

The St. John Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 82 Prince William street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

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

United States Representatives: Henry DeClerque, Chicago, Ill. Louis Klebahn, New York.

British Representative: Frederick A. Smyth, London.

Advertising rates on application.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1914.

THE GRITS AND NAVAL AID

Hypocritical as ever the Telegraph attempts to place upon The Standard the responsibility of introducing discussion of political questions while the Empire is at war. The Telegraph misrepresents the case. Instead of The Standard initiating discussion on contentious questions, the Telegraph started it with an ill-timed reference, inviting a comparison of the position of the political parties on the matter of naval aid. If, in the ensuing treatment of this question, it should become necessary for this newspaper to bring out facts that are distasteful and which the better class of Liberals would be quite willing to forget, the blame must lie with the Telegraph as that paper seemed to be looking for trouble and we have no intention of avoiding the conflict.

The Telegraph claims that if the Liberal policy had been adopted Canada, before this, would have had cruisers equal to the Australian cruiser Sydney. "which was laid down in 1911," when Mr. Borden took office," and it follows that statement by the blatant assertion that "the simple truth about the Canadian naval situation is good enough for the Liberals." If the Telegraph is correct in ascribing to Liberals a feeling of complete satisfaction with their course, why does it feed them on information which is not correct? The cruiser Sydney was "laid down" in February, 1911, and launched in May, 1912. The Borden Government took office in October, 1911, or ten months after work on the Sydney was under way.

But what was the Liberal plan? It was, and the Telegraph cannot deny it, first to build the yards in which the cruisers were to be constructed, and then the ships themselves. If this plan had been followed the yards would not have been half completed at this date, and, perforce, no progress could have been made toward the construction of the ships themselves. The Telegraph cannot get away from this, for, itself, during its advocacy of the Laurier plan, used as one of its chief arguments the claim that the ships would be built in Canada and the employment would go to Canadian workmen. There were no yards in Canada in which such vessels could have been built, and if the Laurier government had waited to build them, construction of the cruisers would not now have been commenced. Consequently, Canada would have been no farther ahead than she is today. If the Telegraph is correct in its contention that the cruisers would have been built, and now in service, then the work could not have been done in Canadian yards by Canadian workmen and that part of the argument falls to the ground. The Telegraph can take the stool which best pleases it, but even its faculty of straddling will hardly permit it to adopt both. The ships could not have been built in Canada and been ready for service now; if built for service now the work could not have gone to Canadian workmen.

But the Telegraph says the Laurier government adopted a programme. They did, but that is all they did, and comparisons, either with Australia or New Zealand, are the last things which supporters of Sir Wilfrid should desire. It is useless to attempt to blame the Borden Government for, as a matter of fact, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his Ministers decided, in July, 1911, to hold a general election, there already were two destroyers in the harbors of Australia and a battle-cruiser and two light cruisers well advanced in their construction; the Australia being launched about the time the Laurier government went out of office. New Zealand had a battle-cruiser launched and three destroyers ready for action. The patriotic and loyal Grit government of Canada had a lot of plans and tenders upon which they refused to make a decision.

Thus it can be seen that the Laurier government did not attempt to build even the limited programme it had promised to undertake. The hammers were ringing on the Australian and the New Zealand ships, and two Australian destroyers were in Australian waters, months before the Laurier government even called for tenders—and it must not be forgotten that the Laurier government claimed it intended first to build the yards and then the cruisers in order that the work should go to the Canadian workmen. The Telegraph's claim that under Laurier the ships would have been ready now plainly shows this solicitude for Canadian labor was merely a vote catcher and intended to deceive.

It may be urged by the Liberals that the lapse of time compared with Australia was accounted for by delay in the passage of the Naval Service Act, but this can afford no comfort, for the Canadian Naval Defence Act

was passed in March, 1910, and the Australian Act not until November of the same year. There was, however, a difference in the procedure after the act was passed. The Australians went ahead with their programme, the Canadian Grit government did not, although they had replied to their tenders in May, 1911, and did not go to the country until September.

