

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1917.

"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.

THE RUSSIAN DUMA.

The fact that the recent revolution in Russia places the administrative control of that mighty empire in the hands of the leaders in the Duma, attracts interest to this, supposedly representative assembly of the Russian people. The recent occasion is not the first on which the Duma has shown that it is not to be trifled with. The Duma virtually owes its existence to the fact that the Russian government made a failure of the Japanese war back in 1904, when discontent resulted in the murder of Plehve, Minister of the Interior, and convinced the Czar that it was necessary to change the repressive policy of Russia's government to one containing more liberal ideas.

Subsequently, an appeal was made to the Czar for an assembly which would be truly representative of the nation, for an extension of local government, and for wider individual liberty. He promised but took no effective action to implement his pledge. Time failing to bring relief from conditions held to be oppressive, the agitation was renewed and in 1905 the Czar again promised the national assembly which was to be known as the Duma.

When this body convened, however, it was found that its powers were consultative only, it could advise or suggest but could not initiate, and was subject to instant dismissal at the imperial will. Naturally, the Russian people, promised certain liberties, were not satisfied with the poor substitute they received and there was another uprising more serious than the first, until, in October, 1905, the Czar yielded to the popular demand and by manifesto promised to grant Russia a constitution based on the main principles of liberalism. He also promised individual liberty, a lessening of the number of political crimes for which Russians could be severely punished, or even executed, and a real elective national representation with powers of legislation, restricted, it is true, but still a great advance over what the nation had enjoyed in the past.

Elections for the Duma were held and were characterized by much turmoil and bloodshed, but finally, on April 27th, 1906, His Imperial Majesty opened the first session of parliament. This body, although it seemed to start well, was found to be grossly unrepresentative of the Russian people and eventually it was dissolved. A second Duma, reconstituted, did not produce the desired result and a third was but little more successful, although during its term certain reforms relating to the ownership of land and the control of the Russian navy were put into force.

The Duma, however, was not entirely free from the facts of autocracy, and in some things, particularly its relation to the government of Finland, was more repressive than the former regime had been. It was greatly disturbed by the action of the Austrian Slavs in approving the seizure from Serbia of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the Duma was strongly Slavic in composition and resented what it claimed was unfair treatment of the Serbs—literally race brothers of the Southern Russians.

The Duma then took up the matter of reorganizing the Russian army and in 1909 voted \$50,000,000 for this purpose, in that supporting the desires of the government. From that day to the present the Duma has become a more powerful factor in the Russian administration and even if the revolution of last week had not occurred, probably, in time, would have secured the prerogatives of other parliaments supposedly more democratic and closer to the great mass of the people.

Last week's revolution places the Duma in absolute control of Russia's affairs, for so long as it retains the confidence of the people no government can live without its support. It is intensely pro-Russian and is certain to inaugurate a more vigorous war policy, a movement which will prove of advantage to the Entente Allies, and which will secure for Russia that place in the affairs of the world to which her power and her resources justly entitle her.

GERMANY AND MEXICO.

Some American papers have been devoting space to what might happen in Mexico if the United States should find it necessary to declare war on Germany. One report is to the effect that, during the past few weeks, Germans to the number of 95,000 have gone from the United States into Mexico, not to get clear of war but

to prepare for it, and that if a condition of open hostility existed between the two nations they would return, accompanied by as many Mexicans, and make it intensely interesting for American troops on the southern border.

Another scare-monger of the American press has it that the Germans are well provided with armed transports in Mexican waters, and that these could attack New Orleans, go up the Mississippi for a considerable distance and inflict great damage before they could be brought to book. Both stories are unlikely. A German-Mexican invasion might prove successful for a brief time, just as the Germans got a start on the war by invading Belgium but it would not be long before American troops could concentrate in sufficient numbers on the southern border to beat off any attack the German-Mexican forces could make. In such an event the Americans would have an easier task than they did in the pursuit of the elusive Villa for it would not be necessary to go after the enemy. To keep him sufficiently far from the American border to prevent damage would be the only demand and the Americans would have the advantage of having the fighting brought to them. It would be a fight within well defined lines whereas the Villa campaign was really little more than a glorified game of tag.

It is not at all certain that Germany would find Mexico willing to embark with her upon any such mad proposition as an attack upon the United States. Hatred of America is the only ground on which the Mexicans and Germans can meet and it is doubtful even if that incentive would be sufficient to bring the Mex. and the Hun into partnership for it is not apparent that Mexican hatred of the American is supplemented by Mexican love for the German. If Mexico is to be dominated at all that nation would probably prefer to see Americans rather than Germans in control for rule from Washington would naturally be more kindly than the best that could be expected from Berlin.

