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## Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 26, 1916.

### ITALY'S STRENGTH.

In presenting a bill to the Italian parliament "to meet the eventual expenditures of a national war," Premier Salandra yesterday came very close to a declaration of war against Austria. The tremendous applause that greeted his announcement left no room for doubt that he has the backing of the government and the nation. Of course, Premier Salandra's action was expected and the formal declaration of war is looked for at any minute. Italy has apparently burned her bridges, and so far as this contest is concerned, she must take her chances with Great Britain and her Allies.

In reviewing the events of the last ten months, Premier Salandra made it clear that in view of the cold blooded way in which Austria precipitated the war, Italy had from the first considered the Triple Alliance annulled. Now his government refuses longer to submit to the indignities heaped upon it by the war-mad Kaiser.

If ever a nation was prepared to fight, Italy should be. She has had ten months to get ready, much longer than is required in the ordinary sense for a nation to develop its full strength. Besides, she has been able to observe the mistakes of the countries already at war and to profit by them. She has watched the development of trench warfare and has learned the value of the aeroplane for reconnaissance, the great importance of motor transport, the need of vast stores of ammunition; and, more than anything else, the importance of a great army. Her government must know perfectly well that this war is to be fought to a finish and that the armies raised and equipped must be measured by the ultimate resources of the nations. In this connection the military writer of the New York Post points out that the necessities of the present gigantic struggle make the paper value of the Italian army last summer fairly obsolete. He says:

"At that time, the standing army was about 300,000 strong. With the first and second line of reserves the armed strength of the nation totalled roughly about 1,000,000 men. But for many months it has been apparent that if Italy enters a contest in which she stands to gain or lose greatly, she must be prepared to place more than 1,000,000 men under arms. Germany, with a population of something less than 70,000,000, has placed 4,000,000 men in the field. France, with a population of less than 40,000,000, has about 3,500,000 in the first line and reserve. Great Britain, with a population of 46,000,000, is contributing more than 2,000,000 men, a ratio that is sufficiently high in view of the part played by the English fleet. Italy, therefore, with a population of about 37,000,000, must be prepared to call up at least twice as many men as her estimated strength of a year ago, or nearly 2,000,000. She has also had time to recognize the qualities of endurance demanded by present warfare, the importance of motor transport, the need of vast stores of ammunition; and, more than anything else, the importance of a great army. Her government must know perfectly well that this war is to be fought to a finish and that the armies raised and equipped must be measured by the ultimate resources of the nations. In this connection the military writer of the New York Post points out that the necessities of the present gigantic struggle make the paper value of the Italian army last summer fairly obsolete. He says:

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### A PROGRESSIVE POLICY.

Some Conservative newspapers, by insinuation or otherwise, have been trying to create the impression that the resignation of the Roblin government in Manitoba was the result of a deal between the two political parties. There is absolutely no ground for this assumption. When the new premier took office he assured the people that all the great charges against the Conservative leaders and their agents would be fully investigated and the guilty parties punished. Now comes another emphatic statement from Premier Norris that the crime will be exposed and the criminals punished.

The policy of the Norris government is one of the most progressive ever put forward by a political party in Canada. It provides for important and far-reaching improvements in the educational system and the bold consideration of the temperance question, the women's suffrage question, the principle of direct legislation by means of the initiative and referendum, the extension of agricultural aid, and other important matters. The good roads policy of the new government provides for full co-operation with the municipalities in the matter of road building and for the expenditure of road money through the municipal councils. Municipal taxation, hydro-electric development, natural resources, the protection of wage earners and the better administration of justice are all matters which are to be

promptly taken up by the new government.

Premier Norris and his colleagues declare that they have accepted office uncompromised and that they recognize fully their duty in ending the long-disgraced political record of Manitoba and doing their part in the interest of cleaner politics throughout Canada. Reports from Manitoba indicate that ninety per cent. of the people of the province feel a deep sense of relief at the end of corrupt and dishonest rule and the coming into power of new men with new methods and a new standard of political conduct. Premier Norris has a wonderful chance to give to Manitoba what the province ardently desires—clean, honest, progressive government. He will have many difficulties to surmount and many problems to solve but if he carries out his promises Manitoba will soon rise from the depths of political dishonor into which she was dragged by the Roblin-Rogers combination.

