

# 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., MONDAY, MARCH 5, 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.

## CONCERNING A RACE CRY.

The Moncton Transcript devotes more than a column of editorial wind to an alleged plea for fair play for the Acadians, which is the Transcript's way of attempting to disguise the fact that the party it supports in provincial elections, out of twenty-seven seats in its following in the legislature, secured at least twenty by a pernicious appeal to the Acadian voters of this province, an appeal which had its effect this time but the falsity of which will be shown as time goes on.

The Acadians were told by opposition workers, in counties where such a canvass would work most effectively, that a vote for the Murray Government was a pronouncement in favor of conscription and that if that administration was successful at the polls young men of the Acadian settlements would be dragged off to war. Those who used that canvass were not far enough to say that Sir Robert Borden had stated there would be no conscription in Canada, or that the most outspoken demand for conscription which has yet been made by any political leader comes from N. W. Rowell, Liberal leader in the Province of Ontario. That was not part of their game, consequently they did not indulge in it. But it was their game to work upon the credulity of the Acadian people and the returns show that they played it.

The Transcript cites the election of 1912 and uses the fact that the Acadian residents then voted for the Government. Of course they did. There was no war in 1912 and no opportunity for the Liberals to spread the poisonous doctrine that the Conservatives were bent upon sending the Acadians out of the province to be slaughtered. If that canvass had not been used in the 1917 election the Acadians again would have voted for the Government and it was knowledge of the fact that caused oppositionists to import the ideas of Quebec Liberals and, as the Transcript itself says, "sow dragon seeds" in New Brunswick.

The Transcript also attempts to make a point of the fact that the Conservative party nominated Acadian candidates. Certainly they did, and it was no more than fair that they should do so for constituencies containing a large proportion of Acadians have every right to proportional representation by men of their own race and The Standard would be the first to protest against any disregard of such a right. But The Standard contends, and in this we believe we have the approval of the very large majority of fair men of this province, that it is a shame and a disgrace that a portion of the population should have been inflamed and agitated to the point where they were made to believe that the question at issue in the recent election was not whether the affairs of the province had been wisely administered, or whether public money had been squandered, but it was whether the young men of the Acadian race should be torn from their homes and families and sent overseas against their own desire.

If that canvass had been openly made it would have been easy to refute—just as the lapse of time without conscription will prove its everlasting undoing—but it was made in secret and repeated from lip to ear—quite on a par with the other miserable and dirty tactics which unscrupulous oppositionists employed. Consequently it has done its work. But—the end is not yet. Those who have played upon the credulity of the Acadians by the use of false canvasses will find that, as the falsity of those canvasses is fully exposed, their dupes of today realizing how they have been fooled will have their revenge when the next opportunity offers.

## ANOTHER WAR LOAN.

Patriotic Canadians, unable to serve their country in a military capacity, are now presented with another opportunity of aiding by their cheque books. This month there is to be a third domestic war loan and every citizen should participate in it. The man who purchases a Government bond and thus places his money at the disposal of the state, helps to fight the Germans just as truly as if he donned the khaki and went away to war. The quality of his service is not

already imposing total of earned decorations.

Trench warfare has frequently been described as dull and prosaic and the graveyard of individual reputation. This is scarcely accurate. Despite difficulties, Canadians have found trench warfare offers many opportunities for intrepidity and initiative. Trench raids are now a matter of almost daily record in the French, British and German armies. Canadians showed them all how to do it, for they invented trench raids.

One does not hear much now of talk that used to be frequent early in the war, that one Canadian is worth three Germans. That hardly did justice to the foe and seriously depreciated the value of the achievements of our own men. Nevertheless, Canadians still claim, man for man, the distinction of having the enemy, they have abundant evidence on the point. Recently the German commander of the Somme front in an interview with an American sought to belittle the value of the Canadians because of their lack of training and discipline. He appointed the three to one ratio for Germans—one German equal to three Canadians. But the boast did not make the Canadians even mad. They know.

## Most Coveted of All

Significant of the zealous care that is taken to maintain the distinction for the famous Victoria Cross is the fact that out of so many honors, only six are V. C.'s. There are older decorations and many newer ones, but the Victoria Cross remains, and will remain all ranks, from private to commander-in-chief, and the humblest possessor would not exchange it for any order or rank of knighthood.

The simple inscription on the Victoria Cross indicates its purpose. "For Valor." According to the terms as fixed by Queen Victoria, who originated the decoration toward the close of the Crimean war, it is to be awarded only for "some signal deed of valor in the presence of the enemy." There has been only one exception to the latter qualification, that being the case of a Canadian private in the Fenian Raid, who during a fire, removed ammunition at great peril. In most cases the saving of life is involved.

Another point of interest about the V. C. is that the Cross itself is cast from guns taken from the enemy. Counterfeits are common, and the holder receives a fine of \$50, which may be increased to \$250.

Of the six Canadian winners of the V. C. during this war, only two are alive today. In the case of posthumous awards now the crosses are delivered to the heirs. C. Scrimger of Montreal, who carried the Cross, received a great deal of the V. C. Scrimger, a great divine. Capt. Scrimger, was serving as medical officer and his deed of valor consisted in saving wounded with great coolness and resourcefulness under terrific gun and rifle fire. Of the three or four living Canadians who carried the V. C. previous to the present war, one is Major Gen. R. E. W. Turner, one of the most efficient Canadian officers overseas, who is at present engaged in reorganizing the reserve battalions in England.

