

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1915.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved"—H. M. The King.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH AND THE VALLEY RAILWAY.

The Telegraph manifests symptoms of another convulsion. Faced by the fact that, despite the opposition of the Liberal politicians for whom it speaks, the Valley Railway is now approaching the point where completion and operation are assured, it displays a remarkable anxiety as to the future of that road and asks for information as to what it terms "the real outlook."

In a lengthy editorial yesterday morning it observed that although tenders for the completion of the road are to close on December 30, no date is set for the completion of the contract. The Telegraph must know that the reasonable procedure in the case is to fix the time for the completion of such an undertaking with the contractor. This is a matter for the St. John and Quebec Railway Company and the contractor to discuss when coming to terms, but there can be no doubt that the company will insist that the work shall be carried on with all reasonable speed.

The Telegraph also notes the fact that the portions of the road to be built are those extending from Antigonish to Riverview, and from Riverview to Riverview, and asks, "What has become of the section between Antigonish and Riverview?" Surely the Telegraph must know that the Dominion subsidy for that portion of the road has been cancelled and that, in such case, the company would not be justified in going ahead there. There is little doubt that when the time is opportune this subsidy will be renewed and the extension of the road made. The people of the province are well satisfied that the company in whose hands the Valley management of the railway has been placed will neglect nothing that will tend to its success. This being the case it is not easy to diagnose the Telegraph's fever, unless indeed, it should happen to be traceable to that pernicious germ "party politics." Surely not in this time of national stress.

The Telegraph also seems to entertain a horrid fear that the borings in the St. John river bed for the purpose of settling the location of the bridges have not been successful. There is really no ground for such disquiet, as the call for tenders for the construction of the section from Riverview to Riverview has resulted, to some extent from the engineer's report, that the borings have demonstrated that sites have been located where the bridges can be built.

The exact returns of the engineer's borings have not yet been received, but it is altogether likely that before the contracts are entered into sufficient information will be available to meet the case. It is well for the Telegraph to keep in mind that the construction of the bridges has nothing to do with the construction of the road outside of those bridges. The Dominion Government will build the bridges under authority secured by Act of Parliament passed some time ago. If for any reason they should refuse to build they will be answerable to the people interested in the construction of the road and its operation for its entire length. As to possible diversions of route, the Telegraph may rest well assured that any contractor entering into an undertaking as large as the completion of the Valley Railway will insist on positive assurances as to the route to be followed.

The Telegraph asks a number of questions which, if answered, would undoubtedly satisfy the great curiosity of those who have moved that newspaper to request the information. It is really too bad not to gratify at once such a yearning desire for knowledge, but as the work proceeds it will probably be found that definite and satisfactory answers can be given all questioners.

It is not at all likely that the directors of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company, generally recognized as safe and sane business men, would go ahead with the work unless satisfied that the money would be available when required, that the bridges would be built, and how and at what point connection would be made with the Transcontinental. If the Telegraph will possess itself in patience it probably will be satisfied on all

points and, in the meantime, it can rest easy in the assurance that the Valley Railway is in capable hands and will be completed in the best interests of the province.

If that excitable newspaper still desires an outlet for its editorial energy it might prosecute an enquiry into the actual cost of the National Transcontinental compared with what Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his advisers told the country it could be built for. Or it might go back to its own files and republish some of the reasons it gave against the selection of the route through New Brunswick which the N. T. R. finally followed. If the Liberal government had built the N. T. R. down the St. John valley as it should have done the Valley Railway would not have been necessary. But it became necessary, and the Clarke Government is doing its level best to provide it and embrace for New Brunswick the opportunity Laurier neglected.

THROUGH THE ENEMIES' EYES.

In the various analyses and summing up of the reasons why the Central European Empires are desirous of peace and would gladly welcome it, we have not observed that any considerable weight has been laid upon the utter improbability of any other nation ultimately beating to the earth the English race. Most human beings are not without their grey days, when the gold seems to have largely vanished from the sky; all the same it would be exceedingly unwise and most unsafe for the enemy to infer from any such transitory shadows of depression that as a nation we are thereby suggesting that we are ready to give in and call for a truce at least. We may complain of the burdens of the war, and we may regret that we are being compelled to forego many of our accustomed and rather comfortable ways of life, but be the losses and the crosses what they may we have no idea of easing up the fight till we get our enemy just where we want him.

