

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1914.

"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 WAR SITUATION.

In the light of conflicting reports coming from the eastern front it is difficult to obtain a clear idea of the position of the contending forces there. It is not apparent, however, that the Germans have met with as much success as reports from Berlin indicate. Evidently they are advancing in great force toward Warsaw, and seem to have made appreciable progress, but, at the same time, the Russian advance into East Prussia is being prosecuted as vigorously as ever. Russian advances regarding the Polish campaign claim that the retreat was for strategic reasons, and that while the Germans have advanced, the fact that they occupy ground which, a week or so ago, was in the possession of the Czar's troops, will be of little or no material benefit to them, as the retreat was undertaken solely for the purpose of straightening the Russian lines and placing them in more effective fighting position.

It is likely that while the slaughter on both sides has been terrible, the decisive stage of the eastern campaign is yet far off. Both Russia and Germany are pouring troops into the field, a report from a Russian expert being that 1,000,000 Germans and Austrians are opposing the Russian armies, which are also being steadily reinforced. Consequently it is evident that the terrible fighting there must continue for some time before either side scores a big victory.

In the west the Allies appear to be maintaining their slow but steady advance. A report early this morning indicates that the Germans have evacuated Dixmude and this, if true, means that the Allies have made appreciable progress. The fighting, however, is not spectacular as in the east, being confined largely to siege-like operations, where heavily entrenched bodies of troops are slowly forcing from their positions by searching artillery fire. Under such conditions progress cannot be slow, as the driving of the enemy from a series of entrenchments merely means a retirement upon other positions equally strong.

Since the raid on the English coast towns there have been no naval developments, although it was expected the Germans might follow it with a spectacular dash from shelter at Kiel in the hope that some of their heaviest and fastest vessels might succeed in questioning naval superiority of British commerce and British ports until disposed of by the British navy. It is believed that some such movement will be undertaken, as the German authorities must recognize the unquestioned naval superiority of Britain and realize that a main engagement would be disastrous. Consequently it is not unlikely that they will endeavor to do all the damage they can before such an engagement is forced upon them.

The position of Italy has not changed during the week. The Italian premier has stated that Italy's course in this war will eventually redound to her great benefit, and this is construed by some to mean that she will participate on the side of the Allies in the hope that she may be invited to take part in the redrawing of the map of Europe, which must follow the campaign. Any idea that she will be found on the side of Germany has been well disposed of so, at least, the Allies will not have to count on her as an enemy. Her participation just now would be of immense advantage to Britain, as an Italian army marching through Austria, and into the heart of Germany, would tend to draw forces from both frontiers and would make the task confronting the Allies just that much easier of accomplishment.

FROM THE GERMAN VIEW

An eminent German scientist, Professor Ernest Haeckel, of the University of Jena, has been telling American newspaper correspondents just what the government of "the fatherland" will do with the territory they acquire as the result of this war. The learned professor does not admit of doubt that the territory to which he refers will be captured by Germany, but, if he is sincere, his statements are worth publishing as possibly illustrating the opinion held by men who have previously given the world cause to believe them quite sane.

Professor Haeckel has become more or less famed as a disciple of the Darwinian theory of the origin of man and, his arguments in elucidating that theory, possess more logic than his predictions regarding the life and death struggle in which his country is now engaged. In the first place he

declares that Germany, to insure her future, will find it necessary to free herself from "the tyranny of England." This freedom she will acquire through "the invasion of the British practical state by the German army and navy and the occupation of London." England thus disposed of, Professor Haeckel turns his attention to the Overseas Dominions, and here he exhibits surprising and unexpected moderation of spirit. He merely states that Germany is "to obtain a great part of the British colonies and the Congo Free State." Just why he has not elected that the Kaiser shall corral the entire Empire when the opportunity presents itself, or which of the colonies will be honored by his preference, the German savant does not tell us.

Belgium is to be partitioned, "the western portion as far as Ostend and Antwerp to become German federal states; the northern portion to fall to Holland, while the southeastern portion will be added to Luxemburg, which will also become a German federal state." "France," he tells us, "must give up a portion of her north-eastern provinces," while "Russia must be reduced to impotency by the re-establishment of the Kingdom of Poland, which must be united with Austria-Hungary." "The Baltic provinces of Russia" are "to be restored to Germany" and Finland is "to become an independent kingdom and to be united with Sweden."

Apparently Professor Haeckel has it all provided for but, unfortunately, he overlooked a few minor obstacles in the way of the fulfillment of his prophecy. In the first place the "invasion of England" and the "occupation of London" can hardly be effected until after a certain gentleman named Jellicoe, with a roody number of first class warships, has been accounted for, and, so far, the Germans have shown no disposition to start the accounting process. The conquest of the British colonies is also likely to prove less easy than Prof. Haeckel expects. Canada might not be in a position to avoid capture, if compelled alone to fight Germany, but in sporting parlance, we might "make it interesting" for a little while until the "shattered and dismembered" Empire could get rested up a bit.