### ANOTHER PROTEST.

The political whitewashing which the New Brunswick legislature in the dying hours of its last session gave J. K. Fleming, has called forth sharp criticism from independent and thinking people all over Canada and has aroused the hope of the better element of the Conservative press. For a body of public men to wink at wrongs committed by one of their number to flagrant and serious as the misdeeds of Mr. Fleming is considered an insult to public intelligence and something to be condemned promptly and forcibly.

In a column editorial on New Brunswick's ex-premier the Conservative Ottawa Citizen serves notice upon Sir Robert Borden that no matter where the money collected by Mr. Berry and others went, the Fleming standard should not be considered good enough for the Dominion parliament. Mr. Fleming's personal popularity, be it great or little, is no question for consideration at this time, says the Citizen, as the verdict of the royal commission appointed to investigate the part he played in certain timber and railway scandals should make it impossible for Mr. Borden to have him as a colleague in the Dominion parliament. The Citizen then goes on to quote from the report of the royal commission which found Mr. Fleming guilty of "this act of compulsion which has been charged against him." And it further comments upon the Fleming disclosures as follows:

"The unfinished St. John Valley Railway, hanging like a millstone round the neck of New Brunswick, is a problem mainly for the sturdy people of that province to solve. But the continued effort of reactionary interests to foist New Brunswick's discarded premier, Hon. J. K. Fleming, into the federal parliament is a matter concerning all the people of this Dominion. "At the present time the usefulness of the Dominion parliament is largely destroyed because of the power and influence of political reactionaries sitting in treasury and opposition seats. Sir Robert Borden is heavily enough handicapped as it is with a politically unscrupulous and disloyal element in the Conservative party. The main asset of the prime minister, political integrity and upright dealing, would seem to have been assailed more severely by the Fleming type of politician in the Conservative party than by any other influence in this country. Perhaps the hardest task of Sir Robert Borden, in steering the ship of state through the present trying times, is to defend himself and his country against the scuttling tactics of just such discredited politicians as ex-Premier Fleming of New Brunswick."

The Citizen very properly concludes that at a time when the brave men of Canada are giving their lives and fighting side by side with British comrades for the defence of our rights across the sea, their interests at home ought not to be given to the care of discredited politicians.

### THE CALL FROM THE FIRING LINE.

The time has come when men of active service age are confronted with a question they must answer. The question is: "How is the war to be won?" And the answer is: "By men like myself joining the colors."

The battalions are calling. Our own soldiers who went early to the war and whose ranks have been thinned by the enemy's fire are waiting for reinforcements from this country. If they went early and the sterling service they have given the Empire can never be paid for. But for them and the others upon whom the first blows of the enemy fell, the German rushes never could have been checked. Now those of them who are still alive are waiting for the men they knew at home, the men who, for one reason or another could not go with the first battalions.

The war is now in its most critical stage. Every piece of important news published in London or in this country indicates as clearly as if it were written in letters of fire the paramount need of the hour, which is the need of men.

How is the war to be won? The war will be won by the Allies because, no matter how bitter the conflict or how long it may last, they will produce men enough to do the work. Of these men we must provide our share. Thus far this country has responded well to the intermittent recruiting campaigns which have been carried on, but still more men are necessary, and now a combined effort is to be made here in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to fill up the ranks of the 55th Battalion.

The men of this province are familiar with the fact that hundreds of the 55th have been drawn to other commands or have been already sent overseas, and that it is therefore necessary to raise 600 or 700 new men in order to bring the 55th up to full strength. In another column to-day there are set forth the terms and advantages of service, which should be read by every man of active service age whose circumstances make it possible for

him to serve his country in this hour of peril.

Promptness in this matter is everything. The men who go now will go with the certainty that they will strike their blow when it is most needed. Soon Kitchener's army is to be flung upon the enemy, and soon the reinforcements, which are now in training and which will be trained during the next few months, will be hurried forward to fill vacant places in the long battle line across France and Belgium as the Allies press the foe back toward the Rhine. There are all sorts of estimates as to the length of the war. The one thing certain is that it will be greatly prolonged unless the British Empire provides at once all the men which the generals can employ to advantage. The 55th is one of the battalions that will be used in the summer and autumn campaign and it should see glorious service. It is a pressing duty to fill its ranks to overflowing, and the work should be readily and enthusiastically done.

