

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 15, 1915.

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## LABOR'S TESTING TIME.

With the fate of the Empire in the balance, 150,000 Welsh miners are out on strike today. Fortunately some of the leading union labor organizations have refused to sanction this strike, and many labor leaders are opposed to all strikes at this time. But practically every mine in Wales was idle this morning—and coal, a constant supply of it, is absolutely necessary if the war is to be carried on successfully. It is the life-blood of the navy and of industry. Under the new legislation these strikers are subject to a fine of \$15 a day, in default of which they may be imprisoned for a considerable period. The government, which passed this drastic legislation as a matter of necessity in time of war, and which aims it not only against miners but against all citizens who obstruct the cause of the Empire by acts of omission or of commission, must take a grip upon the present situation, no matter what may follow its action.

This is not a time to be discussing labor questions. The first thing to be done is to beat down German militarism. After that has been accomplished, labor and capital will have an opportunity of settling their disputes, and the by-standers will see fair play. Strikes under present conditions are offences against military law. If they were to be permitted the nation might not only lack coal, but shells, rifles and uniforms, and a hundred and one other things, not to mention soldiers. A prolonged strike now would be a very great calamity, and it probably would be followed not only by compulsion in the industrial field during the period of the war, but by conscription as well.

The British Empire is the freest country in the world, but its people must prove that they are worthy of freedom. If they are not fit for it, they cannot retain it. Most countries have recognized the right of the laborer to strike, that is to desert from work, in time of peace. But in time of war the right to strike disappears. The miners who will not mine coal to keep the great fleets of Britain in condition for instant action are in the same position as a regiment which refuses to advance upon the enemy.

## THE PESSIMISTS.

Now comes a London journalist who says the English newspapers are not only ignorant concerning war matters but that their pessimism is without any solid basis. Recent information from Great Britain gives ground for hoping that our rather severe London friend may be justified in at least a portion of his optimism. Writing in the New Age he says:

"Apart from an utter ignorance of military things, of strategy, of tactics, of geography, of the governance of men . . . they have not the moral qualities of a good lance-corporal. They are unduly elated in success, and in ill-success, or still worse, in times of suspense, they go to bits and start howling for someone's blood. They fill their wretched rag with letters from scared privates, novelists, and episcopal dignitaries to prove that the judgment of Lord Kitchener has been at fault in the highly technical matter of the supply of shells—a matter upon which there are perhaps twenty people in the United Kingdom capable of speaking, and not one of them the editor of a newspaper. At a time when every military critic of honesty and courage is assuring us that victory is certain we only have the courage and the patience for a waiting game, they yelp and gibber because the Russian are driven out of Western Galicia, or because we ourselves have not yet walked over Western Germany with bands playing at a time when every day increases the numerical disproportion in our favor, and when every trench affair from Switzerland to the sea is wasting the Germans in a ratio of almost two to one to the Allies, they moan because the only apparent geographical result which they can show their readers in the wretched little maps they print, is one of a few miles to or from. With no consciousness of the absurdity of such a prophecy they foretell a German resistance of the sort mile by mile back to Berlin, and calculate how many years it will take to accomplish that advance! There is no enormity upon this earth of which they are incapable."

## ANYTHING TO GET BACK

In their eagerness and anxiety to repair their shattered fortunes, the Conservatives of Manitoba are in mood to promise anything that might give them another lease of power. But they overdo it. In provincial convention in Winnipeg last night they adopted a resolution pledging elimination of the spinster system in their province. Imagine Conservative politicians in power and no leaves and fishes!

The resolution, in light of the party's record in provincial as well as Dominion rule, marks their convention with the brand of insincerity. They are again "playing the game," and are prepared to "pledge themselves to almost anything."

The large sum paid into the city treasury in taxes previous to the close of the disarray period may mean that the war has thus far affected us little or that, in days of economy, none who could pay and save five per cent neglected to do so. Whichever is the case, the fact remains that the rub, of dollars into the chamberlain's strong box is very satisfactory and will tend to keep the

city's credit good where such things are made matters of note.

An article in another column, credited to the Toronto Globe, is not pleasant reading. Has it not a local application? When will young Canada seriously realize that war is hers as well as the Motherland's?

Hamilton, Ont., is to discharge all unmarried laborers in its employ—some two hundred—and give married men their places. The idea is to show the young men that their places are in the ranks of the King's army. It is a sharp reminder of a duty that calls for fulfillment.

Congratulations to Captain J. H. Parks. He is now entitled to the letters D. S. O. after his name, and the honor of the Distinguished Service Order was conferred on the St. John soldier by the King himself. This city will be proud of the record made by its officers and men at the front.

That Britain and her Allies are receiving war material purchased in the United States is due to the fact that the British navy has made it possible to transport cargoes safely. That is the answer to the plea in the reported Austro-Hungarian note to the American Ambassador at Vienna. If Germany or Austria could get this material across the Atlantic would either refuse it?

Reports in connection with the carrying on of the work at the Home for Incapables are published today. This institution has proven a blessing indeed, worthy of the kindly thought of its founder, of the generous contributions from others and of the unselfish expenditure of time and talent by those who carry on the work and the management.

Harry K. Thaw has advanced another step toward freedom. A July 15 New York yesterday declared the slayer of Sandford White sane. But the gates of Matteawan still are unlocked and the State has not given up its fight. Meanwhile it is interesting to note that Thaw was loudly cheered when the jury's verdict was given. But does Broadway yearn for him as he does for the Great White Way?

