

The Evening Times and Star
ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 23, 1918.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.
Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.
Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$3.00 per year in advance.
The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces.
Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Power, Manager, Association Bldg.
British and European—Frederick A. Smyth, 20 Ledgate Hill, LONDON, E. C., England.
The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE CRISIS PAST.

We have seen the last great German offensive. Since March 21 the Allies, because of the German superiority in numbers, had to be content with checking each German attempt to reach Paris or the Channel ports. They were waiting for the Americans, and in the meantime wearing down the enemy as much as possible. Even when the latest German drive, which has been so disastrously defeated, was begun, there was some doubt as to whether Foch could hold the lines. There was no information as to the strength or disposition of his reserves, and the greatest optimism did not anticipate what has actually occurred. Today we witness not only a great Allied offensive but the throwing in of German reserves in a frantic effort to prevent a complete disaster.

Since the Allies have been able to accomplish this much, and since more and more Americans are arriving in France, there need be no fear that any drive the enemy may attempt hereafter will have any chance of success. The Crown Prince has been forced to appeal to Rupprecht, farther north, for assistance, and the latter is therefore in no position to attempt a powerful offensive on his own account. True, there are still many of that 210 divisions Germany was reported to have on the western front, but many of them have been so decimated by the terrific force of the Allied stroke that the army in reserve must be greatly reduced, and there is a long line to hold from the coast to Switzerland, with an alert, confident and grimly determined foe ever watching and ever fighting to gain the mastery. And still the Americans are pouring in to fill the gaps in the Allied lines, and give the answer of a great democracy to the sneering challenge of a savage autocrat.

But it is not alone on the western front the clouds are lifting. The British and the United States have formed a base of operations on the Murman coast of northern Russia. In the far east the United States and Japan will form a base at Vladivostok, and give the Czech-Slovaks the aid they need to move triumphantly across Siberia and over the Ural Mountains toward Petrograd and Moscow. This Allied intervention will be the tonic stroke the Russians need, and as the movement develops the now inarticulate masses of the Russian people will hail their deliverers; for already the influence of the Bolsheviks and of Germany is waning in old Russia, and the news of the Allied success in the west will have a great moral effect.

There is also a coming whirlwind in Austria. Already there have been serious outbreaks in Bohemia and elsewhere, and yesterday the news came that the Austrian cabinet had resigned. The failure of the drive against Italy and the increasing hunger of the people had already borne bitter fruit, and here, too, the news of the Allied victory in France will produce a marked moral effect, which will be further emphasized by the Italian and French success in Albania.

The cord is being tightened around the doomed empires of the Central Powers. Complete victory may yet be long deferred, or there may be an early collapse. Events may move very swiftly, or there may be another period of waiting, but the crisis is past. Even if the great German armies are able to block the road to the Rhine until next year, they have lost the initiative and lost it beyond hope of recovery. If the struggle must go on into next year, the Americans will then have enough trained men on the western front to enable the Allies to sweep the enemy back to the Rhine and beyond. But much may happen before winter, and one would naturally expect that when Germany realizes her cause is lost she would endeavor to negotiate for peace when she has more to bargain with than she would have a year hence. However, there is no sounding the depths of German folly in this war, from the beginning to the end.

The plea of the Canada Food Board to pick and preserve wild berries should be heeded, and New Brunswick is rich in this kind of fruit. Tons upon tons of wild raspberries and blueberries could be picked, the latter not far from St. John itself, if the people cared to do so.

WHO CARES?

The boys have found the new south-end playground. They were playing ball there last evening. At the same time a relatively small group of youth and citizens, including only two ladies, were completing the organization of an improvement league to supplement what the city is doing to complete the playground, to supervise it, and to do other things for the welfare of the boys and girls.

The indifference of the average citizen to welfare work must be overcome if real good is to be accomplished. The assembly hall of King Edward school should have been filled with parents, big brothers and big sisters last evening. Rev. Mr. McCutcheon told the Rotary Club yesterday that while money is valuable, the personal touch is the essential factor. That is a great truth. When will we all realize that the really valuable "touch" is not the one that takes something away from the other fellow? There is infinitely greater satisfaction in doing something for the other fellow, and in the fellowship that goes with unselfish service. Let us hope improvement leagues may presently be valued for the real benefit they may confer on the community. We used to blame the laissez-faire traffic for a great deal of indifference to social improvement that still exists. Down at the bottom of that indifference is selfishness, whether we are conscious of it or not. And selfishness is in direct opposition to all the teaching of the religion the people profess.