But the Telegraph charges that Sir Robert Borden and the Conservative Government also did nothing. Again the Telegraph misrepresents. One of the early acts of Premier Borden was to get an expression of opinion from the British Admiralty as to what Canada should offer in the way of Naval Aid. Obviously that was the proper course to pursue. The Admiralty reply came back and Mr. Borden prepared to meet it. He introduced the necessary enabling legislation in the House of Commons and the Liberals, the same patriotic Grits who while in power had done nothing, exerted every effort to defeat the proposal, making use of the time honored plea that the ships should be built in Canada. It was pointed out that this could not be done in time to provide the assistance when needed but it made no difference to the Laurierites. Outvoted in the House of Commons they brought all their power to bear upon the parliament and, for the time being, strangled all chance of Canadian aid when it would be effective.

Through the action of the Senate Mr. Borden's proposal for a vote of \$35,000,000 to build or buy ships in Britain was thrown out and it is quite within the mark to say that this action of the Grit Senators was accepted by Britain's enemies as mirroring the sentiment of this country. Beyond doubt it fostered the idea in Germany that Canada was unwilling to participate in an Empire war and, unquestionably, tended to make the German war party feel more certain that in the event of war with England, at least this part of the Empire would fall away like ripe fruit from the tree. Those who held that view have learned their error, just as the Grits who having done nothing themselves placed every obstacle in the way of suitable action by the Conservative Government will learn of theirs when opportunity offers.

This is the "simple truth" about the Canadian naval situation and, according to the Telegraph should be "quite good enough for the Liberals." Possibly there are, in the minds of some Grits, reasons why attention should not now be directed to these things but if they are hurt by the "simple truth" they should remember that it was asked for by their own purchased organ. The Standard has no desire to divert the public mind into channels foreign to the plain duty of the hour, but the Telegraph, even with the Empire at war, cannot indulge in misrepresentations and get away with it. The time for that sort of thing has passed. Like the Germans, if the British want war it shall have it in full measure.

THE CALL TO SERVICE.

Judging from the arrangements already made, the meeting to be held in the Imperial Theatre this evening, for the purpose of stimulating interest in the Empire's call for men for active service at the front, should be one of the most remarkable demonstrations ever held in this city. It is without local precedent that such method of appeal should be found necessary, but that it is necessary is proven by the fact that of the total number so far enrolled for foreign service with the New Brunswick regiment the young men of St. John are not represented in the proportion they should be.

Cities in Ontario and the West, in proportion to their population, have furnished greater numbers for the Canadian regiments. The city of Hamilton, Ontario, is hardly twice as large as the New Brunswick metropolis, but it has already sent 600 men with the first contingent, and has another 500 enrolled for the next force. In Winnipeg, an entire regiment of infantry was raised for the first contingent, as well as 300 artillerymen, and the report from that city is that 1,000 men are ready for service at the next call. In the Maritime Province cities and towns the response to the appeal has been less general, but this, in some measure, is due to more employment in these provinces, and our smaller floating population.

The opportunity now presents itself, however, for the men of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to go on active service as a unit, and it should be taken advantage of in a fashion that will leave no lingering doubt as to the readiness of these provinces to answer the Empire's call. The boys of "old G Company," in the Canadian contingent which went to South Africa, made a glorious name

for themselves and the province through their bravery and ability at Paardeberg. There is no doubt the representatives of New Brunswick with the first contingent, and those yet to go with the second, will similarly acquit themselves when the opportunity offers. There can be no fault found with the quality of the soldiers sent forward from this loyalist province; the only room for criticism is in the number.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the distinguished speakers who will address tonight's gathering will impress upon the minds of the hundreds of qualified young men in St. John that to answer the call to arms is a sacred duty, and that the result of the gathering will be to give a much needed impetus to the task of securing New Brunswick's full complement of men. The call is to service, and it should be heeded.

