

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 19, 1915.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Catherine Street every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.

Subscriptions—Delivered by carrier \$5.00 per year, by mail \$2.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Representative—Frank R. Needham, Brunswick Building, New York; Advertising Building, Chicago.

British and European representative—The Glasgow Publishing Syndicate, Grand Trunk Building, Trafalgar Square, England.

THE WAR NEWS

One of the most significant signs of the time is the announcement by the Austrian war office that owing to the possibility that the war may last a long time the untrained Landsturm men between the ages of 18 and 20 will hereafter be liable for military service. Several months ago an American observer in Berlin said it was very noticeable that the young men to be seen in the streets of that city the greater majority, apart from those actually in uniform, were of poor physique or obviously in poor health. No doubt the same observer in Berlin or in any other city in Germany or Austria today would find this condition of affairs much more strongly in evidence. The strain of the war has been constant and unrelenting, and it is safe to assume that in both Germany and Austria all qualified men of fighting age are in the ranks, which are being steadily depleted by death or disablement or capture, making it necessary to bring forward more and more of the boys and the older men, and those who ordinarily would be excused from military service.

No doubt what is true of Germany and Austria in this respect is to some extent true of France, but Russia and the British Empire still have immense resources in men upon which to draw, and which must turn the scale of victory in their favor in the spring and summer campaign.

The future attitude of Italy is still in doubt, but there appears to be continuous friction between her and Austria, and the war party in Italy is undoubtedly strong. Dr. E. J. Dillon recently contributed to the London Daily Telegraph a very interesting article on Italy in relation to this war. He says that the problem confronting Italian statesmen is far more difficult than outsiders generally realize. For Italy, he says, it is a choice of dangers and evils rather than of hopes and advantages. When the war broke out Italy was entirely unprepared. Dr. Dillon says that Italy is essentially a land of peaceful progress, and nowhere in Europe is there a people more averse to war. For years past money has been pouring into Italy from hard-working Italian immigrants living in other parts of the world, and the government has labored hard to improve the material well-being of the people at home. We are told that when the present war broke out everything necessary for equipping an army was lacking. The heavy expenditure involved in the late struggle with Turkey pressed hard upon the nation, and the needs of national defense were neglected in an effort to improve the finances of the country. Hence when the present war broke out Italy was entirely unprepared. It was necessary to create an army. In that respect Dr. Dillon says she had to tackle a problem similar to that with which Great Britain was confronted. "She has had to raise and equip an enormous army, to lay in provisions and ammunition, to supply her troops with guns, to train the men and generally to qualify herself to play the part of a Great Power whether as neutral or as a belligerent." This great task has been accomplished in the last eight months, and the cables informed us last week that Italy had now 1,300,000 men of the first line fully equipped and ready to take the field. There is still a question, however, as to whether she should enter the war or remain neutral. In either case the burden must be very heavy, and Italy is not a rich country. The latest news from Rome indicates that the prospects of an agreement between Italy and Austria, with reference to territorial concessions, are not at all bright, and the danger of a clash between Italian and Austrian soldiers on the frontier appears to grow more imminent. It would not be surprising to find Italy in the near future fighting on the side of Britain and France.

It was announced last week that a German submarine had sunk a Dutch steamer and now a Greek steamer has been sunk off the Dutch coast. Thus there is friction between Greece and Germany, as well as between Holland and Germany, and the ill-advised utterances of the German ambassador to the United States, practically charging that country with a one-sided neutrality, has called forth very sharp comment from the American press. Both in war and diplomacy Germany is making a bad record.

The announcement that a Turkish torpedo boat attacked a transport steamer in the Aegean Sea shows that preparations are continuing for the cooperation of a land force with the allied fleets in the Dardanelles. The transport was carrying British troops. She escaped, and the torpedo boat was pursued and deliberately ran ashore on the Greek coast, where it is said her crew will be interned.

There is no longer any doubt about the success of the Russian in the Carpathians. An official communication from Petrograd says that in principle the Russian army seized the principal chain of the Carpathians at a distance of seventy-five miles, and captured at least 70,000 men and many guns, in addition to the other heavy losses inflicted upon the enemy.