The brave men who are now battling at the front must not wait in vain for the help they need. From New Zealand and Australia new levies are going forward, and every part of Canada is rolling up new battalions in order that the King and Kitchener may have the men needed to make victory certain. The call comes to New Brunswick now from the distant battlefields in France, where the men to whom we said good-bye not long ago are striking hard for the world's freedom. Let New Brunswick answer the call in a manner worthy of the traditions of our race.

### NO INCONCLUSIVE PEACE.

Gifford Pinchoot, the prominent American citizen who was turned out of Belgium by the Germans, where he had gone to do relief work, has issued a warning that the worst calamity this war could bring upon the world next to a success of military imperialism would be a half-baked inconclusive peace—a peace which would permit the German military class to get ready for a second attempt to dominate the world. That kind of a peace, Mr. Pinchoot explains, would do nothing but ensure another war. We want, he says, a just and lasting peace and not a mere intermission in the fighting.

Mr. Pinchoot frankly declares that he does not believe the people of the United States, previous to the Lusitania massacre, realized what this war means to them. Now, he thinks, his countrymen understand that American citizens on the Lusitania were killed because an autocratic military empire is trying to keep the domination of the world at the expense of the self-governing nations. He then goes on to say:

"This war is a death struggle between democracy on the one side and autocratic imperialism on the other. France is our sister republic; England is a great and free democracy; Russia itself is on the high road toward democratic government. Germany, on the other hand, is not ruled by the people, but by Prussia and the Kaiser. The victory of Germany would not be the victory of her people; but the successful effort of a restricted military caste to get more power. Bernhardi expressed the belief of this class when he said that Germany must control the world or go under."

"If the people did rule in Germany the restricted military caste would not have taken place. The people of Germany would never have done these things for their own accord. They were done because they were ordered to be done by military autocrats. In remorse for killing a woman and a child, a wounded German said to his nurse, sister-in-law of a man I know: 'Do you suppose it makes any difference that my officer held his pistol to my head until I did it? If the German war lord should win, which it has long been evident he cannot do, we should have to face the certainty of a conflict with German militarism; because we should stand between it and world empire, just as the Allies do today. We should then be forced to stand for their rights, and the rights of humanity have been treated by the ruling German military class in this war or to defend them. We should have to take our turn in protecting the principles of self-government against imperialism in Germany or lose our self-respect. In that event, of course, we should have to fight, but the Allies win no such choice will be forced upon us. These issues will not mean war for us. We are United States; on the contrary it will mean victory for the free institutions which we hold dear and the chance for every nation to work out its own destiny in peace."

There is no longer doubt in the minds of the United States people that the Allies are fighting for the principles for which all true Americans stand, and it is therefore not surprising that our neighbors earnestly hope and believe that Great Britain, and those associated with her, will win. The right to live in freedom is at stake. For this reason it is almost as important for Americans that the Allies should win as it is for the Allies themselves. And with the exception of a comparatively few ill-advised people, no one in all the civilized world believes that any peace should be concluded that would not bring with it complete annihilation of the Prussian military spirit and the full protection of the principles of self-government.

### FINE OUTLOOK FOR THE FARMERS.

It is to be hoped that in making their plans for this year's crops the farmers of Canada have given serious attention to the enormous purchases of food supplies made by the allied powers. The demand for Canadian produce, especially wheat, oats and potatoes, has broken all records, and, of course, Canada has been able to supply only a very small part of what has been needed in Britain, France and other European countries since the war began. It is interesting to note, therefore, that during the month of March there was exported to Europe from the United States foodstuffs to the value of \$107,400,000, which represented an advance of more than 250 per cent. from the March total of 1914.