The other predictions by Professor Haeckel are equally ridiculous. Before Germany can serve the bird she must first kill it and when it is considered that she is facing an array of enemies, immensely superior in men, money and resources, it may be imagined that the killing will not be so easy as expected. Despite Professor Haeckel's eminence as an educationalist and scientist there will be very many Canadians who, in all humility, will disagree with his forecast and will help to prove him wrong if need be. Meanwhile he might be excused on the plea that "too much learning hath made him mad."

EGYPT A PROTECTORATE.

If Great Britain had desired to disturb the delicate balance between the European nations prior to this war, and the relation they bore to the Ottoman Empire, she might, years ago, have done what she did last week and officially proclaimed Egypt a British protectorate. This proclamation merely made public to the world a condition which for years had existed. With Turkish participation in Germany's quarrel disappeared whatever reasons existed for the policy of reserve Britain had maintained toward Egypt, and now the land of the Pharaohs blossoms forth as a full fledged protectorate of the British Empire.

Under the new arrangement Egypt does not become an integral part of the British Empire, but it will emerge from the antiquated and abused Turkish suzerainty Abbas Hilmi, the Egyptian khedive foolishly threw his lot in with the Turks in their alleged "holy war." He has been displaced and in his stead appears Hussain Koma. It is expected the new official will "know his place."

This khedive, as a matter of form, will be "advised" by a British high commissioner, just as his predecessors were by Lord Cromer, Sir Eildon Gorst and Lord Kitchener. But to all intents and purposes, Egypt will be henceforth as much a part of the British empire as India, where there are still a number of shadowy protectorates, or British East Africa.

With Egypt and the Sudan in the north, British East Africa in the east, the Union of South Africa (along with what is now German Southwest Africa) in the south, and whatever she chooses to take in the west, Great Britain will soon have as much of the

great African continent as she would care to undertake to administer.

RELENTLESS GERMANY

If evidence were needed in support of the claim that Germany is relentless even to a devastated and impoverished enemy it is found in the despatch from Amsterdam which says that the German government has decreed that the kingdom of Belgium must pay \$7,000,000 per month for the maintenance of German troops and raise, as well, a war indemnity of \$75,000,000 as a penalty for alleged violations of neutrality and losses caused thereby to the German forces. It is interesting to note that while Germany is said to be taking this action, the other nations, which do not claim to have a monopoly of the world's civilization or culture, are straining every effort to raise money with which to feed and succor the people of broken and ravaged Belgium. But the action of the relentless Prussian power will react.

When this war is over there should be imposed upon the German nation such a stupendous burden of debt and war tax, that never again will it be numbered as among the great ones of the earth. Even in the season of peace and good-will those who follow the golden rule and the doctrine of forgiveness will find it difficult to be charitable in their judgment of a nation which would permit the imposition of such an unfair tax upon should-ers so unequal to the burden.

WONDERFUL RECORD OF ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

In exceptional year Bank makes new high record For Cash on Hand—Business Well Maintained.

Special to The Standard.

Montreal, Dec. 19.—In a year when the statements of the principal banks of Canada are being closely scrutinized in all the leading banking centres of the world, there is reason for congratulating that they should show, in some instances, exceptional strength and solidity.

To a very marked degree is this the case with the showing made by the Royal Bank of Canada, which is today sending out to shareholders its forty-fifth annual statement. For a number of years past the Royal Bank has been making such steady progress that shareholders have become somewhat accustomed to satisfactory statements, but what should be especially gratifying to them this year is that under the very unusual conditions that prevailed throughout the financial world the bank has been able to make a record showing in the departments that make for strength, namely, in Cash on Hand and Liquid Assets.

It is, perhaps, owing to the peculiar conditions that prevail in this country, as a result of the European war, that the banks have found it advisable to keep themselves in a position that would enable them to help in any contingency that might arise, and in this way secure the real interests of the country at large. To what extent the Royal Bank has followed such a policy can be best appreciated from the general statement which shows that at the close of its fiscal year, November 30, 1914, the amount of cash on hand reached the high level of \$27,683,855, equivalent to such a large percentage as 17.93 per cent. of liabilities to the public. At the end of the previous year the cash on hand was equivalent to 13.83 per cent., so that for the year an increase of over \$6,000,000 is shown. The liquid assets, in which the cash on hand is also included, amount to \$71,244,677, equivalent to as much as 46.16 per cent. of liabilities to the public. The principal accounts included under this heading are:—Railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks, not exceeding market value, \$13,557,741; Canadian municipal securities and public securities other than Canadian, \$2,185,062; cheques on other banks, \$5,752,485; balances due by banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada, \$3,144,592. In its valuation of its investments the bank has evidently followed its usual conservative policy, as this year an allowance for depreciation is made of a half million dollars. It would seem as though this allowance was only one of precaution, as in the time the securities should more than make up the depreciation now being allowed.