In Canada we have not been hit hard as yet and were the war to end this year it is quite possible that our chief recollection of it would be that it was a time which provoked an era of unprecedented prosperity throughout our land and that as a result the increase of wealth of our people had never been so satisfactory. While the wealth of many has increased, the profits of some have shrunk, yet this shrinkage is so small that it cannot be weighed in the scales against the greater advantages of the many who have been more fortunate.

Our disappointments on the firing line, such as they are, have been chiefly of a military character and are directly traceable to our state of utter unpreparedness for such a conflict as that which Germany has forced upon us. We all understand that the reports of our operations out in the Near East are, regarded from one point of view, not of the most encouraging nature.

We simply cannot forget the wholesale destruction of these magnificent men from Australia during the landing operations at Gallipoli, nor the more recent immolation of the heroes of old Erin during the necessitated withdrawal from the front in Serbia. These chapters in the present day history of our armies are undoubtedly more than glorious; all the same, they are sad. Add to this story of sorrow, our own sense of loss as we recall the sacrifices of those who are even nearer and dearer to ourselves and it is not surprising if some of us are even beginning to learn the grim and relentless meaning of war. While none of us are down-hearted, some of us are sore-hearted and we are not going to pretend that we are not.

Be all this as it may, we are of one mind in this, that this war must go on and on, until we accomplish the purpose for which we entered upon it. This goal is clearly set before us and we are not going to permit our resolve in this respect to suffer any weakening or change. German militarism must be smashed, and as we are going to deliver the knockout blow, this Germany knows and this her rulers realize. From the Budapest Journal, as set, the following interesting testimony to this characteristic trait of

the English character is gleaned. The writer says: "Three Germans who look forward to an early peace with longings hardly must turn their eyes on England hopelessly, for as long as the sun of peace is not rising in the west of us there is no hope for peace. And England secure in her citadel behind the bulwarks of her fleet can go on and on and on."

And then he goes on to say that the Englishman, when disheartening circumstances come to him, instead of withdrawing from the gaze of battle and making the best of a bad job, merely settles down to a three-year war or a four-year war, working with bulldog tenacity to crush his enemy in the end. Here is the secret of England's enormous fighting strength.

This picture of England as seen through the enemies' eyes leaves little to be added as to the splendid staying power of the forces of our flag, and certainly such a picture is not calculated to encourage the hearts of our enemies the hope of a much desired victory. Last year of his readers should still labor under such illusion, this Hungarian editor concludes with these hope destroying words:

"We may be sure that if all the belaguerers are beaten into ineffectuality, he will still hammer away with bleeding fists, tired and exhausted. England in her persistence will never stop, even if she knows that the longer that the war lasts the more she will bleed, even if she knows that all possible gains at the finish will not make good half of what she has lost."

Our Boys of the 26th

The following verses were written by a fourteen year old St. John girl.

When England gave the call to "Arms" Amidst war, agitation and alarms, The little province by the sea, Familiarly known as N. B. Responded with her soldiers true, The 26th Battalion was formed there too.

To the city of St. John, they came, Brave and manly lads now known to fame, In our streets they marched along, With determined tread and courage strong, We were proud of them as they passed, With shoulders straight and heads held high.

With deepest sorrow, we saw them depart, Leaving loved ones, with an aching heart, And now we bear of their gallant deeds, All heroes they are, for the country's needs, Loyal and true to fight with their might, And help old England uphold the right.

To protect our land that our homes may be, Safe as ever and happy and free, These gallant lads are risking all, For King and country and honor's call, So why should we fear or worry a lot, Since the 26th Battalion is on the spot? M. J. B.