As for the possibility of German invasion by means of Mexico that is so remote as to be regarded as negligible. Ninety-five thousand Germans could be met by twice ninety-five thousand Americans just as soon as the American people became convinced that their country was in danger. And, as already pointed out, in such a campaign the Americans would have all the advantage of position. There may be many considerations to cause the president of the United States to think very carefully before engaging in war but the fear of German invasion through the Mexican gate is scarcely one of them.

A GUARANTEED SUCCESS.

The new war loan is and must be a prodigious financial success in one way, namely, that the government will get all the money it asks for, and be offered a great deal more than it needs. Whether it is a success in the broadest and best way depends upon whether the small investor wakes up in time. The big fish are opening their mouths wide enough. One Upper Canadian concern wants 6.6 per cent. of the whole issue. They are opening their mouths so wide because they want to get all they can, and know they will not get nearly as much as they desire. What are the little fish going to do? The success of the loan, so far as the government is concerned, does not depend upon what they do, but their own advantage does. They may not be accustomed to bonds as they are accustomed to bank deposits. The sooner they become accustomed to bonds the better it will be for themselves. It is the early bird in this case with a vengeance. We pride ourselves, says the Winnipeg Telegram, upon being a particularly alert people. We are about as alert as an owl in daylight if we let one dollar of this loan go outside Canada.

NO VICTORY COMPLETE WITH THIS SACRIFICE.

No words uttered since the war began ring more true now than those of the English statesman who declared that no victory could be complete that would in any measure sacrifice the Belgian people. The Allies are on the verge of victory now and Canada will soon be forced to ask herself if she has done all that she could. Of men, of money, of resources to help the fighting forces, the Dominion has given her share. What of Belgium? There are seven millions of her women and motherless children starving. Many have died and many more will die—their little lives snuffed out after months of suffering, torture and emaciation, amid scenes that drive adults mad, unless more and more relief is given. Bread

CANADA'S NAVAL MINISTER AS SEEN BY LONDON JOURNALIST

Hon. J. Douglas Hazen Tells The London Financier of Growth and Development of Empire's Greatest Dominion.

(By Imperialism in the London Financier.)

The Savoy Hotel, where the Dominion ministers are staying as the guests of the Imperial government, may be described as an Imperial hostelry, for there are residents there from almost every part of the Empire. Sir Robert Borden has been such a busy man that I have not yet seen him, but I was fortunate enough on Thursday to see the Hon. J. D. Hazen, the Dominion Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who is of the Canadian Prime Minister's party. He hails from New Brunswick, and confessed to some surprise on hearing that the busy man that I have not yet seen was the defeat of the provincial government. Mr. Murray, the Minister of Agriculture, with whom I had a long interview when he was in this country in November last, had only recently assumed the premiership in succession to Mr. Clarke, who has been in failing health for some time, and whose death, I am sorry to say, was reported by cable on Tuesday. A barrister by profession, Mr. Hazen has been Minister of Marine and Fisheries since the formation of Sir Robert Borden's ministry in 1911. After passing through New Brunswick University he was admitted to the Bar in 1883, became mayor of Fredericton in 1887 and first entered the Canadian Parliament in 1891, where he remained for five years. Provincial politics next engaged his attention, and, entering the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick in 1899, when he was appointed leader of the opposition, his turn of government came ten years later and from 1908 to 1911—when he again entered the Dominion Parliament—was premier and attorney general of the province. He is in his 57th year, looks much younger, is keen and alert, and altogether a fine specimen of the Canadian breed. His will be heard in the Empire war council in connection with naval and shipping affairs.

A Chat With the Hon. J. D. Hazen. Mr. Hazen, who is accompanied by Mrs. Hazen, has a suite of apartments overlooking the Thames embankment. Although a very busy man, he found time, and, indeed, expressed the pleasure it gave him to talk about Canada and Canadian conditions. "We want to get on with the war," he said, "and we are doing everything possible to help the British government and the Allies of Britain. Canada is busy making munitions, as you know. Although we have been a borrowing country in the past, we have become a lending country, and not only are we lending money for our own people for the purpose of carrying on the war, but have assisted the British government to the extent of several million dollars. This is all the more remarkable seeing that before the war we were borrowing at the rate of 200 million dollars a year. About 400,000 Canadians are now employed in the manufacture of munitions in every province of the Dominion. The work is carried on by the Imperial Munitions Board, which is composed of Canadians responsible to the British government. In addition to these services in the munition factories over 430,000 men who were working in Canada at the time war broke out have either enlisted for overseas or been summoned to the colors as reservists. The task which Canada has had to undertake in connection with the financing of the war may be gathered from

front from which he is still suffering. Major Percy McAvity has been compelled to relinquish his commission with the Canadian expeditionary force. He will take up the manufacture of munitions at the McAvity plant, Marsh Road.

