The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 14, 1917.

THE GLOOMY OUTLOOK

It may be that the United States will put into the field the armies which will eventually win the war. The situation today is far more serious than anyone dreamed it would be at this time. Germany still has enormous and unbeaten armies. The fighting on the western front is of the most desperate character, and though gradually forced backward here and there the Germans are holding their positions with remarkable tenacity. While we read every day of a trench taken, or some more prisoners, or the infliction of heavy loss upon the Germans, a glance at the maps shows how little real gain is being made. If Russia should fail to do her part in the east and Germany should be able to bring another million or more men from that front to the west, how would it fare with the British and French armies? And if the submarine is not overmatched by British and American genius, how are the soldiers and the civil population of Britain and France to be fed next winter? And what of the crops? Will the weather be favorable and the yield large—or will this be a bad crop year? Of course Germany must suffer with the rest, but who knows the extent of her resources? In England they are even talking again of the possibility of a German invasion.

But the great problem is that of food and its transportation. The United States can in time provide a great army to hold the balance in the field, but that army and all the other armies of the Allies, and the civil population as well, must be fed. And this, being interpreted, means food and ships.

THE PRODUCTION PROBLEM

There are three ways in which the citizens of St. John can have a share in the campaign for food production and conservation.

1.—They can eat less flour, oatmeal, beef and pork products and cheese, substituting other fare, so that there may be more of these for export to feed the soldiers and the civil population of the Allied countries.

2.—They can cultivate garden plots and raise as much as possible of their own vegetables.

3.—They can assist the farmers in the county and the near-by sections of Kings county to produce larger crops.

Consider now the first of these suggestions. Of what particular use would it be for the people of St. John to change their diet? How much wheat, oats, meat and cheese would we release for export? So very little that it would not be worth talking about unless other communities were doing the same thing. The only way to get results worth while in this direction would be for the federal government to take such action as would make the movement nation-wide. And in this, as in all other matters, there is an utter lack of leadership at Ottawa. If the people are willing to take action, it is their privilege to do so; but the government must prepare for the elections, which are expected to take place, perhaps before the crops are harvested.

With regard to the second suggestion, that as much gardening as possible be done by the city people, it is clear that satisfactory results cannot be obtained without organization. Who knows where he can get a garden plot? If he is an amateur, who will tell him what to plant and how, and where to get the seed? Only the establishment of a bureau of information, with one or two men familiar with garden work, and giving their whole time to advising and directing the gardeners, would make the movement worth while. Will such a bureau be established? Beyond the need of funds to pay expenses it should be a simple matter. Why not do it?

Then as to the third suggestion, that of giving aid to the farmers in the adjoining counties, it cannot be done unless we know what the farmer wants. And here again there must be a bureau of information. No doubt the committees to be appointed by the county directors of the general provincial committee will attend to this matter. It is for them to get the information, place it before the citizens, and ask that the necessary aid be provided.

Yesterday's meeting in the court house had very little practical result. All that it accomplished was already being accomplished by a committee of which Mr. E. A. Schofield is the head. Nothing whatever was done to bring more forcibly before the people the need of conserving food, and especially the foods that can be exported. No organization was formed to encourage the local gardener. Except that some committees among the farmers (who were not present) were named to co-operate with Mr. Schofield, the meeting ended as it began. It is quite true that practical suggestions were made, but suggestions will not grow seeds. There is still a need for a local organization, to increase largely the yield of vegetables within a radius of two or three miles from the heart of the city.

APRIL COAL SHIPMENTS EXCEED THOSE OF 1916

Philadelphia, Pa., May 14.—Shipments of anthracite coal in April exceeded those of the same month last year by more than 1,000,000 tons, according to statistics made public on Saturday. Total shipments for the month were 5,992,299 tons as against 4,528,284 tons in April, 1916.

Comparative figures show that the shipments for the first four months of the year were greater than those of the corresponding periods of 1914, 1915 and 1916, but lower than in 1913.

PROHIBITION PAYS

The readers of the Times and other city papers have no doubt read with interest the large advertisements relating to prohibition and its enforcement. They are prepared by the provincial branch of the Dominion Alliance, which rightly believes that public attention for some time to come should be especially directed to the benefits arising from prohibition, in contrast to the evils associated with the liquor traffic. Reaction follows action along every line of effort, and if the friends of prohibition were not continuously alert and on their guard the prohibitory law would gradually fall into disrepute through lack of enforcement. Just so surely as interest in enforcement flags, illicit sale of liquor will begin. That is the universal experience, nowhere better illustrated than in Scott Act counties in New Brunswick. Seizures recently made in this city show that the disposition and the will to disregard the law exist. Salutary lessons are needed, and will go far to discourage those who care more for profit than for the law of the land. It is also desirable that counties having the Scott Act exchange it for the more drastic prohibitory law, so that one law may prevail throughout the province.

