

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JULY 31, 1916

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ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 31, 1916.

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EIGHTY-THREE DAYS

This is the eighty-third day since Hon. P. G. Mahoney was appointed Minister of Public Works. He is still Minister of Public Works—the big spending department—though rejected by the people. How much longer will Lieut. Gov. Wood permit this gross violation of the principles of responsible government to continue?

THE WAR NEWS

There is still no evidence of ability on the part of the Central Powers to check the onward movement of the armies of Russia, Kovel and Lemberg are threatened, and the army of Von Bothmer is in danger of being outflanked north and south. Unless Germany has more men and guns to spare for the eastern front, the Russian advance seems likely to continue. On the other hand, the pressure on the western front is such that more men and guns are also needed there, for both British and French are steadily gaining ground, in spite of all the reinforcements the enemy has been able to bring up. A London cable tells us that the prospects of the Allies are regarded there as brighter than at any time since the war began. The most encouraging feature of the situation is that there is no cessation of the fighting on all fronts, but everywhere the enemy must put forth constant efforts to withstand the continuous pressure. The Canadians, after a period of comparative quiet, are again in the fighting and have raided some German trenches south of Ypres. German counter attacks appear to have lost force. They still keep up a show of fighting at Verdun, but each attack is repulsed. The Italians report further slight gains. At no point on the whole battle front have the Central Powers been able to score a success, and the outlook for the Allies grows steadily more bright.

THE OPPOSITION MEETING

The meeting of opponents of the provincial government, to be held in this city on Wednesday evening, will afford the opportunity to form an association which should do much for the cause of better government. St. John should take a prominent part in the work of political reform that is so much needed. The people will get as good or as bad government as they choose. They have had a very striking example of bad government at Fredericton in recent years. The reports of royal commissions have told part of the story, but not all. Everybody knows that if these investigations had been broad enough, and all the witnesses could have been placed on the stand, the record would have been much worse. The retirement of Mr. Fleming did not improve the government. It has not been improved by the retirement of Mr. Morrisey. The only remedy, and the only guarantee of better things is the retirement of the whole cabinet and the men who have supported it through thick and thin when in the interests of the province they should have voted it out of power.

The people of St. John are large contributors to provincial funds, and have a right to know that the money of the province is properly expended. They know that there has been too much graft, and that the toll paid to the grafters has weakened the public services. This city should be represented in the next legislature by men who will cut entirely loose from the political ethics and methods of the party now in power, and endeavor to restore the good name of New Brunswick, so sadly besmirched by those to whose care it was entrusted at the last general election. No government in any province ever had a finer opportunity to make a clean record and to deserve and win a long lease of power than that led by Mr. Fleming. It had practically no opposition, and could have set its face against every form of graft and extravagance. How miserably it failed the whole country knows, and the men who first defended and then whitewashed Mr. Fleming deserve no consideration at the hands of the people of New Brunswick. The electors of St. John who desire better government should rally to the ranks of the opposition party, and aid in the nomination and election of strong men, pledged to do their utmost to reform the administration of provincial affairs. It is not a fight between Liberal and Conservative, but between the friends of good government and the upholders of the worst administration in the history of the province.

WILL THE GOVERNOR ACT?

Is it not time a petition was presented to Lieut.-Gov. Wood, asking for the dismissal of his minister of public works, or the dissolution of the legislature? Why should the fact that a certain group of gentlemen who hold cabinet positions be permitted to restrain the people of this province from demanding that the principles of responsible government be upheld by its chief executive? Lieut.-Gov. Wood does not desire his term of office to go down to history as that in which the cabinet of the day were permitted to violate those principles with impunity. Therefore he

cannot afford to remain silent any longer. Hon. P. G. Mahoney is at the head of the largest spending department. He has been defeated by the people. He represents nobody. How dare the government go on in this fashion—mocking the rights of the electors? Since it does dare, it is up to the lieutenant-governor to proclaim the people's rights and demand that they be respected. If the people cheerfully bow their necks to this yoke, what next may we expect at the hands of the audacious gentlemen who apparently think that an autocracy is the proper form of government for this province?