The Kliff's Battalion has received six recruits in St. John since Saturday. Their names are as follows: Leonard Valentine, St. John; Richard Waver, England; Patrick Cunningham, Dublin, Ireland; R. Walter Scott, Tower Hill, N. B.; Clinton Rae, Newcastle, N. B.; Joseph Barrett, Balmain, Sydney, Australia.

is all they ask. The war little faces of these helpless tots, reared amid scenes of bloodshed and happiness blotted from their childhood days, are turned towards Canada for bread. Send your help to these little ones and their mothers and fathers help your brothers and husbands speed the day of victory. Send your contribution to the Belgian Relief Committee, 59 St. Peter street, Montreal, or to the branch committee in your community.

The Nelson Touch

They've swept and cleared the ocean roads. Where'er our ensigns run. As Nelson made the tradeways safe arrived from the front, received a letter from his son, Ralph, who is with a Canadian unit in France. The writer stated that he was enjoying good health. Owing to wounds received at the

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the fact that in peace time we had an annual defence expenditure of ten million dollars; that has now grown to over 300 million dollars a year. At the time hostilities broke out the Canadian military organization, with headquarters at Ottawa, was designed to deal with a permanent force of about 3,000 troops; it has been expanded and adapted to war conditions until authority is now exercised over 400,000 officers and men. The entire expense of this great army is borne by Canada, and I may mention that the Canadian soldier is the best paid in the world. His dependents receive a separation allowance which is generous compared with that paid in other countries, and this is augmented by such portion of his pay as the soldier may desire to allocate."

Business Conditions in Canada.

After referring to the splendid efforts of the Canadians in regard to the various patriotic funds—notably the Red Cross and the Belgian relief funds—a total of over 60 million dollars having been generously contributed to date, Mr. Hazen spoke of business conditions in Canada. When he left for England it was considered that the prospects were good for large crops during the coming season, though there might be some difficulty owing to the scarcity of labor. "The fisheries," he went on to say, "have been yielding abundant harvests, and large quantities have been shipped to England, where the supply is less than usual in consequence of the submarine menace and the commandeering of trawlers for naval purposes. There is now a ration of fish served out to the British troops which makes an agreeable change in their daily allowance of food. With regard to the prohibition and restriction of certain imports recently announced by Mr. Lloyd George in parliament, there is no doubt the prohibition of apples will affect the Canadian fruit growers. His country's crop has been largely disposed of; it will be next year's crop that will be principally affected. The same is true with regard to the limitation of the imports of canned fruit. I have taken up this matter with the Board of Trade here, and I feel justified in saying that arrangements will be made that will cause this restriction to bear with as little inconvenience as possible on the Canadian people, consistent with the object the British government have in view in obtaining the requisite amount of tonnage that is necessary for the prosecution of the war."

Canadian Trade Development.

Finally Mr. Hazen had a word to say about the remarkable progress and development of Canada's trade and commerce. Handling the official returns, he said: "You will note the expansion that has taken place. The total trade of Canada in 1912 was \$3,555,585 dollars. In 1913 it was \$4,241,477 dollars. In 1914 \$5,055,555 dollars. In 1915 \$7,132,671 dollars. In 1916 \$7,709,433 dollars. These figures are for merchandise alone. Of course, the total value of goods and services has gone up to \$23,041,622 dollars in 1913 to \$25,591,655 dollars in 1916. This gives a grand total for last year of 2,028,661,088 dollars, which is practically double the total of the previous year. Asked for his views on Imperial preference, Mr. Hazen said: "I think we are all in favor of Imperial preference. It would be to the interest of the Empire as well as Canada, and I think the findings of Lord Balfour of Burleigh's committee have given it a kick in the right direction."

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EXPORT OF REVOLUTION IN GERMAN EMPIRE

Montreal, March 19.—The New York market today showed great strength with small offerings on the rise, resulting in sharp advance between sales. During the afternoon session there was a report of a revolution in Germany. This was not confirmed. Closing prices in New York showed only small declines from the high.

In the local market, trading was only fairly active, but strength was shown throughout the list, and closing prices were generally higher than the opening. If this strength continues in New York, it is bound to be reflected in our securities. The activity being displayed in regard to the new war loan has naturally had a curbing effect on trading in our market. All reports signify the loan is going very well.

McDOUGALL & COWANS.

Gerda Holmes, the World player, came to Chicago lately to visit her mother, but, because of her first vacation in over a year.



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