

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1916

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EIGHTY-EIGHT DAYS

This is the eighty-eighth day since Hon. P. G. Mahoney was appointed Minister of Public Works. He is still Minister of Public Works, though rejected by the people. How much longer will the Government permit this gross violation of the principles of responsible government to continue?

GERMAN FALSEHOODS

Events are not moving in favor of Germany. While the Kaiser, in his address to the army, boasts of Germany's achievements in the war, and endeavors to renew the faltering faith of soldiers and people in the face of recent disasters and the obvious fact that the initiative in the war has gone from the Central Powers, the German Foreign Office is making a bid for neutral sympathy and support. In a statement to the Associated Press the Foreign Office repeats the falsehood that Russian, French and British greed were responsible for the war and says:

"Whereas, Germany's enemies regard it quite in order that they demand territorial aggrandizements at the cost of others, like Russia, who wants Constantinople and Galicia, like France, who desires Alsace-Lorraine, and the left bank of the Rhine, and like Italy, who seeks Austrian territory—they grudge Germany even that she strive to develop herself economically in peaceable competition and they pronounce this an unpardonable sin against the world's order of things."

Of England's attitude in the war the German Foreign Office makes the following false assertion:

"It is openly admitted that Belgium was only a pretext to justify England's participation in the war which was undertaken only from self interest. Germany must be destroyed. Germany shall never more raise her head economically nor militarily. In this way the goal of our enemy was more easily attained during the second year of the war."

The next charge made is that the enemies of Germany have set out to destroy her completely, including her civilian population, and it adds:

"England wants a war of destruction, a war to the knife, which, according to the plans, shall continue even after the cannon is succeeded for the talk of government peace. The German people shall be annihilated by the sword of the German enemies are raising over the Paris economic conference."

After more of the same tenor the Foreign Office makes a direct appeal for sympathy of the neutral nations, whose interests are alleged to be in great danger. Thus:

"One observes, therefore, in the second war year, increasing violations of the rights of neutrals in the interests of England and her allies. These violations will also continue through the third year and even increase unless all signs prove false. Whether on the neutral side any factors are to be thrown into the scale against this, Germany is continuing with tenacity the struggle which will also in the long run prove advantageous to the neutrals as shown by their experience with England; for the ultimate goal of Germany's struggle is the freedom of the seas."

In conclusion, to impress upon the neutrals if possible the thought of German victory in the end, the Foreign Office says:

"Building upon what she already has achieved, Germany treads the threshold of the third year of the war with unshaken confidence. But the goal has not yet been reached for the enemy has not yet come to see the impossibility of subjugating Germany."

Whether the Kaiser is able to befoul his soldiers and people for a longer period we do not know, but there is no possibility of neutral nations being deceived by the German Foreign Office. They know that neither Russia's desire for Constantinople and Galicia, nor the desire of France for Alsace-Lorraine, nor England's desire to crush Germany caused this war. They know that German ambition to dominate the world lies at the root of the whole matter, and that England only espoused the cause of Belgium after all her efforts to preserve peace had failed and the territory of Belgium had been violated. Germany is much more concerned now about neutral opinion than she was when her armies were gaining victories. She sees the initiative taken from her on all fronts, and realizes that unless by a policy of boasts and bluff she can bring about peace proposals she will soon be in a far less favorable position to discuss peace terms. Germany was prepared for war and the Allies were not. Now that they are prepared it is only a question of time, as Sir Douglas Haig has said, when they will win a decisive victory. Sir Douglas makes the significant assertion that England will not achieve her full strength on land until next summer. By that time her seasoned troops will be at their best in numbers and in quality, and if Germany is able to hold out during the coming winter it will only be to face a stronger enemy on the west and also in the east.

For Russia, too, will be stronger in the field next year than she is today. It is not the crushing of Germany the Allies are thinking of, but the destruction of German militarism, and the accomplishment of world-peace. To quote again from Sir Douglas Haig:

"All those who believe that our cause is the cause of civilization may rest assured that this army has no thought except to go on delivering blow after blow until we have won that victory by force of arms which will ensure an enduring peace."

Health and Housing.

The following paragraph from the report of the chief health officer, Dr. G. G. Melvin, in relation to health and housing, ought to receive a good deal more consideration than is usually accorded such matters:

"That the conditions are yet far from ideal, of course, goes without saying; indeed no improvement at all approaching complete satisfaction is possible so long as such considerable areas of the city continue to be covered by so inferior a class of houses. I also regret to say that in more districts than one houses are being erected where the obstacles to good drainage are so great that sanitary conditions will be almost unattainable."

