

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1915.

"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 WAR SITUATION

The Russians are slowly continuing their advance into the enemy's territory against the greatest armies Germany and Austria can bring to bear. It is reported that the Germans are concentrating an army estimated at almost 3,000,000 men along the Carpathians from the Danube river to Bukovina to meet this mighty advance, so it is likely the next great battle to be reported from the eastern war front will have the Carpathians as its setting. In the west, unfavorable weather conditions are preventing general engagements, but the projected advance must be started soon and after that will likely come a resumption of the fighting along the whole front.

Politically the situation is unchanged. Italy has not yet entered the conflict although she is continuing her preparations for mobilization and yesterday called the Alpine troops to the colors. The Austrians too are reported to have massed men along the frontier to be in a position to repel the invasion which is certain to come with the first outbreak of war between the two countries. Representatives of the Allied powers are working with a view of reviving the Balkan League which will provide for the simultaneous entry of Roumania, Greece and Bulgaria into the fighting. This, if effected, should be of much importance to the Allied cause.

While it is admitted that the task before them is arduous, the Allies have every reason to feel satisfied with the progress they are making. Britain is maintaining an effective blockade of the enemy's ports. British and French warships are rapidly reducing the forts of the Dardanelles and that great waterway must soon be open. Premysl has fallen and the only obstacle now blocking the Silesian path to Berlin is the city of Cracow, expected to be next in the Russian line of attack, while on both long battle fronts the troops of the Allies are more than holding their own. When the gaps in the hostile ring now surrounding Germany are filled by the entry of Italy, Greece, Roumania and Bulgaria, there will remain not one neutral country from which Germany can draw large food supplies, for the British blockade of German ports renders it impossible that such supplies should reach them by the water route. The Allies, on the other hand, have their commerce routes preserved intact and can draw indefinitely upon all the great overseas markets with the chance of the shipments being held up or interfered with by German vessels so slight as to be almost negligible. In comparison with Germany the advantage to the Allies is great and it will be increased when, with the Dardanelles open, Russia has a waterway to her southern ports.

That there is still plenty of hard fighting ahead is obvious but any shadow of doubt as to the outcome of the war was removed weeks ago. Faced by superior armies on every side, unable to obtain supplies and with her commerce practically wiped out of existence Germany can only yield now or go down fighting in a few months' time. The latter policy would prolong the war but it would also prove more disastrous to the enemy.

A BLESSING TO GERMANY.

An interview with a wounded German officer, published in an American periodical of slightly pro-German tendencies, contains some interesting observations on the quality of the British soldiers it had been the fortune of the subject of the interview to meet on the battlefield, and one of the most expressive of these had to do with the accuracy of the British artillery. "They don't fight, they murder," are the words the writer of the article claimed were used by his German to describe the havoc caused by British shells.

It is apparent that the German was speaking figuratively rather than literally but, nevertheless, he was not far astray. The British gunners fighting in France and Flanders have been trained in the business of war not for the sake of the sport there might be in it but because it was the means pro-

vided for the accomplishment of grim, serious business. They are not engaged in the duty of slaying Germans because they find it a pleasant occupation but because their country's honor has been attacked and the peace of the world upset by the forces of an autocratic power of militarist ideals, and before the world peace can be restored and development and progress resumed that power must be crushed. At the outset of this war it pleased the Germans to regard the British army as a subject for a jest. The "contemptible little army" was the term used to describe the force then at the command of Sir John French. In the months between that day and this, however, they have gained a closer and more intimate knowledge of those fighting men and their methods and this remark of a German officer indicates fairly plainly that they realize the power with which they must contend.

The British soldiers are out for business and in this war their business is the defeat of Germany. That they will accomplish it is no longer doubted and if in the completion of that process they bring suffering to the German people the sufferers, after all, must blame, not themselves, but those in authority over them. When the war-mad Kaiser and his advisors who advocated this war are so situated that their wish for strife can never again plunge the world into blood and tears, the German people will come to regard this struggle in the light of a blessing. Germany rid of the oppressive burden of militarism will be a better and happier nation.