Nearly nine times as much United

States breadstuff was sold abroad as was taken the year before, the March figures amounting to \$61,545,000. For a single month these figures are astounding, and should cause every farmer in America to cultivate his land to the fullest and most profitable extent. Exports of breadstuffs alone from the United States during the nine months from July, 1914, to March, 1915, were valued at \$429,000,000 as compared with \$128,886,000 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Profits from Canadian and United States grain supplies have increased almost beyond conception and it is practically inevitable that the demand for all that farmers have to sell will remain more than ordinarily high for many months to come, perhaps for years. Even after peace is declared it will take Europe a long time to recover from the shock and disruption of the struggle now going on. The farmers stand to gain no matter what may happen in Europe.

### ITALY DECLARES WAR.

Italy has formally declared war on Austria-Hungary and all eyes are again turned to the Balkans. It would not be surprising to find that a secret understanding exists between Italy and Rumania. If so, the Rumanian army will no doubt be lined up with the Allies in the near future. With Bulgaria undecided and Greek sentiment daily growing stronger for the opponents of Germany and Austria, the situation is rapidly taking on new interest and new importance.

How heavy a blow can Italy strike? The Italian strength, on land and sea, is here summarized:

The total war strength of Italy's army is 4,380,302 men of all ranks, of whom 1,700,000 men are reported mobilized.

The army consists of the standing army, 248,111 men; the mobile militia, 850,170 men; the territorial militia, 2,276,481 men, and the reserves on unlimited leave, 466,590 men.

There are twenty-four regiments of field artillery and eight regiments of other artillery branches, a total of thirty-two. The aviation corps has sixty companies, each station or squadron having seven aeroplanes, a probable total of 420 aeroplanes, ready for immediate use.

Italy has seven battlefleets of the dreadnought type and eight older battlefleets, a total of fifteen. The largest are the Giulio Cesare, Leonardo da Vinci and Conte di Cavour, each of 21,000 tons, with a main battery consisting of thirteen 12 inch guns.

In addition Italy has nine first class cruisers, five second class cruisers, ten third class cruisers, five gunboats, forty-six destroyers, seventy-five torpedo boats and twenty submarines.

Italy's striking power is great enough to break the back of Austria under present conditions, for with Italy in the fighting it is not believed the Russians will long be kept back from the Hungarian plain. If a part of the Italian army and several ships of the Italian fleet are sent to assist the Allies at the Dardanelles another effect of Italy's war upon the enemies of Great Britain will be to hasten the final departure of the Turk from Europe. And the whole world will benefit from Constantinople's change of masters, after an interval of 469 years. Reluctant as the Allies were to wage war against Turkey, there has not been the slightest doubt, since the Sultan threw in his lot with the Kaiser, that Great Britain is to continue until the Turk has been sent bag and baggage from European soil.

If the Allies force the Dardanelles and with the help that Italy can give that task should soon be accomplished—guns and ammunition will be rushed through to the Russians, and a new face will be put upon the war. The prospects for a much earlier finish will then be bright. Besides, the fighting in France and Belgium may yet produce surprises. Kitchener's army, so long in preparation, may not be used in Flanders at all. It may be used in cooperation with the French at the other end of the line. In spite of all predictions about prolonged siege warfare it is well within the possibilities that the Allies may drive through the German line in force during the early summer fighting.

### ROBLIN ON "DEALS."

"They made the charges. We have pleaded guilty. There is no need for a trial. They can go with it if they want to. The old government has admitted its negligence and responsibility."—Sir Rodmond Roblin.

In an interview which he gave the Toronto Globe last week Manitoba's ex-premier spoke with the utmost frankness. "I was up to us to step out," he said. "If I had only had my self to think about I would have tendered my resignation immediately"—that is, so soon as the charges were made. The Globe asked Sir Rodmond about the story that he and Hon. T. C. Norris had made a deal by which Mr. Norris, in going into office, agreed to drop the charges against his predecessors. "Rubbish," said Sir Rodmond. "He, nothing else." He added that he sent for Mr. Norris and told him, without preface, that he was going to resign. "Norris," he said, "I'm going to resign and ask the Lieutenant Governor to send for you. How long do you want to get ready?" He described Mr. Norris as "a bit too radical for me, but straight as a string—honest as the day is long."