This is a matter closely affecting the health of the whole community. So long as there are unsanitary houses there is danger to the public health, to say nothing of the effect upon families, and especially the children, living under such conditions. Surely there should be some authority to prevent the erection of houses where proper sanitation is not available, and the same authority should condemn old houses that are not fit for human habitation. High rents will drive tenants to such places as long as such places exist.

Of course the problem is not peculiar to St. John. Halifax has similar conditions, and the following article from the Recorder applies to St. John as well as to the sister city:

"Provision is made for the official inspection of factories and plants wherein men and women work, and the law forces those responsible to make such premises clean, airy, well ventilated and sanitary in order that the workers may not suffer in health; rightly believing that the health of the people is the nation's most valuable asset, the law makes it necessary to build such houses in such a manner as to provide ample light, heat and pure air for the children in attendance. Costly sewerage systems are constructed by civic authorities in order that all dangerous and offensive matter shall be disposed of readily and harmlessly. The streets are daily sprinkled to keep down the dust, which is largely filthy and a disease carrier, as well as a physical annoyance, and at certain intervals the streets are swept clean of all loose surface dirt, and the gutters are cleaned out and the material hauled away. All these things are done for the better living and comfort of the people."

Now, while all these and more besides are performed with such laudable aims in view, a most grave neglect is permitted in connection with a matter of even more importance than all, namely the permitting of families to occupy uncomfortable, unsanitary and otherwise objectionable dwellings within the city's bounds. And yet the home surroundings are vastly more important than all else in the life of the people, both in health and character of the population, particularly the youthful portion. It should therefore be as much the responsibility of the powers-that-be to look after the housing of the people as to look after the place of work and the schools wherein they are educated. There can be no doubt whatever that a great number of tenements are tolerated in Halifax which are not fitted for human habitation. Within a brief time, at any rate, and probably even now, not a sewer connection, even though situated in those parts of the city where such could be made, is quite easily. In not a few old places the 'toilets' are no doubt kept in a dreadful condition, and not enough repairs are made to even make the roofs rain-proof.

But there is another side to the question and a most important one. Why do people choose to live in defective and unsanitary tenements? Simply because they cannot afford the high rentals asked for better dwellings, because rent charges have reached a figure never before approached in the history of our city. Some of this increase is no doubt legitimate and necessitated by the increased cost of building material and the advance in wages. The remainder of the increase we leave others to account for. The result leaves no choice to hundreds of families. They cannot pay the high rents for comfortable and sanitary houses, and the uncomfortable and unsanitary places are the only ones within their reach; hence the deplorable conditions in many cases. The rich can look after themselves. What are the powers-that-be going to do to meet the problems presented by the housing of the poor? Surely some movement towards amelioration has become a pressing need. If many families had better home surroundings there would not be a fraction of the need for rescue and social service which now exists."

Very important news comes over the cable. For example: "London, July 31.—Sir Sam Hughes went out this morning to purchase an automobile."

The Standard this morning intimates that if Mr. Carter and others do not cease exposing the grafters it will adopt a policy of frightfulness. The Standard is hard hit.

The last week has not been marked by any great change in the war situation, but the Allies have gained some ground and continue everywhere on the offensive. The most important gains have been made by Russia.

Yesterday's demonstration in St. John was marked by brilliant addresses, but by only one enlistment for overseas service. Perhaps a better record will be made today and Monday. If two or three more Canadian divisions are to be formed, recruits must come forward in larger numbers.

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LIGHTER VEIN

A certain barometer was retained on one occasion to defend a Jew charged with stealing a gold watch from his master. The evidence against the accused was "said" the barometer, "only circumstantial, and I made the most of it, with the result that he was discharged without the proverbial stain on his character."

"On the same evening I was sitting in the smoking room of a hotel conversing with the magistrate who had heard the case, when my client of the morning approached and asked if he could speak to me.

"Without rising I asked him what he wanted. Not noticing who my companion was, he blurted out in English: 'Master, can I wear the watch now?' producing at the same time the identical article for the theft of which he had been tried and acquitted."

The magistrate roared with laughter. I felt somewhat embarrassed, and in the meantime the boy, recognising the magistrate's face, had bolted.

"Is there anyone there?" he asked, absent.

"No, professor," answered the intruder, knowing his peculiarity.

"That's strange," murmured the professor, "I was almost sure I heard some one under the bed."

A gang of Italian laborers were working in a section of the city. Suddenly one of the gang cried out:

"Help! Help!"

