

The Evening Times and Star

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EIGHTY DAYS

This is the eightieth day since Hon. P. G. Mahoney was appointed Minister of Public Works. He is still Minister of Public Works—the big spending department—though rejected by the people. How much longer will Lieut.-Gov. Wood permit this gross violation of the principles of responsible government to continue?

THE WAR NEWS

The despairing wall of the Kaiser, the wall of the beaten despot, is the feature of today's news. If it is true that the Russians have nearly three million men on the eastern front against a little over a million and a half Germans and Austrians, and if their supply of guns and munitions is adequate, there will be no halt of long duration in the Russian advance, and no turning back. Not only has Russia great armies but she has generals who are fitted to cope with the best Germany has produced.

With regard to Turkey, the capture of Erzerum by the Russians means the acquisition of Armenia, and is a very severe blow to the Turks. Moreover, the great success won by Russia should soon bring Roumania into the field on the side of the Allies, thus making it easier to hold the Turk at bay and break the power of Austria. We shall probably soon hear that Russian armies are sweeping over Hungary as they are sweeping over Galicia.

On the western front the British have made some further slight gains, and consolidated positions already won. German reports profess a belief on the part of Germany that the British have got about as far as they can go; but so long as British guns can pour over the enemy's lines such a hail of death as won for them the positions already won, they will continue their advance, even though it may be slow. There is no more talk about the possibility of German success at Verdun. The violence and sustained fury of the British attack further north has forced the enemy to withdraw some of his troops from Verdun, and they will not return.

The French and Italians hold their own at every point, and all goes well for the Allies. The Russian war-minister, however, warns the people that the war will not end in the autumn, and his view is doubtless correct. It is one thing to place the enemy on the defensive, but quite another to get them to accept such terms as the Allies will certainly insist on imposing upon them. They still hold most of Belgium, part of France, all of Serbia and a portion of Russian territory. These must all be wrested from them, and the task may require many months.

AN AMERICAN VIEW

The British blockade is not kindly received in the United States. It is alleged at Germany and German trade, but American interests will be somewhat affected, and therefore a protest has been entered. The New York Commercial, however, points out that to protest is about all the United States can do. It takes the view that the aim of Britain is to destroy Germany's trade with all neutral countries and place herself in a position to lead in the race for financial and commercial supremacy after the war. Of course the immediate purpose of the Allies is to cripple Germany now, and the blockade is a war measure, but its effect will be of course to the commercial damage, in relation to the period after the war. But the Commercial article is interesting as a statement of the ease from the American standpoint.

"The great reason for commercial and financial supremacy will bring the minute the war ends and Germany will be badly handicapped if her merchants and agents in neutral countries are weakened and their trade connections disorganized so that they will be unable to go ahead as efficiently as before when Germany is once more able to reach outside markets. German houses in China have been forced out of business by the pressure of their country's enemies. They cannot trade in American goods because Japan and England control the shipping facilities. It is impossible to send merchandise from the United States to German merchants in China because they are alien enemies of those who control the ships. If these German houses could get American goods they could keep in touch with the native trade. They have lost these valuable connections because they can neither sell nor buy."

"In the United States German importing houses have been hit hard by the blockade, but many of them have done considerable business, nevertheless, and they have also turned their attention to South America where other German merchants and agents are well established. Were it possible to secure ample shipping facilities these German houses would be able to carry on a larger trade between the United States and the principal Latin-American markets. Unfortunately for these German houses, most of our trade with South America is carried in English bottoms and German controlled trade had to be kept under cover as much as possible. Still these Germans did some business and this British blockade is an attempt to tighten the coils in which the life is being choked out of German trade in neutral countries."

"Our just cause of complaint is that legitimate American trade is being strangled at the same time. We cannot

help ourselves because we lack ships in which to carry our exports and imports. The British blockade does not strike all houses with German interests, and there is probably something behind this peculiar favoritism which will not be made public by those who have escaped the dragnet. England is playing with our trade interests like a cat with a mouse and the state of uncertainty is part of the game which keeps those who are favored from rushing to help those who are blacklisted. Newspapers express honest indignation and talk of the strong resentment expressed by the public, but bankers and merchants who have not been blacklisted are keeping quiet and the stories of general protests in business and financial circles are grossly exaggerated. This is a confession of our lamentable dependence on English shipping companies, and it is our own fault that we find ourselves in such a humiliating position. In the early half of the last century we would have been able to defy England. With the necessary ships we could do so now. As it is, our foreign trade would be wiped out by a misunderstanding that would not involve us in actual war. All the Allies would have to do would be to tell us to carry our own goods to market and we would be left high and dry. Such a blow just before the end of the war would seriously disorganize our trade relations and put us behind at the start of the race for commercial supremacy."