Can anyone explain why a petition should not be presented to the lieutenant-governor?

A FEW COMMENTS

Concerning the latest Borden commission—this government is always appointing commissions—the Canadian Courier says: "Nobody knows what good this new Railway Inquiry Board is going to do for us, and there is no use pretending about it. It is another of our numberless commissions, another case where the government has deputized another large task to a group of civilians—and so got rid of it for a while." The Courier also has a word of comment on the North Perth election, as follows: "North Perth, an Ontario constituency, has just changed its habitual heavy majority for the Conservatives into a fair Liberal majority. This may not mean all that the Liberals would like to think it means, but their interpretation is not very far off. The Conservative position in the country is, for the present, not quite favorable. Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia! These are straws of some importance." Of the Camp Borden affair the Courier says: "Two errors caused the Camp Borden unpleasantness. One was Sir Sam Hughes."

Sir Sam Hughes has not yet explained his failure to abandon the Ross rifle until the war was nearly two years old.

A Jewish company, to consist of five lieutenants, eight sergeants, two buglers, eight corporals and 232 other ranks, making a total of 255 all ranks, is being recruited in Montreal.

The whole country is shocked by the news of the havoc wrought by forest fires in northern Ontario. The great loss of life under such dreadful conditions makes the calamity the more heart-rending.

The London Sunday Pictorial describes Sir Sam Hughes as the Kitchener of Canada. The great warrior will not appreciate that compliment. He is the Sir Sam Hughes of the world, and J. Wesley Allison is his prophet.

The Toronto Telegram learns that the battalions at Niagara camp are to be concentrated in the maritime provinces before going overseas. Apparently, therefore, St. John will soon have some more men in khaki within its borders. Preparations are already being made.

Sir Sam Hughes has authorized Montreal battalions to recruit in Ontario. This has caused the Toronto Telegram to make a bitter attack on Sir Sam, and the Conservative Mail and Empire hands Sir Sam this one: "This military district has enlisted 80,000 men, thus exceeding its proportion of the 400,000 Montreal battalions, ought to be ashamed to come here, nor recruits." The Montreal Gazette jocosely observes: "Deputy Assistant District Attorney Smith charges that \$50,000 in graft was collected in eighteen months prior to July 1 from one inspection district by a coterie of officials and members of the New York Police Department. The police of the city have not been heard from in such a light since the Rosenthal murder exposures. The latest investigation comes in time to take New Yorkers' minds away from the shark stories and the doings of the wild Mexicans, which they were growing somewhat tired of anyway."

In view of the attacks made on Sir Wilfrid Laurier by a section of the Tory press, the following from the Ottawa Citizen is of general interest: "Mr. Armand Lavergne is authority for the statement that the campaign of literature of the Nationalists in the Drummond-Arthabasca election was paid for and distributed by the Conservatives. He mentions Sir Herbert Ames as the financial agent of the party in this work. He says, further, that Conservative money backed the Nationalist campaign in the Dominion elections of 1911 in Quebec, and that the policy of the Nationalists in that election was the same as it was in the Drummond-Arthabasca election and as it is today—that is, no aid to the Empire under existing circumstances. Mr. Lavergne's statement is the only one dealing with the matter yet published. It has been in print now for a week without drawing a denial from any of the party implicated in its recital."

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"THE GREY MOTHER"

Lo how they come to me,
Long through the night I call them—
Ah, how they turn to me.

East and South my children scatter,
North and West the world they wander,
Yet they come back to me,
Come, with their brave hearts beating,
Languing to die for me.

Me, the grey, old, weary mother,
Throned amid the Northern waters,
Where they have died for me,
Died with their songs around me,
Girding my shores for me.

Narrow was my dwelling for them,
Homes they builded o'er the ocean.

Yet they leave all for me,
Hearing their mother calling,
Bringing their lives for me.

Rise they from graves for me,
Graves where they lay forgotten,
Shades of the brave for me.

Yet my soul is veiled in sadness,
For I see them fall and perish.