As to "deals" and the future of Manitoba, the Manitoba Free Press says: "The papers of Canada, Conservative and of Conservative leanings, have no good word to say of the retiring Roblin government; but they are keen to throw upon the new Liberal government the suspicion of being parties to a discreditable deal. In this they are merely carrying out, in some cases unwittingly no doubt, a plan of campaign intended, if possible, to lessen the disaster of Roblin's ignominious flight from office."

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As to the future:

"There has been no understanding between the outgoing and the incoming governments. Every dollar stolen from the people of Manitoba must be recovered, if its recovery is legally possible; and if any parties, no matter who they are, ought to go to jail, it is their duty to go to jail. But, in any event, the Roblin government in stepping out was merely forestalling the inevitable. The end had come for the Roblin regime."

"The Norris government has taken office unhampered. In the slightest degree, by any stipulation or understanding. It is free to proceed with its first duty, the clearing up of the Parliament Buildings mess. Every dollar stolen from the people of Manitoba must be recovered, if its recovery is legally possible; and if any parties, no matter who they are, ought to go to jail, it is their duty to go to jail. But, in any event, the Roblin government in stepping out was merely forestalling the inevitable. The end had come for the Roblin regime."

In Sir Rodmond Roblin's interview and in the Free Press statement, the Conservative rumors and insinuations, which were intended to break the force of the extraordinary events in Manitoba, are pretty thoroughly disposed of. Sir Rodmond resigned to avoid being kicked out. The Liberals will clear up the wreck and give the province honest government. The effect of these Manitoba events upon public opinion in other provinces will undoubtedly be very great.

### SOLID QUALITIES.

In a recent recruiting speech at Edinburgh, Lord Murray declared that he did not believe the majority of the British people realized that the French are holding a line 580 miles long, on which terrific fighting has been going on daily. He felt perfectly sure that Britons, as a whole, did not appreciate the spirit of silent sacrifice that animated the French soldiers. General Joffre's army, as he saw it, was a band of anonymous heroes who ask for no recognition, publicity, or reward, and they get none, all marching cheerfully to death thinking of the honor of France. Lord Murray said he felt compelled to express this appreciation of France, because the people of that country lose no opportunity to praise the good qualities of British leaders and express gratitude for British help.

The war has shattered the illusion about German culture, and it has also corrected many wrong impressions about the national character of the French. About whom it has so often been said that they are "a frivolous people who never leave off dancing." The daily struggle against Germany has proved that saying untrue. The French can fight well, and they are doing it. One writer points out that in lieu of the old enthusiasm, France has put on steadiness, and he adds:

"If the French soldier is not gay when marching to battle, as he was in Napoleon's time, he is calm, which, under the circumstances, is better. Possibly a revolution has been wrought in the French temperament of recent years. Possibly also the temperance of the same as ever, and the surprise of Americans at the present manifestation of disciplined steadiness is due to ignorance of the real France. Comparatively few tourists ever see much of the French people outside Paris. They know little about the real France, hard-headed, hard-handed peasantry, of the bourgeoisie whom it is the fashion of French novelists to ridicule. Each is an invaluable element of the French population in peace and in war. They have solid qualities, great staying power, and at the same time those faculties of imagination and that susceptibility to sentiment that make France a land of light and leadership."

It takes solid qualities to hold a line longer than from St. John to Montserrat—a line that has been constantly assailed by enormous forces of well-prepared and highly equipped Germans. Not only have the French done that, but at many points they have made headway themselves and have exerted a steadily increasing pressure on the enemy's front, especially on his left wing. When war came the people of France looked the situation squarely in the face, and resolved to fight to the last man and the last dollar. They realized that their foe was a formidable one and ruthless, but that made them the more determined. They will carry on to the good to the end, and with their Allies, will share in a complete and glorious victory.

### NOTE AND COMMENT.

Saturday's showers, accompanied by rising temperature, cleared the way for a blue sky and genial atmosphere. Spring's delights should now come more quickly.

It is believed that a great number of Indian soldiers are now with the British forces in Europe. A London military writer says that people have no idea of the extent to which India is denuded of Indian troops, and that very heavy drafts are constantly leaving the country for Europe and the Persian Gulf.

