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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 21, 1918

ROUNDING THE TURN.

London, which is conservative enough in its war outlook - as, indeed, it has had occasion for being - gives us a new line of comment this morning, suggesting that there is good ground for thinking Austria will go to the wall this summer and Germany next. In this London comment something like a programme of Allied progress begins to emerge.

London, to go back to the more confident base ruling in the Empire's capital, directs attention to one sentence in a semi-official despatch from Paris, in which the world is informed that since the fall of Fort Vaux the Germans "have maintained an attitude of expectancy in view of the menace of events which they feel are increasingly imminent."

The Germans, in a word, hesitate in the face of events which they foresee but do not know how to meet. The time, as London puts it, is rapidly approaching for an important Entente offensive. The German effort of permitting Austria to weaken its Russian front to pursue a fruitless effort against Italy begins to bulk large. The blunder may well prove irreparable.

Professor Albert F. Pollard, who fills the chair of English History in the University of London, in his lecture on the progress of the war, a day or two ago, predicts a great Allied offensive on the Western front "before long," but warns the public not to expect the end of the war this year.

Suppose, after that post of danger and of honor had been held in turn by the English, the Scotch and the Irish, that it had been abandoned when the turn of the Canadians came, as a result of representations from General Sir Sam Hughes.

The very fact that he made such representations, and published them after our losses at Hooge and after Kitchener's death, is comment enough upon the man himself. It must be made plain everywhere that our men at the front never asked to be relieved of their deadly duties at Ypres.

They knew what the men of Canada had done on many parts of the western front; they knew what the Australians and New Zealanders did at Gallipoli. They knew that the work at Hooge and Zillebeke, fraught with death as it was, had been repeated at a score of other points on the front and that the storm of German shells and the weight of the enemy's infantry rushes were distributed impartially along each sector.

It has been said that the Canadians met it with distinction. They did their duty always, and frequently a bit more. It was no good service surely, but a grave and defenceless blunder, to represent our dead and wounded as having been sacrificed in holding a position which ought to have been abandoned long since.

Take Ypres at all costs, was the order delivered to the German army facing Sir Henry Rawlinson's weak corps, and the enemy, strong with every fibre of strength, certainly did their best and very certainly did. Ypres was the goal of the battle. It stands on a gangeton of roads and railways that command the entire tract of the countryside. Take Ypres and the battle was won.

Ypres and the roads to Calais and the coasts were open. That master rhetorician of Prussia, the Emperor, had demanded the coast and Calais with all the passionate fervor of his speech. His armies, whipped by words, were out to reach their way through to the sea against all odds.

Canadians, says the Toronto Star, "will be glad to have this assurance regarding the value of the Ypres salient. Perhaps they do not need the assurance, but the utterances of the Minister of Militia are at least disturbing and distressing to those whose sons and friends have fallen in the heroic defence of this point of vantage. If the Kaiser's order was to 'take Ypres at all costs,' it is our part to hold it at all costs, and we may all feel that the defence in which Canadians took part was not only heroic but dictated by wisdom."

NEW BRUNSWICK AFFAIRS.

New Brunswick is one of several provinces that have been compelled through legislative enactments to investigate and readjust their affairs during a war in which the existence of the Empire is at stake and which calls upon the country's full store of courage, of high patriotism, of resolute self-sacrifice. Hack writers defending a corrupt and discredited administration are still attempting to persuade a portion of the New Brunswick public that recent political activities have been due to self-seekers in the ranks of the provincial opposition.

It is probably safe to assume that this percentage has been carried through the enactment up to May 31 when the total was 384,209. It is an interesting exhibit and a valuable one in a way, but its value must not be exaggerated. Figures are of little use without analysis and comparisons that bring out their real meaning.

From the personal standpoint, the Lieutenant Governor would be merely doing his duty by sending the government to the country. Such action would make the closing portion of his term more creditable one. The decision would justly enhance his reputation for courage and integrity during his remaining years.

And now, at a time when the thoughts and energies of our people should be devoted exclusively to the work of prosecuting the war and of organizing our home life and home industries in such a way as to make the prosecution of the war more efficient, the discredited government of the day selects this time to seek to elect a Minister of Public Works to succeed Mr. Morissy, whose valentism in itself was an indictment of fatal import.

