

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1915.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved"—H. M. The King.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

AUSTRALIA AID CANADA.

The completion of a cruiser by Australia has commended itself to the Liberal newspapers as a complete and satisfying answer to those who opposed the Laurier naval policy, and, arguing that Canada could do what Australia did, these astute journals reiterate that Canadian cruisers could have been built in Canadian yards just as Sir Wilfrid said they could.

To the best of our knowledge the Conservatives did not say that Canada could not build cruisers, if given sufficient time. The argument arising out of Sir Robert Borden's naval bill was whether this country could produce with sufficient facility the three dreadnoughts tendered by the Canadian government to the British navy.

There is a wide opinion that at this time all questions of political character should be put aside and the best thought of the country devoted to the task of the hour, the successful prosecution of Canada's part in the Empire war. It is, however, just as well to dispose of these little Liberal arguments as they arise in order that the record may be kept straight and our friends of the opposite party may not be permitted to depart too far from the path of verity. Consequently it may not be inadvisable to refer briefly to the negotiations leading up to the Borden Naval Bill.

On the advice of experts, the British First Lord of the Admiralty, in reply to Sir Robert Borden, pointed out the great difficulties in the way of constructing dreadnoughts in Canada. Not the least of these difficulties was the fact that Canada lacked the dock yards in which to construct such battleships and the provision of the necessary plant would cost far more than the ships themselves. When challenged, the Liberals were forced to admit that they did not know of any plant in Canada in which such vessels could be built but got over this by declaring that there was no haste, no emergency, and that the requisite facilities could be provided long before the ships themselves would be necessary. In support of this argument they scoffed at the idea that Germany entertained anything but the kindest of feelings toward the Empire. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, himself, being most insistent on that point.

Possibly it may be regarded as unkind to refer again to Sir Wilfrid's estimate of the German Emperor, but, like Banquo's ghost, it will not down. Speaking upon the naval issue in the House of Commons on February 27th, 1913, Sir Wilfrid said in part:

"The German Emperor is undoubtedly one of the great men of the present age. By intellect, by character, by moral fiber, he has shown himself wonderfully endowed. In the first years of his reign some of his utterances sent a shiver through those who had the peace of the world at heart. Many believed that he was, perhaps, hankering for military glory. But as he advanced in years and as crisis after crisis came, his potent influence was always directed toward peace. AND THE DAY MAY COME WHEN, LIKE HIS ILLUSTRIOUS UNCLE, OUR LATE KING, HE MAY BE CALLED THE PEACEMAKER!"

Fortunately, Australia did not number among her Class A statesmen gentlemen who felt it was not necessary to provide warships to fight Germany, and that country went ahead while Canada did nothing. Consequently our cousins in the Southern Pacific are today turning out their own ships of war. Canada might have been doing the same thing if Sir Robert Borden had come earlier to power. When he did become premier he was warned by the British Admiralty in a note that was quite as much to Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the need was immediate. But at this warning Sir Wilfrid and his political associates guffawed merrily, and extolled the German Emperor as in the words of Sir Wilfrid himself. What Australia has done is to Canada's shame, no doubt. But the responsibility rests with the Government that was in power up to within three years of the outbreak of the war and with the Opposition that made it impossible that Canada should have in the British navy today three super-dreadnoughts.

THE FORD PEACE PARTY.

According to the despatches Henry Ford's peace evangelists were not per-

mitted to land in England although the Oscar II. touched at Kirkwall. The vessel then proceeded to Holland. That it was believed the British authorities might not allow Ford and his party to land without at least submitting them to a careful scrutiny is indicated by the Boston Transcript of Thursday evening which said:

"The British Government evidently finds the Ford delegates worth looking over. After Archibald, one can never tell who may be carrying letters and documents to the Germans which may be highly useful to them. On the Oscar II. are several gentlemen, whose names might be given, who have proved their inclination to be serviceable to the Imperial German Government, and who probably would not be above carrying a message to Wilhelm if they were politely asked to do so by the right person. There are also several ladies whose personal records are not only quite unknown to the British Government but to pretty much everybody else. The United States, after the Archibald experience, could hardly make any protest against the searching of the pockets and steamer trunks of these people, in a British port—the Oscar II. having somehow found her way into Kirkwall harbor. We hope, however, that none of these gentlemen or ladies will be taken off the peace ship. By all means let them go on to Norway and Holland, and spread the gospel of peace in those rapacious and bellicose lands."

SLAUGHTERED INNOCENTS.

(Lowell Courier-Observer.)

