

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1919.

TO OUR MEN.

To the men of the 4th and 5th Siege Batteries, and to those other heroic New Brunswick soldiers who are today returning to their homes from overseas, our people extend their warmest greetings. We were proud of you when you enlisted, prouder still when you sailed away for France, but our feelings on those never-to-be-forgotten occasions were as nothing to the pride which we have in you today returning from service and duty well and nobly performed. To those who come to St. John city our people will have opportunity of expressing their sentiments, while those others of different parts of the province will no doubt find in their own home districts receptions equally warm, though perhaps not so lavish in their display. But whether your home-coming is marked by flags and bands and cheering crowds, or whether it is merely a quiet greeting by your own family and familiar friends, the sentiment is in every case the same. You have done well—we know you have done well—it even better than you do yourselves, and for this reason as well as because of the fact that you are ours, we greet you as men worthy of the highest praise and honor your country bestow.

PEACE TERMS.

The terms of the preliminary peace treaty do not indicate any weakening of the part of the Allied powers in their attitude respecting Germany's responsibility for the war and liability for damage resulting therefrom. Nor does this treaty contain anything which can be interpreted as evidence of any differences of opinion existing among the allied powers regarding the principal subject under consideration. In following the proceedings of the conference so much attention has been devoted to Germany at the other enemy nations have been to some extent overlooked. Yet Austria-Hungary remains to be dealt with and Turkey will be called to account. It is true that little remains of the old dual empire, but what does remain will be compelled to bear its share of the punishment imposed by the Allies, while the new states which have arisen through the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary, and which in reality enemy states, will be expected to contribute that proportion of the indemnity represented by their territory and wealth, as well as to limit to such other restrictive conditions as the Allies see fit to impose. Newly formed states cannot expect to be exempted from the process of reparation, to avoid the liability imposed upon them through their former existence as a part of the defeated empire. Little has as yet been said with reference to Turkey, for the Allied powers have been devoting their attention almost exclusively to the element of their principal enemy. Indeed there is little left of Turkey or of the empire which she and the Turk shall be driven out of Europe or not is now of trifling importance in view of the fact that the Turkish Empire already has been, or soon will be, stripped of all power and left in the unenviable position of a disgraced state, depending for its continued existence on maintaining the good will of its neighbors. The indemnity demanded from Turkey is smaller than the total assessed by claims for damages, it is felt that the amount so required that Germany can reasonably be expected to pay within the time fixed, while the balance will be paid from Austria and Turkey as well as from Bulgaria. If that happens to have anything worth doing as security. And it may well be believed that the conditions imposed upon Germany apart from this indemnity, are practically the terms as must be accepted by the allies, with this difference that any, the principal offender and readiest power, should be liable for severe punishment than are the others. Many objects to the terms laid down by Germany of course would object to any terms. That is the German position which has been pursued in preparation of the peace treaty. At the policy outlined by states of these powers while the nations at war. There has been no relaxing, no slushy sentimentality, no relaxation of demands on a defeated and dishonorable foe. Nor is it probable that any arguments Germany may put forward will in even slightest variation from the conditions now laid down. Indeed the attitude of the German delegates, which may be taken as representing the sentiments entertained by people of that nation, is such as to preclude all possibility of any change in the terms of the treaty. Demands are insistent and uncompromising still rules in Germany despite the professed adoption

of a new form of government, and that the military caste has lost none of its determination to maintain its own influence is made apparent by the spirit of defiance which characterizes the conduct of the German delegates to the representatives of the Associated Powers. Germany has been brought low, but was must fall still lower, for those who brought her to destruction must be made to realize the helplessness of their own position. When that time comes, if it ever does come, there will be a real revolution in Germany and perhaps a reorganization of her whole social and economic system, but in the meantime, under the terms of the peace treaty Germany's military power is broken. She must pay not only for her willful destruction of civilian property but for the crimes which her war-crazed leaders have committed.

B. P.

Important as has been the work of Sir Robert Baden-Powell during the past dozen years it should not be for a moment imagined that his entire time and attention has been devoted to the organization and upbuilding of the Boy Scouts. It is inconceivable that so capable a soldier as he has shown himself to be, successful in all work of a military nature entrusted to him, would be permitted by the British War Office to retire when still a comparatively young man and devote himself to peaceful pursuits, especially at a time when the British military organization was in need of such help as he could give. Hence it may be regarded as true, that Baden-Powell since the conclusion of the South African war, or very shortly thereafter, has found time to devote to other matters of national importance, and it may be taken for granted that to the ability and energy which he displayed in the performance of those duties has been in a very large measure the successful operation of the department to which he has contributed his services of late years. The Boy Scout movement, a development of great value in every country in which it has been introduced, has in reality been a side line, for which it has demanded time and attention, and while the time and attention so devoted has produced results, yet it has not deprived the Empire of the military service of one who was recognized as a genius along certain lines. And bearing in mind the importance of that other work which he has been called upon to perform, it is all the more creditable to his ability as an organizer and to his personal magnetism as a leader, that Baden-Powell has made the institution of Boy Scouts what it is today. It is by the example of men such as this that any movement prospers, and the one weakness of the Boy Scouts of the Maritime Provinces today is the scarcity of capable leaders. It is difficult at all times for the different corps to secure the class of men they want, and without leadership boys of the scout age very quickly lose interest. At that period of their lives they are inclined to model their conduct after the pattern of someone to whom they render respect, and because of this it is most desirable in the interests of the work that the scout masters appointed shall be men who understand the boy nature and whose disposition and manners are such as may be copied by the boys with advantage to themselves. Such men are always scarce. It is not that they are few in numbers but that those best qualified are not always prepared to devote themselves to work of this nature. The visit of Sir Robert Baden-Powell may create a deeper interest in the scout movement and, it is hoped, may lead to more active participation in that work than has been apparent of late among those who should be available as leaders.

