

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1917.

"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 TIMES AND MR. WATTERS.

The Times is more than ordinarily foolish in its defence of Mr. J. C. Watters, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, and goes so far as to charge that this journal of the same and friends is guilty of inciting to violence against Mr. Watters.

Fortunately the people of St. John are well accustomed to the brand of hysteria which occasionally shows itself in Canterbury street and in consequence refuse to take the Times seriously. This newspaper cares very little for what the Times may or may not think concerning our attitude on any question. Mr. Watters has a perfect right to come to St. John and deliver an address on any subject he may elect. That is freedom of speech.

But the same freedom of speech does not convey the right to preach sedition. The case of Wilfrid Gribble stands as evidence of that, and the Times completely approved of the treatment accorded to that gentleman at the time he made his mistake. It is natural that the returned soldiers in Sydney, as returned soldiers everywhere else, should feel strongly in regard to conscription. Those men have been at the front and have suffered the hardships that follow service there. Consequently it is not surprising that they should have no patience with Mr. Watters or any other man who attempts to create strife and to lessen Canada's war effort. To say that the disapproval with which Mr. Watters' expressions was greeted in Sydney was the result of pre-arrangement is hardly fair to the soldiers who voted that disapproval. Probably they said and did just what appeared proper to them under the circumstances and in such a case did not require any "coaching".

Possibly also Mr. Watters comes to St. John and gives cause for the returned soldiers there may exhibit similar feeling. It is not impossible that the treatment accorded to him will depend altogether upon the manner in which he conducts himself. But The Standard has not advocated and does not advocate disturbance of any sort.

If the Times does not know the temper of St. John in war time it might secure valuable information from its elder brother, the Telegraph. Doubtless there are those on that news paper who still remember an incident of the South African war when a portion of the St. John public so strenuously objected to an alleged pro-Boer editorial written by the then editor, that that gentleman found it convenient to take an early train to his native city, but not before he had received more than a little uncompensated attention.

Today, possibly, our people do not make the Canterbury street journals so seriously. That is fortunate for the Times, for no newspaper in Canada has been more reckless than it in criticizing and opposing every war effort made by the Canadian Government. St. John men who formerly subscribed to certain American papers have cancelled their subscriptions because of the publication of articles really less offensive to Canadians than some of the effusions which frequently find their way into the Times columns.

"ACADIENS' VIEWS.

After stating the votes on Senator Bostock's amendment and on the second reading of the compulsory military service bill in the Senate, L'Acadien, the French Liberal organ, in its edition of the 7th inst., has the following comment:

"The three Acadian Senators voted against the amendment (Senator Bostock's) and in favor of conscription. They have refused to defer the enforcement of this law until the general elections which will be held in the near future. The Acadian people who are energetically opposing this arbitrary law see itself once more betrayed by its representatives in the Upper House. Although the Senators have the right to vote as they think fit on this bill, their vote, nevertheless, binds the Acadians to an arbitrary law. It is useless to speak of Acadian unity when those who seek to be recognized as the leaders of our nationality refuse to recognize the will of the people.

"It is excessively unfortunate to note that our representatives have completely ignored the voice of the Acadian people to hear but the voice of the fanatics who are seeking to destroy us."

L'Acadien is the organ of Mr. P. J. L'Acadie, the master of the present local government. It has ever been ready to raise the race cry and in the recent

provincial elections played no minor part in the dissemination of false canards among the Acadian voters of the province. It is however unfortunate that on a question as great and as vital as compulsory military service it is unable to cast petty politics to the wind and really reflect the opinions of the Acadian people who have already done noble work in the cause of Empire. In the present case the views of the Acadians are much more truly expressed by such men as Senator Poirier, Senator Bourque and Mr. F. J. Robitoux, all of whom spoke and voted for the measure designed to aid the boys at the front. L'Acadien's opinion is nothing more than the view of Mr. Veniot and his friends who evidently hope by false canvasses to again inflame their compatriots against the Government and thus place the New Brunswick Acadians in an unfortunate and untrue position.

THE REVENUE OF CANADA.

The revenue of Canada for 1913-1914 was \$163,000,000. During the following year it dropped to \$133,000,000. The revenue for the year of which four months have passed is estimated at \$275,000,000 and for 1916-1917 it can be forecasted at \$300,000,000. Since the war started the revenue of Canada has been more than doubled. At its present rate, the income of the country has increased from the low point of \$140,000,000 a year.

