

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 9, 1918

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THE FALKLANDS BATTLE.

Yesterday was the anniversary of the battle of the Falkland Islands, described by Mr. Archibald Hurd as the most decisive in naval history, since only one German ship escaped, and she was scuttled off the Chilean coast the following spring to escape destruction by the British. The battle followed a race for the Falklands between the German squadron under Admiral Von Spee, who had defeated Admiral Cradock's little squadron off Coronel, on Nov. 1, 1914, and a British squadron under Rear Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee, hurriedly despatched from English waters to avenge the death of Cradock and the sinking of two of his ships, the Good Hope and the Monmouth.

Had Von Spee suspected this action on the part of the British Admiralty he might easily have been first at the Falklands, for he lingered some time off the Chilean coast before heading for Cape Horn. The utmost secrecy, however, marked the movement of the British, and Von Spee's delay gave them the advantage so vital to success. They arrived at Port Stanley on Dec. 7, and when Von Spee arrived next day he was wholly ignorant of their presence, believing that only the Canopus was there to be made an easy prize. Not until Sturdee with the battle cruisers Invincible and Inflexible, and the armored cruisers Kent, Glasgow, Carnarvon and Cornwall, swept out of the harbor to the attack did the German admiral realize his position. Then he promptly turned in flight, in sharp contrast to the action of the gallant Cradock, off Coronel, who boldly attacked a superior force. It was really five ships against five at the Falklands, for the Carnarvon was not fast enough to catch up with the enemy; but Sturdee had the same advantage over Von Spee that the latter had over Cradock. His vessels were faster and had a longer range. They came up with the enemy, and sank four of his five ships, besides capturing his two transports. No British ship was seriously damaged, and the total loss of men was fourteen killed and sixteen wounded.

The British Empire, which five weeks before was filled with gloom, by the German victory off Coronel and the death of Admiral Cradock, now rejoiced at a British victory which practically cleared the seas of enemy service cruisers. The victors at the Falklands nobly upheld the traditions of the British navy. There is no evidence that Von Spee made any effort to save the lives of any of the men of Cradock's vessels when they sank, but Sturdee's men as soon as the battle was over set out to save as many as possible of the crew of the sinking German cruisers. They saved about two hundred, including the captain of one vessel. We cannot but contrast this with the action of the crews of German submarines, who even shelled the boats of sinking ships and laughed to see men drown. Admiral Von Spee and two of his sons went down with their ship. Cradock was amply avenged.

There is no longer a German navy. The nation that scoffed at Britain's proposals to reduce the annual expenditure for armaments, and went on building up a navy with which it was planned to overcome British supremacy at sea, is utterly defeated; and the millions upon millions spent on battleships, cruisers, destroyers and submarines utterly wasted. On the other hand the supremacy of the British navy was never so marked, or its service to the world so fully recognized. The German navy was built for conquest, the British navy stands for defence and the protection and security of the world's commerce and the rights of smaller nations. It exists, not for oppression, but for freedom; and this is why American writers assert that whatever else comes of the peace conference the supremacy of the British navy is not to be questioned by the other powers. Wherever its flag flies there is a guarantee of security, of honor, and of protection for the weak. The British navy has saved the day for Christian civilization.

ILLITERACY.

Toronto Saturday Night takes note of recent remarks about illiteracy in New Brunswick and says:—

"Children left to grow up in ignorance are just as likely to become a menace to a community as an asset. If federal assistance is necessary to wipe out the stigma of illiteracy in any section of Canada, it should be forthcoming. For this rich country to permit any child to reach manhood without having had a chance of obtaining the rudiments of knowledge would be deplorable. It is indeed a disgrace that illiteracy should exist at all, save among the families of newly-arrived immigrants from lands less free and blessed than ours."

This is not putting the case too strongly, and the sooner the people of New Brunswick wake up the better for the reputation of the province. There is no need of federal aid to keep up our public schools. That is a duty each community, with the aid granted by the province, owes to itself. We are concerned about better breeds of sheep and cattle, pigs and poultry, and we are

anxious to conserve our forests and develop our material resources; but these are of no value if we fail to develop an intelligent citizenship. The more intelligent that citizenship the more certain will be a proper development of all material resources. Let us put first things first, and insist upon compulsory school attendance throughout the province.

THE GAME OF POLITICS.

There are rumors from Ottawa of a probable re-alignment of political parties during 1919, and an election on straight party lines. We may be sure the violent partisans on both sides would like to see a return to former conditions as quickly as possible. It is also clear that some sort of party lines. May it not be hoped, however, that there will never again be quite the same degree of partisan bitterness in the federal arena, or the same shameful use of public patronage? The problems now to be faced are not as serious as those of the war period, but they are far more serious than any which confronted Canadian statesmen before the war. There should be no place in parliament for the politician who thinks only of the triumph of his party. There is a big job awaiting Canadian statesmanship. It demands the best the country can produce in business ability, breadth of vision, and genuine devotion to the country's welfare. The danger is that certain politicians of the machine pattern will divert public attention from the larger problems by putting emphasis upon mean and selfish considerations, or those where prejudice is easily kindled, for personal or partisan purposes. Canada is a big country with big problems to solve. The people must be wary of self-appointed leaders, especially those whose past record would not inspire confidence. The Hon. Robert Rogers clearly falls within this category, and there are others. They are found even in comparatively small communities. Public life is not enriched by them, nor do their activities make for genuine national advancement.

