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ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 1, 1916.

WAR COMMENT

The battle around Verdun, the early stages of which have been marked by German successes, is likely to develop into a general action of great importance that will ring up the curtain on the spring campaign.

WAR TAX DIFFICULTIES

Some of the weaknesses of the plan of Sir Thomas White to tax business profits are indicated by the Montreal Journal of Commerce, which is edited by Hon. W. S. Fielding.

IN THE ENEMY'S COUNTRY

Some new light upon the opinion of Germany's civil population regarding the war is afforded by a neutral publicist who is described by the London Times as a man of wide experience and mature political judgment.

MAKE IT PUBLIC

Some doubt exists, apparently, as to whether the investigation ordered by the government with respect to charges made against the provincial Deputy Minister of Public Works is to be a public or a private one.

was determined to go on until the end, that she would not be intimidated by threats against her colonies and possessions, and that even the drive through Serbia had only made her the more determined.

The Germans, at the outbreak of the war when this neutral observer first saw them, were "boisterously enthusiastic." It is not so today.

It is not a question of sentimentalism. There is undoubtedly a very uneasy feeling, but it is based upon exact calculations. We know that we are quite able to go on up to a certain time.

On all sides was to be heard sorrowful discussion of the depreciation of the German mark. Among people of wealth or of comfortable income the scale of living was still good.

There is nothing to indicate that the nation will not go on fighting, and fighting desperately, but as the public learns more and more of the truth concerning the national prospects it may be expected that the intemperance of the Kaiser and his ministers and the talk of military leaders will no longer fire the nation but only add distrust and resentment to national apathy.

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ANOTHER KING WITHOUT A COUNTRY



Photo of King Nicholas of Montenegro and his immediate family with members of his suite on their arrival in France after he had abdicated his throne and fled to safety in Lyons, France.

While the attack is the most serious which the enemy has made within six months its importance depends entirely on whether or not it is pushed home.

The degree of success obtained by the Germans north of Verdun does not warrant grave apprehensions as to the fate of the fortress, let alone as to the power of the Entente to overwhelm the Allies in the western arena.

Spreading of the expected German attack on the western front the military correspondent of the London Times said early in the present month that the Germans were then known to have brought seventeen divisions from the Russian front back to France and Flanders, and had therefore increased their strength in the West "to or beyond the normal figure."

The official figures up to February 15, published yesterday, show that 246,471 Canadians had been enlisted up to that date. There was some indication of a slight decrease in recruiting during the first part of February as compared with January, and yet the country at large was raising men at the rate of about one thousand a day.

It is to be noted that while Canada has set out to raise 800,000 men, the total up to the middle of February was still slightly below 250,000. The work, in fact, has only begun.

It may be said that considering how far this country is from the trenches, Canada has raised a large number of soldiers. That is true, but it is also true that we should have raised many more.

The Maritime Provinces up to February 15 had raised 25,550 men. We do not yet know exactly how many of this total are to be credited to New Brunswick. But this we do know—that if New Brunswick is to raise its proper

share of the next 250,000 men that will mean many more battalions this year, and we must not forget that men who are enlisting this year should be urged to enlist now or before the end of winter in order that they may be of use during the critical part of the great struggle.

Perhaps some of the people of this country would be offended if national leaders and recruiting speakers—and we should have more national leaders making recruiting speeches—were to use the form of appeal which are common in Australia.

I will tell you some of the other people we can do without. I read of gentlemen who object to being asked if they are willing to fight. "I am not a soldier," they would say, "I am a citizen."

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and the Flemings. The practice of Conservative associations and conventions in attempting to whitewash and re-establish discredited representatives is evidently not going to be popular in Canada. The lesson is of particular interest in New Brunswick.

A PUBLIC INQUIRY NEEDED

Again it is intimated that the inquiry ordered by the local government in the case of the provincial Deputy Minister of Public Works is to be held behind closed doors.

The Deputy Minister has asked for a public investigation under oath, and there are many excellent reasons why that is the only sort of inquiry which will give public satisfaction.

Also, a public inquiry under oath would show that men in public life are, or were, stockholders in Concrete Constructions, Limited, the operations of which concern necessarily fall within the scope of the investigation.

THE STANDARD AND MR. BOULAY

On Friday last the Standard contained special dispatches from Ottawa in which that newspaper asserted that there had been "more unpatriotic talk from opposition ranks—Grit member for Rimouski and Mr. Verville endeavor to stir up trouble over bi-lingual question."