Letters from the war zone now being published in the Upper Canadian papers tell of the terrible losses sustained by the British troops in the fighting in and around Neuve Chapelle and St. Eloi. It is stated that in those engagements the British lost in killed alone six colonels, seven majors, twenty-two captains and forty-eight lieutenants, with, of course, a proportionately greater slaughter of non-commissioned officers and privates. While these gallant men were unhesitatingly giving their lives for the cause of Empire the "patriotic" leader of the Liberal opposition and such high patriots as Mr. Pugsley, Mr. Carvell and others were attempting to divide the Canadian Parliament on a hair-splitting five-cent amendment to the budget proposals of the Government. No better evidence is required to show the picayune calibre of the partisans on the opposition side of the Dominion House.

British miners threaten to strike because they claim their bosses are making much money out of the war while the men are receiving nothing more than usual. The employers on the other side claim that the labor version of the case is not correct. With the elaborate and efficient machinery at the disposal of the British government it should not be difficult to establish which side is in the right. And it is most desirable that action be taken at once for now, more than at any other time, the game between capital and labor should be played with all the cards on the table and exposed to general view.

Regarding the possibility of a general election in the near future the Calgary News Telegram has this to say: "Loaded with rake-offs and graft, the maker of perhaps forty millionaires in Canada, what a spectacle of incompetency and political jugglery is afforded by the great transcontinental from which we had expected so much. What party could survive in Canada after leaving such a legacy? A Dominion election in the near future, you say, and a possibility of success for the Liberal party? Perish the thought."

Now that the Russians have definitely succeeded in capturing Przemyśl let us hope that they will at once change its name into something human, something ending with "itch" or "off" or "grad" and forever have done with this travesty on the alphabet which carries a suggestion of lockjaw with every application.

Mr. Carvell may protest and the Telegraph may shriek regarding the

loyalty of the member for Carleton but neither of them can get away from the fact that the same Carvell referred to General Sir John French as a soldier whose "ideas were ridiculous," or that he also said "all you get in the militia of Canada is that you teach about twenty-five per cent. of the men of Canada how to get drunk."

CIVIC AFFAIRS AND THE GRANT

Under existing conditions not surprising that citizens want return to old system, says preacher.

Rev. Ralph J. Haughton in Congregational church last evening dealt with civic grants and civic affairs. His address was concerning affairs in St. John at present. In opening his remarks he pointed out that the church had her place and her work. The real value and worth of any church must always be measured by its success in the development and realization of the Kingdom of God in the hearts and lives of men. The supreme purpose of the church was nothing less than the fulfillment of the prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth."

"I know that there are still people who are not in sympathy with the social program of the church," said the preacher. "They are only concerned about what they call the problems of the soul. I know there are still people who believe that the minister should leave matters of public interest and concern severely alone and confine his message and his work to the saving of souls from future destruction, no matter how much they go to destruction here. Yet these people pray, 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth.'"

"I believe it is as much a Christian's duty to maintain an efficient police force as it is to maintain an effective ambulance corps. The church should see that the road from Jerusalem to Jericho is safe for travellers. 'This evening I want to speak a few words on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. I allude to the children of the city—the boys and the girls—who are some day to be men and women of St. John—very many of whom will be sadly neglected this year unless the commissioners and citizens of St. John are willing to make provision whereby their education and recreation shall get suitable attention and supervision."

"Neither St. John nor any other city can afford to neglect her children. 'Hoping that I might aid in some little way and prevail upon the city commissioners to reconsider their action of a few weeks ago, when they voted to cut out all civic grants for the Free Kindergarten, Rickwood Park and the Playgrounds Association, etc. I visited City Hall last Wednesday afternoon in company with two or three other gentlemen and urged the commissioners to reconsider their previous action in the matter and restore the grants."

"I have had the feeling that there has been a great deal of criticism of the commissioners and not enough co-operation on the part of the citizens. While a few are interested, it would seem that the great majority of our people are apathetic. What I am about to say is not easy or pleasant, for I regard the commissioners as personal friends. But the air of indifference that prevailed, coupled with the cold, frosty reception that was accorded us impressed me very deeply. It was of course courteous, but so cold, so lacking in interest, so cold-blooded that I came away feeling that one could scarcely fall to question in his own mind whether or not the city fathers, with the exception of two, have any interest in the welfare of the coming citizens of St. John. 'If the citizens of St. John believe in the principles of democracy, that is, the government of the people by the people for the people, then the sooner they make that truth felt the better and the sooner this truth is realized a City Hall the better for all the interests of the city and the citizens of St. John."