On the subject of civil service reform the Ottawa Journal-Press says:—"It is inconceivable that a law which is designed to place all appointments to the public service of Canada on an equal basis, and which is generally considered to be a distinct advance in the progress of civil service reform, should not furnish as good if not a much better class of employees, as the hand-picking methods which have hitherto obtained. Conditions in Canada up to the present time have been such as to force the government to adopt this measure. Canada is almost the last important white country in the world to subscribe to civil service reform, and it would seem to clear-thinking men that a system which places government appointments, which are the property of the people, on such a footing that they are open to all, and the best man guaranteed appointment without fear or favor, must be preferable to a system which allows any commissioner or any head of a government department, to appoint from among his own circle of friends or acquaintances."

The British southwest of Rheims are said to have had the hardest of the fighting and captured prisoners and forty machine guns. We are told that French, British and American troops all made progress yesterday, in the effort to cut off great masses of enemy troops within the semi-circle where they were caught by the great counter-offensive. One correspondent says there is reason to believe the damage to the enemy will be even greater than has hitherto been assumed. The German casualties have been enormously greater than those of the Allies.

Today's war reports show that though the German resistance has been stiffened by bringing up reserves the Allies are still gaining ground and taking prisoners along a very wide front. The enemy is fighting desperately as he retreats, but he has not yet been able to make a firm stand against the victorious armies pressing him so hard and taking such a heavy toll as they cling to their deadly purpose.

Some German newspapers are said to regard the present as a good time to assume the defensive on the western front and pay more attention to the east. The defensive has actually been assumed in the west, not as a matter of policy but of necessity. As to the east, there is no doubt at all that the situation there also grows more serious for Germany.

We are told that the failure of the German offensive has made a profound impression in Holland and the Scandinavian countries. The latter were especially subjected to pre-German influences, and perhaps believed Germany invincible. The tone of their comment has completely changed in a week.

It is now revealed that the Germans planned an invasion of Canada and Mexico from the United States, to hamper Canada in the war and to keep the United States busy at home. Like so many other German plots, this one failed.

British long flying airplanes the other day brought five German trains to a standstill. With more airplanes enormously greater damage can be done to the enemy.

Uncle Sam is making war on the bribes and grafters in army contract work. They deserve no quarter, for they are traitors to their country.

Soldiers of Slavic origin in the Austrian army are growing more and more troublesome to Austria.

LIGHTER VEIN

Latin at the Farm.
"Semper fidelis," announced the hobo.
"Don't be!"

A Snatcher.
"How is your new housemaid?"
"She works like lightning."
"No, it isn't. She works like lightning because she leaves ruin and disorder behind her."

Crust.
Rich Old Aunt—Robert, I am going to make my will. I think I shall leave you—(Pause)
Nephew (eagerly)—Yes, aunt.
Aunt—(Before long)

AUSTRIA IN A TRAP, THINKS M. HANOTAUX

Germany and Bulgaria in Scheme To Strangle Dual Monarchy

Mysteries Being Cleared—German Fear of the Murdered Archduke—Reason for Charles' Visit to Sofia and Constantinople

Gabriel Hanotaux, well known French historian and member of the French Academy, pieces together some scraps of news coming out of Austria in an effort to clarify the puzzling situation there since the production of the emperor's famous peace letter. M. Hanotaux suggests the explanation of the confused events is the Austrian emperor's discovery of a plot against him in which the Kaiser and Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria have played the principal roles. A translation of M. Hanotaux's article follows:

"The Pan German plot, which is the origin of the present war, it seems, is even more treacherous and blacker than we have thought for a great deal of time. Undeniable facts begin to disentangle themselves and reveal the underside of the web; Germany had conceived a great enterprise of domination, her plan of Middle Europe, not only through the defeat of the western powers, but by the complete subordination and domestication of Austria. And it is, perhaps because the Archduke Francis Ferdinand was not willing to bow his head that he perished. That was the beginning."

There has appeared recently in the Berliner Tageblatt an extract from the Souvenirs of Edgar von Schmidt-Pauli, which reproduces the Pignora of May 14, 1918, has become for many well-informed people a ray of light. The young Prince Louis Windischgrätz, learning in his chateau at Serepschitz the news of the death of the Archduke, cried out, according to witnesses, 'It is war!' This exclamation was in some way the confession of the plot and the beginning of the writer on Austrian affairs, Mr. Stedl, has since revealed.

