

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1915

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 19, 1915.

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## THE WAR NEWS

The news from the Balkans is more favorable today. Allied troops have been landed at Enos, in Turkey, as well as at Saloniki, and hope is expressed that the German drive to bring relief to Turkey may be stopped. The Serbians are holding their lines with greater success than was anticipated, and if they are compelled to fall back to stronger positions they will also be reinforced by French and British troops. The latter also will compel Bulgaria to divide her armies, while Russia is expected to make a diversion in favor of the Serbians. It will not do, however, to become suddenly optimistic. It is cheering to be told that "the expectation is that the Allies have a surprise for the Central Powers, and that steps are being taken to bring Turkey to her knees before assistance can reach her," but we must not forget that the surprise was the other way last week.

The resumption of the offensive by the Russians along the eastern front is full of promises of good, but if the Allies in the west are able to strengthen their pressure against the German lines we may reasonably hope for a favorable change in the general situation before winter sets in; but Kitchener's call for another 500,000 men shows clearly enough the magnitude of the task to be performed before the Central Powers are completely overthrown.

## WHAT THIS WAR MEANS

The world is shocked by the story of "the wholesale slaughter, unpeacable atrocities, and universal misery and desolation wrought by the Turks upon the hapless Armenian Christians." The testimony of Americans, English, Armenians, Germans and Turks is given in the report of the Committee which investigated the whole matter. A deliberate attempt has been made by the Turks to exterminate the Armenian race. Of the testimony of witnesses a summary of the Committee's report says:

"They tell of young boys and old men—practically the only males left in the country—being slaughtered in batches of a hundred or more, or beaten to death, of young girls and women—many of whose husbands were at the time in the Turkish armies—being raped by the gendarmes or turned over to bands of ruffians for similar treatment; of teachers and officials in the American colleges in Armenia being killed, of deliberate refusals to the American Ambassador at Constantinople, and to other Americans, of naked bodies caught in the shallows of the Euphrates or floating out to sea, of women just delivered of child being clubbed to keep them moving on, and of similar fustiness of savagery varying in their refinement with the inventiveness of their perpetrators."

The evidence in detail is such as to make the reader shudder with horror and blush with indignation. Thousands of the hapless Armenians, who were not murdered, were stripped of all their belongings and driven into the wilderness to die. The "unspeakable Turk" has added another awful chapter to the age-long story of his crimes against humanity.

But the Turk is not alone. The story of the Austrian atrocities in Serbia last year shows that women and children as well as men were ruthlessly murdered. At one place a Hungarian regiment drove thirty women and children and old men before them into a fight, to be killed by the bullets of the opposing forces. At another place Hungarian soldiers killed children between six and twelve years of age with their bayonets. When a party with ten wounded Serbian prisoners was compelled to retreat, the wounded men were shot, to prevent their friends from finding them alive. In one place sixty civilians confined in a church were brought out and killed with the bayonet, and the bodies left lying in the street. There were old men and children among them.

But the Turk, the Hungarian and Austrian were not the beginners. That infamous distinction belongs to Germany, whose crimes in Belgium were as horrible as those perpetrated by the Turks upon the Armenians. Germany is the arch-criminal, the instigator of all the crimes against humanity that have darkened the pages of history during the past fifteen months.

The world did not expect the Turk to be merciful, but it had a right to expect better things of Germany. The Turk has merely done in Armenia what the German did in Belgium and the Hungarian in Serbia. Germany set the pace. The New York Tribune well says:

"If the Sultan is now murdering his thousands of babies, the Kaiser has killed his hundreds. If the Kurds are dishonoring women, it is only in the number of women ravished that the Moslem can vaunt his superiority over the German Christian. If the Turkish officers are acting in a systematic fashion in the destruction of a population, they can only surpass in bulk, not in method, the achievement of the Germans in Louvain. The offending of the Armenians is identical with that of the Belgians. They desire to live and to live according to their own ways and their own religion, but they lie across the pathway of

Turkish power; they resist the beneficent aim of the Turk to subject them to his tyranny; they prefer their own Prophet to his, just as the Belgians preferred their own King to the Kaiser and ventured to defend home, family and frontier."