Here is a story the friends of prohibition will appreciate. There is a working man in St. John whose habit it was to drink socially and spend as he went. On the first payday after the prohibitory law came into effect he put ten dollars in the bank. On the second payday he added more than twenty dollars to the amount. There is no reason why he should not soon have excellent provision made against the proverbial rainy day. That man will tell you prohibition pays.

The new board of directors of the Valley Railway will command public confidence. It has a serious task to perform, and the personnel of the board is a guarantee of honest service. There has been far too much political trickery, patronage and graft in connection with this enterprise, which has saddled the province with an enormous and almost intolerable burden without any of the advantages that go with a through line having its own terminals.

The suggestion of Mr. E. A. Schofield that owners of automobiles could enjoy many an outing in the country and at the same time save a lot of time for the farmers throughout the busy season should be taken up by the Automobile Association. Car riding for mere pleasure should be tabooed when there is patriotic service to be rendered.

That was a thrilling moment when M. Viviani, the orator-statesman of France, addressed the Canadian parliament in one of the most moving orations and appeals ever addressed to its members. The reception by Marshal Joffre in Montreal was another very notable and memorable event. How will Quebec respond?

The foreign element in St. John will be very ill-advised if it seeks to evade the law of the land, in relation to prohibition or anything else. If this country is good enough to live in, its laws are good enough to be respected.

If there is a Liberal senator in Halifax as disloyal as some Tory-Nationalists in Quebec, the people of Halifax should refuse to have any intercourse with him, and he ought not to be in the senate.

A very good way for patriotic persons to show their faith in Providence just now would be to put as much seed in the ground as possible. The Lord helps them who help themselves.

What we cannot go overseas can do something right now and throughout the summer to make it more certain that our men who are at the front next winter will not be reduced to short rations.

The editorial staff of The Times will be giving instructions to the amateur gardeners this year, but if all goes well they will be able to do it next year. Are you with us?

The longer the cold and wet weather lasts the more help the farmer will need to get in his crops, for it must be done in a hurry. Help in harvest time will not be enough.

No recruits in St. John on Saturday. Canada is losing more men daily than she is enlisting. What does the government at Ottawa propose to do about it?

THEY WERE RUNDOWN

How often we hear it said of a man or woman that "they were rundown in health" which accounts for their present sickness. For that reason it is important that when you find you tire easily, when your nerves are troublesome or your work is irksome, you should strengthen your system immediately with the blood-enriching, tissue-building food in Scott's Emulsion which contains the purest cod liver oil and is free from harmful drugs.

Scott & Bowne, Toronto, Ont.   16-29

"CHEMIN-DES-DAMES"

Did they pass—in that long forgotten Olden time which the trouvères sing?—
Ambling jennet and tinkling palfrey,
Lute and pipe for the journeying,
Silks and satin and musky velvet,
Matron jolly and laughing lass:—
Over the road of jovial venture—
Ladies of romance—did they pass?
Is it from ladies, such as these,
That the name comes down through the centuries?

Did they pass—in that long forgotten Olden time which no trouvères sing?—
Clumsy sabot and heavy burden,
Pain and tears for the journeying.
Rags and patches and wolfish faces,
Matron weary and toiling lass:—
Over the road of hunger driven—
Daughters of labor—did they pass?
Is it from women, such as these,
That the name came down through the centuries?

What matters it—that long forgotten Olden time which the poets sing?—
War flung men from the seven oceans
Here now pass in their journeying.
Serf and pageant have both departed,
Matron vanished with laughing lass:—
Over the road of long dead ladies
Soldiers of glory onward pass.
It is from heroes, such as these,
That the name will go through the centuries.

—Dysart McMullen.

ENGLAND TO EXTEND DRAFT TO INCLUDE MEN UP TO 50

The London war office announces that the voluntary recruiting age will soon be extended to men up to 50 years of age, both single and married.

The announcement expresses the hope that those who come forward will be ready and willing to serve without delay when called upon.