Clarence S. Darrow's defense of J. B. McNamara, the criminal who blew up the Los Angeles Times building, did not end with the conviction and penitentiary confinement of that self-confessed dynamiter. The famous lawyer is now busy telling the people of the United States that McNamara is a martyr because "he believed in a cause

and risked his life for that cause." Mr. Darrow's reasoning is far-fetched. He might as well argue that the assassins of Kings and Presidents are martyrs because they do not believe in certain forms of government and are therefore willing to risk their lives for a "cause."

In view of the comparatively small number of British ships that are being torpedoed, it would not be surprising if the Kaiser and his truculent admirals, Von Tirpitz, should soon conclude that their submarine policy is not worth while. Its chief accomplishment so far has been to turn the whole civilized world against Germany.

Military writers are now pointing out that if Russia had been planning attacks on Germany, as the Kaiser asked the world to believe, she would have had something better than a few single-track narrow-gauge railroads with which to transport men, supplies and ammunition to the front. The events of the last week certainly justify this conclusion.

The story of German cruelty told by the British "eye-witnesses" at the front, does not make pleasant reading. The shooting of their own men rather than have them surrender is a charge frequently made against the Prussians—a charge that is revolting to civilized people. With the knowledge that they are fighting a losing battle the Germans have become desperate—bitter desperation and cruelty will not save them.

The women of Great Britain are doing all they can to assist in the war. According to a report of the British Board of Trade the total number of women registered for special war service to April 16 was approximately 47,000, of whom 8,069 had entered their names as willing to undertake armament work. In connection with armament labor, it is estimated that nearly 14,000 additional women will be required at the principal factories during the next few months.

The fine fighting spirit of the old British regiments at the front has aroused the admiration of military observers. A staff officer, visiting home, says:

"One cannot help noticing out here the wonderful way in which the old regiments that originally came out in the Expeditionary Force still stick to it. They have suffered, and suffered enormously, as was bound to happen. They have had fresh blood week after week to fill the gaps in the ranks, and still they go on cheerfully, determined that though both the officers and men are changed, the old spirit has not. The old esprit de corps is present, and is to remain alive in the keeping of those to whom it has been bequeathed. The coolness of the average British soldier is often really astonishing."

That is the spirit which is winning the war for the Allies. No foe is strong enough to break it, and no obstacles are too great for it to overcome. Colonel Bertram, chairman of the committee in charge of the manufacture of shells in Canada, announces that orders placed with Canadian firms by the British War Office have already amounted to more than \$1,000,000. He explains that since February, when the shipment of shells was begun, the average daily shipments have grown from 500 to 10,000 shells. Already 400,000 shells have been shipped from Canada. By July it is hoped that the daily average will amount to 40,000. Colonel Bertram says that every available machine shop, railroad shop and plant capable of making shells or parts of them is employed, and the number is increasing; and he adds that the first contracts placed for 200,000 shells, were completed one month ahead of time. He quotes Lord Kitchener as saying that Canada is supplying more shells than all the manufacturing establishments in Great Britain, exclusive of regular shell-making firms.

Neighbors of Nasos are divided in their opinions. Some very optimistic about Nasos' luck, but others are inclined to fear that he has something but more of copper or some of the other metals. When asked why they were so pessimistic, they admitted that the bars looked like gold, but, "It's too good to be true."

### EMPIRE DAY WAS WELL OBSERVED.

Fredericton, May 21.—(Special).—Fredericton's celebration of Empire Day, which took place this afternoon, surpassed any similar celebration held here in some years. Pupils of the primary schools and students of the Provincial Normal School and Fredericton High School with members of the various youth organizations marched in procession with the Fredericton Brass Band furnishing the music. Those in the procession numbered well up to 2,000. The procession formed at the High School grounds and marched to Parliament Square, where an interesting programme was followed. The Lieut. Governor presided.

The programme consisted of patriotic songs and choruses by the normal students. The orator of the occasion was Rev. Dr. G. M. Campbell, principal of Mount Allison Ladies' College. The address was brief but the speaker sustained his reputation as a public orator.

At Edmundston, N. B., May 21.—(Special).—Empire Day was celebrated in all the schools of the county of Madawaska. Quite a number of the citizens of the town attended the entertainment given by the pupils of the three schools of the town of Edmundston. At 10.30 the pupils of the Convent School, under the care of the sisters, entertained a few persons who had been able to respond to the invitation of mother superior.

