

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1918

The Evening Times and Star

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THE SITUATION REVIEWED

The last week has been a bad one for the Central Powers. The costly failure of the German attack at Rheims, and the inability of the Austrians to break down the Italian defences, while at the same time they suffered severe losses, were not the only unfavorable developments. The disturbances in Austrian and German cities and the growing discontent of the people must have been a cause of grave apprehension to the governments of both countries. They have also to contemplate the declining power of the submarine and the growing power of the American army in France. The developments of the week in Siberia must also be regarded with grave concern in Berlin, for if food supplies are cut off in that quarter it will make the Russian situation more difficult to control. If we may trust the cables there is also a growing friction between Germany and Austria. The Austrian people lay the blame for their unhappy position upon the German government, and the latter apparently does not repose unbounded faith in it.

The Entente Allies, on the other hand, are in perfect unity, and every attempt of Germany to arouse prejudice or cause friction falls utterly. As time passes the advantage of a unified command is more clearly seen, and the spirit of confidence grows. It is three months since the great German drive on the western front began, and the Allied lines are unbroken. During those months the United States has poured men and supplies into France, and continues to do so at the increasing rate made possible by improved transportation conditions. We are by no means out of the woods, but the situation has changed greatly for the better since the 21st of March. If the western and Italian fronts can be held a few weeks longer, the Allies should be able to see their way to complete victory next year, if internal troubles in Germany and Austria do not hasten the end. It is always necessary, however, to remember the many unpleasant surprises we have had in the last four years, and to devote every energy to war work as if we expected the struggle to be prolonged. So far as the German high command is concerned, it will fight to the last ditch, if the people can be persuaded to do so; for it knows that failure means the collapse of the whole German system of military autocracy.

AWAY WITH PATRONAGE

The Ottawa Journal-Press sees in a recent news item the promise of better things for Canada, in relation to appointments to the public service. It says:—

"The announcement that the postmaster-general of Toronto has been filled by promotion to the position of the assistant postmaster, marks a signal departure from the old beaten trail of petty patronage followed so faithfully under the party system. A few years ago the postmaster-general of Toronto would have been regarded as a juicy political plum, and government selection or other than the choice of party 'bosses' would have challenged a small-sized political insurrection. Today, without consideration other than is always due to a wise selection, the government is enabled to fill this important appointment with a view only to efficiency and public service. It is a change that will give this country more economical, more efficient, and more honest service, and, greater even than these, it will purge Canadian politics of a deadly disease. And not alone in appointments to offices of emolument does this foremost regard for the public interest prevail; it is the controlling aim in practically every branch of federal administration. Today, no department of the government can purchase or contract for goods of any kind having a value in excess of \$5, without the matter being referred to the War Purchasing Commission. And all purchases by the War Purchasing Commission are made by public tender, in absolute disregard of party politics or party patronage. In a word, patronage, with all its pomp and works, is slain. Public, not party service is the foremost regard."

It required united government to break the shackles of partisanship in regard to matters of patronage, and the union government should see to it that the reform is so well embedded in the laws of the country that there can be no return to it in the years to come, whether there is a union or a party government in power. The country would be infinitely better off if all appointments went by merit and all contracts by tender, without regard to party. All that the great mass of the people need is the assurance that there is to be no division of the spoils by any party and they will hold up both hands in support of the policy. There is not enough graft to go around, even when grafting is at its worst. The few get it, and use the rest of the party to enable them to get it. Hence the average party man has really no financial object in helping to perpetuate the system. Moreover he knows that when perished in it will eventually wreck his party. Let us therefore have stringent laws regulating such matters.

and making it impossible for a self-seeking politician to hold out any inducements in the form of pledges to get offices or contracts or commissions for political supporters. It is the habit of some people to scoff at the mere suggestion of reform in this direction, and to assert that there will always be graft and grafters; but a people who could get rid of the liquor saloons can put the grafters to rest, and a nation that can rise to the height of whole-hearted sacrifice in a war for the salvation of democracy can make that democracy worth fighting for. All that is necessary is that the people change their mental attitude and cease to be tolerant of political corruption and blind partisanship. A period in which union government prevails, and when the public conscience is aroused against national wrong-doing is the very period in which the new order of things should take root and grow. It is safe to say that there is not a provincial government, Liberal or Conservative, in Canada today but would rejoice if it were not continually pressed to do for party considerations what it would not think of doing in the public interest. By all means, therefore, let the good work of appointment by merit and open competition for contracts go on in Canada.

