pulls and influences will prevent him. A non-partisan war administration charged with the duty of winning the war regardless of the ambitions, profits and advantages of individuals would pursue the country millions during 1917

and help materially in hastening the end of the war and saving thousands of Canadian lives."

### CARING FOR THE CHILDREN

The Children's Aid Society in St. John, by having a Home in Elliott Row, has been able during the past year to take under its care a large number of neglected and dependent children. Some of these have been placed in approved foster homes, some in institutions, and some have been restored to their parents under conditions which ensure that they will be properly cared for in future—or taken away again and placed in foster homes. There are now more than ten children in the Home, and more must be placed there as soon as the necessary legal steps can be taken. It will probably take another year or more to clean up the very worst cases of neglect in the city, and the Home is really too small for the demands made upon it.

It is always interesting to make comparisons with what is being done in other cities. The annual report of the Children's Home in Bangor has just been published. It shows among other things that two boys, one of \$21, \$74.53 and another of \$300 had been received. Here are some extracts from the report:

"This year a man was employed for the season to take care of the grounds. The recreation building was finished in the early part of the year and the children formally opened it by giving a little play. A new piano was purchased for the Home building and the old one was moved into the playhouse. A victoria is also in the playhouse. The matron and her assistants have been very successful in looking after the health of the children, both physical and moral. There has been very little illness, only a few cases of measles and chickenpox. Number of boys in the Home during the year, 28; number of girls, 35; whole number of children, 63; number returned to relatives or friends, 15; number placed in free private homes, nine; boarded at Good Will Home, one; Home Jan. 1, 1917, 88. Of the 88, 25 have both parents living, but not together; 20 have a father living; 16 have a mother living; two have neither parent living. The fact that very few of the children are wholly orphaned is interesting rather than surprising, but nearly all institutions for children note the same fact. In addition to the 88 children now in the Home, there are three boys at Opportunity Farm, one at Good Will Home, and one about four miles from the city, whose board is being paid by the Home. Besides these children, there are 18 (including the nine placed this year) in free private homes, who are under the control of the Bangor Children's Home and are visited whenever possible to see that they are well cared for and happy."

A few items of the year's expenses are: Matron and assistants, \$3,109.63; furnace and grounds, \$1,053.25; heating and lighting, \$1,929.53; provisions, \$2,721.91; sports, \$898.55; house and hospital furnishings, \$111.72; dry goods and clothing, \$726.50.

There are many other items, including \$4,448.66 on building account. It will thus be seen that the Bangor Institution is liberally supported. It is doing a very valuable work.

The place for a normal child is in a normal home. The first aim of a Children's Aid Society is by warning and good counsel to improve the conditions in a home where children are neglected; and if that fails the right and necessary thing to do is to make the children wards of the society and place them in approved foster homes. One bright girl taken from a wretched home, in a police raid, writes from her foster home in the country that she will never want to see St. John again. To her it represents want, neglect, and vicious surroundings. Now she is well cared for and happy. There is a sermon here, if we care to read between the lines.

Of Mr. Raymond Robbins of Chicago, who will address the Social Service Conference in St. John on Jan. 23-24, an Augusta, Maine, letter, telling of his coming to that city to attend a community efficiency conference this week, says: "Raymond Robbins, one of the ablest political leaders and speakers of the past twenty years, is coming from Chicago to address the conference. His handling of a great and difficult convention was one of the marvels of the past year of political fireworks. His Chicago fights and reforms are known throughout the country. He is making his life work the development of the right relations between the different classes of society."

The Liberal government of Saskatchewan has been completely exonerated by the Wetmore royal commission, in the matter of the road frauds in that province. This is sad news for those Conservative papers which were pointing the finger of scorn at Saskatchewan.

French authorities have opened 135 miles of railroad in Algeria which eventually will cross the Sahara desert.

### LIGHTER VEIN

**Bilious**  
"Isn't that a pretty big bill, doctor?" "Well, living costs more than it used to, you know," returned the man of medicine.

In His Time Too.  
Sandy, the plumber, was working on a town's with an apprentice. In the course of the forenoon the boss visited the job, and, failing to find Sandy anywhere about the premises, decided to wait his return. "Where have you been?" demanded the boss when Sandy put in an appearance. "Gettin' ma hair cut," answered Sandy, quite cool. "And how dare you get your hair cut in your time?" "Well, disna it grow in your time?"