The evils of a blind partisanship have had no more painful and striking illustration than in New Brunswick. Because certain men who have been found guilty of gross political wrong-doing belong to the Conservative party, that party has not renounced them, or publicly denounced their conduct. They are still its leaders in provincial affairs. If they were in election tomorrow they would perhaps be among its candidates, held up to the people as worthy representatives. Their press keeps up unscrupulous attacks and makes utterly false charges against members of the government, and is not censured therefore. So long as party feeling thus submerges regard for honest politics and fair dealing the public interest must suffer. There should be no "game of politics." It has outlived its usefulness.

Of business conditions in Chicago and that section of the United States a recent dispatch says:—"As was expected, labor is restless owing to the apprehension that lower wages are contemplated, and in this respect signs are already apparent of a disposition to fight such an exigency. Those who take a calmer view of the situation believe that matters of this kind will eventually be cleared and that confidence in that direction will gradually be restored. Predictions are made that the demands on American industry will be large enough within a short time to take care of the returning soldiers to this country and give them all work."

The Standard on Saturday featured an alleged conversation between Mr. R. L. Simms of Woodstock and Premier Foster. Mr. Simms in today's Telegraph says no such conversation ever occurred. Readers of the Standard are not surprised. They would be surprised only by a burst of truth from the Standard, and that would not only surprise but amaze them.

The new Spanish premier, it is said, will expel the German ambassador and several members of his embassy who have been intriguing against the government. Poor old Spain. What an opportunity she lost.

British troops have been asked to protect the citizens of Cologne from revolutionaries. The people fear less from the British than from their own.

The fuel controller again advises Canadian consumers to lay in a supply of soft coal, owing to the shortage of anthracite.

Imagine Germans compelled to lift their hats to British officers, and when the British national anthem is sung.

Wouldn't Need It.

"I want to ask your advice about something," said the confiding person. "Don't do it," protested Miss Cay. "Anybody with intelligence enough to use advice to advantage would have enough to keep out of trouble in the first place."—Washington Star.

About the Choice of Flour



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LIGHTER VEIN

Of Course She Got It. Maid (about to leave)—"Might I ask for a recommendation, ma'am?" Mistress—"But, Mary, what could I truthfully say that would help you get another place?" Maid—"Just say that I know many of your family secrets, ma'am."

Breakfast is Now Served. Dubuque Telegraph—The Misses Pearl and Margaret Coffee and William Wafle have returned to their homes in Fort Dodge.

Worried. Barronages—I know a man who looks so much like you that one could hardly tell you apart. Lenders (anxiously)—You haven't paid him that five I lent you three months ago, have you?

Extravagant Tastes. Would-be Contributor—Can you use a poem on "Our Daily Bread"? Editor (without looking up)—No; what we want on our daily bread is butter.

Domestic Strategy. "I just know I'm going to have a fearful headache." "Feed it coming on?" "No. We have some very nice chrysanthemums."

"I must have geraniums. They are for my wife." "I'm sure she'd like these chrysanthemums."

"You don't understand. The geraniums are to replace some I promised to take care of while she went away."

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CODFISH TALKS

Issued by Canada Food Board



Boiled Fresh Cod—Wrap the fish in cheese-cloth, and place on the rack in a fish boiler, with enough tepid water to cover. Add salt and a tablespoon of vinegar. Bring to boil and boil gently until the fin and tail bone will come out if pulled lightly. When done, lift carefully out of the water, drain, dish up and serve with melted butter, anchovy parsley or oyster sauce.

Fried Cod Steak—Clean the fish and place on a buttered baking tin. Prepare a dressing of bread crumbs, savory herbs, parsley, pepper and salt. Bind it with a little beaten egg. Place this upon the fish and season. Add to the top a little fat in the form of butter or dripping. Bake in a moderate oven for ten minutes for every pound and five minutes extra. Serve with Hollandaise sauce with the addition of some anchovy, or any sauce that may be preferred.

Pie'd Cod Steak—Clean the steak. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, and dip in cornmeal. Cook in a frying-pan in a little dripping until light brown on each side.

Food Board Flashes

Canada has entered upon the period of reconstruction. During this time the practice of thrift by housewives of Canada which has accomplished so much during the trying four years of war, is still a national duty, in view of the needs of Europe. Canada's net national war debt is over a billion and a quarter dollars.

Good Prospect for Corn Crop. Every one with corn will be pleased to know that Putnam's Corn Extractor is a new machine in twenty-four hours. Painless and sure is Putnam's Extractor, 25 cents at all dealers.

The Same Old Hun

(By H. H. Windsor, in the December Popular Mechanics Magazine.)