TOO MUCH RED TAPE IN DEALING WITH THE DOMINIONS

Head of Grand Trunk Railway Board Suggests British Authorities Drop Some of the Official Dignity.

London, Dec. 15 (Gazette Cable).—Mr. Alfred W. Smithers, chairman of the Grand Trunk Railway board, who has returned from Canada, refuses to make any statement concerning the difficulties of the Grand Trunk Pacific, but in the course of a brief interview he passed some criticisms on British officialdom. In crisis like this, he thought it a drawback that some of our statesmen had not been abroad. As a practical suggestion for carrying on official intercourse between the dominions and the imperial government, he would like to see British officials drop some of that official dignity which had insensibly surrounded them, and try to meet overseas representatives in a more frank and natural way. No one had a higher opinion of government servants in England than he, but if he could add to the quality of honesty and devotion which had characterized him, a little more freedom with less spirit of officialism, the effect in the overseas countries would be beneficial.

Mr. Smithers was chary in making prophecies far ahead, but he said he felt safe in assuming that the record harvest and the present activity in trade would ensure prosperity in Canada for the next two years.

FREDERICTON FAIR HAD SURPLUS OF \$2,000

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Dec. 15.—The Fredericton 1915 exhibition shows a surplus of \$2,000. The first official financial statement

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Ed Wernick is always talking about his unkel being a policeman, and yesterday after Flatfoot had made us stop playing ball in the street, I said, Ed, I wish your unkel was the cop awn this best insted of Flatfoot. I wish he was, to, he woodent stop you from doing anything as lawns as I was with you, sed Ed Wernick.

I bet he wood stop us if we tried to rob sum houses, sed Puds Simkins. Wood he, Ed, sed Sam Krawm.

Not is I told him not to, sed Ed Wernick, and I sed, Ware is his beet, Ed.

O, He about a mile from heer, sed Ed Wernick, and my cousin Arto sed, Take us eround and show him to us, a mile alnt so far, sum time we mite do sumthing awn his beet and if he nos us he wont arrest us.

Yes, take us eround, Ed, we awl sed. Wich he didnt want to at first, saying it mite be more than a mile for awl he nos, but after a wile he sed awl rise, and we awl startid to walk to see his unkel, and after we had bin wawking a pritty lawng wile, Ed sed, Its pritty far, I tell you, we bettir not go today.

Aw, go awn, wate you asayed of, sed Sid Hunt. Wich Ed Wernick sed be wasent afraid of anything, and he kepp awn taking us till we was awl pritty tired, and he sed, I told you it was pritty far, maybe we bettir go back.

Wich sum of us thawt maybe we bettir, and I sed, As lawns as we came this far we mite as well go the rest of the way. And we made Ed kepp awn taking us, and after about anuthir mile we saw a cop standing acrost a wall, being a fat cop with a mustash, and Ed Wernick sed, There he is, dont go to close to him.

Wy not, sed Puds Simkins, and Ed sed, He gets mad if he sees peopl looking at him. But we kepp awn getting closer sed the same, and after a wile the fat cop sed, Hay, wate ales you kids, wate do you think your rubbering st.

Are you Ed Wernicks unkel, I sed. Who the devils Ed Wernick, sed the cop. Proving he wasent, and also proving Ed Wernick properly alnt got any unkel, and even if he has he alnt a cop, and we awl wawked half way hoam agen and cawt a hitch behind a too waghin the rest of the way, evvrybody getting awn except Ed Wernick, and him not getting awn because we woodent let him.

of the fair was made this afternoon at the annual meeting of Agricultural Society No. 34 and was most enthusiastically received.

The satisfactory financial statement presented today is the best answer which could be given to the movement which was unsuccessfully launched to have no exhibition here last fall and it means that Agricultural Society No. 34 is in a position to go ahead for even bigger and better exhibitions in the future.

In some quarters there is already a feeling in favor of making a Fredericton exhibition an annual, instead of a biennial show. Many who ardently advocate such a plan claim that an annual four days fair would be better than the present arrangement in every respect.

The board of directors were re-elected by the meeting.

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