

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY OCTOBER 9, 1917

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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. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in advance. The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association Bldg. British and European—Frederick A. Smith, 29 Lodge Hill, LONDON, E. C., England. The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

CANADA'S REAL NEED

There are more ways of abandoning the boys in the trenches than the failure to send them reinforcements. Everybody in Canada, with the exception of a few former allies of the Borden government in Quebec province, agrees that we must send the reinforcements. But that is not all. We have the highest British authority for the assertion that ships and food are now more urgently needed than men, for without food the men cannot fight and without ships the food cannot be transported.

The Borden government and its supporters, for election purposes, are laying all the emphasis upon the need for men. The reason is obvious. Nobody would like to be charged with abandoning the boys in the trenches. If the people could be persuaded that nothing but the return of the Borden government to power would save Canada from abandoning the boys in the trenches, then the people would vote for the Borden candidates. Hence the effort to create the impression that the Liberal party is opposed to sending any more men to the front, and hence also the urgent need for more ships and a greater national campaign for real food-control and food-production.

Let us be perfectly clear on this point. If we fail to build more ships we are abandoning the boys in the trenches. If we fail to conserve food to the utmost, and fail to stimulate production, we are abandoning the boys in the trenches.

They are fighting against men, and we at home must fight against conditions which would make their sacrifice of no avail. We must provide more ships and more food as well as more men, and we are told on authority that the supreme need today is for ships and food. Apply this test to the Borden government. What has it done to encourage and aid shipbuilding? What did it do this year to ensure a greater production of food? What has it done to ensure the utmost possible conservation of food? What has it done to relieve the people from burdens, to save them from being exploited by the profiteers, and to prevent the transfer to private pockets of millions upon millions which should have gone into ships and food to aid in winning the war?

There is a great deal of light and foolish talk about this being no time for partisanship, and it is especially directed toward the Liberal party; but the partisanship which demands the removal of an incompetent government and the adoption of a real win-the-war policy is nothing less than patriotism.

Canada needs in this hour much more than a few cabinet changes at Ottawa and the appointment of a large number of Tories to fat offices. If the people are to be called on to make great sacrifices they should be relieved of unnecessary fiscal burdens, and should be able to feel that the government which calls upon them to make these sacrifices is not in alliance with the Big Interests which plunder them. They ought also to be able to feel that they are in no danger of being made the mere tools of an autocracy which would stop at nothing to keep itself entrenched in power. A change of government, not merely a few cabinet changes, is needed in Canada today. It would not take Canada out of the war, but it would stimulate and strengthen her war effort. Those who hold and assert this view are not partisans in the ordinary political sense. They represent the principles and the policy which would give the most effective aid to the men in the trenches, and to the Empire in its time of greatest need. Canada ought to have a national government along with a house of commons fresh from the people.

THE WAR SITUATION

The good news comes today that the British have again attacked on a wide front. The announcement proves that Sir Douglas Haig has plenty of guns, munitions and men to keep the enemy constantly engaged. No sooner has one objective been gained and the position consolidated than a new drive is made, and the enemy gets no rest. The operations of the last two weeks have been very successful, and the German losses have been heavy; while the growing consciousness that they are fighting a losing battle must have a serious effect upon the morale of the German troops. It is extremely fortunate that the British commander is thus able to concentrate attention upon his movements, for the French lines must be growing thin, and the Americans are not yet ready to take the field. We are approaching the season when the weather conditions will interfere greatly with field operations, and every foot gained by the British will count in the campaign of next year. It is announced that Greece is nearly ready to put a large and effective army in the field, and that there is now no pro-German party in Greece. This should prove of the greatest value to the Allies in the region of Saloniki. In Russia the conditions appear to be slowly improving. Lord Northcliffe's appeal to Canada points the way to better war service on

the part of the Canadian people. He says:

"If the Canadian and English soldiers are to get their full rations, two things are essential, a greatly increased effort on the part of your farmers to produce more hogs, beef, cheese, and butter and an intensified effort on the part of the Canadian people to reduce their personal consumption of food."

THE BRITISH RED CROSS

The statement that unless Canada responds generously to the call of the British Red Cross it will be compelled to curtail its work for the sick, wounded and imprisoned soldiers and sailors of the Imperial forces should arouse our people to a special effort. In addition to all that is being done for the Canadian Red Cross, the British organization can be given substantial aid by this country. His excellency the governor-general has issued an urgent appeal, which is endorsed by the lieutenant-governor, and has been taken up by Mayor Hayes. A meeting is to be held to discuss ways and means, and the city and province-wide campaign should produce better results than those of last year, when the contribution was comparatively small. There is no question as to the need, and the response will be the proof of our desire to stand by the fighting men when they are ill and suffering as a result of their sacrifice in our behalf.

Mr. William Murdoch has been for so many years a prominent civic official that the news of his sudden death yesterday came as a shock to all the citizens. He has passed swiftly from a life of activity, and the loss will be keenly felt by his associates in civic life, as well as by his friends throughout the city. Under the old city council system Mr. Murdoch was much more in the public eye than since the commission plan of government was adopted. His department then was very often under fire because the question of the extension and improvement of the waterworks system was always before him. He was a hard-working official and gave the city the best that was in him. His duties had been less arduous in recent years, but his knowledge and experience made his counsel valuable to the civic departments, and he had very important duties in connection with that of harbors and ferries. The regret at his death which is expressed by the mayor and civic officials is shared by the citizens at large.