Senator Lodge's remark that "the dead body of an innocent child is a more tragic sight by far than an unsold bale of cotton puts the indictment against the attitude of many Americans toward the war very succinctly indeed. We have been determined that there should be no war with Germany, no matter how many of our people might be killed by German barbarity; but we have foisted at the mouth over the extraordinary atrocity of England in interfering with our precious dollars of war-profit to be made through trade with the continent of Europe. It is very possible, and indeed it is probable that England has now and again gone rather too far in the matter of interfering with neutral trade; in being very natural anxiety not to permit Germany to reap commercial and military advantages under the specious disguise of neutral trading; but the injury done to us in this way has been incalculable when set against the crime of the Lusitania and in a way it has been an injury indirectly conducing to our own national interest since no one can pretend that a victorious Germany is to be desired or would do us any good, but menace the future of the United States. This has not prevented the cotton planters and the beet trust and various other "interests" from raising a terrible outcry over the bloodstained tactics of Great Britain and curiously enough these "interests"—ordinarily devoid of friends—have for once been able to enlist a considerable clique behind them, demanding that England let us trade freely with Germany if we want to, in being things Germany needs most of all; to wit, cotton and dressed meats! Mr. Lodge, however, is quite right in saying that a single slaughtered child is a more impressive exhibit than a bale of unsold cotton—or even than a whole cargo of Chicago beef.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL BY CHILDREN IN ST. DAVID'S

A most charming Christmas musical was given in St. David's school room Tuesday evening by piano pupils of Miss Muriel McIntyre, assisted with a chorus of 50 voices for the benefit of the Children's Aid Society.

The following children dressed all in white with silver trimmings presented a fairylike spectacle:

Rachel Armstrong, Lucille Bromfield, Bertie Bromfield, Ronald Brown, Alberta Brown, Pauline Beatty, Irene Brown, Harvey Ishop, Doris Corbet, Douglas Carmichael, Nan Coleman, Ralph Connell, Louis Cortright, Ruth Cortright, Muriel Dykeman, Dorothy Evans, Marjorie Evans, Margaret Edgar, Eleanor Fleming, Gordon Gibbon, Audrey Hoyt, Priscilla Howard, Margaret Hayes, Jean Johnston, Geneva Jenner, Barbara Kelly, Gloria Legg, Ginevra Legg, Constance McKinnor, Jessie McKinnor, Jean McLaughlin, Gladys McMullen, Paul McMullen, Willie McIntosh, Hazel McCready, Harrison Morgan, Margaret Northrup, Marion Patterson, Roy Penner, Arthur Patterson, Alfred Pettig, Ronald Roberts, Clara Robinson, Mayle Reynolds, Winifred Robertson, Helene Robertson, Evelyn Scott,

Helen Scott, George Spryner, Harold Springer, Muriel Tapley, Alice Vanwart, Edgar Williams, Irene Westworth, Mildred Weismore, Elsie Williams.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR RECRUITS

Good meetings in South End and Mill street rooms—One man offered for service.

A large crowd attended the recruiting rally held in the Temperance Hall, Saint James street, last evening. Many ladies were in attendance and assisted with the refreshment end of the programme. Edward Purchase acted as chairman, and the principal speakers were John C. Ferguson, Rev. W. R. Robinson and A. M. Belding. A piano solo was rendered by Miss Pearl Ramsey and a vocal solo by Miss Oram. Two small girls, Miss Harding and Miss Macaulay danced the Highland Fling. Humorous recitations were given by Private MacDonald.

After the National Anthem had been sung the first speaker, John C. Ferguson was introduced. His address showed clearly the great peril with which the British nation has to cope. He praised the Loyalist city for the good showing made towards recruits but he impressed the fact that citizens must hold the worthy traditions given by their ancestors.

Continuing he told of the protection given us by the Mother country. "Germany has been preparing for the last forty years and at the beginning of this present strife she even sneered at England's small army, but before long she will find the Cubes have awakened and are answering the call of the Lion."

The next speaker, Rev. W. R. Robinson addressed the gathering in his usual manner. He spoke proudly of the British army but also gave great credit to the French for the manner in which they have conducted themselves. He also told how the Germans had prepared for war, but said that "after very few months there will not be enough Germans left to gather on a shovel and make a decent burial."

England, however, needed no more men to win. "We can do no good staying at home, and the sooner we go the quicker we can stop this slaughter in Europe."

A. M. Belding made a brief speech, showing the need of men. He appealed to the people of the south end to aid the committee to keep the "home fires of the recruiting hall burning."

At the close of the program refreshments were served by a committee of ladies. The committee in charge consisted of Mrs. J. Armstrong, Mrs. H. Doherty, Mrs. A. M. Belding, Mrs. Wm. Lewis and Mrs. Jas. Lewis.

One man examined and passed was the report at the Mill street recruiting offices yesterday. At last night's meeting R. M. Macree was chairman; music was provided by Mrs. and Miss Hallamore and Miss Bayard. W. H. Spencer gave a recitation. The speakers of the evening were Magistrate Ritchie and F. J. G. Knowlton.

Former St. John Boys Return.

Among the arrivals in the city yesterday to renew old acquaintances were two brothers, G. T. and C. W. Rooney. The Messrs. Rooney were former residents of St. John, but of late years have been residing at Chatham. They enlisted for overseas duty and have just completed an N. C. O. course at the Kingston Military College. They are attached to the 34th Field Battery. It will be remembered that early last summer the Rooney brothers made a canoe trip from Chatham to Toronto, a distance of over 2,200 miles. They were arrested on suspicion of being German spies, and the long trip in a small canoe, along with their many adventures was given a great deal of publicity at the time.

Next Week's Programme.