The war has abated the people of New Brunswick, and of all Canada, is so time for mere partisan appeals, or for mere partisan triumphs. But this fact stands out; that the Clarke-Baxter-Murray administration must not be permitted, under cover of the war, or by appeals to patriotism, or by any other excuse, to elect any supporter in this province. Its attempt to do so, after the many exposures of its black record, is a crowning insult to the more thoughtful electors on both sides of politics.

The opposition conference at Fredericton on Wednesday, therefore, acted most properly and most distinctly in the public interest by serving notice that any such election will be contested in the most vigorous fashion, and by taking steps to prepare every constituency in order that the government, if it persists in challenging a decision, shall find a publicized and the opposition everywhere organized and ready for a contest. There must be no compromise with the present administration. Westmorland indicated clearly the nature and trend of public opinion. The size of the meetings there, the volume of the vote cast, the manifest joy with which the result was received in other countries, all tell the same story. This government must be beaten. The people must choose as its successors men in whose honesty and integrity they have faith. If the government had any self-respect it would have resigned long ago.

It has none. Some of its leaders are seeking to escape defeat by taking cover in public office. But the government must go. The Legislature must be cleaned out. The work begun in Westmorland must be carried to the end. The province should have a general election following a short and sharp campaign, giving the people a chance to clean house in short order and then give their undivided attention to other matters. What was done in Manitoba should be done here, and quickly.

THE NEXT STEP.

The Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, whose term of office is drawing to a close, has been unfortunate in his advisers. Through no fault of his own his ministers have been in frequent and serious trouble, and for a long time now it has been a commonly recognized fact that they have not commanded public confidence or respect.

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any branch of recruiting ought not to be engaged in the distribution and exploitation of affidavits made by one of its associates who is either a crook or a fool, or both. That is not good for recruiting, nor is it good for the reputation of one bearing for the time His Majesty's commission. Hitherto Mr. Carvell has treated this chaplain with great patience and forbearance. Having presumed too far, the reverend gentleman has now been brought to book. It was time. The lesson is a stinging one.

WHERE THE RECRUITS COME FROM.

Of the 369,111 Canadian soldiers enlisted up to February 18 last, a great majority were laborers, artisans, or clerks. The following table formed part of a report submitted by a committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at its meeting in Hamilton last Wednesday at which the recruiting question received much attention and was the subject of strong recommendations:

Table with 3 columns: Classes, Number enlisted, Percentage. Rows include Professional men, Business men, Clerks, Farmers, etc.

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CARVELL-BULLOCK-ROGERS.

The Telegraph publishes in its issue today a statement made by Mr. F. B. Carvell, K. C., M. P., supplemented by one from Mr. Marley, who was associated with Mr. Carvell before the Meredith-Duff Commission at Ottawa during the hearing of the shell charges. These statements have to do with certain affidavits published in the Standard and the Halifax Herald and which Lieutenant-Colonel (Charles) Bullock "supplied."

All of Mr. Carvell's activities in New York in connection with Rogers are set forth in the statement made this morning. Rogers was suspected from the first of being a man of doubtful character and having an ulterior motive in view. After he had been watched for a time by detectives whom Mr. Carvell employed it was seen that his associations were pro-German and that he evidently was connected with an attempt to put up a "plant" when Mr. Carvell and his associates. When that became known, Rogers was curtly dismissed, and his efforts to re-establish relations with Mr. Carvell and Mr. Kite were checked vigorously and in short order.

As to Chaplain Bullock's relations with this man Rogers, as to the purpose of those relations, and as to the chaplain's subsequent exploitations of the Rogers' affidavits which he has peddled about the country, the public, after reading Mr. Carvell's statement, will easily form its own conclusions. The Standard has been pushing forward this Mr. Bullock somewhat aggressively as if he were in some way a menace to Mr. Carvell and others in the Liberal party. We trust that the publication this morning will serve as an effective curb for anybody who has come to harbor notions of this sort.

The Industrial Army - This should include the technical men not needed for special services in the army, enough men to form a permanent staff for the industries which are needed to prosecute the war. Such employees should be enrolled by the military as reservists, or should be given distinctive armlets or buttons

to show that they were an active reserve. These armlets, or buttons, should be issued by a general authority on a common principle. Workmen to man enough factories to supply the civilian population with necessities should be provided in addition.

Attention is sharply directed in the report to those occupations which are of little or no military value and pursuit of which partially is interrupted, wholly or partially, by the demand of the war and essential activities supporting it, are calling for men. Those producing or distributing luxuries, or engaged in pursuits of value mainly to themselves, are referred to as the first who might reasonably be called upon to carry their share of the country's load - to fight, work, or pay for the common cause.

