

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 10, 1917

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ONE MORE WEEK.

One week from today the people of Canada will decide whether they will have a partisan government, and violate their solemn pledges to their sons overseas; or whether they will have a government, the Military Service Act, and the most effective mobilization of the resources of the country for the purpose of winning the war.

The issue is perfectly clear. To defeat the union government would be to go back to partisan government. Surely the country has had enough of that, and should now forget partisanship and show the world a united nation. The best that Liberals and Conservatives together can do is needed in this hour. Until the war is over, old party cries should be forgotten. Canada stands in very grave peril. Democracy, civilization itself, is at the parting of the ways. Germany must be crushed or freedom as we have known it perish from the earth. In the face of that supreme issue, partisanship is a crime.

To defeat the union government would be to abandon the Military Service Act, the only means by which men can be secured in time to be of use in filling the rapidly thinning battalions at the front. It is the veriest humbug to say that Canada has no men to spare, or that we cannot send men to the front and at the same time increase food production. Every man who looks around him and takes stock of the situation knows that this is merely a false plea, put forward in the interest of partisanship. We can send the men and conserve food, and increase production. All three are necessary, but the need for men is most urgent, for they can be in training long before anything can be done to increase the production of food. A proper mobilization of man-power and machinery, apart from military service, will take care of food production; and this the union government is pledged to carry into effect.

Remember, it is the union government, not the old Borden government, that is on trial. It is easy to criticize the old government, which was a partisan government; but let it not be forgotten that what the critics propose is to give the country another partisan government. The union government has begun well. It has abolished patronage, made merit and not political pull the test in the civil service; increased the allowance to soldiers' wives; made it impossible for packing companies to make any more huge profits; and it is pledged to make the income tax bring into the national treasury much more revenue than ever before. If it be urged that much more needs to be done, no supporter of the union government will deny the fact; but this government has only been at the head of affairs for two months or less, and has been compelled to devote most of its attention to the elections. When they are over and the members are free to devote all their energy to the task of administration, the fine beginning they have made will be followed up by other necessary measures of the greatest importance.

No charge made or proven against the old Borden government can be made to apply to a government which includes Hon. F. B. Carvell, Hon. A. K. MacLean, Hon. Messrs. Ballantyne, Rowell, Crenar, Caldwell, Sifton, and other Liberals; and supported by Hon. W. S. Fielding and so many others who have been the very backbone of Liberalism in Canada. The speaker or writer who spends his time denouncing the sins of the old government is merely dodging the real issue that is before the country today, and on which the people will pronounce on Dec. 17.

But the supreme consideration is the question whether Canada is to desert its sons at the front. It is idle to assert that the defeat of the union government would have any other result. The most rapid training of men can hardly be the front in time to keep the army divisions up to strength. If the government is defeated the Military Service Act will not be carried out. Those who go against the government will do so realizing that this is the truth. The soldiers themselves know what is involved and they are voting for the government that will send the men so sorely needed. The moral effect of a popular verdict in Canada against union government and against sending more men to the front would be felt from Washington to Pet-

rograd; but especially would it be felt in the Mother Country, in the other overseas Dominions and in France. Will Canada keep step with these, or fall out a dishonored nation? Will she stand by her sons, or desert them?

WORSE THAN WAS FEARED.

At last we have been able to learn with a fair degree of fulness the extent of the Halifax disaster. All that we had feared or imagined is surpassed by the awful destruction wrought and the suffering and bereavement now revealed. The need of assistance is far greater than was anticipated, and the response must be prompt and generous. There is danger that many of the injured will die because of hurried dressing of wounds under unsanitary conditions. More nurses are needed. Homes must be found for the homeless. Clothing and bedding must be supplied. Weeks will pass before the critical period for the living will be over, and months will pass before the bodies of the dead will all be found—if indeed some of them are ever found. It is believed that over two thousand are dead, and there will be many other deaths as a result of injuries and exposure. The stormy winter weather has made the task of rescue and repair far more difficult. With the grim tales of wreck and death come others that tell of heroic endurance and unselfish service. Aid is being sent from all quarters, but it cannot go too quickly. St. John has responded with universal eagerness, and will continue to do its share in the work of mercy.

It is not yet clear that the terrible explosion was the result of pure accident, and arrests made will be followed by a searching enquiry which begins tomorrow. The war is brought terribly near to us by this calamity. It brings a lesson and a warning to all Canada.

