

## The St. John Standard

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H. V. MacKINNON, Managing Editor. ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1915.

"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 LIBERALS AND THE NAVY

The Telegraph still attempts to contend that if the Laurier policy had been adopted in Canada, the Canadian ships in the Empire's fighting lines would have been built in this country. As previously stated the contention is absolutely without foundation. Laurier's "navy" never got beyond the paper stage. He asked for tenders in February, 1911, for the construction of four cruisers and six destroyers. The tenders were opened in May of the same year and the contract was not awarded. It may fairly be asked why? Mr. Pugsley was Minister of Public Works at the time and if he ever intended to make good his promise that the yards in which the ships were to be constructed would be built in St. John his opportunity came between May and September. Why did he not act?

Possibly his own reason, as given in the House of Commons in 1913, may afford the Telegraph an opportunity to devote space to its futile attempt to absolve the Liberals from blame in this particular. Mr. Pugsley, on May 6th, 1913, when asked why the Cammell-Laird tender for the construction of shipsyard at St. John had not been accepted, said:

"The reason was that in the province of Quebec the question of a Canadian navy was being made an issue. In that province there were certain public men going from platform to platform seeking to create a prejudice against the government, seeking to make the people believe that in some way the creation of a Canadian navy would work disastrously to the people of Quebec, that it would mean conscription, and that it would mean that the young men of Quebec would be drawn off into foreign wars. The government thought that under the circumstances, as only a very short time had elapsed from the return of the then Prime Minister and the then Minister of Marine from England before the dissolution took place, that it would be proper to leave the awarding of contracts for the building of war vessels and to start upon the Canadian navy until after the elections took place." Hansard, 1912-13, page 9162.

The Telegraph has contended that Hon. Mr. Hazen did not award the contract for the yards at St. John because the Government feared the effect his action would have in Quebec. That is not in accordance with the facts and, as shown by the foregoing quotation from Hansard, Mr. Pugsley himself confessed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's administration deliberately delayed action because they desired to fight with Quebec at least until after the election took place.

Mr. Pugsley's remarks would seem to be a subject for explanation before the Telegraph again attempts to blame Mr. Hazen for returning the Cammell-Laird tender. There is also the interesting fact that Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised the people of Montreal that if naval yards were to be established in Canada Montreal would get them.

The whole policy of the Liberal party is at once made plain. It was nothing more than a vote catcher. The people of Montreal, anxious of course to see new industries come to that vast centre, were to be fooled with the promise of an immense yard for the construction of warships. St. John men, interested in the development of this port, were also misled by the statement that the yards were to come here, while, out of kindly consideration for certain Quebec constituencies where there was opposition to the idea of a navy at all, the government actually decided to do nothing.

How differently did Premier Borden grapple with the problem. He made good his promise to consult with the British Admiralty on the question, and while in England learned it was the earnest wish of the British government that Canada should not wait to build ships at home but should act at once and the lines on which that action would be most acceptable were plainly and definitely specified in the Churchill memorandum.

The contents of the memorandum were submitted to the Canadian Parliament openly and above board. There was no hole and corner work, no promise of a ship yard to this port

and that port in order to influence sentiment or curry favor. The ships were not to be built in Canada but in British yards where they could be obtained more quickly. The whole Borden emergency policy was a gift to Britain and nothing more. It was never intended that it should be taken as the final word on the question of naval defence, and the Liberals themselves did not understand it as such.

Yet, enraged by their defeat at the polls the Liberals fought it tooth and nail. They laughed at the advice of the Admiralty; they scoffed at the thought of emergency and, finally, when the Government majority in the House of Commons passed the measure they brought such influence to bear on the Liberal majority in the Senate that the bill was killed and Canada remained unrepresented in the Empire's fighting line.

Full well the Liberals know the burden of responsibility resting upon their shoulders for this disloyal and unwise action. Full well the Telegraph knows that to scoff at the emergency today would be to bring about its ears a storm like unto that which burst around it on one occasion in a former war. Faced with the plain facts of the Laurier fiasco the Liberals attempt to conceal the paucity of their arguments under the cloak of generalities. The game will not work. Laurier and his colleagues are solely to blame for the fact that today Canada is not represented in the North Sea by three of the finest fighting machines in the British navy.

### BULGARIA'S MISTAKE.

The Bulgarian Government, in a statement to the Associated Press, explains its action in siding with the Central Powers by expressing the belief that Germany will win this war, and that it would have been suicidal for Bulgaria to have allied herself with the losing side.