Amazing.  
"Confound it all!" cried a business man. "I've forgotten my new telephone number. I didn't write it down because that's an indication of mental weakness." "What about forgetting the number?" said the other man. "Isn't that mental weakness, too?" "Yes," replied the first man. "And without the slightest hesitation the forgetful man called up the forgotten number and asked his amazed wife what it was."

A Frightful Experience  
"My darling," she murmured, "you were so grand, so noble, when you proposed to me that day in the motor car! Shall I ever forget how touchingly you spoke of your future, of the sacrifices you would make for me? It must have cost you something to speak those words." "It did, Mabel," replied the young man, a shadow creeping over his face. "It cost me about two weeks' salary for that car hire."

All Right.  
Teacher—Now, boys, I want to see if any of you can make a complete sentence out of two words, both having the same sound to the end.  
First Boy—I can, Miss Smith.  
Teacher—Very well, Robert. Let us hear your words.  
First Boy—Write, right.  
Teacher—Very good.  
Second Boy—Smith, I can beat that. I can make three words of it—Wright, write right.  
Third boy (excitedly)—Hear this, Wright, write right—Th-Bits.

Friend—Of course your husband has made his will?  
Mrs. Peck (grimly)—He has signed it!

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### GERMAN HUNGER BREEDS REVOLT

Starving People in Western Towns Growing Very Restive

"We Are All Starving"

Women Declare That if the Teuton Soldiers Can Stand it a Year Longer They Cannot—Food is Becoming Very Scarce—Riots Occur Daily

London, Jan. 5.—The Daily Express has the following from Amsterdam: "We are starving. Let everybody outside Germany that we are starving. If our soldiers can stand it any longer we cannot. We want of Germany can stand on seeing our children suffering deprivation and hunger. We cannot and we cannot see our children starve to death. Let them ask them to have pity on us, if our own government has not. We want of Germany can stand on seeing our children starve to death. Let them ask them to have pity on us, if our own government has not. We want of Germany can stand on seeing our children starve to death. Let them ask them to have pity on us, if our own government has not."

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### Promotions in Medical Service

Ordinary Rules Recommended by Board of Inquiry

Stringent Medical Tests

No Soldier Should be Sent From Canada Who is Unfit for General Service—The Bruce Report Dealt With

London, Jan. 5.—Further examination of the report of the medical enquiry board which was issued by Sir George Perley reveals that, in its detailed observations, the board agrees with the criticism of Colonel Bruce, whose report it is, that the board should not make an adverse statement on the efficiency of the Canadian Army Medical Corps arrangements in England and France brought about the appointment of the medical board, that considerable of the surgery fitting in civil life is not advisable in military practice. The board states that it has evidence that efforts have been made to induce newly commissioned officers to regard cases of suspected physical unfitness from the military viewpoint, with the result that

marked improvement has been noted in this matter. Evidence shows, it is stated, that soon after his arrival in England the director of the Canadian Medical Corps tried to secure adequate provision for observation and treatment of venereal cases. His efforts were not invariably supported by higher authority, and consequently the discipline essential to his proper control of the service was not secured. "The board strongly asserts and at points reiterates its opinion that no soldier should be sent to England from Canada who is unfit for general service." "The board is strongly of opinion that pension claims should not be dealt with overseas, except in the cases of men taken from which it will be seen that the service has been managed with due regard to economy."

### WOMEN! MOTHERS! DAUGHTERS!

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### Eight Recruits on Saturday

Eight recruits were secured in the city on Saturday: Ernest Hugh Isthian, St. John; William H. Nicholson, New River; Joseph Woods, Belleisle, Ont. Canadian Engineers—Daniel Chisbon, Massachusetts; Ray Mullins, Halifax; James McAtee, St. John, 29th Kings; Battalions; Clement J. Cleary, St. John; Alphonse Peltier, St. John, 53th Battery.

Ralph Parker in List

The names of four new Brunswick men appear in the midnight casualty list: Warrant, Lance-Corporal L. C. Robertson, Tabusintac; Gunner K. M. Parker, St. John; H. A. R. Dayton, Edmundston. Severely wounded: L. W. Haley, Nixon.

At Front Again

Mr. and Mrs. Miles E. Agar of this city have received word from their son Charles, who was wounded in December, that he has recovered and is returning to the front.

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