The shadow of winter stays with us. Perhaps it is the shadow of next winter, but we remember the last one; and wherever people congregate the talk sooner or later comes around to the fuel question. The thing to do is to get a supply of fuel laid in.

A fall meet on the new athletic ground at Rockwood Park would be an assurance that the spirit of clean sport had not died but only remained dormant for a time in St. John. But let us first get the athletic ground. The plan has been prepared—now for its execution.

This is national registration day. Today Canada dedicates herself anew to the cause of democracy, and once more declares war on the Hun. It is the biggest get-together day in the history of the country.

Next week the commission to investigate the affairs of the New Brunswick Power Company will organize for business. The proceedings will be followed with intense interest by the citizens.

It is a long walk to the swimming scow at Indian town, and if one waits for the street cars one gets so "hot up" over it that there might be danger in a sudden plunge into cold water. Has this occurred to the civic authorities?

Mr. Jack Frost has been out to nights lately. He somehow seems to have got in ahead of the day of intercession.

RECENT WEDDINGS

Coughlan-Warren.
At the home of the bride, Blackville, Northumberland Co., on Wednesday, June 19th, Edna Warren, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Warren, was united in marriage to Thomas Coughlan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coughlan, Blackville.

Glass-King.
The marriage took place in St. Paul's Presbyterian church, Woodstock, on June 19th, of Miss Viola G. King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen King of Woodstock, and Archibald W. Glass of Hartland.

McCormack-Ryan.
In St. Mary's church, Newcastle, on Tuesday morning, Rev. Father Dixon united in marriage Miss Angela Catherine Ryan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Ryan of Newcastle, and Leo Benedict McCormack of the Canadian Engineers, St. John, Que., but formerly of Blackville, N. B.

Mullin-Crocker.
The marriage of Ernest A. Mullin, of Red Bank, and Miss Annie Crocker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Crocker, of Nelson, took place at the home of the bride's parents on June 19.

McLaughlin-McLaughlin.
Rev. George M. Young, pastor of the Fredericton Methodist church, on Wednesday night united in marriage Thomas Stanley McLaughlin of Blissett and Miss Mary E. McLaughlin of Kingsclear.

The Bilious Habit

Some people have bilious spells about every so often until they get to be a habit. The liver is at fault. Get the liver right by using Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and the bile will not collect in the blood until it poisons you. There is no one organ in the human body which has so great a control of health as the liver. Hence the far-reaching effect of this treatment.

FOR OUR DEAD.

For you, our dead, beyond the sea, Who gave your lives to hold us free, By us, who keep your memory, What can be said?

We can not sing your praises right, Oest heroes of the endless fight; Whose souls into the lonely night, Too soon have fled.

We can but honor, cherish, bless, Your sacred names; no words express The measure of our thankfulness, To you, our dead.

—Sir Sidney Low, in London Chronicle

LIGHTER VEIN

Gardening Courtesies.
One morning Jenkins looked over his fence and said to his neighbor, Markins: "What are you buying in that hole?" "Just replanting some of my seeds, that's all," was the answer. "Seeds?" exclaimed Jenkins, angrily. "It looks more like one of my hens!" "That's all right," said the other. "The seeds are inside."

Must Follow Directions.

"Are you of the opinion, James," asked a slim-looking young man of his companion, "that Dr. Smith's medicine does any good?" "Not unless you follow the directions," "What are the directions?" "Keep the bottle tightly corked."

Over and Above.

"Mamma," said Bessie, "does Dr. Jones wear his everyday clothes under that long white gown when he preaches?" "Yes, dear."

"Well," said the child, "now I know why it's called a surplus."

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Children's Trimmed Straw Hats, 95c, \$1.25
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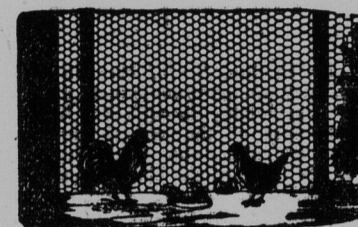
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nip seed, asking if they could be guaranteed. "Yes," said the merchant, "I'll warrant them 98 per cent germination." "Then," said the patriot, "I'll not buy them; if there was 1 per cent of the



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