THE PROVINCES AND RECRUITING.

Who is responsible for the statement that if Canada is to raise 500,000 men the share of the Maritime Provinces is 65,000? By the figures recently published in the government press the number of males of service age in the Maritime Provinces as taken from the census of 1911 was 1,071,897, and in Alberta 1,740,097, our quota is placed at 65,000 and Alberta's at 25,000. If the discrepancy is due to the excess of foreign population in Alberta, to what extent is that excess counterbalanced, as regards the Maritime Provinces, by the presence of great numbers of our young men in the western provinces, together with the great number of British immigrants there and the negligible number here when the war broke out? As the figures stand, the Toronto Globe points out, "in the Maritime Provinces two out of every five males of service age would have to enlist to make up the quota, while in Alberta a little more than one in seven would be sufficient to fill the ranks. In Ontario and Quebec the enlistment of considerably over a third of the total number of men of service age was anticipated. Ontario will unquestionably reach this figure before the end of the war, but on a similar basis the West should furnish over 300,000 men instead of the 118,000 allotted to it."

Ontario's recruiting record is admirable, particularly in the cities and towns. Its 128,401 recruits represent between one-fourth and one-third of its total number of service age. One-fifth of the total number of service age in the Maritime Provinces would be 40,500, and we had raised 10,611 to June 1. New Brunswick's share of this total should be given officially. The measure of our duty would have been clearer, and easier to meet, if from the beginning had been separated from those of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. This should be a first step in considering a new and more systematic recruiting campaign.

Sir Robert Borden, as a result of recruiting conferences at Ottawa, has promised a larger measure of government co-operation in raising men. The Toronto Globe makes a suggestion to him, in order that conscription may be avoided.

The falling off in recruiting is causing alarm among the officers throughout the country upon whose shoulders rests the duty of filling the ranks, but Ottawa will still insist on the special measures have been taken to rouse those parts of Canada in which enlistment has been slow to the urgent needs for promptly recruiting men. When Sir Robert Borden is to issue an official statement showing where and to what extent the voluntary system has failed and urging the enlistment of young Canadians as a means of avoiding as far as possible conscription, the response would prove, what the Press of both parties has urged for months, that the people are looking to Ottawa for leading and for stimulation.

As to the duty now resting upon the shoulders of young Canadians who are not yet in uniform, the Globe has this word to say: "Ontario's splendid showing is due in no small measure to the admitted fact that when war broke out there were in this province tens of thousands of recruits that appear day by day in the Press with the words added, 'next of kin in England,' or Scotland, or Ireland, indicating to great extent the ranks were filled by these recent immigrants. The bulk of them are gone, and it is up to young Canada to supply the place of the men who have fallen on the field of honor. Conscription is not practicable in a country so mixed racially as Canada, but that fact makes it the more imperative that every young Canadian not yet in uniform should put to himself the question, 'Am I doing my duty? Have I any honest and sufficient excuse for falling to enlist?'"

We do not know whether conscription is practicable or not. It was said to be practicable in England, but when the necessity arose it was introduced. There are many ways of looking at recruiting, but none of them is useful unless it discovers how to get the men. They do not have conscription in Australia, but they are doing better than we are. In Canada we must proceed quickly to ascertain whether or not the voluntary system, or any modification of it, will produce the men needed within a given time, and that time should be short. And recruiting should be prosecuted most aggressively in those districts which have the largest number of permanent level in providing volunteers. A plan of national application is necessary. One

feature of it must be an analysis of recruiting to date, showing exactly what each county or parish has done, how many available men it has, how many are in uniform, and how many more ought to be in order that the sub-division may produce its quota. Had a well-organized national plan been in operation for the last twelve months all the men needed would have been found, and had there been adequate organization for the purpose they could have been drilled and equipped at a much better speed than has yet been recorded in Canada.

As for "compulsion," there are many forms of it. To those anxious about the fate of slavery Lincoln responded that the Union must be saved. To the conscriptionists and the anti-conscriptionists alike Mr. Asquith replied that the country must have the army required; if without compulsion, so much the better - but the men must be forthcoming. Our situation, in the essentials, is in no way different. The next obvious step - already too long delayed - is to give the voluntary system a final test, as was done in England.

SIR SAM'S "INDISCRETION."