In former days the German Iron Cross had a similar significance. It was a decoration that has now ceased to be the case, owing to the lavish distribution of Iron Crosses.

## Other Decorations

In the British army pressure to award a large number of Victoria Crosses is relieved by the granting of other decorations. Of these there are four chief ones—two for commissioned officers and two for rank and file. The officers' decorations are the D. S. O. (Distinguished Service Order) "for meritorious or distinguished service in the field before the enemy." The M. C. (Military Cross) is "for distinguished service of a character insufficient to warrant the D. S. O." There is no fixed rule by which it can be awarded. It may be determined when one or the other of these awards ought to be made, but, generally speaking, the D. S. O. is reserved for the higher ranks—majors and those higher up. It is a handsome decoration, made of gold, and was instituted in 1886.

The M. C. may be awarded only to captains or commissioned officers of lower rank and warrant officers. It is silver, and is a creation of the present war, being announced on Jan. 1, 1915. It takes rank after all other decorations and campaign medals. It is invariably awarded for some action involving great personal courage.

The D. S. O., although it must be won "in the field before the enemy," has been awarded in cases where bravery was not involved so much as leadership, strategy or organizing capacity. In this direction the service rendered approximates that for which a C. M. G. (Companion of St. Michael and St. George), or even knighthood may be awarded.

For rank and file, as the figures show, the two standard decorations are the D. C. M. (Distinguished Conduct Medal) and the Military Medal. The former is the oldest and the latter the youngest of the present popular decorations. The D. C. M. was instituted in 1855, even before the V. C. "for distinguished conduct in the field." The Military Medal was created in April, 1916, "for individual or associated acts of bravery in the field." That 1,128 military medals and 271 D. C. M.'s should have been won by Canadians is a high tribute to their fighting capacity. The D. C. M. is the highest award. It is nearly always for an individual act. The Military Medal may be distributed to a whole party.

It is safe to say that in any previous war the deeds which have won a great proportion of D. S. O.'s, M. C.'s, and military medals in this war would have been rewarded by V. C.'s.

## Some of the Deeds Rewarded

In nearly every one of these 2,715 awards there is a story of courage and daring action which the imagination of romances cannot surpass. The terse, formal language of the official

announcements is suggestive. Here are a few taken at random, which also illustrate to some extent the character of the service required for different decorations.

Lieut. Cowan, after explosion of a mine, took charge of the consolidation of two posts under heavy fire, repelling three enemy attacks. Awarded M. C.

Capt. Forrester led a raid against the enemy's trenches with great courage and skill; later he showed great presence of mind under heavy fire in enabling the right bank to advance. Awarded M. C.

Private T. N. Armit, though severely wounded, continued to bomb the enemy. Awarded D. C. M.

Sergeant Banks laid and repaired wires under heavy fire. Awarded D. C. M.

Serjt. Holbrook attacked an enemy machine gun single-handed, killed two of the crew and captured the gun. Awarded D. C. M.

Lance Corporal Manning, single-handed, attacked an enemy sap and disposed of the occupants. Awarded D. C. M.

Serjt. Philpot rescued three wounded men under heavy fire. Awarded D. C. M.

Lieut. Manville, flying corps, flew three hours at a low altitude over the lines, raising active enemy batteries. Awarded M. C.

Capt. MacDonald led his company against the enemy position with great courage and initiative, capturing three machine guns and 50 prisoners. Later, though wounded, he remained at his post and greatly assisted. Awarded D. S. O.

Major Worsnop led his battalion in a night attack, with conspicuous success. He gained his objective, captured 32 prisoners and two machine guns, and successfully consolidated the position. Awarded D. S. O.

Private J. R. Shaw, one of a bombing party, carried 30 bombs in the open over No Man's Land under heavy fire. Awarded military medal.

## TALAT PASHA

With the probability of a diplomatic break between the United States and Turkey, grave apprehension is felt in the neighboring republic over the fate of the American missionaries and teachers scattered throughout Armenia and other parts of Turkey. Armenian massacres have been going on since the outbreak of hostilities, despite the protests and efforts made by the United States to stop these atrocities. Added fear is given to the safety of Christians in Turkey through the appointment of the infamous Talat Pasha who has been appointed grand vizier. Although previously occupying a minor post he is the man primarily responsible for the Armenian massacres. The report made by Lord Bryce proved conclusively that he was the instigator of these, a charge which Talat does not attempt to deny. Talat Pasha is described by La Marquise de Fontenay as "a handsome looking Levantine of the most type, very obese, with a huge pendulous abdomen, puffy cheeks, and double chin, and shoulders that are broad with unwholesome fat, rather than with muscle; he is voluble, and whereas formerly he was intensely obsequious and servile, he is now a man of a different type, very obese, with a huge pendulous abdomen, puffy cheeks, and double chin, and shoulders that are broad with unwholesome fat, rather than with muscle; he is voluble, and whereas formerly he was intensely obsequious and servile, he is now a man of a different type, very obese, with a huge pendulous abdomen, puffy cheeks, and double chin, and shoulders that are broad with unwholesome fat, rather than with muscle; he is voluble, and whereas formerly he was intensely obsequious and servile, he is now a man of a different type, very obese, with a huge pendulous abdomen, puffy cheeks, and double chin, and shoulders that are broad with unwholesome fat, rather than with muscle; 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