

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1918

The Evening Times and Star

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A SHAMEFUL ATTACK.

Hon. Dr. Roberts, who is working day and night in the interests of influenza sufferers all over the province, and through the new provincial department of health doing all that is possible to check the epidemic, is made the subject of a shameful partisan attack by the St. John Standard. Whatever Dr. Roberts is doing as minister of health, for the public good, is done without a cent of remuneration, for he is not a salaried member of the government. Moreover, the new health act was only proclaimed recently, and the department could not be organized in a week or a month. It was only a few days ago the appointment of the district medical officers was announced in the Royal Gazette. Hon. Dr. Roberts, however, had not waited for the official announcement, for the case was urgent, and the new appointees were already at work. Neither the people nor the government anticipated the present epidemic. The disease was in the province before the new health act was proclaimed. There was as yet no organization whatever. There was no machinery under the old health act that could be quickly utilized. When Dr. Roberts wanted reports from every section of the province he had to appeal to the county secretaries and through them to the municipal councilors to get reports from all the parishes. Despite every effort there are still some parishes not sending reports. From the moment the new department was proclaimed Dr. Roberts threw himself into the work without regard for himself. He had still his private practice to attend to, but the splendid work that has been done shows how much time and energy he has also given to the task of organization and of getting the new department into working order. That he should under such circumstances and at such a time be subjected to a grossly partisan attack, and given no credit whatever for his work, is to the lasting discredit of the Standard. One would think that at such a time every newspaper and every citizen would help in the task of hindering, or at least checking, the Standard's attempt to bring a public that is passing through a sore trial. So far as the local situation in St. John is concerned, it is in the hands of the St. John board of health, which in its enumeration of those agencies at work, the Standard does not even mention. Dr. Roberts and the provincial medical officer, Dr. Melvin, are rendering every possible assistance, but their task is provincial and not local. The Standard's enmity of the city physicians, while fully deserved, is merely a cheap attempt to create prejudice against Dr. Roberts.

So far as providing hospitals is concerned, the municipalities must act, and the health minister has been doing his best to co-operate in every way possible. One would think from the Standard's article that nobody in the province, except the government, has any responsibility whatever. The purpose in passing the new health act was to effect such an organization throughout the province as would bring immediate and concerted action whenever necessary. The present occasion arose before the organization could be completed, or even begun, and it is to the great and lasting credit of Dr. Roberts, the father of the act, that the new department is now in existence and has been able to do as much as it has done during the last few weeks. The record of the Standard and its friends. A sample of the Standard's fairness may be found in the following:— "Charlotte County yesterday reported that the epidemic had gained great headway, fifty cases being reported within the week from Wilson's Beach. Has the Provincial Department of Public Health, through the minister in charge, taken steps to provide emergency hospital accommodation there, or to provide nurses, or to do anything else, except to receive the report and transmit it to the newspapers? The Standard will be pleased to learn that any official action has been taken, but the Standard does not believe that such information will be forthcoming." Dr. Roberts did not receive any appeal from Wilson's Beach for help. A letter was received last evening in response to the general enquiry as to conditions. It stated that there were fifty cases and one death. The situation was described as serious, but no request for help was made. Moreover, information received since shows that the situation is clearing up at Wilson's Beach, conditions much improved, and no outside assistance required. The Standard could have learned the facts, but for obvious reasons did not do so. There are, however, appeals for doctors and nurses for many parts of the province. The department is doing its utmost to help and has been able to render a great deal of assistance, but owing to lack of organization it must depend upon voluntary organizations to do much of the work. They are doing it. If they were of the same spirit of the Standard they would let people die and then abuse Dr. Roberts.

WHAT WILL GERMANY DO?

Whether the war is to go on much longer depends on Germany. If her rulers are mad enough and her people sufficiently servile to go on fighting until their country is invaded and they are beaten to their knees, it is possible the struggle will go on into next spring. Austria and Turkey will be out long before that time. They are practically out now, although still fighting a hopeless battle. Consider the case of Austria. It is as good as settled that Hungary will form an independent state. The Czechs-Slovaks are planning a new state with capital at Pressburg on the Danube, and they have been recognized by the Allies as belligerents in the war, entitled to Allied sympathy and support. The whole Austrian empire is seething with rebellion. It cannot maintain itself as a fighting power against the Allies. The great drive on the Italian front has carried the Allies over the Piave River, into towns on its eastern bank. More than twenty thousand prisoners have been taken and it is anticipated the defeat of the Austrians will be overwhelming as soon as the entire Allied force can be brought into action. At the same time the Serbians and their Allies are threatening Hungary from the south. There is no escape. With powerful enemies within and without, the Dual Monarchy is doomed. And what of Turkey? She is not only losing more and more of her Asiatic empire, but an Allied army from the north may any day set out toward Constantinople, through Bulgaria. The only way she can get any help from Germany would be through the Russian port of Odessa, for the Bulgarian route is no longer available and the Roumanian ports have been closed. Turkey therefore cannot afford to go on with the war. Very soon, therefore, Germany will stand alone. The Australian soldiers sailing her will be withdrawn. Not only will she be assailed with overwhelming force on the western front but from the south the armies of Italy and Greece, with their French, Serbian, Czech-Slovak, British, and American Allies, will be threatening her along several different avenues of attack. She will have also a rebellious Poland. Of all this her leaders must be conscious, and it is hardly conceivable that they will trumpet the fates and prolong the struggle till triumphant enemies invade her territory and wreck her cities. If she does choose to go on, it might be better in the end for the cause of civilization, but in any case such terms must be imposed as will leave her prostrate and powerless for further evil in the world.