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It appears that Sir Sam Hughes did find time to write a letter to the late Lord Kitchener in reference to the Ypres salient, says the Toronto Star, "although he sought to convey the impression that he had been wickedly called home without being given time to write out his tremendously valuable views as Kitchener had, 'with tears in his eyes,' asked him to do so. But surely Kitchener replied to that letter. Why not publish the reply?"

Those who dictate the policy of the Standard newspaper have recently made several references to a gentleman who describes editorially as "ex-Captain Cawley." If this line of comment is deemed profitable to pursue, it might well be accompanied by a few similar references to ex-Lieutenant-Colonel John B. M. Baxter, of whose military knowledge the Standard at one time boasted. Mr. Carvell, who was at one time an officer of militia, offered his services early in the war. There is a saying, thought wise by good judges, having to do with dwellers in glass houses.

Predictions regarding a concerted Allied offensive are increasing in number and weight. The military writer of the Boston Transcript says: "From many sources it is possible to get a strong impression that the great united drive against Germany is on the eve of beginning. Mr. Asquith, the most authoritative of these sources, intimated on her visit to Ottawa on Tuesday and there is no doubt that the plan arranged between the Allies is to be arranged in the West. Russia has already begun her part, the Italian army is holding firmly, even increasing their offensive. The exact day on which the western allied lines will move with all their strength has not yet apparently been named by General Joffre, but information leaking through Holland gives strong ground to these prophetic reports. For the Germans are working large bodies of engineers on fortifications around Liege and along the eastern banks of the Meuse. This of course is part of their policy of preparedness, as if they suffer disaster in France and Belgium the Meuse line would be a strategic one to hold in protecting Germany from invasion by her western frontiers. It is possible that the continual hammering at Verdun has also something of this thought in the mind of the German General Staff. But the impatient must be patient, too much is at stake to risk anything before all is well ready."

Arma Virumque.

In bygone days men sang the praise of Britain's walls of wood. "That, near and fax, in peace and war A thousand shocks without a care The belling sails braved roaring gales Or swelled in the freshening breeze; And Britain's sons behind the guns Were found in the Seven Seas. 'Twas 'Stand to your guns, my hearts of oak, And God be with us this day; As your fathers fought and great deeds wrought. Fight, ye, in the same old way.'"

Those years are gone, the days are done And the times new ways reveal: The walls of wood that the shocks withstood Give way to the walls of steel. The big ships plough with foaming bow The waves of the Seven Seas, But the Steam King mocks at the ship that rocks.

And drifts in the dyking breeze Yet it 'Stand to your guns, my hearts of oak, As it was in the olden days. For Britain's sons behind the guns Still fight in the same old way. - H. L. Manks. Boston, June 14, '18.

Washington, June 18 - President Wilson has called out the militia of every state for service on the Mexican border. Brigadier-General Alfred Miles, chief of the division of militia affairs, estimated the maximum militia forces to be called out to be 145,000 men.

matter. This Kitchener-Ypres business, however, demands action to fit the offence.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Bear's war stride is still vastly impressive.

Sir Robert Borden sticks to General Sir Sam Hughes as Sir Sam sticks to Colonel John Wesley Allison. As a study in cohesion this is no doubt impressive; but do not let any one suppose that the country is lost in admiration of it. A man is judged by the company he keeps.

When a good Tory paper like The Morning Mail speaks of General Hughes as a "slanderer of the dead," Sir Robert Borden can scarcely afford to ignore the recent reference of the Minister of Militia to the Ypres salient and Lord Kitchener's alleged tacit admission that he ought not to have been defended - Toronto Globe.

Not a few Canadian editors will sympathize with the editor of the Ottawa Citizen who stands corrected because one of his staff had mistaken a flag instead of half-staffing it. The editor has no must about the premises as a rule, but he chooses the vacation season he always has half-staffed. Anyhow, after the man who is expert in these matters corrected the Citizen editor, the editor apologized like a man. He says:

"An old-timer writes us: 'I am much pleased at your references to that matter and at the crude question of half-staffing. The proper expression and the proper intention is thus: Half-staff.' This shows that one can be too careful when one undertakes to discuss technical matters of vital importance. We are obliged to our correspondent for making the correction.'"

One very important subject the New Brunswick opposition ought not to overlook is the condition of our Jury-chosen machinery as recently exemplified in the selection of a special jury in this province and county. That case calls for vigorous and sustained investigation until the responsibility is definitely fixed, or distributed. The rights of a citizen before the law must be guarded with vigilance and with courage no matter from what quarter they are endangered.

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