"We can do nothing but protest. The British government has a right to print blacklists in a London newspaper and we have no standing in diplomatic usage or international law when it comes to making a protest. If our protest is unheeded we can retaliate, but we may not gain any advantage if we do."

That the Allies will take measures after the war to protect themselves against German competition in trade and industry is assured. They have learned a severe lesson. In the meantime, however, they are justified in closing every possible avenue for German trade, as a war measure, pure and simple; and that is really to the advantage of neutral countries in the long run; for they would have nothing to gain and much to lose in the event of German success, or even a dead-lock as a result of the war.

The Wall Street Journal says: The idea has become prevalent that no drastic upsetting of economic conditions will occur when the war ends. The standard points with pride to the fact that Hon. Mr. Hazen got a returned soldier a position as guard at the parliament buildings in Fredericton. What does Lt.-Col. Guthrie say to that, or to the statement that Mr. Hazen got another one a job as clerk at the recruiting office?

Let us hope the returned talk about the grain elevator will lead to action that will be satisfactory to the citizens. There has already been inexcusable delay on the part of the government. Whatever may be done now could and should have been done months ago and the work of construction begun.

The political road-making beyond the One Mile House is about to begin. When it will end is another matter. A man who rode over the new road near the Kings county line one rainy morning this week counted up to one hundred depressions filled with water and then stopped. There were more pools of water, but they grew monotonous.

Of conditions in Bulgaria a correspondent of the London Daily Chronicle in Salonika writes: "Things are in a pretty bad state, for in all the speeches made by the political leaders of late from Premier Radoslawoff downward, the hope is expressed, and the prediction made, that the war will soon be over. Small doses of German money are just keeping things going, but great disappointment is felt that the country's mighty ally, Germany should be able to do so little to alleviate the distress which, with every day almost, is becoming more bitter. The government papers endeavor to keep up the people's spirits by means of statements that it is the intention of the army to march on and take Salonika, but the people cannot be kept in ignorance of the fact that Bulgaria is gradually being deserted by Germany."

The Standard does not appear to have read the following paragraph from Mr. E. S. Carter's speech at Hampton: "Dr. Pugsley for many years has been the target of the government slanders in connection with the Central railway. I do not think there is a word of truth in them. I know that the counsel of the Central railway investigating commission made a report which declared that there was nothing in such a statement. But in spite of that legal opinion—an opinion which was suppressed for political purposes—again and again, in our own legislature and in the house of commons it has been made to appear that Hon. William Pugsley and the government of which he was a member were responsible for an alleged deficit of \$124,000 of Central railway funds. Don't you think it is about time the people had the truth and that these slanders ceased?" Who was the counsel referred to, and by whom was his opinion suppressed? The Standard should know.

RILEY.

Although up to a brighter sky
You turn brighter brow,
The Little Girl you bade, "Don't cry!"
Must disobey you now,
Besides the Little Cripple's chair
She's kneeling, tearful eyed,
Although she knows that you fore-cure
Are on the Sunny Side.

Amid the land that's ever new,
Amid new singers' ranks,
There'll be the same deep joy for you
As on the Deer Creek Banks.
For with your posies in her hands
And on her lips your hymn,
There Little Orphan Annie stands
To kiss her Uncle Jim!

O you who sang The Days Gone By
In your own perfect phrase,
I hear your treble far on high,
Singing the day of days.
The well that hid God's myst'ry vast
Lifts as a curtain does,
And now, Jim Riley, at the last
You know Who Santa Was!

No Goblins'll Gt You Jim!
You're gone across the night,
To find the land of the seraphim.
The Ragged Man in white!
And in the path of children's feet,
Lit by the children's smile,
You go unflinching to meet
The true Cross-Bearer! Child!

