

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 9, 1915.

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British and European—Frederick A. Smith, 29 Ludgate Hill, LONDON, E.C., England.

WHAT ABOUT LAVERGNE?

What has Sir Robert Borden to say in reply to Col. Armande Lavergne? The latter said on Sunday last that both he and Bourassa were offered portfolios in the first Borden cabinet. Lavergne now not only flouts Sir Sam Hughes' offer to him of the command of an overseas battalion but is campaigning against Canada's participation in the war. He tells Sir Sam Hughes that it is "criminal" for Canada to take part in the war. What will Sir Sam and Sir Robert do about it? Will they remain silent, or will they suppress Col. Lavergne as the British government has suppressed the London Globe for its attacks upon Lord Kitchener and others? While Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Rodolph Lemieux are urging the men of Quebec to enlist, the man who says he might have been in the Borden cabinet, and several of whose Nationalist friends and supporters did get into it, is talking and writing seditious treason. Sir Robert Borden and Sir Sam Hughes cannot afford to remain silent. This man must be suppressed. Are the loyal people of Canada to send their sons to fight the battles of cretins and the battles of the type, and the latter be permitted at the same time to stir up disaffection at home? Surely Canada today is sorely in need of more fearless leadership.

NEW AMERICAN ATTITUDE

There are, of course, elements of danger in the situation created by the latest American note to Britain. The United States declines to regard the British blockade as effective and wants safe passage for all non-contraband goods to Germany and neutral countries. To this Britain cannot agree. There will be further correspondence concerning the matter, but there will be agreement between Britain, France and Russia that the United States contention cannot be recognized. Germany, of course, asserts that the American contention is sound and in accordance with international law. That Germany is pleased is one of the strongest reasons for regarding the American note with suspicion if not with resentment. The United States has not yet brought Germany to book for the destruction of American lives and property. American trade has reached colossal figures. The country is growing rich out of trade with the Allies. At the same time the Allies are fighting the battles of the United States, for nothing can be more certain than that German victory in this war would be the greatest calamity that could befall our neighbor to the south. The Allies are fighting the battles of the United States, and it would be most unfortunate if the United States failed to perceive that Germany only awaits the time and opportunity to knock at its doors also and demand tribute. We must confess to a keen disappointment at the tone of the American press, which has not hitherto shown a disposition to give comfort to Germany. However, the British blockade will doubtless continue, and a way be found out of the unpleasant controversy which has arisen.

We know, of course, that Germans in the United States have been doing their utmost to stir up trouble between that country and England and also to make trouble for Canada. It may be taken for granted that the Canadian press and people will not give them any assistance. Nothing would suit them better than friction between this country and the United States.

ILL-GOTTEN GAINS.

That excellent trade journal, Canadian Finance, of Winnipeg, is severe upon those who attempt, by government contracts at high prices, to get "profits out of the nation's agony." It says: "Public conviction is growing that Canadian manufacturers filling war orders should be required to give strict accounting of special profits thereon, and be taxed upon them in accordance with some such plan as is now in effect overseas." Referring to the reorganization of the Dominion shell committee, Canadian Finance says: "There had been a growing feeling east and west that the Dominion Shell Committee, up to the time of the visit of Lloyd George's representative, had been playing the part of both buyer and seller, with results not in the best interests of the British treasury. There is no disguising the fact that the original shell committee was too closely related to a few privileged profit-making interests to inspire public confidence. And there had been a growing conviction that undue profits were being made in some quarters."

The Montreal Financial Times is more specific. It says: "The price for shrapnel, when the first orders were given out was \$5.50 per shell. It fell to \$4.50, then \$3.50, and now some orders have been booked at less than \$1.50 per shell, for a half-a-million to a million shell order."

Agreeing that a much higher price was justified in the experimental stage, it must be clear from these figures that too much money was being made "out of the nation's agony." The British government levies a tax of 50 per cent on

all war profits over and above a normal return. After this measure had been adopted, the chairman at a shareholders' meeting of the Steel Company of Scotland, though saying that ordinarily he denounced any legislative interference with the country's industries, went on to observe: "This war, God knows, will bring untold suffering in more than one form to millions who have no war profits to collect and no war bonus to receive, and therefore I have felt in my own mind, long before this proposal was made, that in that direction the government would be entirely justified in asking those who have made profits to assist those who are less fortunate." In closing, he expressed the hope that, if before the war is ended the government may find it necessary to take not 50 but 100 per cent of those extra profits, no shareholder would complain."

Canadian Finance commends this broad spirit to Canadian and says: "Unlovely petty graft was alleged before the Davidson Commission in connection with the buying of horses in the west. And there is a feeling that this commission might well 'lift on' in behalf of the Allies. Incidental admissions as to huge profits in the purchasing of French remounts were made in the course of a certain partnership suit recently settled out of court in the east. Public and ex-public men, even though plumed knights and millionaires, should be brought to realize that their widely heralded patriotic gifts will not suffice to head off any needed investigation into private or corporate profiteering."