If the statements represent the result of observation and investigation made in the interests of Bulgaria, it would appear that her statesmen have used their faculties to very little effect, for there is nothing in the situation to indicate the slightest possibility that the Quadruple Entente will be defeated, or that there will be any other end to this war except the complete downfall of Prussianism.

One year ago the German armies were overrunning France and rapidly advancing on Paris. They had practically all their forces in arms and the situation favored them. As time progressed their chances of victory diminished until now the Teuton hosts are not as far advanced as they were one year ago and on practically every front, with the exception of a section in Russia and the latest invasion of Serbia, they are on the defensive.

During the year the Teutonic powers have added Turkey and Bulgaria to their side, but this has been more than offset by the entry of Italy on the side of the Allies. One year ago the total strength of the British army under arms was not much in excess of half a million men. While the British losses have been heavy the response to the appeal for soldiers has sufficed to make up for the losses and to increase the size of the army, until today it numbers at least four million men. And it is growing all the time.

On sea the triumph of Britain is already complete. Germany is isolated and shut off from the receipt of supplies by sea. Her commercial and industrial life strangled, she has commenced to feel the hardship of the situation. How is it with Britain?

The navy rules the sea as completely as on any previous occasion. The trade of the British Empire still flows uninterrupted in the lanes of the sea and there is no indication that this condition will change.

Triumphant on sea, continually improving her position on land, with a growing army and a determination that will not be denied in its quest for victory, Britain is sure to win. Bulgaria, in her effort to "play the winner," made a fatal error, and one she will probably have abundant cause to regret.

## SIX RECRUITS SECURED HERE YESTERDAY

Fine Patriotic Smoker last evening, drew good crowd—A strong plea for men.

### YESTERDAY'S HONOR ROLL

John Little, St. George.  
Thomas Daggett, St. John.  
Beverly R. Allen, St. John.  
Leslie Holder, St. John.  
Lewis Clarke, St. John.  
Fred H. Thomson, Hampstead.

The old Every Day Club hall was crowded last night by an enthusiastic audience. The speakers were of a high order and it must have been disappointing to the committee that their efforts were not crowned with a larger measure of success.

George A. Kimball presided and the speakers were John C. Ferguson, Rev. M. E. Fletcher, Captain C. F. Sanford and John Connors. The committee in charge provided a splendid programme. Steve Hurley entertained in his inimitable way and was accorded a round of applause that necessitated an encore. Bob Ritchie rendered a couple of selections and Jack Powers was on hand with his usual fund of funny stories. Professor Fox officiated at the play.

John C. Ferguson, the first speaker of the evening, made a stirring appeal for recruits. He pointed out that the defeat of British arms in the present struggle means the destruction of the Empire and the enslavement of the British and Canadian people. He called attention to the debt of gratitude that the people of Canada and said: "It is a high time we began to realize that it is a very serious time in the life of our beloved Dominion, we must stand or fall with the Empire, and it is time that we arose to the occasion and do our duty as our forefathers did theirs. If the people of the Loyalist city, and the rest of the Dominion are as courageous and loyal as their ancestors were, Canada will do her part and stand by the Empire until German militarism is crushed, and Great Britain and her allies emerge victorious from this monotonous struggle."

Mr. Ferguson directed his appeal more particularly to the Irish citizens of Canada. He pictured Canada as the ideal home of the Irishman, where one could enjoy the freedom so dear to the heart of the sons of old Erin. He pointed out that the Irish had always been classified as a fighting race, and said the present war afforded an unprecedented opportunity for them to get into the fray, and he felt sure they would embrace the opportunity.

Rev. Mr. Fletcher.

Rev. M. E. Fletcher was the next speaker. He prefaced his remarks by singing "The Island Home of an Englishman," which seemed to meet with the approval of the audience. He read a letter from his son, who is in France with the Canadians. The boy told of a ball game in which his team was successful. He spoke of Frank Smith of Carleton, who is his tent mate, and he asked what was the matter with the boys of St. John, that they were not enlisting. He said they were a poor bunch of sports. Mr. Fletcher "went and writing it with the approval of the audience. He read a letter from his son, who is in France with the Canadians. The boy told of a ball game in which his team was successful. He spoke of Frank Smith of Carleton, who is his tent mate, and he asked what was the matter with the boys of St. John, that they were not enlisting. He said they were a poor bunch of sports. Mr. Fletcher "went and writing it with the approval of the audience. 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