

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N.B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1904.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 19, 1904.

KNOWING HOW

That the men who go to war, and who die, suffer far more from disease than from the enemy's fire has been regarded heretofore as an axiom. The Japanese, however, are making history of a new kind in regard to the health of troops in the field. When the United States fought Spain in Cuba 260 men were killed in battle, and 3,862 died in army camps from disease. Roughly speaking, disease was the cause of seventy per cent. of the losses sustained. Typhoid and other intestinal troubles decimated the raw troops under canvas on United States soil. The medical service was marked by fearful incompetence and lack of preparation, and the soldiers did not know how to take care of themselves. The food was bad, and the undisciplined volunteers ate and drank with open disregard for the rules of health, and died like sheep while a disorganized medical corps sought helplessly to keep down the death rate. The wounded, in Florida and even in New York state, were ill-treated, and hundreds of lives were lost through the sheer break down of a poorly organized medical department. Yet the United States had been regarded, by its own people at least, as an up-to-date fighting nation for whom no problem could be too serious.

Now for another picture. The Japanese soldiers who died from disease up to July 1 formed but two per cent of the total losses. Of 1,000 wounded men sent back to Tokio during the first part of the war not one died. There are no fever camps. The common scourges of campaigning armies have been charged with the scorching sacrifice of their troops in battle. If the present record is maintained, their battles will be chiefly won, because no graves are filled through the ignorance and neglect which breed disease.

Japan had long been preparing for war, and her surgeons had been as busy as strategists and organizers. The doctors planned to abolish sickness in the field as far as education and medical science could abolish it. Soldiers were told what food to eat. Water was tested before what men were permitted to drink it. The soldiers were taught the value of personal cleanliness. The army ate simple food and knows how to keep well. The percentage of recoveries among the wounded is large beyond precedent. The lesson is one that other nations will try to learn. For the Japanese self-restraint and strict discipline could not be adopted even by Anglo-Saxons short of many years of training. The Japanese record thus far serves to show how nations which admire themselves for what they believe to be their high civilization, have sacrificed thousands of their soldiers through their failure to check the ravages of disease during their campaigns.

"POTTED DOG" IN POLITICS

If a political speaker were pelted with missiles here we would say there had been violence. They think less seriously of such trifles across the water. The election of Mr. Marks of the Financial News, in England the other day, which was reported by cable, was not accomplished without much heated argument and some rather unpleasant collisions. The London Times, though supporting the government, denounced Mr. Marks as personally corrupt. He triumphed, however, after some "breezy electioneering," of which a late London journal gives some examples. Mr. Marks, at Ramsgate, tried to "jump" his opponent's open-air meeting by beginning to speak nearby. The London reporter proceeds:—

"Not much notice was taken of this. The Liberal candidate's supporters grouped round him, about fifty yards away from the rival meeting, and everything went swimmingly until Mr. Marks, one of the most rabid partisans, and several other Tories crossed into the Liberal meeting and pushed themselves close to the wheels of the cart which was doing duty as a platform. Mr. King was subjected to their Tory-like interruptions, which amounted to very little, but they quite lost their tempers when he produced a sample of potted dog and exhibited it as the kind of fare workpeople live on in protectionist Germany. This specimen of dogfish, with its official warranty of freshness and soundness, has been sent to the Liberal candidate by a friend, and the bottle is labeled, with the equivalent in

Germany to 'Dogs' Slaughter House, Munich.' This piece of conviction, as Mr. Marks' chauffeur would call it simply maddened Mr. Marks and his friends, so they challenged Mr. King to take it out to Mr. Marks' Thurst Reform platform. Mr. King was going to show it elsewhere. This scene was actually accompanied by great noise, and when Mr. Marks' meeting ended his audience drifted round the Liberal platform. Missiles, probably pellets of earth, were thrown at Mr. King's supporters, and Councillor Thompson, of Richmond, who was speaking, was struck by several. Angry discussions followed the close of the meeting, but there was no violence. One of the results of this bit of Tory provocation was evident tonight when Mr. Marks was followed from a Marla meeting on the quay by a hostile crowd, and driven to take refuge in the Royal Hotel. The meeting had been interrupted with a running fire of comment. When the speakers left Mr. Marks and his companions were surrounded by a crowd, singing.