UNITED STATES TRADE

While the United States is protesting against the British blockade as affecting trade the following from Bradstreet's showing what the war has done for the United States is of special interest:—

"Never before in the history of the country were bank clearings so heavy, as they were in the month of October, the total for the month being \$20,022,238, 222. Arrayed alongside of those other months of remarkable totals, viz., October of 1912 and January of 1909, 1918 and 1914, the sum reported for October looks conspicuously large, the best previous total \$17,000,000 for October, 1912, being surpassed to the extent of almost 18 per cent. Even with New York excluded, the total—\$7,812,554,570—for the rest of the country is of record proportions, and the showing made by the metropolis, reflecting, as it does, clearings of \$12,789,678,632, sets up a new high mark, and one that displaces the previous record of \$11,940,075,000 made in January of 1910. Philadelphia, Kansas City, Cleveland, Detroit, Omaha, Denver, Portland, Ore., and Richmond also exhibit unprecedented totals. The ratio of increase over September exceeds 81 per cent, while as compared with October of last year the increment is 72.4 per cent. Of course, the subnormal conditions prevailing in financial centers at this time last year render the present comparison somewhat misleading, but on the other hand, the latest total exceeds that of October, 1913, by about 80 per cent, and as already noted, the previous peak point attained in October, 1912, is surpassed by approximately 18 per cent."

The official figures from military headquarters in Halifax credit Kings county and Gloucester county, N. B., with nine recruits each in September and October. Something wrong there.

With twenty-eight recruits yesterday, St. John continues to make an excellent showing. In the last two months it has shown Halifax a long lead. Will the Halifax Herald note the fact?

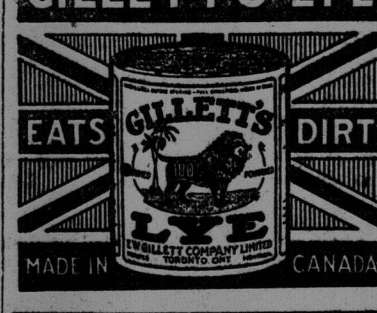
Does not much of this carping criticism of the British government's war work come within the meaning of the phrase "comfort to the enemy?" Being so, is it a loyal course these men are pursuing?

The Frankfurter Zeitung says food is scarce and want is growing acute in Germany, but that hate will nourish people. This is mere rhetorical bluster. The people will presently begin to ask why food is scarce, and why the promised victory has not been won. Then the trouble in Germany will begin.

The Serbian premier says:—"Army headquarters, the government, and the people are persuaded that as soon as allied troops arrive in sufficient numbers and begin action, success will be rapid and constant. Moreover, we are convinced that this success will mark the beginning of the end of the general war." There can be no doubt that if Germany fails to accomplish her purpose in Serbia, it will be the beginning of the end.

An old maker of violoncellos had just finished one which he considered to be a particularly fine piece of work, and he proudly lifted it up for a friendly musician, who was standing near him to admire. He had just called attention to its beautiful lines when suddenly some thing rattled. "Ach!" he exclaimed, "I have left der glue pot inside."

GILLETTE'S LYE



LIGHTER VEIN.

"Regulated by an attractive wording of an advertisement in a trade paper, a trusting investor from the north bought a saw mill in the White River bottoms of Arkansas. When he went down to take possession of his newly purchased property and to assume its management, the recent owner met him at the railroad station and made him welcome. As they climbed into the native's buggy to drive through the woods to the spot where the plant was located, the stranger said:

"I wish you'd give me a few hints right off about how to run this business profitably. You see I'm a little bit green at this line. I've been a lumber dealer all my life, but I never undertook to handle the raw material before."

"Well, mister," stated the Arkansan frankly, "I wish I could give you the advice I want but I reckon I just don't know myself. My father-in-law died and left me this here mill in his will. My two boys helped me to run her and there wasn't no other hands and so I never had to pay out nothin' for wages. I stole all the lumber I cut and my step-brother, who is the division freight agent for the railroad used to slip all my lumber out for me so I never had to pay no freight charges—and last year I came out \$2700 behind."—Saturday Evening Post.

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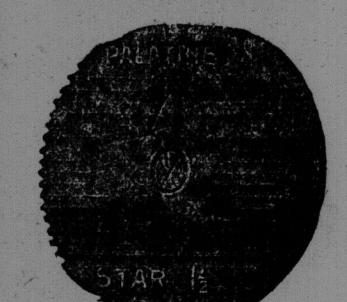
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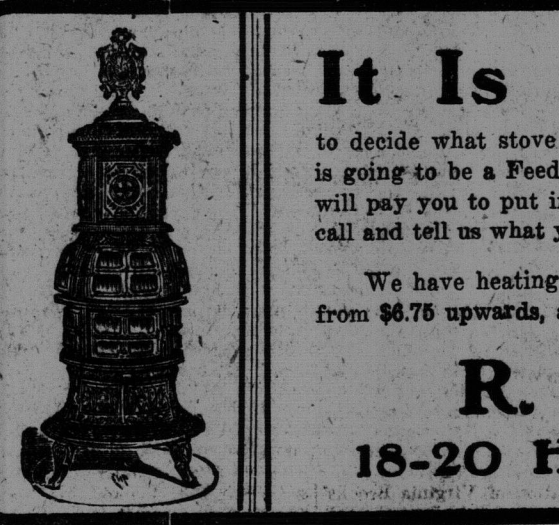
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