"The people must rule through their representatives and this they must insist upon. The refusal of the city commissioners to vote the grants for the maintenance of such worthy objects as the Playgrounds, the Boys' Club, the Girls' Club, etc. will mean a great blow to these enterprises and also great burdens for the men and women who are deeply interested in these movements for human betterment and progress."

"It is commonly reported that because the Board of Trade asked the repeal of the grants the city commissioners were justified in cutting them out. 'While I have believed that commission form of government offered the best facilities for the conducting of the business of the city, yet I am not altogether surprised that under existing conditions there are not a few of our very best citizens advocating a return to the former method of civic government. Perhaps after all is said and done, it is the men in office, rather than the form of government which must ultimately compel the judgment of the common people for or against."

"The place of the citizen in the promotion of social welfare is a very important one. Too often the citizen is forgotten in our public life by those

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Me and po, pand our noo littel Airdale puppy dawg named Spout was out awn the frunt steps today and who startid to kum up the street but Mr. Wilkins.

If this nut starta to tell me about his baby agen Ill sick this dawg awn him, sed pop. Wich jest then Mr. Wilkins calm up, saying, Hele, Potta, how is it you havent bin erround to see the baby lately.

I sippose so, did you no we had a littel dawg, sed pop. I herd you had, is that the wun, sed Mr. Wilkins.

Thats the wun, speak Spout, sed pop. And Spout looked up at him without doing anything, and pop sed. See, Les speaking undir his breth.

I want to tell you the latest about the baby, sed Mr. Wilkins, honest that yung wun gets wiser and wiser evry day, wate till I tell you this wun, jest wate till you heer this wun.

He didnt jump awf of a sofer 4 times as high as he is, did he, sed pop. Sertieny not, sed Mr. Wilkins.

Ah, I thawt not, sed pop, well this dawg did, he deellibritly jumped awf a sofer 4 times as high as he is, thares nerve for you.

But wate till I tell you this about Winfield, Its a scream, sed Mr. Wilkins.

Perhaps, sed pop, but I bet he cant jump awf of a sofer 4 times as high as he is.

Hang it, I woodent ispeekt him to, sed Mr. Wilkins.

Well can he jump awf a sofer 3 times as high as he is, sed pop. No he cant, wy shoold he, sed Mr. Wilkins.

Wy shoold this littel dawg, for that mattir, sed pop, well, can he jump awf a sofer twise as high as he is.

He cood jump awf of the roof if he wanted to, blast it, but hes got to blame much sents to want to, sed Mr. Wilkins, and if you think Im going to stand heer kumparing my child to that ugly monngril, yure mistakin. And he quick wawked away, and pop patted Spout awn top of the hed, saying, Ha, ha, a baby is only a baby, but a good Airdale is a sauside.

In power, and we must not forget that the promotion of public good rests upon the private citizen almost as much if not greater than on the public official."

In conclusion Rev. Mr. Haughton urges his hearers to plan for better co-operation in civic affairs.

SUGGESTS A UNION MILITARY SERVICE

Rev. Dr. J. A. Morison puts forward a good idea—Special Memorial tablet on exhibition.

The morning service at the Presbyterian church, West Saint John was attended yesterday by a number of the soldiers of the Army Service Corps under command of the first Lieut. Andrew Rainnie and they were cordially welcomed by Rev. Dr. Morison who, in the course of a very practical sermon, offered some words of wise counsel and sound advice. Dr. Morison took occasion to intimate that it had been a matter of regret to him that he had appeared necessary to have made the denominational lines so prominently in evidence among the soldier boys and expressed the hope that if this war is to be prolonged the method of church attendance for the military pursued in Britain might be adopted in Canada. He said that to his way of thinking there was no service more inspiring than a great military service attended by hundreds of soldiers, and he regretted that this type of service could not be conducted from week to week in every part of Canada in which soldiers were being assembled. Surely if men could fight together and die together they might be able to worship together.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Joseph C. Risteon. The death of Mrs. Joseph C. Risteon took place Saturday at Fredericton. She was a daughter of the late Andrew Richey and is survived by a wide circle of relatives. Her surviving sisters are Mrs. J. D. McPherson, Fredericton; Mrs. H. B. Clarke and Mrs. James Maxwell, also of Fredericton. Mrs. R. R. Rankine of St. John is a step-daughter.

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