Searchlights

(By Alfred Noyes)
("Political morality factors from individual morality, because there is no power above the state."—General Von Bernhardi.)
Shadow by shadow, strip for light.
The lean black crucifers search the sea.
Night long their level shafts of light
Revolve and find no enemy.
Only they know each leaping wave
May hide the lightning and their grave.

And, in the land they guard so well,
Is there no silent watch to keep?
An age is dying; and the bell
Rings midnight on a vaster deep;
But over all its waves once more
The searchlights move from shore to shore.

And captains that we thought were dead,
And dreamers that we thought were dumb,
And voices that we thought were fled
Arise and call us, and we come:
And "Search in thine own soul," they cry.
"For there, too, lurks thine enemy."

Search for the foe in thine own soul,
The sloth, the intellectual pride,
The trivial jest that veils the goal
For which our fathers lived and died.

The lawless dreams, the cynic art,
That rend thy nobler self apart.
Not far, not far into the night,
These level swords of light can pierce:
Yet for her faith does England fight,
Her faith in this our universe.

Believing Truth and Justice draw
From founts of everlasting law.
Therefore a Power above the State,
The unconquerable Power, returns.
The fire, the fire that made her great,
Once more upon her altar burns.

Once more, redeemed and healed and whole,
She moves to the Eternal Goal.

Why Germany Cannot Endure.

This great contest has three aspects (says Mr. L. G. Chiozza Money, M. P., in an article in the London "Sunday Chronicle," entitled "Why Germany Cannot Endure.") The first is a military war; there is a military war; there is an economic war. If the military problem could be isolated it would be difficult to speak with any certainty as to the length of the contest. We could only say that victory was assured to the Powers of the Triple Entente sooner or later. Fortunately, however, the military problem is not a separate issue, and it is when we also consider the naval and economic sides of the matter that we can feel greater confidence in endeavoring to forecast the probable duration of the war. The decisive factor is that the British Navy has the German economy in its grip. With Germany, as with Britain, imported supplies are indispensable if wealth is to be won. Locked Germany within her own borders and you swiftly condemn her to poverty. What has already happened in this, that the British Navy has, for practical purposes, confined Germany to her own resources.

Last year Germany found it necessary to import about £160,000,000 worth of food and nearly £300,000,000 worth of raw materials, and we paid for these by sending out manufactured articles which now she can neither make nor export. Suddenly Germany is reduced to the position of a poor agricultural State. In the German Empire at this moment there must be nearly 20,000,000 males aged 18 and upwards. If 5,000,000 of these are called out for service, there must remain only 15,000,000 of men, and with only three main industries to prosecute, viz.—(1) Agriculture, (2) coal mining, and (3) the manufacture of armaments. Of these three, the second is crippled by the great reduction in coal consumption consequent upon the closing down of works. Add to the unemployed males the army of unemployed women and the huge masses of dependants, and we have a picture of economic disaster which amounts to a terrible punishment for those responsible for the government of Germany—and, alas! for the innocent as well as the guilty.

When Germany comes to be invaded, and when refugees from the invaded territory pour into the regions free from the enemy, an abnormal call will be made on the resources of the uninvaded area. When that time comes, as it surely will come, there is no present suffering inflicted upon the unhappy Belgians which will not be visited tenfold upon their oppressors. The writer estimates that but twelve months will probably cover the major and decisive part of the campaign.

Richard Harding Davis' Offer.

To the Editor of the New York World
"I have just seen in the New York Sun's letter in regard to softened bullets, which purports to be a statement from W. E. Gordon, V. C., Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders, and to be signed by him.
I will bet the German Ambassador \$100 to one penny that Col. Gordon

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

FLOWERS

The principal way to tell when summer is near is by the flowers. When it stops being cold and the furnace goes out, people begin to think winter is over, and when the birds fly back from the south and try to remember where they bit their nests, people begin to think the seasons must be changing, but when they look around and see all the different flowers growing, they say, "G, summer is near. On this is a funny time to write about flowers, because if you want to pick any flowers now you have to go to a florist and pick them up, or else climb up and open somebody's parter window and pick them up from the flower pots standing there to be showed off. The 2nd way being the least expensive.