Notwithstanding the general contraction which has occurred in business throughout Canada, more particularly in manufacturing, the volume of business done by the bank has been well maintained, the current loans amounting to \$84,585,972, as compared with \$86,989,390 at the end of the previous year, while other current loans and discounts elsewhere than in Canada show a very slight change, amounting to \$15,002,488, as compared with \$15,551,594.

PEJERSCOT LUMBER COMPANY WILL MAKE BIG CUT THIS YEAR

"Conditions at present are very favorable for lumbering operations on the Bay Shore," said Robert Connolly of Salmon River, who arrived in the city on Saturday, accompanied by J. A. B. Cowles, president of the Pejerscot Lumber Company, of which Mr. Connolly is manager. "Everything is frozen solid and we do not need snow yet a while," he added. "The weather has been very suitable for cutting, and we have been making excellent progress with our work."

Mr. Connolly said his company expected to cut ten or twelve million feet of lumber this winter, and did anticipate any difficulty disposing of

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

Us fellows was seeing which wun coud jump the ferthest awn a stand this afternoon, and Mrs. Winkle cain out to her front door saying, Boys, boys, Mrs. Winkle being stinjer than any t'uther ladys awn the block put togethir.

She wants sumboddy to go a errind, lets pertend we ain't lissenin, sed Sam Krawas. And we kapp awn seeing which coud jump the ferthest awn a stand, wich skinny Martin coud awn akount of his legs, and Mrs. Winkle kapp awn calling for a wife and then she cain down to ware we was jumpin, saying, Boys, my littel canary has escaped from his cage and hes awn the shed roof and I dont no how to get him and Im afraied Ill lose him and hes 3 years old, O deer, wont wun of you boys climb up and get him for me Id give anythin' rather than lose my littel Willie. Id give anythin', anything.

Ill get him, we awl sed. And we awl ran around to the back street and by the time we got there Mrs. Winkle was looking out of her settins room window, saying, O my wun of you, now, only wun of you, Willie has a very nervies temperment and I dont want him fritened eny moar than necessary, enny Potts, sippose you climb up.

Wich I startid to do, the fellows awl saying, Haft awn watervir she gives you, haft awn watervir she gives you, and I climbed ovir the fens and up the rane awl, and the ferst thing I did awn the shed roof was to tare a big hole in my pants awn a nale, and the canary was settin awn the roof rite undir the window looking eround as if he didnt no how he got there, looking pritty dum for anythin' 3 years old, and Mrs. Winkle leened out of the window saying, Willie, Willie, izum fritened, and I crawled al-awg the roof and picked him rite up in my hand and handid him to Mrs. Winkle and she startid to kiss him diskusting as anythin'.

Wate a minit and Ill reward you for rescuin my Willie, sed Mrs. Winkle.

I toar my pants, to, I sed. And I wated on the shed roof and Mrs. Winkle cain back with 3 marblis and handed them to me, saying, Heers sum nice marblis for you, my littel newfawm sed of left them heer. Wich I took them, saying, Did you no I toar my pants.

Yes, isent it to bad, sed Mrs. Winkle, but maybe Ill find 2 or 3 moar marblis and if I do Ill save them for you. And I climbed down agen and the fellows was still wating out in the alleys, saying, Wate did she give you, wate did you got.

Three commins, I sed. And I showed the mithe marblis and they startid to go eround handin' there hands up to there heds and saying, Good nite, good nite. And Puds Simkins had a pece of chawk and he rote awn Mrs. Winkles fens. She sed she woud give anythin' and she gave 3 commins. And then we awl went eround frunt agen, me with a big hole in my pants.

It, though the lumber market in the States at present was dull, and there was uncertainty about the English market.

Mr. Cowles left for New York Saturday evening.

New Calendar.

The Standard has received a very handsome calendar from the Consumers' Coal Co., Britannia Rules the Waves.

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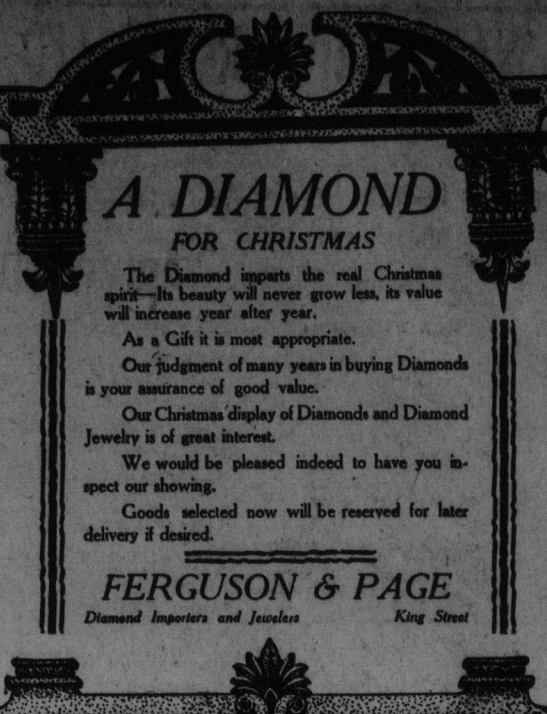
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ROYAL YEAS