Feared the Archduke.
"On the other hand," the striking text (among a hundred others) is said to be Baron Jean de Witte had toured through the Balkans and had dropped some time at Sarajevo. In his book From the Bavarian Alps to the Balkans, which appeared in 1908, he wrote: "Whatever success Pan German propaganda has attained in certain spheres, whatever success it has shown in the circumstances, the Pan Germans will not attain their goal easily. In vain they spread the report that the Hapsburg monarchy hangs only by a thread, the existence of their septuagenarian monarch, and that as soon as he is gone his monarchy will disappear. They have so often said it and repeated it that it has become current opinion in Europe. But they forgot too easily that in default of a son the nephews, Francis Ferdinand, the heir presumptive to the throne, has given proof in many circumstances that when the day comes he will be equal to his task. It is for this reason, without doubt, that the Prusso-Philles, after having pretended for a long time to ignore him, today show him a respect-hat."

"At the interview of Konopist William II. without doubt gave to Francis Ferdinand his choice. All was ready for war; the death of the Archduke became the pretext."

"Let us take a step further: The Temps of Feb. 29, 1916, has revealed the existence of a secret treaty, signed some time before the war, between Germany and Bulgaria. 'It is a question of a treaty binding the fate of Bulgaria'

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to that of Germany, militarily, economically, and politically, Bulgaria entered into the German federation. The integrity of Bulgarian territory became not only an immediate interest for Germany, but a prime cause of war, like the integrity of any other part of the German Empire, such as Bavaria, etc."

"It was added then that few alone had been able to force Czar Ferdinand to sign such a treaty—he whose ambition has no bounds. Well, does one not reserve more than ambition to more than fear had impelled King Ferdinand?"

"Charles I. has just gone to Sofia, and on the occasion of this journey one hears the constitution of a confederation of the Balkans; then what she finds on the Danube, after these four long years of war, which have put Austria at its mercy, is a military power, a 'Prussia' and this 'Prussia' in accord with the ministers of the first house of the frontier being heretofore common all liberty of action toward the south will henceforth be taken away. Tomorrow, Salouki, the coveted city, will likewise be assigned to Bulgaria, and whatever the Hapsburg dynasty turns it will be turned in."

Charles—Tries for Peace.
"On the other hand, the Pan German conquests in the states of Emperor Charles are realized in broad daylight. Hungary herself is put aside Yugoslav elements are crushed everywhere a pitiless offensive is carried against all that is not German, and at the same time they draw toward the great Germany" the elements of Germanic language in the Tyrol, Salzburg, Upper and Lower Austria, Bohemia, etc."

"His desire for independence have brought him to that point. He has wished but he has not dared. William II. holds him, garrotes him, uses Ferdinand as a keeper, and the successor of the Hapsburgs finally learns what the cost is to him of the Danubian ambitions of his sad, weak predecessor."

"German policy should have been led to this point since the Balkan crisis with an art, brutal and terrible! It touches at its ends perhaps. One does not enslave all the people at one time. Hardan cries out: 'We are marking around us something worse than the Balkan states.' That means that one hands over the world to worse disorders and the most frightful anarchy. Much has been allowed to be destroyed so far, is it not time to begin to reconstruct?"

FOR CHEAP ELECTRIC POWER IN IRELAND
Dublin, June 28.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—There is satisfaction in Ireland at the announcement made in the report of the Electric Power Supply Committee that it is intended to make an investigation of the sources of power in Ireland for the supply of cheap electricity. The small industrial towns of Ulster would specially benefit by such a supply.

A large electric station is being erected by the Belfast Corporation to supply the Belfast area with electricity, but no provision has hitherto been made for the distribution of electricity on a large scale over the industrial areas of Ulster outside Belfast.

TUCKETS THREATEN TO CLOSE HAMILTON PLANT; A STRIKE ON
Hamilton, Ont., July 22.—Officials of the Tuckett Company threaten to close their plant here because of a strike of cigar makers.

RUNAWAY DIRIGIBLE LANDS IN N. S. TOWN
Chatham, Mass., July 22.—A dirigible balloon which has been missing from the naval station here since Friday landed at Summerside (N. S.), according to word received here tonight. Its three occupants were reported safe.

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