Akording to poetry, summer flowers is born to bluish unseen, such as the violet by a mossy stone waiting its fragrant awn the desert air.
Uthir flower is born to bluish seen, awn akount of costing so much, such as the krisanthemum awn a zoris chest.
Sum flowers are usefull awn akount of there bewty, such as the rose and the lilly in a pot, wile uthirs are usefull awn akount of there usefullness, such as the butterfly, wich you can tell by holding it under a persins chin wile a persin likes butter or not.
Most fellas dont think much of flowers, but awl girls love them, wile iplains y most fellas haft to buy them wile they like them or not.
Wild flowers is considred the most bewtifull, the reezin they are not so pupuler being because they dont cost anyting.

engaged in a more terrible encounter than that which, despite occasional lulls, has been steadily increasing in intensity for several days past. The carnage has been unexampled, and exceeds the records of Manchuria. The Germans have sacrificed their men in whole battalions, and our own losses, as well as those of our brave Allies, have been terribly severe. On land, on sea, in the air, and beneath the waves, the desperate conflict still goes on without definite result. The world has seen no such battle before.

62nd Regiment.
To be quartermaster with the honorary rank of Lieutenant: William Charles Birrell, gentleman, vice Honorary Captain R. A. McAvity, seconded. 1st October, 1914.

RICHARD HARDING DAVIS.
(New York, Nov. 6.)

Katharine Tynan's Views.

The best utterances from any woman author on recruiting comes from Katharine Tynan, the Irish story-writer and poetess. She says:
"Read Sir John French's despatch relating the events of the four days' battle, August 23 to 26, and lift up your hearts. A little while ago we were living in little days. Peace is not all good. Under its smooth surface lurk many forms of corruption. The cruelties of War can hardly be greater than the cruelties of Peace. We are come to the great days and the great men. Selfishness has passed away and charity and bearing one another's burdens has come in its place. One crowded hour of glorious life has come to every one of us. How tame the glories of the long Peace are beside the glories of the War! Lift up your hearts. Who would not rather fight with France than sit at home in inglorious ease?"

The Greatest Battle

(London Times.)
We wish we were able to convey to the people of this country an adequate conception of the tremendous struggle which is being waged upon the Belgian frontier at this moment. It will surely be counted among the great battles of history. Vast issues hang up on it and Britons are dying freely and gladly, to stop the Germans from gaining a commanding foothold upon the Straits of Dover. This is a British issue, he it remembered. It concerns both Belgium and France vitally, but it concerns Great Britain most of all. We believe the enemy have entirely wrong conceptions of the consequences which would ensue from their entry into Calais, but it is nevertheless of primary importance to our whole Empire that they should be checked if possible. The whole trend of the whole war may depend upon this conflict, which the Germans have invested with a decisive character. In all the long and proud history of Great Britain our troops have never been

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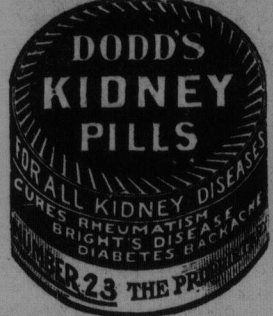
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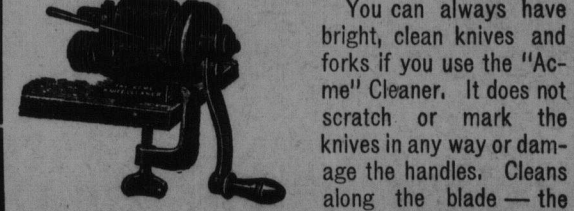
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