Hon. F. B. Carvell is fighting a strong battle for union government. He should be rewarded by strong support from New Brunswick in the new House of Commons. With him there is but one issue—shall Canada carry on or quit? And that is the only issue in this campaign.

The mothers, wives and sisters of the men overseas know that the latter are supporting the union government. Therefore these devoted women who have already given so much, will not fail the country in its hour of need, or vote against sending prompt assistance to their heroes at the front.

When the elections are over the new government will be free to grapple with the problems of the war, remove grievances, and throw itself with the utmost energy into the work of mobilizing Canada for effective war service. How necessary this is the war news reveals.

When ministers in their pulpits urge the people to support union government, and their appeal is heard with demonstration of approval, it is clear that the issue is grave indeed; but clear also that the people are thinking of the men in the trenches and will not desert them.

The Right Rev. M. F. Fallon, Roman Catholic Bishop of London, Ont., has issued a statement to the press with an urgent appeal to all Catholics to support the Union government. Archbishop Casey of Vancouver has done the same.

With a counter revolution in South-eastern Russia and Siberia holding back food supplies, the troubles of the Bolsheviks are beginning. Russia will come back—but when?

Do we want the experience of Halifax to be duplicated in other Canadian cities? Vote to throw Canada's full strength into the war, that it may be the sooner ended.

Halifax is rounding up the Germans who heretofore had been treated with great lenience in that city.

Ladies who met yesterday to sew for the children of Halifax were rendering a fine Christian service.

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THE SURVIVORS OF THE IMO ARE HELD FOR INQUIRY

The Bodies Counted Have Reached Total of 1040

NEWS OF ST. JOHN PEOPLE

Some Further Tales of Terrifying Experiences in the-Fearful Catastrophe which Devastated Halifax

A report from Halifax says that the survivors of the Belgian steamer Imo, which collided with the ammunition ship Mont Blanc, and Pilot McKay and Captain Lameque of the latter, are being detained by admiralty authorities pending an official inquiry.

Relief work and search for the dead was continued yesterday in the devastated district in Halifax. Many more bodies were found and the number at the various morgues total 1040. It is feared that the dead will be upwards of 4000.

An experience of Third Officer Mayers of a transport is amazing. His steamer was about 500 yards away from the Mont Blanc. He was ready to step into a rowboat to go ashore, but when he came to he was prone on the ground half a mile away without a stitch of clothing on.

Many refugees from the stricken city

HEART WAS BAD NERVES ALL GONE

Very important it is in this age to have a clear cool head, a strong heart and steady nerves.

Too much rush and bustle, work and worry, fall to the lot of women attending to their household duties and social obligations. The constant strain under which they continue day in and day out will soon shatter the strongest system.

Before long the heart gets weak, flutters and palpitations, the nerves become unstrung, you start at the least sound, the pulse becomes weak and irregular, then finally comes physical breakdown or nervous prostration.

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Don't Let The Fire Burn Thru To The Oven

PIMPLES AND RUNNING SORES Would Hold Head Down Face Was Such a Sight

Pimples are caused by the blood being out of order. Those festering and running sores appear on the forehead, on the nose, on the chin and other parts of the body, and although they are not a dangerous trouble they are very unsightly to both you and your friends.

There is only one way to get rid of this obnoxious skin trouble, and this is by giving the blood a thorough cleansing by the use of Burdock Blood Bitters. This sterling remedy has been on the market for over forty years, during which time we have received thousands of testimonials as to its curative powers over all skin diseases.

Mrs. Victoria G. Fry, North Battleford, Sask., writes: "I used Burdock Blood Bitters when I was about eighteen. I was so bad with pimples and running sores, that when I went down town, I would hold my head down when I would see anyone coming, my face was such a sight. I got two bottles, and my face began to clear, so I kept on until I had a beautiful complexion. I have recommended it to everyone who is in a run down condition, as it builds up the blood, and when the blood is all clear, the face is clear."

Manufactured only by The T. Millburn Co. Limited, Toronto, Ont.

of Halifax are leaving the city to make their residence elsewhere, and on a train which left there on Saturday night were hundreds coming to St. John. Among the St. John people aboard was William Constable, formerly of St. John and Moncton. He was on a flat car and when he recovered was alone—his mates had vanished. The Lessards of St. John were fortunate and when Alex. Lessard of 583 Main street came to Halifax to find out about his mother he found the whole family safe, although they had had a narrow escape. The piano in their home was blown up two flights and one of the young girls blown down a twenty-flight flight of stairs by the force of the explosion. The family on recovering made their escape in an automobile.