The task of the friends of justice, liberty and righteousness in the world today is to crush forever the spirit that prompts the Teuton and the Turk to perpetrate such crimes as have been committed in Belgium, Serbia and Armenia. No man can rid himself of responsibility. He is on one side or the other. There should be no neutral nations in this war. To quote again from the New York Tribune:

"This thing that Germany has done in the world is not a mere injury to write ten law. It is not a mere thrust of a sharp sword through paper promises and parchment pledges. This is but a minor detail. What she has done is to bring us all in the Twentieth Century back to the conditions of the Dark Ages. She has permitted her soldiers to assert the doctrine when a German purpose can be accomplished by permitting a brutal soldiery to terrorize a helpless population. She has authorized her sailors to proclaim on the high seas a doctrine no pirate ever asserted. She has scattered the bodies of women and children over the seas because they happened to come between her and a purpose."

"The German phenomenon which has filled the world for more than a year now is nothing but one more assertion of the principle that might is right, violence the more warrantable accessory of a nation which has gone forth to conquer a world. All crimes have become mere acts of heroism and devotion when performed by German soldiers or sailors; all the restraints that civilization, human nature and religious evolution have imposed upon men have been abolished and repeated in-so-far as they hamper or even seem to hamper the German soldier embarked upon his crusade for power and for empire."

"This shameful and terrible page of modern history which is unfolding in distant Armenia is nothing but an echo and an extension of the main story, the central narrative, which must describe the German incursion into Belgium fourteen months ago. That was the determining act, that was the signal to Turk and Kurd; tomorrow it will light the fires in the Balkans, and Bulgarian soldiers may prove the ready imitators of Prussian grenadiers."

"Beyond all else the German episode is an attack upon civilization. Whatever be the incidental issues as between nations and races, they have been drowned out in the flood of German violence and crime. It is the war for civilization that the French, the British, the Italians and even the Russians are fighting in Europe today. Unless Germany is beaten there will be established for all time the gospel of violence, there will be established the doctrine that not alone men but even women and children have no right to life or to honor when the strong man goes armed to accomplish his purpose, be it dynamic or national."

Divisions in the British cabinet at this time are very unfortunate. Those responsible for such a condition of affairs are giving comfort to the enemy.

St. John extends a cordial greeting to Canada's prime minister, and pours him of the desire of its people to uphold the hands of the government in redeeming Canada's pledge, to give her aid to the utmost in the prosecution of the war which threatens the very existence of the British Empire.

The United States has notified Germany that giving the passengers and crew of an American vessel "an opportunity to escape in life-boats" before the vessel is destroyed will not be enough. As the Germans have very largely gone out of the business of destroying vessels it will not be difficult to give Uncle Sam any further assurance desired.

A man who is sixty-eight years of age but is in vigorous health has offered to take any position for which he is fitted, in order that the younger man now in that position may go to the war, and he will give half of what he earns to that other man's family or the Patriotic Fund. If every young man were animated by a like spirit of service, the appeal for recruits would meet with a far more ready response.

Editor J. L. Stewart of the Chatham World, who was one of the coteries of clever newspaper men in St. John when Hiram Ladd Spencer was at his best as a writer of verse, pays a kindly tribute to the man whose poems "were pervaded by a tone of tender melancholy," and who was "too good a poet to succeed in mercenary life." Mr. Stewart notes the fact that Mr. Spencer was a contributor to Stewart's Quarterly, the Maritime Monthly, the Canadian Monthly, Bedford's Monthly, and many newspapers; and that William Cullen Bryant included one of Mr. Spencer's poems in a collection which he edited.



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"Whenever a man expresses an opinion you invariably start in by disagreeing with him."

"That's where I show my diplomacy," replied Mr. Truckleton. "I begin by disagreeing with him so that he can have the pleasure of convincing me."—Washington Star.

In a rural justice court the defendant in a case was sentenced to serve thirty days in jail. He had known the judge from boyhood and addressed him as follows:

"Bill, old boy, you're a gwine ter send me ter jail, eh?"

"That's what," replied the judge.

"Have you got anything to say agin it?"

"Only this here, Bill. It will be bad for you when I get out!"

Dr. William Lynd Stevenson, president of the Anti-Tipping League of Idaho, said at a league banquet in Boise:

"I visited New York last month. I put up at a fine hotel there—\$4 a day, in fact, for room and bath. But what service!"