The Funny Little Fellow cries
In vain for you to stay,
You've gone to seek beyond the skies
The Land of Wheraway.
And "Good-by Jim!" the Dwarlike elf
Sighs "neath her Sprinkler hat,
She needn't say 'Take care of your-
self!'"

God's looking out for that!
—John O'Keefe, New World.

LIGHTER VEIN

For many years a certain old fellow had been engaged by a farmer to gather his potatoes at a fixed sum per acre. He died, however, and the farmer was obliged to get another man. A day or two later the farmer strolled round to see how the new man was progressing. To his surprise, at the end of the field he found a large heap of stones.

"Here, wot's this mean?" he demanded.

"Well, sir," responded the man in charge of the operation, "we thought we'd save ye a bit of trouble next seed time; so whenever we finds a stone in the tatties we just dumps it down there."

"Ah!" remarked the farmer sadly, "I shall never find another man like Sam, the old one."

"Oh!" replied the other, rather nettled, "Old Sam was rather blind, an' didn't know a stone when he seen one."

"Mebbe he didn't, and mebbe he did," sighed the farmer, "but 'em out of the tatties. They weighs."

"I am very anxious," said a tall, athletic looking man to the editor, "to write a column every week on the war in your widely read journal."

"What are your qualifications? Are you a great novelist?"

"No."

"Are you a famous preacher?"

"No."

"Have you had any success in backing winners?"

"On the contrary."

"You don't happen by chance to be a star actor?"

"Do I look it?"

"No."

"You're not one of those simpletons who think they ought to write just because they know something?"

"I am not."

"Then what in the name of Jehovah-phant—"

"I played half-back for—"

"You didn't cut the editor in rapture. But why didn't you say that at once? You can have \$10 a column and begin tomorrow."

Tearing down the street, my friend J., who is a poet and a novelist, encountered me with flashing eyes and threatening mien.

"The matter is," he rejoined furiously, "I am going to his house to punch his head."

"Whose head?"

"Why, that scoundrel's pointer J.—Owing to a personal grudge against me, he has made me ridiculous in the face of the world."

"Why, I have just come from the Permanent Exhibition of Paintings. He has exhibited a picture there called 'The Allegory of Sleep.' A man in an arm-chair with his head inclining on his breast and his arms drooping. He is sleeping profoundly, and holds, clasped in his right hand, a half-opened book—the last volume of the poems with my portrait appearing on the cover!"

Old Lady—My poor man! Here is a cent for you.

Police Beggar—Can't you make it two, madam?

Old Lady—What would you do with two cents?

Police Beggar—I'd buy a stamp and mail you an acknowledgment, madam. Etiquette forbids me using a postcard.

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The Menace of The War Minister

(Toronto Globe)

The Minister of Militia has come to be recognized, in every province and in both political parties as a real menace to Canada, alike to Canada's military efficiency and to the unity and responsibility of Canada's civil government.

So long as there seemed at stake no national importance, many persons felt free to laugh at the antics of Sam Hughes. Mental experts might talk wisely of "paranoia," but nobody heeded, for nobody greatly cared. Thirty-five years ago bullying egotism was his conspicuous contribution to lacrosse and football events. As a teacher, his apings of republican independence varied from insubordination against his superior officers to spelling Queen with a small "q."

But that foolishness was only the surface so long as the minister is permitted to stand in the public places of power and to speak words of official authority. He boasts everywhere, as he did at Lindsay, about the "enemies" he has made. They are not his "enemies." They are little about him. But they do care about Canada and the cause of the Empire. The foremost Conservatives in all Canada are of their number. And they are being made opponents of the Borden government because the prime minister has suffered this vain glorious colleague to continue a menace to Canada's military efficiency and to Canada's civil government. This is autocracy and oligarchy at their intolerable worst.

Nothing might ever come of all his grotesque swagger, nothing but what the House of Commons might go on laughing at, had not Premier Borden made Sam Hughes Minister of Militia, and had not the war opened a chance for him to expose himself as "the world's greatest military genius" of any race or age.