When the Hun went into Belgium and France more than four years ago he threw to the winds every code of manhood which a nation, to be considered civilized, must cherish. It is needless to recite those atrocities now. They are known to all the world. And he is coming out of France and Belgium the same depraved, uncivilized Hun. One would think mere policy alone would lead him to the last days, like some wicked old octogenarian, to at least avoid the outward appearance of his former crimes. But no; apparently once a Hun, always a Hun, and in these evidences of Hunism let the whole world take to heart the lesson that future peace and safety can only be accomplished with the extermination of the Hun.

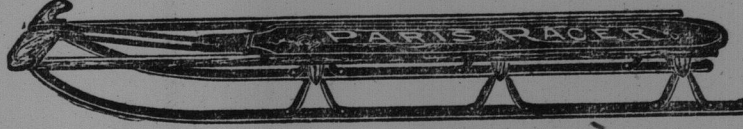
Day after day, as the Huns are driven out of those French and Belgian cities they have occupied these long four years, the allies enter to find either a mass of ruins where the Hun had time to plant his bombs and time fuses, or a city stripped of everything of value that could be removed; and failing that, the pitiful ruins and remnants of things holy or beautiful. Priceless paintings rent and sword-slit, built-in articles hacked and chopped, statues robbed of all beauty; even the church fairs no better; altars are overturned, and organs are but piles of kindling wood. Gratitude is not found in the Hun vocabulary, nor character. Only the other day a German officer who had been quartered for three years in one house, where the family, though French, had given him the best it had, on leaving to retreat, left a time bomb which in the middle of the night blew the house to fragments, killing everyone in it, including the children. Such is the Hun.

It is the same barbarous Hun now being driven out of France and Belgium that went in four years ago. It is this same barbarous savage who, in the hope to lesson his own approaching doom, now asks an inter-allied agreement to discontinue the bombing of cities, and offers to lessen some of these atrocities he can no longer practice because of failing strength. The Hague agreement as to submarines, and Zeppelins, and poison gas, and bombing hospitals and the Red Cross and noncombatant cities, has been a joke to the Hun these four years and more; only now when the allies have almost throttled the submarine and already have supremacy in the air do we hear a wail from the Hun. It was quite all right to bomb London and Paris, said the Hun, but to bomb Berlin and Munich might endanger some innocent people.

To the man who fights with his fists, the one he best understands and respects is the bigger man with larger fists. The expert swordsman bows to him who is more expert with the steel blade than himself. The Hun is so brutalized by nature he has no moral sense of reason to appeal to. There is only one possible argument he understands, and that is the thing in which he placed his faith. Let us speak, then, long and loud, in the language he comprehends. For every city he has devastated, let a German city of like importance go up in smoke and

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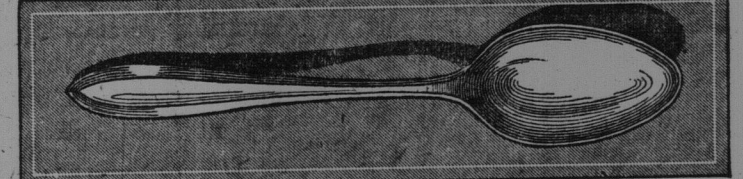


Table Knives, Dessert Knives, Table Forks, Meat Forks, Cream Ladles, Butter Knives, Dessert Forks, Sugar Shells, Berry Spoons, Dessert Spoons, Tablespoons, Teaspoons, Cold

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lie in ruins; for every slave he has taken from Belgium and France let two male Huns go there to serve. Let the indemnity include the cost of every article of value which in a steady stream has filled the returning troop trains for four years; and let that awful scourge of the air, by thousands, fly to the remotest corners of Hunism and drop their deadly message of death on every hand. For every shell of poison gas which has come out of Germany let scores be returned from the clouds, until there shall remain no spot in all the central empire where safety shall be found, nor any place where man may sleep except in fear.

To this language only will the Hun listen, and in such words alone can he be made to understand that "kultur" will not be tolerated in the world. A peace made today could be scarcely more than one of convenience, a release from prison on bail; a parole on promised good behavior. A Hun promise is worth little, but from a broken Hun, the great surgeon of humanity and civilization may, in time, construct a human Hun.

CAPITALIZE THE WIGGLE.

Every man who goes in the army or navy is now certain of one thing, says an article appearing in "The Vocational Summary" issued by the United States Federal Board for Vocational Education, and the observation is equally true in Canada. That is, if the Germans "shoot him up" he will not be compelled to sell pencils and shoe laces to cke out an insufficient pension, or to be immersed in a soldiers' home to rust out the years until death comes to his relief. If there is enough of Pte. Jones left to wiggle a finger, the wiggle will be capitalized and made to yield a pretty good living in addition to what he draws from the War Risk Insurance Bureau (pension).

ARBO-McNEIL, Joseph C. Arbo, conductor on the C. G. R., and Miss Phoebe McNeil, both of Fredericton, were united in marriage at the Methodist parsonage on Thursday by Rev. G. M. Young.

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CAPTAIN BLACK SAILS.
Mrs. J. Douglas Black of Fredericton, received a cable stating that her husband, Capt. Black, had sailed Thursday for home. Capt. Black went over with the 296th.

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