Directors For Valley Railway

Strong Board Appointed — Hon. W.P. Jones, E.S. Carter, C. O. Foss, Premier Foster and Hon. C.W. Robinson

Fredericton, May 12—The government has passed an order-in-council, consequent upon the resignation of the board of directors of the St. John & Quebec Railway Company, appointing another board of which Hon. W. F. Jones, K. C., of Woodstock, is chairman, and E. S. Carter, of Rothesay, secretary, with C. O. Foss, C. E., Premier W. E. Foster and Hon. C. W. Robinson completing the number.

It is understood to be the intention of the government to reduce the number of directors to three and until that is done Premier Foster and Hon. Mr. Robinson serve without remuneration.

A Saving.

The old board of directors cost the province over $12,000 for an approximate period of eighteen months. Under the plan as proposed there will be considerable saving in office expenses, and in order to complete this important work every economy consistent with good service must be taken advantage of.

Some serious problems, consideration of which were delayed for one reason or another by the former board, must be taken up at once by the new directors.

There are many unsettled claims to be disposed of; there are numerous promises made by the old government in connection with the election campaign, many of which were ridiculous and absurd; there is the all important question of the securing of rails for the road, rails which were promised by the government railway (the I. C. R.) long ago at a fixed price, but which the management say now they are not able to deliver.

There are rails to be had, however, from other sources; but the cost will be much greater than under the former agreement.

The New Board.

The new board of directors has, apart from the government members, Hon. W. F. Jones, one of the leading members of the New Brunswick bar, whose legal knowledge and experience will be of undoubted assistance in the settlement of many vexed questions.

Another new director, C. O. Foss, is an outstanding figure in railway work in the maritime provinces. He was district engineer of the Transcontinental in New Brunswick and had charge of that work through its more important stages. In earlier days Mr. Foss was engaged in railway construction and management in Nova Scotia.

E. S. Carter, the new secretary of the board, has perhaps a more intimate acquaintance with the Valley railway affairs than any other man the government could have selected for the position. He obtained a thorough knowledge of the finances of the undertaking, the arrangements and agreements with the Prudential Trust Company by reason of his connection with the investigation by the Royal Commission, and this should be of much value in the consideration of many questions that will arise.

A New Outlook

Drift, fatigues, routine are deadening influences, if you like; but the life of the trenches, the life of the open air, and above all, the life of association with others, all tend to counteract the mind (says the London Nation.) Thousands of men have been thrown at an impressionable age into a new experience of a most rousing kind. Men who never expected to do more for their fellow-men than sell a packet of gloves across the counter have lived for months with rifle and bayonet, taking their chance of killing or being killed for their country; men who never expected to go further from their home than to London have seen life of the most varied kind in foreign countries, and heard of the life of the colonies from fellow-soldiers who served to have no fear of employers or even of officers. Peace—this year or next year, we whenever it comes—will be followed by a spiritual unsettlement that will be not less unsettling than the unsettlement after Waterloo, if the causes are not quite the same.

Churches Hear of Food Crisis

Appeals Made to City Congregations—Mothers' Day Observed —Anniversary in West St. John —Memorial Service

References were made in practically all of the city churches yesterday to the food crisis. Clergymen in several churches devoted their sermons at both morning and evening services to inspire their congregations to greater effort to increase the food production. In addition to the sermons delivered in the churches in the city yesterday on the matter of increased food production, a circular letter from Bishop LeBlanc was read in all the Catholic churches of the diocese of St. John at all masses.

The service last evening in Waterloo Street Baptist church was in line with the appeal sent to the clergymen by the Director of the National Service, asking that Sunday, May 18, be observed as National Service Sunday. The pastor, Rev. F. H. Wentworth, was assisted by the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides of the church.' During the evening Mothers' Day-was- remembered by recitations.

Mothers' Day.

Several of the city churches yesterday observed Mothers' Day in an appropriate manner. Many wore white flowers in honor of the day.

Sixtieth Anniversary.

The closing services in connection with the sixtieth anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church, Carleton, were held yesterday in the church. At the close of the morning service, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to a very large number of communicants. Twenty-eight new members added to the membership roll of the church. Rev. Dr. Morison, pastor of the church, preached at both morning and evening service.

Members of the 217th Battalion were entertained at the Germain Street Baptist church, last evening by the young people of the church. Members of the battalion were also entertained in St. David's church.

The Rev. Robert Atkinson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church at Haverhill, Mass. was the preacher at the

morning and evening services in the Knox church yesterday.