ANOTHER APPOINTMENT.

In anticipation of the rapid development of the cadet movement in Canada the Department of Militia some time ago appointed acting inspectors of cadet corps in the various military districts. This development was interfered with to a marked extent by the war, but realizing the more favorable conditions now existing, the department has determined upon the appointment of permanent inspectors. In New Brunswick for instance, the acting inspector has been a returned officer with the rank of major, who found the cadet organization in this province in a very poor shape, and who has succeeded in bringing about a marked improvement, although hampered by war conditions. That officer is a native of St. John with a good overseas record and he is in a position to continue in his present work indefinitely. A few days ago another officer of higher rank was ordered by Ottawa to proceed to St. John and relieve the acting officer of his duties, evidently a preliminary step to the permanent appointment of that outside officer to this district. The present inspector in St. John is Major George Keefe, who returned wounded from service overseas. His place is evidently to be taken in this district by Lieut.-Colonel Snow, formerly of the 4th Canadian Division, who is desirous of securing an appointment in

Nova Scotia. Lieut.-Col. Snow is also a returned man, but the Nova Scotia Inspector is Major Willis, who has never been overseas. The Standard understands that according to present indications and despite the recommendation of local headquarters, Major Keefe is likely to be relieved, Lieut.-Col. Snow appointed to this district, and Major Willis to remain at Halifax, an arrangement which is not only against the interests of the cadet movement in this province, but unfair to those directly concerned. It is entirely contrary to the policy so frequently laid down by the present Minister of Militia and so heartily approved by our federal representatives, of appointing returned men to such positions whenever possible, and of giving the preference to local men in every case where this can be done. The responsible officer in Ottawa who views the situation down here through the wrong end of his telescope should look more carefully into the matter before he makes the change now contemplated.

WHAT THEY SAY

A Patriotic Duty.

London Free Press: It is a patriotic duty to prevent fires. It is part of our right of citizenship to see to it that those in whose homes, barns, factories or other places of business fires originate should be held responsible to the extent of proving that such fires are neither the result of gross carelessness, culpable neglect or mischievous intent. Fewer fires will make the fire tax lighter and Canada richer to the extent of hundreds of lives and millions of dollars.

Human Nature.

Ottawa Journal: Strange human nature! The more we get the more we want. Before the war, the Italians would have gone into hysterics of joy to get half the distance to Rome, and the Jews to the Holy Land, and the Negroes to the promised land. But now they are ready to fight each other for it and upset the peace of the whole world.

Foot-Killer Due.

Philadelphia Record: The foot-killer might with propriety get busy occasionally among the scientists. Word comes from London that the plans are under way for another expedition to the Antarctic; that an airplane will be taken along and a "light to the South Pole" is contemplated. That imaginary pole was discovered some time ago, and the search for it cost the life of Captain Scott. No good came to humanity by its discovery, and a mighty little may be expected from this new plan to determine whether it is still there. The money might be better spent in reconstructing the five poles in Mr. Paderewski's domain, or in helping other disheveled sections of the habitable globe.

Choosing a Leader.

London Advertiser: Not since Mr. Rowell was chosen leader has the provincial party held a convention, and it may be expected that the demand will be for a democratic method of electing the man. He should be chosen by the party as a whole, rather than by a few members or committees, from the floor of the House, rather than by cut-and-dried nomination. A delegate should be permitted to nominate any candidate for the honor and the vote of the assembly should decide the leader. This will be in keeping with liberal principles.

Get the Good Roads.

Ottawa Journal: A general system of improved roads in this country would go far towards solving the problem in almost every home today of ways and means. Obviously, the establishment of rural motor express lines awaits the building of satisfactory roads. "First things first" in the Federal Government's reconstruction policy would brook no delay in making a start.