Next week will be specialized at the recruiting office for the purpose of obtaining recruits for the 115th Battalion. The committee in charge for the week consists of A. O. Skinner, W. A. Lockhart and Hugh McEllan. The speakers for this period will be Major Williams of the 69th, J. Fraser Gregory, Major F. C. Jones, E. A. Smith, Miles E. Agar, W. H. B. Sadler and John C. Ferguson. The entertainers will be Professor Fox, Robt. Carson, D. Robillard, Dr. Barton, Harry Panter, F. W. Girvan and others.

A Chaplain Shows the Way.

That he does not intend to confine himself to his duties as chaplain is evidenced by the action of Capt. Lawrence, chaplain of the 104th, who is taking the officers' course at Sussex and fitting himself to undertake any military duty which may be assigned to him.

Injured in Auto Accident.

A girl named Lord ran in front of an automobile driven by Mr. Evans on Main street, yesterday afternoon. The girl was knocked down and received severe bruises on the face. She was attended by Dr. Pratt, and the injuries received were not serious but painful.

Arrested in Armory.

John Isaacman was given in charge about 2 o'clock this morning charged with being drunk and disorderly in the Armory. He claims to have been discharged as medically unfit and is waiting for transportation to Montreal.

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Grandpapa was at our house yesterday and me and him was taking a walk behind supper, and me and him was sitting on a bench eating chewing candy, I sed, Did you ever eat that chewing candy, grandpapa. O, I have eaten it, but not for years, nor for years, sed grandpapa. Its pretty good, it tastes grate, I sed. Is that so, sed grandpapa. Yes, sir, and he sent me a lot for a sent, I sed. Does he, sed grandpapa. Yes, sir, he fills a bag all the way up to the top awl for a sent, I sed. Is that so. I dont see how he can make any profit awl it, sed grandpapa. He probably dont, I sed.

With by that time we was passing the chewing candy man and grandpapa didnt stop and buy any, and I didnt want to ask him rite out awl account of that woddent of him pailie, and me and him was walking back awl I saw the man still standing there, and I sed G, hes still there, grandpapa. So I sed, sed grandpapa. I guess you dont believe wat I told you about how much he gives for a sent, I sed.

Serenty I believe it, wy shooodnt I, you have no intrest in the bismess, have you, sed grandpapa. How do you mean, I sed, and he sed, I mean, you dont receive any share of his profits. No sir, I sed. Wich just then we passed the man agin, and I sed to him, Show us how much you give for a sent, watch him, grandpapa, watch him. And the man filled a bag awl the way up with chewing candy, saying, This much.

Very intresting, sed grandpapa. And he keep awl walking home, so I had to keep awl, too. Proving that sum peopel cant take a hint, maybe because they dont want to.

How a Story Started.

A rumor quickly spread about the city on Thursday that one of the police guards on the C. P. R. elevator at West St. John had been shot. Confusion between the words "Short" and "Shot" was the cause of the excitement, and it came about as follows: An official was called to the telephone by a police officer who delivered a message to the effect that there was a guard short at the elevator. The official in reply said, "Do you say that there is a guard short?" and on being replied to in the affirmative the official said that he would look after the matter. A person who was near the telephone and heard the conversation thought the official used the word "shot," instead of "short." He immediately informed fellow workmen that he heard the official say that one of the guards at the elevator had been shot, and in this manner the rumor quickly spread.

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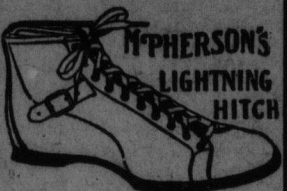
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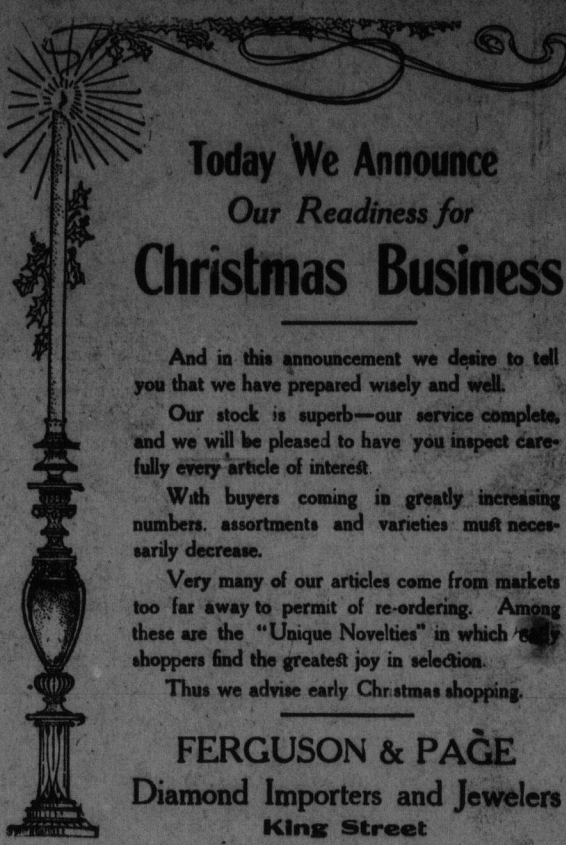
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