"There was no violence." It appears that when one's forces are thrown into confusion by the production of "potted dog" the proper retort is to throw "pellets of earth." The British workman is being treated to a wealth of nonsense in these days. We have escaped the "potted-dog" argument thus far in Canada, but the campaign has nearly three weeks to run, and already several orators have begun to talk of soup kitchens.

"STAGE" MONEY

Many men bet large sums on the elections. Just now we are entering upon the period of the campaign. It is believed in some circles that it helps to beat this party or that if announcement is made that Brown has wagered a thousand dollars with Jones that the government will be elected—or defeated. From Montreal the other day came news that a prominent Liberal was offering two to one on a certain government loss in Quebec. This morning it is announced that a business man, who made his money in the United States and invested it in Quebec, has offered to bet \$100,000 or any part thereof, that the government will carry the country with forty seats to spare. The men who are going about betting such sums on such propositions are about as numerous as hens' teeth.

This sort of chaff is put out by both parties, or by a certain element in both parties, but it catches no birds and changes no votes. The men who bet on elections are known, and the general public is not easily deceived by stories about bets made and odds given. Some large wagers are made, and some become known, but most of the betting talk is talk merely. There is a great deal of "stage" money going about, and much that is real is offered at prohibitive odds. Some men offer to bet thousands upon terms they know no one will consider.

Betting stories are part of the campaign stock in trade, but they have less vogue here than in the United States, where a credulous element is sometimes influenced extensively by real or fake election wagers made with a flourish of trumpets. Of ten men who talk positively not more than one will back his proclaimed opinion with a week's income.

A SOLDIER

They burned Joan of Arc. Then they canonized her. Times had changed before Evangeline Booth came, or they would have burned her. She too would have been canonized. Indeed something of the sort has happened. After the fashion of this century she has been burned and canonized; for at first she was misunderstood and reviled, and afterwards came a full and free world-wide acknowledgments of her courage, her worth, her womanliness, her triumph over organized wrong, her victory in the cause of simple faith and a charity as wide as the sky. Thousands upon thousands said William Booth's army was a mocking of religion, a tawdry and flimsy thing of noise and vanity. He has lived to see it acknowledged as one of the mightiest machines ever created by man to check depravity and lessen the burden of wrong upon which stumble in darkness the downtrodden of grim circumstance. The army today stands a terrific and growing refutation of all that was prophesied of it by those who had ears to hear but stopped them.

Thousands upon thousands—some individuals you have known—said, in the early days, that a womanly woman, tenderly reared, possessing all of the finer feelings of the mother sex, could not look cheerful in the face of sin and shame and wretchedness of life as it is, and remain a useful and clear-headed directing force in the work of amelioration. "For," they said, "the thing is impossible. 'Tis no work for a woman." Today, after eight years as Commissioner in Canada, after other years during which she shared the dearest, the highest and the most frightful secrets which are held by human lives, Evangeline Booth, the soldier, stands forth as living and speaking proof that they who prophesied have been confounded.

The members of that great family—the Booths—have emerged stronger and brighter from the gray period of suspicion, distrust, accusation and apathy. Careless of alumnus and abuse they are careless of praise. Like the others in much, the woman who is here today impresses the thoughtful as one who knows the day is short and who, seeing the vastness of the harvest, would work and work and yet

work against the too-quick coming of the night. The woman's gifts are great. She has developed them; and she has given freely, though with discernment. She has searched the human heart, and her knowledge of it is power. Her's is a great soul, and the city is the better for her presence.

LINING UP

The Conservatives of Kent county have offered the nomination to Mr. McInerney. Sheriff Tibbitts is to oppose Hon. John Costigan in Victoria-Madawaska. Mr. N. A. Landry is spoken of as the probable Conservative nominee in Gloucester. If one accepts these gentlemen as practically in nomination, the field is filled, for in these counties Liberals are already in the field, and candidates elsewhere were announced some days ago. From many quarters come inquiries as to the vote cast in 1900, which is required by persons who would fortify their prophecies, or settle disputes, or figure out the present odds in this county or that. In Victoria-Madawaska Hon. Mr. Costigan was not opposed in 1900. In St. John City and St. John City and County the events of the last eighteen months have rendered the figures of 1900 of uncertain value as bearing upon the present contest. Kings and Albert have been joined. The results of the last elections, given here, show the majorities, and the total vote cast:—