Dr. Hetherington points out that some of the road trucks bought by Hon. B. Frank Smith were so heavy they could not be taken across the cheap and broken down bridges of the old regime. This is a fact, well known to all who have seen them. Some other trucks were too light for the most economical work. As a road-building genius the late minister is in a class by himself. In spite of everything, however, Hon. Mr. Veniot has done a great deal of valuable work on the roads this year. He will do a great deal more next year, as he will have plans ready for an early start.

When Sir Robert Borden and his friends discovered that the western Liberals wanted a real share in the government of the country, and might even want to go after the profits, their tune changed. What the Tories want is a union government with a Tory policy, and all the places and all the patronage for themselves. Not to be willing to concede this is of course proof of disloyalty and a desire to "abandon the boys in the trenches."

A German order urges commanders of units, companies and attacking sections to wear the Red Cross uniform, because it is respected by the British. This is a literal example of the wolf putting on sheep's clothing, and the order reveals the utter disregard of the Germans for the principles of honorable warfare.

The Standard frequently asks who the Kaiser would vote for if he had a vote in Canada. Beyond a doubt he would vote for the government that supplied the Canadian soldiers with the Ross rifle and painted horses, and took to its bosom the man who boasted about holes having been shot in the British flag.

The effort to increase wheat production in this province next year should be heartily supported. There will be greater need of wheat a year hence than there is today.

No Firebug

Father—I guess that young man of yours is all right, daughter; but he'll never set the world on fire. Daughter—I should say not; he's in the insurance business.

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LIGHTER VEIN.

Disgusted Fisherman (employing his bait into the stream)—"Hanged if I'll wait on you any longer. Here, help yourselves."

Mother—"Where are those oranges that were on the table?" Tommy—"With the tarts that were in the cupboard, I suppose."

Knew What a Sapling Was An American ambulance driver lately returned from the French front tells of visiting an instruction camp in England before sailing for the United States. A gunner, he said, was learning to shoot at targets, and the officer in charge asked the novice. "You see that sapling on the hillside?" "No, sir," replied the gunner after a careful look. "I don't see no sapling." "What?" yelled the officer, "you see no sapling? Why, there's one right in front of you!" After another squint the soldier reported as before. "Look here," said the officer, "do you know what a sapling is?" "Oh, yes, sir," answered the gunner, "a young pig."—New York Sun.

The Lucky Comest John Philip Sousa, who is organizing military bands for the army, was talking to a correspondent about the submarine danger. "A friend of mine, a cornet virtuoso," he said, "was submerged in the Mediterranean. The English paper that reported the affair worded it thus: 'The famous cornetist, Mr. Hornblower, though submerged by the Germans in the Mediterranean, was able to appear at Marseilles the following evening in four pieces.'—Washington Star.

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Welfare Work Among Soldiers

In all the large communities nearest to the training community organizers whose duty it will be to co-ordinate the various agencies which are seeking opportunities for service among the soldiers; it being the hope that each of these organizations will serve as a sort of clearing house for welfare work of various kinds so that there shall be no overlapping of activities and consequent waste. An example of the methods of procedure of the government representatives is afforded by T. S. Settle, stationed at Atlanta, Ga., in the vicinity of Fort McPherson, of whom W. S. Gifford, director of the commission on training camp activities, says: "Mr. Settle has got the churches, the lodges, the local Red Cross, Salvation Army, Young Women's Christian Association, and various women's clubs and other organizations working together on a composite programme. A combination soldiers' club and canteen will be erected and maintained by the women of the town; adequate swimming facilities have been provided; bowling alleys and pool rooms especially for the soldiers have been opened; the character of moving picture films has been approved, and the whole community has banded together to provide for the soldiers on leave from camps a wholesome round of recreation and relaxation."

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SOME THINGS FOR HANNA AND OTHERS TO BEAR IN MIND

In Newcastle, N. B., last week, during a discussion on the government's failure to supplement conscription of men by an adequate conscription of wealth and resources, a resolution urging the government's further action was carried unanimously. The report of the proceedings shows that the speakers were most outspoken in their criticism, as follows: Rev. Dr. Squires said that not very much had been done re conscription of wealth, the using of national resources for the prosecution of the war. There was a food controller, so-called—Mr. Hanna—who was doing something, but not very much. He is asking housewives to make use of everything. This is all very good in its way, but something more radical is needed. Mr. Hanna evidently needs more power, should be more like Mr. Hoover of the U. S. A., or perhaps, Lord Rhonda, of Great Britain. Dr. Squires, continuing, said he was hardly in a position to exactly define what is meant by conscription of wealth. There is not much effort being made to bring it about. Somehow, the wealth of the country was not being used as it should. The big men should be willing, or should be compelled, to give up their wealth to win the war. The surplus profits should be taken. It was not of much use to ask people to

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save. Something more radical should be done. Father Dixon said that the food controller has done nothing but give good advice. Heads of families doubtless see the necessity of economy, but boards and strangers may not look at it in that way. It is very extraordinary, continued Father Dixon, that butter costs forty-five to fifty cents a pound at this time of year, and seems likely to rise to seventy cents. Cold storage companies have representatives around buying up produce in order to corner the market. Why is this allowed? Forty-five cents for butter is an outrage. Such prices are the result of the immoral and improper combinations to corner goods and raise prices. They can be proceeded against legally. Why are they not prosecuted as in England? Father Dixon said that it was not the farmers that were making money but the combines. Prices of all things should be lowered. The resolution was carried unanimously.

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