

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 32 Prince William Street,
St. John, N. B., Canada.

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Semi-Weekly to United States...200 mittings.

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. WATERS.

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

It is also alleged that the Standard is attempting to muzzle free speech and introduce Russian methods in Canada. 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. Waters 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. Waters or any other man who attempts to create strife and to lessen Canada's war effort. To say that the disapproval with which Mr. Waters' expressions were greeted in Sydney was the result of prearrangement is hardly fair to the soldiers who voiced 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. Waters comes to St. John and gives cause for the returned soldiers to 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-Berber 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 take 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 Stock's amendment and on the second reading of the compulsory military service bill in the Senate, the Acadien, the French Liberal organ, in its edition of the 7th inst., has the following comment:

"The three Acadien Senators voted against the amendment (Senator Stock'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 Acadien people who are energetically opposing this arbitrary law sees 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."

Acadians is the organ of Mr. P. J. Antic, 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 canvases among the Acadien 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 Acadien 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 canvases to gain influence 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 \$153,000,000. 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 by \$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 err here. 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 thousand 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 concerned outside of Canada? Do we care if 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 sidetracking him or attempting to do so. But Zimmerman is not solely responsible for this 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 provisional government today formally refused to reveal the destination of the former imperial family. N. Y. Nekrasoff, 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.

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Desperate Move. Admiral Jellicoe says the Germans calculate to spring 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."

The Germans must not, Admiral Jellicoe warns, be allowed to emulate the example of Villeneuve, when he eluded Nelson off Toulon and cruised to the West Indies and then got back to port again, having suffered little injury as a result of Calder's action. No, we must not contemplate such a breakout on the part of Germany, particularly now that the American people in the war require peace and security in order to mobilize their enormous fighting power.

Admiral Sims regards the possibility of Germany's attempting to send her high seas fleet out as by no means remote, especially now that the German boasts of her submarine campaign are not being fulfilled. As a last desperate resort the sortie of the German fleet is looked upon as almost a certainty.

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 \$480 from his wife, Mrs. Kathlyne Cullen. He claims he is sick, unable to work, so expects his wife to support him.

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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.

Great circuit racing at Mooseport. Come one, come all. Friday and Saturday afternoons.

Little Benny's Note Book.

The Park Ave. News.

Weather. Fat ladies setting on their front steps fanning themselves.

Sports. Ed Weirick offers to drink 12 glasses of soda water at White drug store, providing enough money can be collected to buy the soda water. If maybe Mr. White will sell it wholesale.

Society Notes. A enjoyable entertainment took place in Mr. Sam Crosses parlor last Friday evening. Mr. Crosses big sister playing the piano and her brother 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 Shooster and Mr. Lew Davis.

Do you know you are liable 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 Weirick 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 when he grows up. Baseball empires wanted. No one afraid of being insulted need apply. See Sid Hunt, manager of the Invisibles baseball team.

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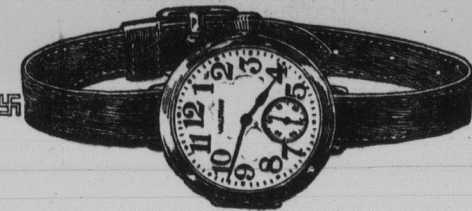
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