The Canadian Parliamentary Guide, unfortunately for the Standard, describes Mr. Boulay as a Conservative. He defeated the Liberal member, Mr. J. A. Ross, in the Rimouski election of 1911.

Evidently when any Conservative or Nationalist says anything which the Conservative machine is ashamed of, the Conservative newspapers are going to describe the offending M. P. as "a Grit."

WAR COMMENT

How many men has Germany in its armies? How long can Germany keep up its effective fighting strength to the present level? The London Times has made an exhaustive analysis of German military figures for the purpose of answering these questions, taking into consideration many factors, including the number of new recruits called up each year and the number of wounded who recover sufficiently to go back into the firing line.

It is estimated that there are in all of the German armies to-day 8,000,000 men. The Times presents a carefully compiled account of the German casualties from the beginning of the war up to the end of January, 1916.

This makes a total of 5,627,093 casualties for Germany on all fronts from the beginning of the war up to the end of last month. In the House of Commons recently Mr. Tennant gave approximately these figures for total casualties, and said that of the whole number 288,956 were killed in battle, 24,060 died from other causes, 1,865,840 were wounded, and 366,138 were missing or captured.

A turn over of almost 1,000 votes in favor of the Liberals in Peel County, Ontario, is a significant answer to the Conservative contention that Mr. J. R. Falls, the former Conservative member, did nothing wrong in collecting \$1,800 for his services as a middleman in connection with the purchase of horses for the war.

figure is increased again by adding invalided men to the number of 36,000 a month, and making allowance for the number continually in hospital. With these additions the Times estimates that the net permanent loss of the Germans during eighteen months of war is nearly 2,600,000, or an average monthly net loss of somewhat more than 144,000 men.

These figures it regards as representing the minimum loss. Assuming that Germany had 9,000,000 men fit and available for service originally, and has kept her effective strength up to 8,600,000 in the field, the Times estimates that the country has 2,700,000 men still available in reserve, but not all of these can be added to the armies in the field, for many must be used on lines of communications, guarding prisoners, doing garrison duty, and the like.

The Times suggests that the allowance of 2,000,000 who can be brought forward to reinforce the German armies in the field, consequently it is argued that Germany's effective fighting strength of both fronts can be maintained until September next, even if the German losses in the meantime are as high as 250,000 men a month. Hjalmar Helldorf, on the other hand, says Germany's effective strength will decline much sooner than the Times expert believes likely.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Gentlemen who are backing Mr. J. K. Flemming and Mr. A. J. H. Stewart will not like the verdict in Peel.

Speaking of civic interest charges, the Montreal Gazette says: "Representatives of the class which only thinks of getting money to spend have in six years nearly trebled the city debt and raised the interest charges till they eat up almost forty-four per cent of the year's available revenue."

The financial position of Montreal is revealed to some extent by a bill which has just passed its second reading in the Quebec legislature. This measure gives Montreal the power to borrow \$2,000,000 to meet the deficit in the city budget, to borrow \$500,000 to assist the Canadian Patriotic Fund and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and \$25,000 for books for the new municipal library.

More and more men from New Brunswick. That is the lesson taught by today's war news. The right answer to all doubts about Verdun is to fill up the new regiments. Our own men at the front have heavy fighting before them. They have to expect thousands of their companions to follow them across the water—now, not some time in the dim future. Today is the time for young men of courage and of honor who do not want to unload their share of the fighting upon someone else. Today!

President Wilson will stand to his guns this time. The New York Journal of Commerce is convinced. "We cannot afford," it says, "to aid in the triumph of the kind of rule for which the Teutonic powers are struggling. Our sympathies are naturally, inevitably, on the side of those who are striving for its defeat, and our future as well as theirs will be made secure only by that defeat."

Having decided to defend the right of merchant vessels to carry a gun for their defense in time of war President Wilson now finds himself threatened with a revolt among his followers in Congress, a large number of whom appear anxious to enlarge the German contention that merchant ships should be left entirely at the mercy of submarines. A caustic American critic of the situation says: "Whether Mr. Wilson or Count Bernstorff is the leader of the Democratic party to-day appears to be a question on which the Democratic leadership will be as log-headed as Mr. Wilson must go forward or back now."