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Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Scene. Europe. American soldier chasing a German soldier. German soldier. Hey, didn't you see by that newspaper we just ran past that the war is over? Wait the use wasting time chasing me when the war is all over? American soldier. You can't believe everything you see in the paper. How do I know it wasn't a German propaganda paper? German soldier. Hey, I'm getting out of breath I wouldn't mind if the war was still going on, but nobody wants to get out of breath for nothing. American soldier. If you're getting out of it you better quit wasting so much of it by sacking with K. First Swiss neutral soldier. Hey, the war's over. German soldier. That's what I told him, but he keeps on chasing me anyhow again. 2nd Swiss neutral soldier. Hey don't you know the war's over? American soldier. Maybe it is and maybe it isn't. German soldier. Holy smoke, are the other Americans as stubborn as you? American soldier. Stubborn. German soldier. Then I'm glad they're not all chasing me. American soldier. Ah ha, I've cowed you at last. You're my prisoner. German soldier. Wait a second. Act 2. Scene. Inside the American lines. General. It's too late for prisoners now, thank you, jest the same. The war's over. German soldier. What did I tell you, you big stiff? American soldier. Jest for that fresh remark I'll chase you all the way back again. (Which he does.) The End.

A BIT OF VERSE

The Man and The Mascot. You talk about the heroes that have showed up in this war. About the V. C. men that won their medals and their glory. And strewin' bones that once were men upon the Flanders Fields; But what I take my hat off to was done by Ole Ben Shields.

Now, Ben ain't got no V. C. tacked behind that name of his. Or nothin' else to tell the world the kind of man he is. I've seen all kinds of heroes, but right now I want to say, My nat is off to what that guy, Ben Shields, did yesterday.

The shells was poppin' round our ears as thick as grains of sand; We was clean dry of 'ammunition' an' makin' our last stand. The tritizes, they was busy pumpin' us all full of lead, An' half of us was wounded and the other half was dead.

We sees a dog a movin' 'bout half way 'cross No Man's Land. He was most shot to pieces, but he had all kinds of sand. Had a Tommy by the collar an' was goin' best he could. To drag him back to shelter, but it didn't do no good.

The dog, he was our mascot an' we'd come from London that plane was under way for another expedition to the Antarctic; that an airplane will be taken along and a "light to the South Pole" is contemplated. That imaginary pole was discovered some time ago, and the search for it cost the life of Captain Scott. No good came to humanity by its discovery, and a mighty little may be expected from this new plan to determine whether it is still there. The money might be better spent in reconstructing the five poles in Mr. Paderewski's domain, or in helping other disheveled sections of the habitable globe.

Then, fore we know what happened, Ben goes crawlin' over top. An' out into that death-trap, where a thousand shells'd drop. 'Fore he could get out there an' bring that wounded man back in. He done it an' he came back in the trench and tried to grin. He had a hole in his side, arm an' two holes in his side; His nomely face was twitched with pain he tried his best to hide; Then he done what you won't find in no heroes' catalogue. Ole Ben, all in an' wounded, went back an' got that dog.

You may talk about the heroes that have showed up in this war. About the V. C. men that won their medals and their glory. And strewin' bones that once were men, upon the Flanders Fields; But what I take my hat off to was done by Ole Ben Shields. (Which he does.) The End.

A BIT OF FUN

In Line. "What we need is better roads." "When did you get a car?" —Louisville Courier-Journal. A Gory Order. A young woman who was not familiar with the language of railroad men, happened to be walking near a depot

where a freight train was being made up. As the train was being backed up, one of the brakemen shouted: "Jump on her when she comes by, run her down beyond the elevator and cut her in two and bring the head end up to the depot."

Just a Tiff. "What is your wife's given name?" "I've always called her Pettie," answered the young man with a gulp. "G'wan," said the lawyer, "you don't want a divorce." —Louisville Courier-Journal.

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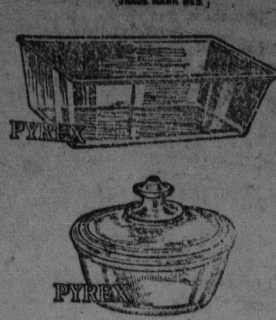
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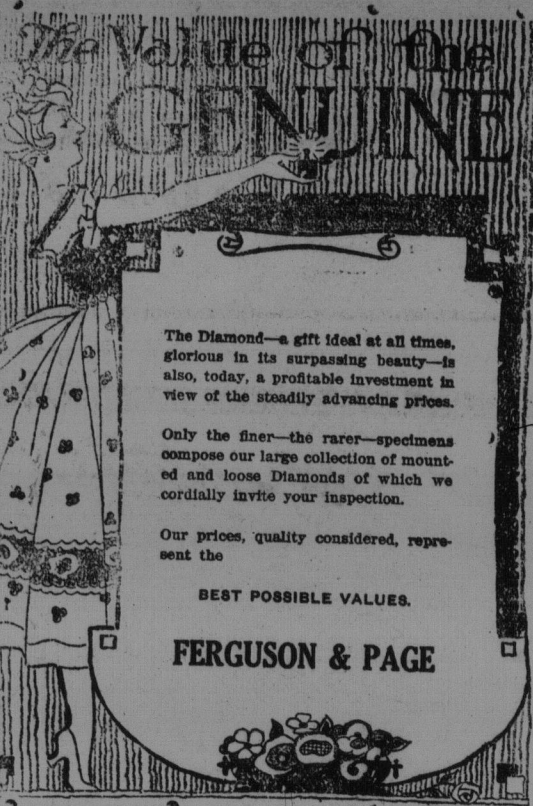
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