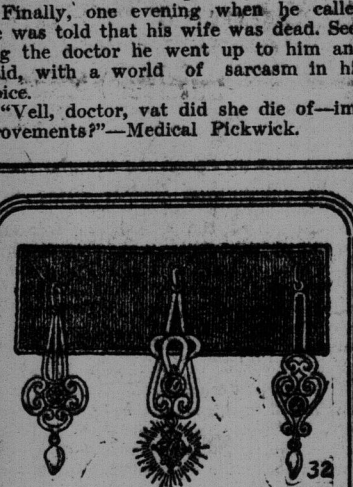
"I went into the hotel restaurant on the evening of my arrival to order dinner. I ordered a simple enough dinner, according to at least to our Idaho standards—a dinner of chicken, cold consommé, broiled trout, filet of beef with mushrooms, chicken a la breche, and so on—yes, a simple enough Idaho dinner; but, by crismus, they kept me waiting in the heat and noise and smells an uncomfortable time. Unconsciously I said: 'Finally I called the maitre d'hotel and said: 'If it is the rule to tip the waiter here?' 'Yes, sir,' said the man. 'O, yes, sir.' 'Then,' said I, 'give me a good big tip. I've been waiting close on to three hours.'"

A man whose wife was ill at an hospital in Brooklyn called the first evening she was there and inquired how she was getting along. He was told that she was improving.

Next day he called again and was told that his wife was improving.

Finally, one evening when he called he was told that his wife was dead. Seeing the doctor he went up to the said, with a world of sarcasm in his voice:

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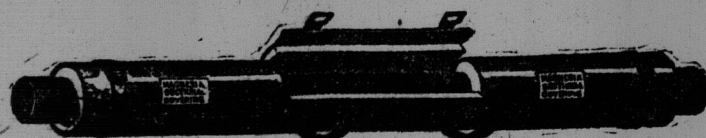
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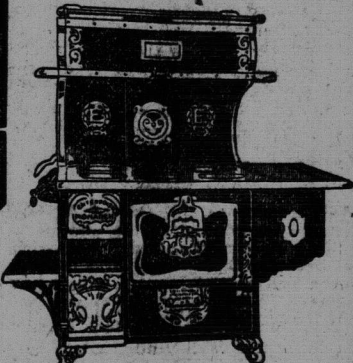


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Truro, N. S., Oct. 19.—Cheap, durable under-drainage is the latest practical move of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture in making to encourage better farming in the province. In addition to the traction ditcher, which has been in use for some years, the government has purchased and is operating a portable concrete tile manufacturing machine, which has already proved of great service. Near Lyons Brook, Pictou Co., where there exists a live interest in under-drainage, this machine for the last two months, has been in commission amongst the farmers of that district, and has manufactured 81,000 tiles, 8-inch to 12-inch sizes.

The use of the machine means several important advantages to farmers. They can manufacture fired tile on their own farms, if gravel and sand are readily obtainable. Moreover, it happens that in Nova Scotia most farmers are located at considerable distance from a tile manufacturing plant. This and the freight they have to pay on such a bulky article as the tile discipline them from under-draining their farms, even though that under-drainage is essential to a large proportion of the lands in the province. But by use of the portable tile-making

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Truro, N. S., Oct. 19.—For want of forethought or of knowledge many farmers do themselves a double injury by not saving their pastures and not conserving the summer gains made by their live stock.

The rapid growth of grass in summer and the prevalence of fine weather enable fattening cattle, cows and calves to make such excellent gains that by September they are generally in good condition. But cold nights and short days check the growth of grass. Consequently cattle left out in pasture during October and November eat the grass to the last vestige. A double evil results—the pastures are cleaned so closely that they are not in a condition to stand the winter, and the cattle, through lack of choice fresh grass, have become so thin and demoralized that they cannot make good use of winter feed, and thus get a poor start for gains when they are again put out to pasture in the spring.

Don't treat your pastures and cattle in that way. Get the latter housed in the barn at the beginning of the month when the short days and cold nights prevail and give them winter food. Or, if you let them out to pasture during the day, then, as soon as they are in the barn, supplement the pasture grass they have nibbled with ripe, soft turnips or other green feed. In this way the cattle will not lose the gains they made in summer, will be ready in the spring to go to the new grass able to assimilate it to the best advantage, and thus make further gains. At the same time the pastures will be in a condition which will enable them to produce a prime quality of fattening grass.

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## VASSIE'S ROLL OF HONOR.

A "roll of honor" in the organ of the dry goods trade of Canada, the Dry Goods Review, of October, gives first place to a list of the employees of Vassie & Co., St. John, who out of a male staff of forty-one have contributed thirteen members to the dominion forces. The names given are: Lieut. Wm. Vassie, secretary of the company; DeWitt Mullin, Ronald Livingston, Murray Cowan, Clinton Brown, Ernest Evans, Frank H. Hann, Arthur Knight, Harry S. Knox, Bates Tapley, W. P. Lawton, Allen Bowes and Charles Ferguson. No wonder that W. E. Foster asks "Can this be beaten?" Since the list was published another member of the staff, Albert Drake, has joined the siege battery.

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