Memorial Service.

A memorial service for the late Quartermaster-Sergt. Wm. Mason, recently killed in action, was held yesterday morning in St. Matthew's Presbyterian church, Rev. John Hardwick conducting the service. Mr. Mason was in business in New York when the war broke out, but came to St. John to enlist. While here, he made his home with J. Fraser Gregory of this city. He was killed April 15. His mother lives in England and is a widow. He is the second son to fall, and the third and last boy is in the trenches at present.

A SUMMARY OF THE COMPENSATION ACT

Editor Times-Star:

Sir,—Of the 8,000 men and women workers in St. John, there are fully 7,000 who know almost nothing about the law passed in 1908 which provides that the employer must pay the worker damages for injuries received while at his or her employment. I trust that every man and woman worker will cut out this letter and keep the following paragraphs tacked to the wall, where they cannot be lost.

The Workman's Compensation Act provides as follows:

1.—All workers in factory, foundry, laundry, in fact, almost every work or labor of any kind, if injured, while at work, receive from their employer compensation for the number of weeks that they are kept idle.

2.—If the wages had been $16.00 a week, the worker shall receive $12 a week during his illness. If the wages had been $12 a week the worker shall receive $9 a week—that is, the injured man or woman is guaranteed by the law a compensation of seventy-five per cent of his weekly wages, not to exceed $12 per week.

3.—If death results from the accident, the employer has to pay the widow, or family, the sum of $2000.

4.—Within two months from the date of the accident, the injured workman, or one of his family, must send in a formal notice along the following lines: To The Manager of the Steamer:—

Dear Sir:—This is to notify you that, on the fourteenth day of March last, while I was working in your employ, on board the steamer ———, I was seriously injured by the falling of a sling of deals. My leg was broken, and I have now been in the hospital three weeks.

Dr.——— says I may be out in three or four weeks more.

Dated at St. John, N. B., this — day of April, 1917.

Very truly yours,
WILLIAM MARTIN.

A copy of the above notice should be retained by the injured man or his wife. The notice should be left at the employer's office, and a memorandum made on the copy to that effect. The notice should carefully state the cause of the accident, the injury received, should be signed by the workman himself or his wife, or a friend, and should be addressed to the employer.

5.—In case the employer does not make the settlement, the workman, or his family, must some time within six months from the date of the accident, petition a judge of the Supreme Court to try the case under The Workman's Compensation Act.

6.—In case the injury results in death, the petitioner is given twelve months in which to begin action.

7.—By the Act, the judge can only allow $25 for the legal charges of the lawyer for the workman or his family.

8.—The decision of the court on the above petition is final, and the defendant (company or employer) cannot appeal to any other court.

9.—Domestic workers in families, or workers in the lumber woods, or on board fishing boats, have not yet the privileges of this Act, but almost all

kinds of ordinary labor in St. John city and county come within the scope of this law.

I am making these extracts from the law, as I know that many a widow and family have not the least idea of the benefit of this law if it should so happen that the family wage earner is injured or killed while at work. No matter how the accident occurs, if from the worker's carelessness, or from his fellow worker's carelessness, or from a defect in the works or machinery, still this law obtains and the employer has to pay the damages as above stated. The principle of the law is that the worker does his work for certain definite wages, and does not take the risk of life or limb consequent to his work. That risk the employer must take.

The result of this law has been most beneficial; many a family which, this past winter, would have been in absolute poverty, has, in some cases, received $200 for eighteen weeks' of labor, or for injury that resulted in death. All of which has been of incalculable benefit, and has kept the family in heart to meet the difficult future, with its deceased earnings.

Very truly yours,
W. FRANK HATHEWAY.

The Food "Gobbler"

A new terror is stalking among the guests at small private houses and boarding-houses. He (often it is she) is the "gobbler." Although the species existed as a boarding-house curiosity long before the Devonport rations, these have made him more crafty and formidable. He rises early to be first at the breakfast table, and when the other guests come down they find the ration of sugar or jam or butter or bread has gone. He takes his seat at the luncheon or dinner table almost before the cloth is laid, and has generally finished before the less enterprising guests are ready to begin. One private hotel in the West End (London) whose manager says his life has been "a perfect misery" what with the "gobblers" and the grumbling guests and the shortage of staff and the cost of food, has solved the problem by turning his hotel into a "bed and breakfast" institution only, notifying his guests that they must take their other meals outside. So says the London Daily Mail.