

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 23, 1915.

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THE WAR NEWS.

The news from the Balkans is the news of today, but it is not as definite as is desired. The view appears to prevail, however, that despite Bulgaria's professions of neutrality she is aiming to fight, and to fight on the side of Germany. Her forces are being mobilized, the railways are being made ready for the movement of troops and munitions, and it is announced that her relations with Turkey have improved. What will Roumania and Greece do, if Bulgaria joins Germany? Unless Roumania does not, it is announced that her relations with Greece have improved. What will Roumania and Greece do, if Bulgaria joins Germany? Unless Roumania does not, it is announced that her relations with Greece have improved. What will Roumania and Greece do, if Bulgaria joins Germany? Unless Roumania does not, it is announced that her relations with Greece have improved.

PAIS' PLATOONS.

A young man, alert, vigorous and of fine physique, called at the Times office this morning to say that a meeting of the young men would be held in the hall of the Trades Union tomorrow evening to promote the formation of a pais' platoon for overseas service.

The fact proves that the young men are thinking out the need of the hour—that Canada's young men must rally to her defence. The pais' platoon has found favor in the mother country, and last week such a platoon was formed in Halifax, being made up of young men who were more or less intimate with each other in daily life, and desired to go together to the front. While the appeal may only be sentimental in its nature, yet there is no doubt of its force, for in ordinary life men choose their intimates, and can work more contentedly with some than with others. Society of any sort tends to form itself into groups of congenial tastes, and it is the same in the army, to the extent that discipline will permit. Let us hope St. John will furnish more than one pais' platoon. Every soldier after he enlists is certain to have pals, and if he can take some in with him, all the better. The meeting tomorrow night should result in the formation of one platoon. Such action would give a great stimulus to recruiting, and the response thus far has not been nearly as hearty as the St. John men in the trenches have a right to expect from their comrades at home.

CIVIC AFFAIRS.

A curious state of affairs has developed at City Hall. The public works commissioner told the city council yesterday that he had exhausted his appropriation and must have more money or cease work. Apparently he had not consulted his colleagues in the matter, and they were not prepared to acquiesce in his demand for an overdraft. The mayor expressed the view that the commissioner of public works should have spread his expenditure over the year. The situation is interesting. There had been rumors that the appropriation for the public works department was about exhausted, but there does not appear to have been any general misunderstanding among the members of the council in regard to the affairs of that department. It is said some members of the council were not pleased when the bill of the street railway on Main street, beyond Douglas Avenue, was passed. The theory upon which the members of the council appear to act is that each is supreme in his department and under no obligation to work in harmony with the others. As a matter of fact, each member is responsible for what is done in all the departments, and only a general neglect of duty could account for an unwise administration in any of them. Each member should not only know all about his own department, but have a working knowledge of the others; and no important work should be undertaken without a free and full discussion and the approval of at least a majority of the council. It has been quite too evident for a long time that the sense of joint responsibility has not been strong in the present council, and the public interest has suffered greatly as a result.

THEY ANSWERED ALL RIGHT

On the morning of the provincial elections in Prince Edward Island the Charlottetown Guardian published the following in bold letters:

"The electors have an opportunity of

Endorsing the Policy of Sir Robert Borden towards this Province.

"Show by your votes today that you appreciate Good, Clean, Progressive Administration when you have it, and Sir Robert Borden and the whole of Canada will be proud of your discernment and approval of your good judgment."

"Borden expects every man to do his duty by Matheson."

The people of the province answered this appeal by reducing the government's majority from twenty-six to four, with two of these doubtful. That is the answer to the appeal in behalf of Sir Robert Borden.

There was a certain amount of blue rain talk at City Hall yesterday. Was this for the benefit of the board of trade?

The people of the United Kingdom are cheerful under the proposed burden of the new war budget. They are going to "see this thing through."

A wounded soldier, who has been sent home, says: "I can't understand why so many fellows at home turn a cold shoulder to the recruiting agents." He knows the need of men.

More and more men are needed at the front. Why is the response from St. John less hearty than it should be? Are the young men not yet convinced that they are needed?

The town of Bathurst had a very fortunate escape from the fire that swept the lumber yards. Bathurst has had a great building year, and for several years has been making very substantial progress.

The American press wants Dumb and Capt. Von Papen sent home, and some favor sending Count Von Bernstorff to keep them company. Von Papen's allusions to "idiotic Yankees" are not relished.

Britain views the situation in the Balkans with great seriousness. Germany must be met at a new point of attack, and just how heavy the blow will be cannot be determined until the part to be played by Bulgaria, Roumania and Greece is developed.

A Boston paper of recent date, with its daily trade and weather report, prints also the following:—"Light auto lamps tonight at 6:20; other vehicles at 6:50." This is a daily announcement, and shows how much importance is attached to the matter of lights on automobiles and other vehicles.

It is said that the provincial government is casting about for new sources of revenue, and a method of getting more out of the people by taxation. And yet the province had a great revenue from crown lands last year. Has it adopted the method of Com. Potts and trusted to the future?