In the course of the afternoon the public responded to the invitation of Miss Maud Miller, teacher at the Protestant private school, and of J. C. Carothers, principal of the Superior School. At the Public School an elaborate programme of patriotic songs and recitations was carried out. During the entertainment, over which presided Dr. Sornay, chairman of the school board, short addresses were delivered by Dr. Sornay, Rev. W. J. Conway, Mr. McInnis, Miss Michael, A. Lawson, J. E. Michaud, Dr. Emile Simard and Mr. Lockart. Mr. Carothers and his staff are to be congratulated upon the fine showing made by their pupils.

In the course of the afternoon the recruits of the 55th Battalion under the command of Lieut. Rice marched through the principal streets of the town.

At St. Stephen, N. B., May 21.—(Special).—This afternoon the school children in procession marched from the Marks

street school building through the principal streets of the town after which they returned to the school grounds and carried out an elaborate programme of patriotic recitations and songs. The oration was delivered by Rev. E. B. Wylie, B. D., pastor of the Presbyterian church. An immense throng of spectators witnessed the Empire Day celebration. The schools closed this afternoon and reopened on Tuesday morning after observing the Victoria holiday on Monday.

At Hampton.

Hampton, N. B., May 21.—Hampton's celebration of Empire Day has been a great success in every respect. The morning session of the Consolidated school was devoted to lessons of the geography and history of the empire's possessions in all parts of the world, and a big flag raising and salute to the grounds in front of the school. This afternoon the pupils massed in the exhibition hall, where they gave two hours to a patriotic programme of musical and literary numbers of great interest with an address by the Rev. A. R. Crowfoot on the day and its purpose. This evening a large people gathered in the same hall and listened to two addresses, the first by F. M. Sproul, Our Relations to the Empire and Obligations and Responsibilities in Relation to the British Empire in its Affairs. Judge Forbes spoke admirably on the historical events which preceded and accompanied the growth of the various sections of the empire, and his auditors responded to his patriotism and eloquence by frequent applause.

A fine chorus of members of the school sang three patriotic songs between the addresses. Inspector of Schools A. J. Boudreau was delighted with the staff for the full day's programme so admirably arranged and carried out. Enthusiastic resolutions of thanks were passed to the speakers, who briefly and appropriately responded.

### GOLD OR NOT?

A fortune or not a fortune, that is the question.

Whether or not the two fifty pound ingots found buried beneath a tree stump near Fredericton Junction about three weeks ago are gold or not, is holding the finger in terrible suspense. Henry Nasos, who unearthed the glistening bars of metal with his pick, is waiting daily word from Montreal which will tell whether he has a fortune or a parcel of junk.

Soon after making the discovery Nasos sent a piece of the metal to Montreal to be analyzed but he has not yet received a reply and until he does all the country is prying their imaginations for weird tales of buried treasures, bar robberies, waylaid bullion carriers and so forth, which have sent prospectors sounding the ground for miles around and in the near future, if the suspense is continued, they may be driving stakes for claims.

It happened in this way: About three weeks ago Nasos and his brother-in-law, James Josie, were removing a stump near Nasos' house, which is between the railway track and the road, when the pick struck metal. Succeeding blows unearthed a glistening ingot, and the two men working strenuously and excitedly. At length they removed from the ground, encased in the tangled roots, two bars of metal, apparently gold. Each was about ten inches long, and three inches in diameter and weighed more than fifty pounds. There was evidence that the metal had been poured into a wooden mould and allowed to harden.

Nasos was elated at the find, which he naturally thought was a precious one. The matter was much discussed at his home during the next few days and the enthusiasm aroused caused a little lacy in the usual working of the farm. However, after the advice of neighbors had been submitted in abundance, a specimen of the find was sent to Montreal. In the meantime the ingots are resting securely in a strong box at Nasos' house.

The find has created all sorts of stories. Some of the older residents tell of bank robberies, where ingots of gold were stolen and never recovered. Others, more imaginative, tell of buccaners and bandits, who melted their hoarded loot and buried the bars of gold. The contributions are varied and elaborate, and it is doubtful if ever in the history of the world as much interest of the kind has ever been created.