Canada pledged her last dollar and her last man in this war of civilization against barbarism. The Victory Loan appeal comes to every citizen. If the war ended tomorrow our soldiers would not at once come home, and whenever they come they should find a prosperous country ready to take care of them. Every dollar of the \$500,000,000 will be needed. To subscribe that sum the smallest investment helps—and it is a good investment on the best possible security. Out of 536,000 Australians sent to the war the total casualties have been 250,191, including 54,821 dead. Australia demands that she be freed from German menace in the future is justified by her great sacrifice for the cause of civilization. The more we read of the ravages of influenza in other provinces and states, the more cause we have for thankfulness that the New Brunswick health department took early and vigorous measures to arouse public interest and organize to fight the epidemic. Every man and woman who feel that they can make the necessary payments from month to month should buy a Victory Bond and help their country's cause to that extent. Every dollar will be needed. German civilians are getting away from the lower Rhineland and part of Westphalia. They will have news to tell the Germans of other parts of the country. At last Spain is beginning to discover that the Allies are right in this war. No doubt Sweden is also in process of conversion. Since October 14 nearly or quite twenty thousand prisoners have been taken by the Allied armies on the Belgian front. Serious rioting at Budapest is the beginning of the whirlwind in Hungary. The republican movement is said to be growing. The new map of Europe will show a state called Slovakia. There will also be a new Poland. It is again reported that Brussels will soon be evacuated by the Germans.

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THEY WATCH OUR HOLY DEAD!

On Flanders' fields, in Picardy, in battle-torn Champagne, Where fair France rolls its food from off the Lombard plain; Where Serbia joins Albania's heights and Greek and Bulgair meet, And Holy Land and Tigris see the Turk in just defeat, In Russia's vast despoiling land—how far the fight is spread; And over all, that growing host—the legions of the dead! Among that host are shrinking souls of child and wife and maid— Dishonored souls, that cry to God that vengeance be not stayed. And, with the souls of those who fought, they watch Attila's open grave, Invite a peace to stay our hand and make those souls a pawn; They watch the butcher's ghastly course, And see that hand held out for peace—they watch, our holy dead! And shall we say they died in vain, those friends that stemmed the tide, And close our ears to solemn pleas from those who bravely died? Shall shrewd old men, in secret net, decree these deaths were vain, Then set them home and plan to stee? "No peace," they cry, these dead of ours, "but peace for which we bleed. Remember, they are watching us, those legions of the dead— We owe a debt of honor to those sacred, holy dead!" —Thomas Henry Ryan.

LIGHTER VEIN

How to Get There. She—How shall I go to work to become a star? He—Get the reviewers to praise you to the skies. Question for Question. Hub—Why does a woman say she's been shopping when she hasn't bought anything? Wife—Why does a man say he's been fishing when he hasn't caught anything? A Man of Resource. "I thought your wife objected to your going to the club evenings." "Oh, that was two years ago." "Then she changed her views." "No, I've changed my wife." Fished in Vein. Mrs. Fisher—You wouldn't suppose that I had a son in school, would you? Mr. Blunt—No, indeed. I had an idea that all your children must be through college by this time.

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SERIOUS RIOTING IN HUNGARIAN CAPITAL Soldiers Use Machine Guns—Labor Revolt May Develop London, Oct. 29.—Serious rioting took place at Budapest on Monday evening, according to a Budapest despatch to the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin, which is quoted in a Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. Many lives are said to have been lost. It is said that a deputation was sent by the party of Count Michael Karolyi to the castle at Budapest to ask Archduke Joseph to appoint Karolyi premier. A great crowd followed the deputation and attempted to break through a military guard. Severe fighting followed, the soldiers using machine guns and bayonets. A large number of people were killed and the fighting was still in progress when the telegram was dispatched at 9 o'clock on Monday evening. The correspondent adds that the republican movement is growing and that a general labor revolt may be expected at any moment. —LUX-VICTORY BONDS.

THE MAN OF THE MOMENT. (Pall Mall Gazette) A good story regarding the Prince of Wales is told. A well-known society lady who is nursing in France is an enthusiastic collector of the photographs of men who are in the limelight. For this reason she wrote to the Prince soon after the latter's visit to the Pope, asking for his portrait, as she considered his journey to Rome made him the man of the moment. The letter took some time to reach the prince, during which the successful French counter-offensive on the Marne began. Finally the lady was overjoyed at receiving a letter from the heir-apparent, and without a moment's delay hastened to open the letter. It contained not a portrait of the Prince of Wales, but one of General Foch.



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