Edward Davis of St. John, who was studying at the Halifax School for the Blind, was practising music and the piano when the explosion occurred, knocking him across the room. The blind children proved to be the best of nurses and gave tender treatment to the wounded brought to their institution.

Edward Lee, son of T. C. Lee of St. John, was also on this train. He was accompanied by fellow students at the Halifax Naval College, George C. Marler, former Rotherby boy, Cadet Miles, son of R. C. Miles of St. John, and Cadet Richardson, son of B. P. Richardson of Fredericton. All had slight wounds, but no one at the college was killed. Ira B. Pidgeon and A. D. Wood came through. They were at the Dental College, Dalhousie. This building was quite badly shattered, but there was no loss of life.

Fred Watson of Marsh street, St. John, returned after finding his sister, Mrs. Mildred Moore, Bell street, had escaped with her family though their home was badly shattered.

Leahann Coleman was pinned down by falling girders in the North street station and killed instantly.

There were several deaths on the train. The bodies of the dead were seen killed. The rest of the family were reported safe. The Hills family were relatives of Mr. Palmer.

Harold C. Mayes, who was in Halifax when the terrible tragedy occurred, returned to the city on Saturday evening. A military hospital, being hit by a twenty-foot chain from the Mont Blanc, which traveled a mile and a half before striking the body of Pilot William Hayes, was found near Olan's brewery. Lieutenant-Commander James A. Murray, formerly of the Empress of Britain, and recently commander of convoys with headquarters at Halifax, was instantly killed.

Edward McBriarty, son of Edward McBriarty, of Main street, St. John, was injured. Corporal A. Audette of this city died of immediate death by this city when the North station fell. A Cameron of St. John was slightly injured. Sergeant McKay and family of seven children arrived in the city yesterday. Every member of the family was injured in some way, although none seriously.

The work of relief in St. John goes on night and day. An express car was attached to the 11:30 train last night bearing necessities for Halifax. On Sunday afternoon there came a call for flannel and this was on the train in two hours. The Great War Veterans Association donated \$100 and have sent a donation to assist in the work. On the buying committee are Sergeant A. Simpson, Private P. D. Moore and Private C. Logan.

In St. Peter's church, North End, yesterday, Father Coholan made a strong appeal for aid from the congregation and said that all goods sent to St. Peter's rectory would be packed and sent to Halifax.

He Uses Words Strangely. (New York Times.) Among the congratulatory telegrams sent to Feld Marshal Von Hindenburg when he attained his seventieth birthday this week was one from Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, who is foreign secretary of the German empire, a high position, the occupant of which is expected to know many things and to know them well. One sentence in his despatch reads: "Glorious deeds of imperishable greatness make this a national fete day."

It is not quite clear whether these words refer to the field marshal's own achievements or to those of the German armies taken together as a fighting force. In either case, however, they suggest an eager and interested inquiry: Just what were the "glorious deeds" of which the "imperishable greatness" deserved celebration by the whole German people?

Search memory as one will, there is to be found in it credited to Germany only deeds the effect of which, in sum, has been to create for her not respect, or admiration, or even fear, but the bitter condemnation of many peoples, and to have kindled in the armed antagonism against any other nation since the world began. Germany today has a few allies—and such allies as she has not one friend in east or west, north or south, and she confronts a future blacker and more threatening than even the most unhappily fated races ever faced in the past.

That she has won military victories is true, but all of them, like the one upon which the reputation of General von Hindenburg largely or wholly rests, have excited more of horror or of a than of appreciation, even from the standpoint. As war goes, the slaughter of the almost weaponless Russian thousands in the Mazurian marshes had its merits, but why it should be counted glorious is hard for non-Germans to see, and the rash through Belgium into France necessitated real fighting only when the Marne was reached.

What happened then is worth celebrating—but not in Germany. Since then there have been the Lusitania and many another merchantman to consider, there

have been Serbia and Roumania and Armenia and Poland to examine—all supplying deeds that are indeed "imperishable," but strangely few that in the record of history will pass as "glorious."

In the Cathedral yesterday morning it was announced that the sum of \$535.01 was the amount collected on Sunday last in aid of St. Vincent's De Paul Society's work among the poor.



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