Strewing the hills for me,
Claiming the world in dying,
Bought with their blood for me.

—Lauchlin Maclean Watt.

LIGHTER VEIN

Edith—I think Jack is horrid. I asked him if he had to choose between me and a million which he would take and he said the million.

Harry—That's all right. He knew if he had the million you'd be easy.

In a certain town a man went into a restaurant for his noonday meal and, it being a cold day, the door was closed. He sat down a few tables from the door. Presently another man came in, who neglected to shut the door.

The first man noticed it and yelled to him gruffly: "Shut that door! Were you raised in a barn?" After a few seconds he glanced over to where the man was sitting and noticed he was sobbing. He went over and apologized for talking in such a manner.

"I didn't mean to be so rude in asking you if you had been raised in a barn—"

"That's it—that's it," the other sobbed; "I was raised in a barn, and it makes me homesick every time I hear an ass bray."

All through tea Tommy sat silent, so silent that his parents at last began to feel alarmed. But the son and heir was only doing some thinking.

"Pa," said he presently, "Do school teachers get paid?"

"Of course they do, sonny," replied the father.

"Then it ain't fair," burst out the small boy indignantly. "Why should the teachers get paid when us kids do all the work?"

"It is always lovely polite to change the conversation after any unpleasant remarks," explained father kindly, as the family sat round the breakfast table.

That evening he returned home to find that several of his pet flower beds had been raided, while tiny foot-prints pointed to the culprit.

"Mabel," he said sternly, to his six-year-old daughter, "did you pick my flowers?"

"Oh, daddy, was there a monkey in the city today?" came the prompt reply. "We saw one."

"Never mind that! Did you pick my flowers?"

"The little baby next door had got another flower," announced Mabel politely.

"Mabel, now I want the truth! Did you pick my flowers?"

"Yes, daddy, I did," sighed Mabel, resignedly. "But I thought I would change the subject."

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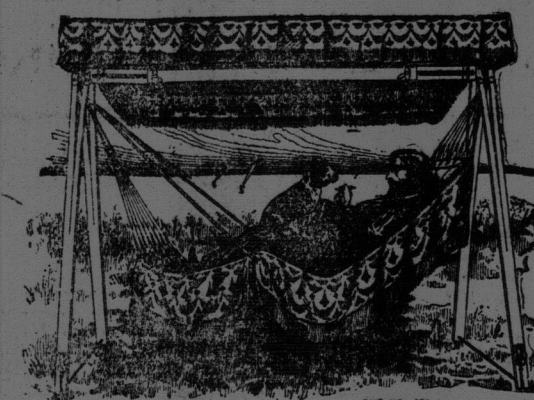
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Sir Pertab Singh Bahadur, at Front at 70, Wants to Die Fighting

"I hope the time is soon coming when at the head of my men I will die fighting," said the "Gravel Old Man of India," Lieut.-Gen. Sir Pertab Singh Bahadur, who in his seventieth year is in the fighting line in France, to the New York Sun London correspondent.

"That is how every Rajput wants to die. If I die in bed, with a doctor looking on, I take a long time to get to God. I have not yet had my chance, but soon I hope to charge the Germans at the head of my men and die for the King-Emperor."

Sir Pertab had come from France to attend the memorial service to his old friend, Lord Kitchener at St. Paul's and the correspondent was presented to him at the Alexandra Hotel. A Grand Commander of the Star of India, a Knight Commander of the Bath, and aide-de-camp to the King-Emperor, an L.L.D. from Cambridge, he has been fighting since he could handle a sword. His record in the Turah campaign and Mohmand expedition, both on the borders of

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The teaching of reading and the study of literature offer exceptional opportunities for arousing the interest of the pupils. The best literature is replete with selections calculated to inspire a love of outdoor life and an interest in the plants and animals with which the country child comes in daily contact. Whittier's "The Barefoot Boy, Burns' "To a Mountain Daisy, and Lowell's description of a day in June are examples, and every teacher will be able to pick out scores of other pieces of merit.

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