The following, from the Toronto Globe's military observer gives us some idea of Germany's terrific battle losses:

"A flash of light is thrown upon Germany's war losses by a statement in a Berlin despatch giving the total Prussian casualties to July 1 as 1,504,323. This total does not include the losses of Saxony, Bavaria, Wurttemberg or the German navy, which will total considerably over a third of those of Prussia. The despatch adds: 'Of 40,000 German national school teachers under arms 4,900 have been killed in battle.' This affords some means of getting at the true losses of Germany. It is fairly certain that the lists published do not contain the names of all the Germans wounded, but only those killed and seriously wounded. The teachers of Germany were not mobilized in any particular corps which has had more than its share of fighting and losses. They were scattered through all the regiments and corps of the various armies. If one teacher out of every eight engaged in the war has been killed in action it is a reasonable assumption that one in eight of all other German soldiers mobilized has been killed also. How many men has Germany lost? Not less than 6,000,000, of whom, if the figures as to teachers hold good, 750,000 have been killed in battle and hundreds of thousands have been permanently disabled. France's admitted loss is killed is 400,000, and that of Britain is 60,000. Germany is bleeding more freely than the western Allies, and while the stage of exhaustion has not been nearly reached the fearful death roll must be making a profound impression on her people. The losses of Austria and Russia are largely a matter of guesswork, but it would not be surprising were the Austrian list of killed and permanently disabled to prove up to the present almost as great as those of Germany. In the Serbian and Carpathian campaigns Austria's losses were very great indeed."

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## LIGHTER VEIN.

An English beggar at a street corner was asking passers-by to "help the blind," when a man, to test him, gave him a smooth, bright piece of metal which needed close scrutiny to distinguish it from a sixpence, saying "Here is a sixpence, my man."

A minute later he was touched on the shoulder, and, turning around, saw the beggar, who said: "Have you made a mistake? This is not a sixpence, sir."

The other replied: "It is no mistake. I have helped you another way—I have restored your sight."

"Dad, what do they call a man who eats only vegetables?"

"A vegetarian, son."

"And one who eats people?"

"A humanitarian. Now, run along and play."

Brown—How'd you get along ridin' in them sleepin' cars when you took your trip?

Jones—Got along all right, but I caught a colored fellow trying to sneak away with my boots an' made him bring 'em back.

When Ex-President Taft was on his transcontinental tour American flags and Taft pictures were in evidence everywhere. Usually the Taft pictures contained a word of welcome under them. Those who heard the president's laugh ring out will not soon forget the western city which, directly under the barred window of the city lock-up, displayed a Taft picture with the legend "Welcome" on it.

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## LONDON SCHOOL TEACHERS PREFER TO STAY IN CANADA

London, June 28.—(Correspondence)—Some London school teachers who were granted leave of absence by the education committee a year ago in order to take up exchange teaching in Canada, have written that the "do not wish to travel at sea at the present time," and therefore wish their leave of absence extended "until the submarine menace is less dangerous." The education committee has decided to extend their leave until January 1.

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CAPT. JOHN H. PARKS, FORMERLY OF ST. JOHN, HONORED BY KING

Received D. S. O. Yesterday—  
Capt. Worden Recovering—  
Nova Scotia Man Killed—  
Hamilton Discharges Single Men

Capt. John H. Parks, formerly of this city, was decorated with the Distinguished Service Order by King George in London yesterday, for valor on the field of battle.

Capt. J. W. Worden, formerly of Bayswater, Kings county, a Boer war veteran, who was wounded some time ago in France, is recovering, and expects to return to Vancouver, B. C., in the near future. A piece of skin from one leg was grafted upon a shoulder wound, Mrs. Worden is now with him in England.

Karl Dondale, of Deepbrook, Annapolis, N. S., has been killed in action in France.

Mayor Walters of Hamilton, Ont., announced yesterday that in order to make the single men realize their duty, he was planning to discharge all such who

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were in the employ of the city, and fill their places with married men. Recruiting has been slow in Hamilton.

A recruiting force of twenty-five men under Lieuts. Lamb and Brooks, will remain at Sussex after the departure of the 26th for Valcartier. They will leave today.

Mrs. O'Regan, of 157 Rockland Road, has received word that her husband, Thomas O'Regan, of the Princess Patricia's, has been killed in France. He left here with the first contingent last fall.

Gunner Chas. Ingraham has written to his sister at 88 Summer street, here, thanking her for parcels sent to him.

Mrs. G. B. Madill of Waterloo street, yesterday had a letter from her brother, Pte. Thomas Rowley, of the 26th Battalion, telling of his arrival in England in good health.

"SATANISTS" PLANNED TO KILL FERDINAND

Sofia, Bulgaria, June 22.—(Correspondence)—An Anarchist plot to assassinate King Ferdinand has been disclosed in the court-martial of seven persons accused of complicity in the bomb outrage at the Sofia Casino, on February 18. The accused described themselves "Satanists," this being the title of the Anarchist group to which they belong, and which, under the leadership of a man named Anastasoff, was concerned in a conspiracy to assassinate the king two years ago.

The February bomb outrage occurred

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red in the midst of an official ball, and resulted in the death of four prominent young people and the injury of many others. Those killed included the wife of the minister of war, and a daughter of a former war minister.

The details of the plot against the king have not been made public.

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