Nothing of importance is reported from the western war zone, but the despatch convey the information

tion that the French and British continue to make slight gains. Further tributes are made by the British commanders to the steadiness of the Canadians in the trenches, and an official statement says "their conduct has been not only without reproach, but deserving the highest praise." Three Canadians, Major A. H. Gault, Lieut. Talbot M. Papineau of Montreal, and Lieut. Colquhoun of Hamilton have received decorations in recognition of their "conspicuous gallantry" in action with the Princess Patricia's.

Quietly and steadily, with the amazing mastery of detail which has marked the work of the British war office, British soldiers are being transported to France, and other British soldiers are being recruited and trained for the crucial struggle of the summer months. It has been declared both by Sir John French and General Joffre that they can break through the German lines when the completion of their plans makes that movement necessary. The cost will be great, but there can be no doubt of the ultimate result.

When the police made a raid in Chapel Street on Saturday night the lid was partly lifted upon conditions in this city which are the despair of the advocates of social reform.

This is no time for a strike on the Intercolonial Railway. The fact should be perfectly clear both to the management of the railway and to the Brotherhood of Railway Employees.

Germany is levying enormous tribute in Belgium. All this must be repaid with interest, but nothing that Germany may do in the years to come can heal the sorrows of the Belgian people, whose sons have been killed, their women outraged, and their homes made desolate.

The Germans having adopted deadly gases as a proper weapon in trench warfare, the British also appear to have made a successful experiment along that line. A book that would set forth in their nakedness all the horrors of this war would be of a sort to be read only by persons of a very strong mind.

The St. John Standard appears to be entirely satisfied with the results of the boot inquiry, and with the kind of boots served out to the soldiers of the first contingent and at least a part of the second contingent. The Standard would be satisfied with anything, so long as the Borden government remained in power and its rake-off friends continued to flourish.

The people of Canada owe it to the vigilance of the Liberals that the new war vote of \$100,000,000 will be expended under the supervision of a non-partisan commission, if the Borden government really makes up its mind to appoint such a commission. The Liberals heartily approved of the war vote, but they do not want any of the money to go to the way some of the former vote went, in purchasing horses, drugs, binoculars and other supplies.

The Borden government refused to accept two vital amendments to the bill providing votes for soldiers which were presented by Dr. Papey, but when the bill came back from the senate containing these provisions they were adopted with a very slight change. But for the amendments made at the suggestion of Liberals the bill would have furnished a fine opportunity for fraud, and preventing those soldiers who are Liberals from having their ballots properly deposited and counted for Liberal candidates.

It must be a great source of satisfaction to learn that the \$61,000 required for the Duchess of Connaught Canadian Red Cross Hospital at Glencoe has been subscribed. Naturally Lady Tilley and the Red Cross workers of New Brunswick are intensely gratified that the people of the province have provided the money for St. New Brunswick beds, and an additional sum of \$441.29 for the purchase of anesthetics and other supplies. To every patriotic appeal that is made the people of this province and of Canada generally respond nobly.

The Foreshore Bill has reappeared in a new guise. It comes in as a section of an amendment to the Highway Act. It gives supervisors the power to go anywhere on the foreshore and take gravel for road repairing. This is a very dangerous proceeding. It is very easy to say that supervisors will do no wrong, but it would be very easy for any supervisor who wanted to make an unpleasant for any owner of land fronting a beach to do so. Moreover, if gravel and sand can be taken for one kind of public work why not for another? This bill is an entering wedge, and should not have been given a second reading without giving those whose interests will be vitally affected an opportunity to be heard.

Figures compiled by weather experts show that Atlantic City enjoys an average winter and spring temperature ten degrees higher than that of other cities in the same latitude.



LIGHTER VEIN.

Wary Waddles—Wot's a neglige shirt, Mike?

Meandering Mike—One that ain't been washed for three weeks.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Germany's willingness to pay for Italy's neutrality in Austrian territory calls to mind Artemus Ward's willingness to sacrifice his mother-in-law and, if necessary, his wife's other relations on the altar of his country.—Florida Times-Union.