To be sure, the premier did not want Hughes except as a truly loyal Orange newswriter against Monk, Pelletier, Nantel and Doherty. Besides, the alternative to Hughes as minister was said to have been a clenched fist and a threat to "raise the lodges."

During the war's first year General Sir Sam Hughes was given ample scope and a free chance. He did much as his inordinate vanity pleased. Premier Borden could no more control him than he could control a Bengal tiger by the tail. And what of it all? The Minister of Militia went from bad to worse with his meddlesome interferences. Among other things he interfered with the launching of the Duke of Connaught, at Valcartier in 1914, to the officers at the London Camp in 1916, the unprovoked tongue of this egotist has wrought nothing but trouble, that has made the recruiting of free minded civilians increasingly difficult, and proper discipline almost impossible. And all the while this nuisance of a minister rages over Canada, over the United States, over Britain, and over France, boasting, as he did at Lindsay last Saturday, about "my boys," "my soldiers," "my army," and what "I told this Empire."

And now he is going again to the United States to boast some more, and again to England and the battlefronts to renew the troubles he always and everywhere causes the officers in command, and again to humiliate Canada before the world. The present minister, the Minister of Militia, is a menace to the raising and training of Canada's 350,000 army, but rather the self-command and patriotism of the officers, the discipline and tolerance of the bumbustious and undisciplined minister.

And the worst is that no experience of his own folly, as with Allison, and no cutting of his comb, as at Camp Borden, and no public rebuke either by his political superiors or by the press of the Conservative party, will ever work any

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THE GOVERNMENT AND BRIDGE CONTRACTS

The North Shore Leader, in reply to a letter from Engineers & Contractors, Ltd., regarding the Moncton bridges, says: "Paragraph two of their letter reads: 'In the first place we have a job in hand which the late honorable minister endeavored to award to the Foundations Company, Ltd., at a price much in excess of our figure for the same work.' 'This paragraph is absolutely false. Here are the facts: The late minister called for tenders for open dredging and pneumatic caissons and the Engineers & Contractors, Ltd., tendered for open dredging only. The late minister (Hon. John Morrissey) knew that it was a difficult matter to construct piers on the Pettitodiac river, and he awarded the contract for pneumatic caissons, on the recommendation of the provincial engineer, to the Foundations Co., Ltd., because he knew they were capable in every way to perform the work, and would not be appealing to the government every few weeks for extras. After the late minister awarded this contract, the tenderers for the same work, cancelled the tender awarded, but before doing so they held a private meeting with representatives of Engineers & Contractors, Ltd., present, and all the tenders put in by other contractors were then read, thus placing this firm in a position to know the figures which each contractor had submitted."

"Shortly after this meeting the contract for Foundations Company, Ltd., was cancelled and new tenders were asked for. If this was not a high-handed position to know the figures which each contractor had submitted, for open dredging."

"Why should the government hold a private caucus with this firm and have them learn the figures of others tendering?"

SUPREME GRAND ORANGE LODGE OPENS IN TORONTO

The 87th annual session of the Supreme Grand Orange Lodge of British America opened in Victoria hall, Toronto, yesterday. In his address to the delegates, Supreme Grand Master D. D. Ellis, commended the action of Premier Norris, of Manitoba, and his government in making provision for an education in English for every child in that province. "They showed courage of a high order, and I am sure their action will meet with the cordial approval of English-speaking citizens of that province, irrespective of party affiliations," he said. Many schools in Nova Scotia and the other Atlantic provinces, the grand master continued, had come under Roman Catholic control, and real aggressive Protestant leadership was needed to remedy existing evils.

Protest Prohibition Act. Halifax liquor men, through their counsel, Eugene Ladouff (K. C. of Montreal, and Humphrey Mellish, K. C. of Halifax), presented argument to the minister of Justice yesterday at Ottawa, asking for the disallowance of the Nova Scotia prohibition measure recently passed. The line of argument used was that along with eighty retailers and ten wholesale men, 150 clerks were put on the street, while \$850,000 worth of liquor, which is on hand, cannot be disposed of. The fees paid by the liquor men for their license in February last amounted to \$20,000 and was for the current year. Then the act passed in June, but no arrangement was made for refunding the balance of the license for the remainder of the year. The fees have gone to city treasurer at Halifax and are being held by the city.

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