The biggest duty that the capable man has to-day is to get into khaki. It is not a question of danger, says the Toronto Star. "It is merely a question of manhood. Danger is just near in Toronto as at the front. Fifteen of twenty people die every day in Toronto. It is much better to die at the front than to die in Toronto, unless plain duty about which there is no dispute, keeps one at home. The opportunities of enlistment are so various, and the varieties of service are so great that no one can plead the unsuitability of the regiment or the battery or the transport or ambulance or any other corps as a reason for staying out of khaki. Every man from 18 to 45 is eligible, if he be in good health and is physically fit. The only way to know that you are free from this responsibility is to go down to the recruiting headquarters and ask the authorities what they want you to do."

House-Hunter—Seems to me this house isn't very well built. The floor shakes when we walk. Agent—Um—y-e-s that's the new kind of spring floor for dancing you know. House-Hunter—And these stairs creak terribly. Agent—Y-e-s. We furnish this new patent burglar-alarm staircase without extra charge.

WHO CARES? THE ONE FLAG

This the Slogan Canadians Take to the Halls

Captain Barton Wins Grades and of Excellence Land Doctor Gives Life at Saloniki.

What if the empty? A crutch for so long as the writer is at the front, empty and this is his slogan, glorious and devil-may-care fact.

The Padre said "Dust to the valley was fired and as the down the faces of strong men weakness but rather a tribute as surely as he had died in the wick office, Capt. A. E. Barton of battle.

Scream From the Front. A Kings county (N. B.) boy now in the trenches, in a recent home says that in a copy of a local paper he received at the front there was an account of a concert and picnic held in the town of Belton, N. B. He said the Old Flag Club. He commends it, "it really seemed as if the boys of Kings county had been at the front. But all we can say is that patriotic boys to get busy something to keep the old flag besides sitting in a hall, giving compliments to those brave boys invited to report themselves enlisting for overseas service and let the tingling and concerts to the of that vicinity, or otherwise ladies' clothing, which would be suitable for them."

Met Friends From Home. Lieut. Harold O'Brien, son of O'Brien, of Moncton, in a recent letter from Belgium, writes that he is with the 8th Battery, 48th Division, as follows: "On approaching the place now as we were on a day in a London bus, we passed a lot of boys out with several horses exercise ride. Each man was on one horse and a dog. I noticed had some of a fraction which for a long time refused the motor. Just as he finally got to the motor, I recognized him as a Humber. It was surprise and I called out. He and he looked up with great recognition and I recognized him as 'Hello, Tom.' You can be glad to know that there was a glad whom I knew. But that was the first pleasure of my life further on we stopped at a sunnied (hotel) from there to the foot. We had scarcely stepped down when someone stepped on me and said, 'Hello, Tom, you here?' I nearly dropped when I heard and saw Charlie Macgrinning all over his face. That was an mistake we had chatted about tickled to death to meet 'Dooley' is the same old 'Dooley' fit as a fiddle. He is coming back with a dog. He is looking and feeling fine. 'Surprises were yet to be. After a considerable time through someones eyes and I spoke to me and it was Chippy, of Campbellton, a young boy played hockey in the Campbellton. We reached the head of the brigade and the setting of none other than Major S. B. A. of our old 19th Battery. I began right in home. Major Anderson and I looking much better than last saw him in England several years ago.

Finally we reached our position now as we were on my O.C. of this battery started on country to see some other post crossing a field three shells and that was the end of the war were not at all dangerous, and not considered close and more were not very large ones. Saw St. John Bay.

I was over to Major Anderson's where our home boys are at well, and there was nothing doing in the way of a show. As well, of St. John, is now with Anderson's battery, and I was surprised to see him with the young chap named Smallwood, of Driver William Smallwood, of one of the guns at the war there.

I had an amusing experience nights ago. I had gone up to our infantry headquarters dugouts, and the officers from here. I was there over night, and we were down to the front line trench by light. I rolled my blankets and slept at headquarters until after 4 a.m. when I was awakened should first have been sent to quarters of the battalion, with the particular part of the trench I should have gone to. Through a misunderstanding I directed me pointed out to way to the trenches. Not knowing myself and thinking he must be right, I started out without the half light of a setting moon and over sandbags, jumped over trenches, and waded through around shell craters until finally I was along which I travelled. I knew was the right general. The noise and country round about quite distinctly lighted by the continually went up from the trenches. It was a very cold day, but otherwise silence was broken by the occasional snore of a soldier. Now and again a machine gun was working party. At last I jumped out of my boots, and I shouted "Halt! Halt! Halt!" I came discernible in the semi-