It will be generally admitted that somebody is contributing this revenue to the Dominion of Canada. Such a sum of money cannot be manufactured out of nothing. There is no book-keeping which could give an appearance of \$140,000,000 when it is not there in reality. This increase of revenue has in some form or another, been taken from the pockets of the people of Canada in addition to what they were paying before.

Remember it is revenue not capital, and then try to realize what it means. It is five per cent. upon two thousand eight hundred millions of Canadian capital. Of course this is capital, productive capital of all kinds reduced to figures in the sense of being exchanged for money. On the other hand many things which can be and are reduced to figures and exchanged for money are not productive capital at all. Many people who talk about the conscription of wealth here, it is impossible to conscript dead capital. It is idiotic to talk for instance, of conscripting a house, although a house can be expressed in terms of money and exchanged for money. What can be conscripted is the rent of the house and, if the whole of it is taken, the house is conscripted in the only sense in which it can be conscripted.

Very well, this sum of money, \$140,000,000, is taken from the annual income of the people of Canada. Therefore it is fair and true to say that it means the conscription of \$2,800,000,000 worth of wealth, because it is all the return upon that amount at the going rate of five per cent. It is taken out of the private pocket of the people and put into the pocket of the people as a whole for war purposes. The capital value is not taken from the people, but its proceeds are confiscated and applied to the war.

How much further the process of the conscription of wealth is to go is a matter of debate. The justice of the incidence of taxation is a matter of debate also. But that the only way in which the conscription of wealth can be carried out is by the taxing of production is not a matter of debate. Annual revenue must come out of annually produced wealth. The statistics of our revenue show that Canada is doing very fairly well in the line of wealth conscription, and the ease with which the taxation is being borne seems to show that its incidence is fairly just.

NOT FRENCH NOR ENGLISH.

Armand Lavergne has been interviewed as to recruiting in the province of Quebec. Asked if recruiting was dead in that province, he replied as follows:

"Yes, practically. It was never strong here. You see we are not French, we are not English, we are just Canadian. We do not feel any obligation to take part in foreign wars."

There it is. The concrete issue as it presents itself to those with whom Sir Wilfrid Laurier is allied. They are not French, they are not English, and they feel no "obligation" to take part in foreign wars.

The wars of the Empire are "foreign wars," according to the Lavergne-Laurier way of thinking. The battles in which Canadians by the thousands have fought and bled are of so little concern to the Laurierites of Quebec

that they feel they are not obliged to take part in them. Canada will shortly decide the issue at the polls. The issue perhaps could not be more plainly and concisely stated than Lavergne puts it. Are we to be an autocrat and barbarian rule this earth? Are we anxious lest instead of British rule there be substituted over us German rule? Do we value freedom in government or would we have our laws made by the absolutism of Berlin?

The plot whereby Mexico and Japan would make war against the United States was hatched by German Foreign Minister Zimmerman and, as it was exposed, it is not surprising that Germany is now disavowing him or attempting to do so. But Zimmerman is not solely responsible for that blunder. Back of him stood the whole German government and if the plot had been successful the credit for it all would have gone to one much closer to, if not actually on, the Kaiser's throne.

A Winnipeg man has composed the following "March to Victory" and dedicated it to those Western Liberals who endorsed Laurier and his anti-conscription platform: "Hooray, Hooray for Laurier and also for Quebec. Now we are in the fight to win, or break a leg, by Heck. What's that you say about this fray? The war? Say, get us right. The fight we're in and want to win is the election fight. Who will say there is not more truth than poetry in that summing up of western Laurierites?"

Premier Norris of Manitoba advised the Liberals at the Winnipeg convention to "eliminate sectionalism," and Liberal newspapers made much of his statement as representing the Liberal sentiment. Yet that convention voted confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the champion of sectionalism, and Norris did not oppose the motion. The way to eliminate sectionalism is to eliminate Laurier.

An exchange contains the information that America's overseas forces now number 809,000 men under arms, some of whom are in France. More men are about to be called. When Uncle Sam gets fairly underway with his war preparations he will prove an ally of such power that his operations may be expected to materially shorten the period of the war.

FORMER CZAR NICHOLAS AND FAMILY MOVED.