"What's the matter out there?" came a voice from the construction shanty.

"Quick! Bring me a shovel! Bring me a shovel! Bring me a shovel!"

"How far in?"

"Up to his knees."

"O let him walk out."

"No! No! He cannot walk. He is wronged and up!"

"Trees!" scoffed the visitor in the east. "Why, you fellows have seen a really big tree. Now, in the west we have them of a fair size. O, yes. Why, I remember, out in Texas they felled one across a railway only which it would have cost too much to build a bridge! Well, they just hollowed out that tree and had a dandy bridge."

Exclamations of surprise and incredulity were the order of the day.

"Sure, I know it was a fact, because I've often driven across it," he asserted.

"And one day I was driving a load of hay over when I met a man coming from the other side, also with a load of hay. Neither of us could go back or forward."

"What did you do?" asked a particularly trusting soul.

"O, I just backed my wagon in a hollow branch and let him pass."

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Special Mention For N.S. Battalion

Canadian Headquarters in the Field, Aug. 4, via dispatch. During the past week several successful minor operations were carried out by Canadian battalions. One night at 11 o'clock a listening post occupied by Privates Donovan and Ward, of a Nova Scotia battalion, was approached by an enemy patrol. Two of the enemy were allowed to come within bayonet distance, when a hand-to-hand encounter took place. One of the Germans was bayoneted and captured. The other managed to break away. The prisoner died shortly after being brought into our trenches.

Another night an enemy patrol of ten men came within a few yards of an advance post held by a Canadian battalion. The Germans were at once attacked with bombs and quickly forced to withdraw, carrying with them two wounded men and abandoning a quantity of grenades. Under the command of Lieut. Wise two parties of this battalion, each consisting of five men, made a reconnaissance of the German trenches. Lieut. Wise and one party made their way through the enemy entanglements. Several Germans were seen. Shortly afterwards Sergt. Anderson was wounded. Lieut. Wise attempted to lift him out of the trench but was himself wounded in three places. Private Johnson then threw him up his supply and exhausted and then returned to our trench for reinforcements. All our wounded were brought back with the exception of Sergt. Anderson, who could not be found. The next day the Germans put up a wooden cross on their parapet and it is feared they wished by this means to signify that Sergt. Anderson had been buried.

Following unanimous election by the board of directors Thursday evening, Frank L. Smith, of Rockland (Me.), was elected secretary of the Y. M. C. A. to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of T. H. Hutchinson, who is now secretary for high school work in the dominion.

Mr. Smith is a native of Annapolis (N. B.). He received his vocational education at the Y. M. C. A. training school in Springfield (Mass.), and immediately after graduation was appointed secretary at the Hotel (N. Y.) Y. M. C. A. After two years of very successful and painstaking work there he accepted a call to the Rockland branch, where he has been located for the past three years. He had made an enviable record for himself as a secretary, and his name came to the local board of directors with the highest recommendation from the international committee. It is expected that he will assume his new duties about Sept. 1.

Mr. Hutchinson is now at the summer school at Couchiching Lake, Ontario, and will make his headquarters in Toronto during the coming winter. F. A. Dyke, last night accepted the resignation of T. H. Hutchinson, who is now secretary for high school work in the dominion.

THE PLAYGROUNDS.

At a meeting of the executive of the Playgrounds Association last evening, president, W. B. Tennant, presiding, it was decided to have a public closing of the playground season, with entertainment by the children and an exhibition of their work. Mrs. George Disher, Mrs. H. Colby Smith and Miss Louise Parks were appointed a committee to meet with the teachers on Monday evening and discuss the details. A letter from Rev. W. G. Lane, who was unable

to be present, but who has taken a great interest in the Centennial and Aberdeen grounds, referred to the trouble given by some large boys, and the president said steps had been taken to deal with them if there is any more trouble. Satisfactory reports were received from the Girls' Club and Travelers' Aid. The treasurer's financial statement was also most satisfactory than at this time last year.

ITALY AIMS AT ORDER TO PEOPLE.

Rome, via Paris, Aug. 3.—The Italian government, according to the Messagero, is about to publish a decree forbidding all Italians, including those living abroad, from doing business with nationals in alliance with enemies of Italy. Agreements in spite of the prohibition, it is stated, will be considered void and the makers will be punished.

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Ladies' Pumps, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.25; reduced from \$2.50, \$3.00.

Ladies' Button Boots, \$1.75; reduced from \$2.50, \$2.75.

Misses' and Children's Pumps, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 to clear.

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