Restigouche—	
James Reid, Lib.,	1,221
John McElister, Con.,	744
Majority for Reid,	477
Gloucester—	
O. Turgeon, Lib.,	2,311
T. Blanchard, Con.,	1,315
R. C. Harris, Lib.,	228
Majority for Turgeon,	996
Northumberland—	
James Robinson, Con.,	2,404
John McEwen, Lib.,	1,900
Majority for Robinson,	499
Kent—	
O. J. Le Blanc, Lib.,	2,447
G. V. McInerney, Con.,	1,816
Majority for Le Blanc,	631
Carleton—	
F. H. Hale, Con.,	2,714
F. B. Carvell, Lib.,	2,450
Majority for Hale,	265
York—	
Alex. Gibson, Jr., Lib.,	2,397
Joseph McLeod, Con.,	2,361
Majority for Gibson,	76
Election declared void and again contested, when Gibson's majority was increased to 800.	
Queens-Sunbury—	
R. D. Wilmut, Con.,	2,143
A. S. White, Lib.,	1,808
Majority for Wilmut,	275
Charlotte—	
G. W. Ganong, Con.,	2,783
R. E. Armstrong, Lib.,	2,395
Majority for Ganong,	580
Kings—	
G. W. Fowler, Con.,	2,557
James Donville, Lib.,	2,384
Majority for Fowler,	173
Increased by recount to 183.	
Albert—	
William J. Lewis, Lib.,	1,276
R. C. Weidon, Con.,	1,160
Majority for Lewis,	116
Westmorland—	
H. R. Emmerson, Lib.,	4,420
H. A. Powell, Con.,	3,954
Majority for Emmerson,	466

The vote cast in Kings was nearly twice as large as that cast in Albert. In proportion to population the Liberal majority in Albert was larger than the Conservative majority in Kings, but now a majority in Albert is of no account unless it be large enough to overcome an opponent's lead in the larger section of the united constituency.

The Frederick Gleaner (Lib.) speaks of the Liberal convention in Northumberland as showing an unfortunate division of party strength. The Gleaner evidently believes Mr. Robinson, the Conservative standard bearer, will be elected. The party journal finds comfort in its own statement that Mr. Robinson is by no means an objectionable partisan.

A FRIGHTFUL MILITARY BLUNDER

Nothing could have excited General Kuropatkin in launching his army southward upon the enemy save only numerical superiority great enough to break Oyama's line and roll back the Japanese tide beyond the Taise and Liao Yang. When the Japanese was sent toward Port Arthur there had been, perhaps, no test of strength sufficient to show that to send him was to sacrifice him. But after his fate and the series of actions culminating with Liao Yang, men said General Kuropatkin, in sending Stakelberg, had obeyed the war office against his own judgment. A repetition of that mistake on a gigantic scale was the recent decision to assume the offensive in force. Pressed by St. Petersburg which demanded aggressive tactics to steady tottering Russian prestige, or taking counsel of his own desperation or his own bad judgment, the Russian commander has apparently thrown away this year's campaign if not the war.

The reports this morning tell of 10,000 Russian dead. That would mean a casualty list of 40,000 for the Russians alone, for the rule is three men wounded to one killed. The Japanese losses are but roughly estimated. Perhaps as a result of the week's titanic struggle 65,000 or 70,000 men

in both armies are dead or maimed. The Russians have suffered the more heavily, and from the facts at hand it would appear that this latest and greatest sacrifice was wholly useless. Moving from Mukden, even if he had been heavily reinforced, it did not appear reasonable to believe that General Kuropatkin could eject the Japanese army from Liao Yang, the stronghold they had wrested from him when his troops fought with every known advantage in their favor. Unless he could inflict a severe repulse, drive a wedge between the Japanese main army and its northern division and defeat each in detail, the Russian general could hope for no permanent advantage.

As it stands he is again fighting a series of tremendous rear-guard actions, and there is doubt about his ability to escape before his road is blocked by the mobile enemy or his command cut in half by a force dispatched some days ago in anticipation of the present situation. How many men the Russians had massed at Mukden before the fatal move southward does not yet appear. The recent fighting gives reason to believe that they had been deceived as to the force at Oyama's command, and that they played into his hands. The Russian war office, or General Kuropatkin, seems to have made a military blunder of frightful magnitude and one that it will be impossible to retrieve.