For Political and Military Reasons It Was Decided to Transfer Them—Destination to Be Announced Later.

Petrograd, Aug. 15.—Former Emperor Nicholas and his family are being transferred to another point. They were removed in an ordinary train instead of in the gorgeous imperial train on which Nicholas was brought to the palace. The former emperor appeared to be very much depressed. The former Empress seemed to be pleased at the prospect of a change.



FORMER EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

The provisional government today formally refused to reveal the destination of the former imperial family. N. V. Nekrasov, vice-premier, said that the removal of Nicholas was decided on after a series of secret sessions of the council of ministers late last month. The motives of the ministers, he said, are political and military. It was decided to get Nicholas out of the way before circumstances arose making it difficult. When the former emperor reaches his destination the facts will be announced.

WILL GERMAN FLEET ATTACK UNITED STATES?

Washington, Aug. 14.—Reports have reached naval circles here that the German high seas fleet has formed a plan whereby it may seek to elude the British cordon and strike with its maximum power in American waters. Admiral Sims, commanding the American naval forces in European waters, has heard of it and Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe, first sea lord and chief of the British naval staff, has issued what some naval authorities here regard as a warning to the United States to be on its guard from now on against this contingency.

Desperate Move.

Admiral Jellicoe says the Germans calculate on springing their naval offensive at a time when the British grand fleet, they believe, may be off its guard or when, "at a moment owing to the absence of ships undergoing repairs or repairs, the odds were little if any against them."

Little Benny's Note Book.

The Park Ave. News. Weather. Fat ladies setting on their front steps fanning themselves. Sports. Ed Werrick offers to drink 13 glasses of soda water at Whites drug store, providing enough money can be collected to buy the soda water, which maybe Mr. White will sell it hothead. Sixties Notes. A enjoyable entertainment took place in Mr. Sam Crosses parlor last Friday evening. Mr. Crosses big sister playing the piano and her boy playing the violin. Among those standing on top of the seller windows looking in until Mr. Crosses sister pulled down the shades was Mr. Benny Potts, Mr. Charles (Puds) Simkins, Mr. Leroy Shooter and Mr. Lew Davis. Do you know you are libel to die any minute? Why not get your life insured for 4 cents a week? We guarantee to run for the doctor any time you get sick and call us up on the telephone, no matter how late. The Ed Werrick and Lew Davis Life Insurance Co. Advertisement. Intriguing Facts About Intriguing People. Skinny Martin can hold his breath a minute and a half under water. He sees he may decide to be a pearl diver we he grows up. Baseball empires wanted. No one afraid of being insulted need apply. See Sid Hunt, manager of the invisibles baseball team.

4800 from his wife, Mrs. Kathlyne Cullen. He claims he is sick, unable to work, so expects his wife to support him. HON. DANA MALONE KILLED. Boston, Aug. 14.—Hon. Dana Malone of Greenfield, former attorney general of Massachusetts and one of the best known Republican leaders in the state, is dead of a fractured skull. Hon. Mr. Malone was thrown from his horse a few days ago near his summer home and never regained consciousness. He was born in Arcade, N. Y., in 1857.

London, Aug. 14.—China is the 17th nation to array itself with the Entente countries against the Central Powers. The decision of the Chinese cabinet to declare war on Germany and Austria-Hungary was reached on Aug. 2 and the action of the members of the ministry was approved by Feng Kwo Chang, the acting president of the republic. Quebec, Aug. 14.—The seldom recorded fact of a man claiming alimony from his wife was seen today in the superior court here when John O'Flaherty, a former newspaper reporter, filed a claim for an annual pension of

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ANOTHER PLEA TO CANADIAN WOMEN A prominent writer who is in London sends, through newspaper correspondence, the following message to Canadian women:—"Huts for girl soldiers are one of the great needs of the hour. What the Y. M. C. A. has done—and no words can express adequately what it has done—for the soldiers, so must the Y. M. C. A. do for the girls. Thousands have gone to France to replace men at such work as they are able to perform. They have been drilled and taught, and then marched off in their uniforms as soldiers of the King, serving under the war office, and embarked for France. Out there they want the pleasant huts, the well."

Go to Pain

Strawberries. Preserved. It is tre these th They releas their cl their cl words can public h these th Blue on adian b have de reading from P through This we hit of the well."