The Providence Journal asserts that the reason Germany has changed her submarine policy is that more than eighty per cent of her submarines have been sunk. She agrees to the American contention because she has nothing to lose, and would continue to murder passengers if she could.

The Globe and Standard make much of what Attorney General Bester has done to ensure an early use of the new bridge by the street cars. The Globe has been a mass of correspondence beginning Aug. 25. That is less than a month ago, and the cars should have been running over the bridge as soon as it was completed. As it is, there may be a through service before winter sets in—and there may not.

Halifax Chronicle: The Ottawa Journal, which is believed to be in special close touch with Sir Robert Borden, tries to declare very emphatically that there must be "an extension of the life of the present Dominion Parliament until some time after the war" or "an election right away." This can be taken to mean only one thing—an early election, for which the Government are well known to have been and still to be steadily preparing.

Bangor Commercial:—The news from the coal regions clearly indicates that both operators and miners are preparing for a great test of strength next spring, when the present working arrangements expire. That a demand for largely increased wages will be made by the miners is regarded as certain, and it is just as probable that a determined opposition to granting this demand will be made by the operators. Such conditions have in the past led to strikes.

The deed to the lot of a church to be erected in New Albany, Kan., provides that no musical instrument be used in the church, and that no fair, festival, or other practices unauthorized in the New Testament be conducted there so long as one member opposes it. If any attempt is made to break these provisions, the property is to revert to the members who oppose such an attempt.

Elmer Jenks, the 85-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Jenks of Quenemo, Kan., recently spelled 242 words without making a single mistake.

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LIGHTER VEIN.

Bank Cashier—This check, madam, isn't filled in.

Madam—Isn't what?

Bank Cashier—It has your husband's name signed to it, but it does not state how much money you want.

Madam—O, is that all? Well, I'll take all there is.

Dora—And so you quarrelled?

Lottie—Yes, and I returned all his presents and what do you think he did?

Dora—Something horrid, I'm sure.

Lottie—He sent me half a dozen boxes of face powder, with a note, explaining that he thought he had taken as much as that home on his coat since he first met me.

"Do you know where I can buy any counterfeit money?" inquired the man with the suitcase.

"Are you looking for trouble?"

"No. But I'm against the tipping evil and at the same time I want to go through the formalities and avoid being made uncomfortable by the waiters."

"That second speaker was quite extraordinary."

"I thought his speech was about the dullest I ever heard."

"His speech didn't amount to anything, but he failed when he got up to say that the toastmaster's introductory remarks reminded him of a story."

Dora—You mean, "Well, ma'am, said Bobby, judiciously, 'I washed the one that would be next to her.'"

"Yes, ma'am."

"And your hands?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"And your ears?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"A good story is told of a sporting gentleman who entered a restaurant and ordered a chicken."

The chicken was evidently tough for when the waiter came in to be behind the gentleman in a great state of wrath.

"Waiter," he said, "this chicken is very tough."

"Very sorry, sir. That chicken was always a peculiar bird. Why, when we came to kill it we couldn't catch it, so at last we had to shoot it. It fell on the houseposts, and—"

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WAY TO AVOID CONSCRIPTION

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not save the empire, it might be found necessary to make compulsion assist persuasion. His faith was strong that men eligible for service would rise to the occasion. While the free will was better than compulsion yet it would not be satisfactorily tested until the war is over. He threw out for the consideration of the Canadian people the advisability of establishing universal military training for the youth such as has been in vogue in Australia and New Zealand the last six years. The results of this training in the countries mentioned were shown when the call came to them to aid the empire in this struggle.

Turning to the bright side he gave a glowing picture of the part played by the British navy in holding Germany at bay by driving the enemy's ships into cover and keeping commerce moving. Sir George contrasted the systems in vogue for military service noting that of all the warring nations Great Britain was the only one where the individual was left to decide whether or not he would join the colors. If, however, a free people will

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the dominion, this nationality largely predominating among those of alien ancestry.

There are 88,577 German-born inhabitants and 4,768 who were born in Turkey or Syria. As regards subjects of allied countries, it may be pointed out that persons of French birth in Canada number 17,618, of Italian birth 34,789, and Russian 89,961. In view of the prominent part Bulgaria is playing in Balkan diplomacy just now, it is of interest that the number of Canadian inhabitants of Bulgarian birth is fixed at 1,666. That unhappy country, Belgium has 7,573 of its citizens in the dominion.

Of the total number of Austro-Hungarians in Canada 69,940 are naturalized citizens, 28,288 Germans and 1,887 Turks share the same privilege, this in itself showing that the proportion of naturalized and non-naturalized persons of any birth to the whole is about the same. Natives of Germany and Austria-Hungary, in fact, have always been foremost in their readiness to become citizens.

A curious fact noted is that in the city of Westmont only of all Canadian communities, did the foreign-born females exceed the males.

All together—\$50,000 in a week.