Secretary Daniels, apropos of his teetotal navy, said at a Washington luncheon "The navies of the past were by no means teetotal. It is incredible how much those sea dogs of the past could drink. Why, they even mixed gunpowder with their grog! It is said that Lady Hamilton, at a ball in Naples, once nodded toward a rubicund sailor, and said to Lord Nelson: 'That gentleman is from the Arethusa, I believe. But just what is his official capacity?' 'Seven bottles,' Nelson replied."

"Did you notice that lovely girl in the pretty brown dress, waiting in the lobby?" he asked his wife as they took their seats in the theatre.

"What? That drowsy thing with the false puffs, enameled face, gold teeth, made-over dress, imitation mink fur, and torn gloves? No, I didn't notice her. Why?—Puck."

Aunt—"Are you getting along nicely at school, Charlie?" Charlie—"Yes, aunt. I've got the best place in the class."

Aunt—"And where is that—at the top?" Charlie—"No, near the fire."

"I understand that you have called to ask for my daughter's hand?"

"Oh, my darling like that."

"Then—"

"She and I settled all that. What I have called to ask is whether you will let the house you are going to turn over to us when we are married."

Hokus—"What makes you think he is a vegetarian?"

Pokus—"I have smoked his cigars—Judge."

Lady Visitor—"That's a badly wounded soldier—what are you going to do with him?"

Ordinary—"Oh, 'e's golt' back again to the front."

Lady Visitor—"Good heavens—what are you doing?"

Ordinary—"E thinks 'e knows who done it."—From London Opinion.

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STRIKE ON I. C. R. IS THREATENED

Montreal, April 18—The Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees, of which A. R. Mosher, of Halifax, is grand president, has issued an ultimatum to the management of the Canadian government railways to the effect that they will cease work in a body by Friday next, unless the general manager, P. J. Gethaus, meets representatives of the Brotherhood and settles to their satisfaction their alleged grievances. The grievances set up by the Brotherhood of officials are:

1—Alleged failure of the I. C. R. management to carry out all the terms of the agreement of March 21, 1913, between the I. C. R. and the Brotherhood.

2—Refusal of the management to grant an agreement covering pier employees at Halifax and St. John. This, Mr. Gethaus stated, was refused because it was simply intended to enforce recognition of the organization, and establish preference in employment to its members.

3—Refusal of the management to permit the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees to absorb the Maintenance of Way Employees. Mr. Gethaus stated tonight that of the 10,000 employees of the government railways a considerable number did not belong to any labor organization, while the balance were members of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees, these comprising various employees not affiliated with regular trades unions. He said that Mr. Mosher's course in trying to get men from other recognized organizations into his own was strongly

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ly disapproved by the regular unions.

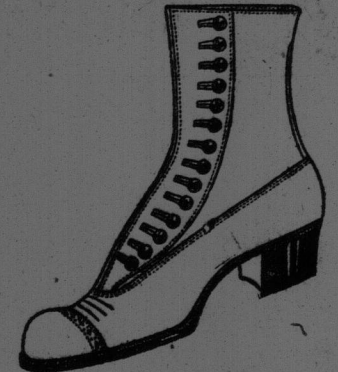
Mr. Gethaus said that in the circumstances the management of the government railways would not accede to Mr. Mosher's demands, and that if Mr. Mosher should fulfill his threat and call a strike of all the members of his organization it would probably seriously hamper the work of the government railway at a time when it was most urgently needed to carry men and munitions of war for the British armies in Europe, since the men going out, though not very numerous, would interfere with the work of those who remained loyal. Any strike at present, he said, would therefore not only injure the Intercolonial, but also interfere with Canada's work in carrying out the prosecution of the war.

PORTSMOUTH DOCKS FIRE

Damage Was Serious; Germans Suspected and Censor Cut Off News

London, April 18—There was a rumor in London on the night of Jan. 31, that a serious fire had broken out in the big government dockyards at Portsmouth, but the government smothered all inquiries with a prompt denial, and the censor eliminated all mention of the matter from press despatches.

It now appears that the fire was of very serious character and came near wiping out the docks and other valuable properties at Portsmouth. The real extent of the damage is still carefully concealed. It is the common belief in official circles that the fire was the work of incendiaries, presumably German spies. A carefully worded notice has been issued by the dockyard authorities, offering a reward of \$500 "for the discovery of the incendiaries responsible for the fire at the building ship sheds the night of Jan. 31."



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