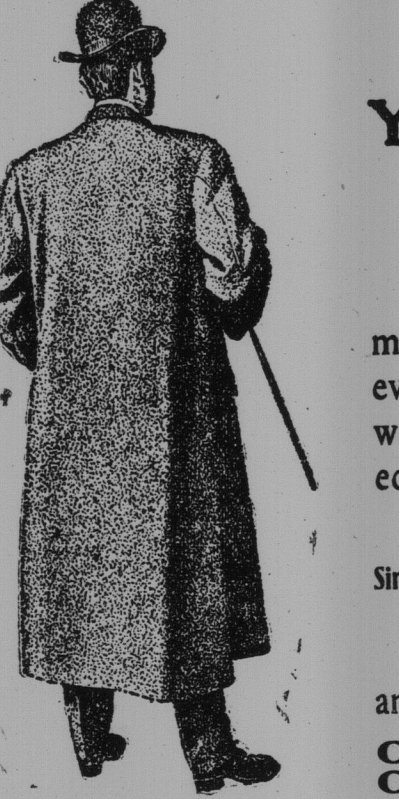
"RUSSIA'S OVERTHROW"

The great stand made yesterday by the Russians—and it has compelled admiration in all quarters—has not convinced London that there is any chance of turning the tide. The latest London despatch arriving this morning is given in substance here, and it presents the expert's view of the situation in a nut shell:— "The greatest admiration is expressed by the London newspapers today for the tenacity employed by General Kuropatkin in protecting his retreat, but nowhere is any idea entertained that the Russians' first decided success on the Shalke river can change the broad character of their defeat or have any effect beyond retarding slightly the eventual Japanese advance to Mukden and probably to Harbin, since the Japanese appear to be fully prepared for a winter campaign. The question of intervention is hardly discussed at all, because it is believed that the Russian government is not in any mood to accept."

Under the caption "Russia's Overthrow" a well-informed London correspondent cables much that tends to make Russia's present situation appear even more gloomy than it would seem in the light of the Manchurian despatches alone. He was writing just as it became evident that Kuropatkin's "forward movement" had collapsed, and he touches affairs not revealed in the everyday war news. He makes it clear that while the Russians hoped to re-establish their prestige, for the moment at least, by launching their Manchurian army against the Japanese, the terrific reverse sustained has convinced Europe that Russia stands revealed as impotent. The common English thought now, he says, is: "Would that Russia would now listen to her best friend, France, and accept the mediation which might bring the war to an honorable close before a worse catastrophe."

The London Times has sought, from several exceptionally good sources, information as to why Kuropatkin undertook what now appears to have been from the first a hopeless dash southward. That he really hoped to break through to the relief of Port Arthur, as he indicated in his proclamation to the army, is believed by no one. There was a far more urgent cause for his decision and this the Times discloses as a result of inquiries in Paris, Vienna and Berlin: "The Russian administration found it imperative to create a general feeling of uneasiness and repugnance to the masses. Repugnance to the Russian provinces occur in showing that the feeling disclosed by recent disturbances among the Russian reservists seems to be growing more general and more intense, than the European public has yet understood, with every trainload of poor fellows taken from their homes and sent as unwilling sheep to the slaughter for what to them is an incomprehensible cause. This feeling has broadened and deepened until now it is reaching a point at which it is causing the gravest embarrassment to the Russian military authorities. The winter, which will be devoted to the formation of Gen. Gripenberg's army, must be preceded by some attempt to impart a rosier hue to the military situation in Manchuria."

Another significant revelation is that alarm has been created among friends of Russia in the European capitals by the disclosures made in letters written to his wife by General Count Keller before his death. These have not been published but what they contained is more than hinted at. "They show," writes the correspondent, "that whole Russian regiments were without uniforms or proper clothes, while sanitary arrangements were appalling, as was the general confusion. General Keller expressed himself very strongly concerning the incapacity of many of his colleagues. His opinion of General Kuropatkin was not high. He professed great admiration for the common soldier, but his letters as a whole produce a painful effect." The Times, which regards Russia's situation as exceedingly grave, speaks of the proposal to levy upon the property of the Orthodox Church in order to meet the expenses of the war, as "a significant symptom, adding: 'To those who know what the



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