

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1917.

"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 SOLDIER AND HIS VOTE.

The Canadian Government has properly decided that in the election which is certain to be held this year every facility shall be extended to the soldier overseas to cast his ballot, and the bill to provide for this is now before the House of Commons, having received its first reading yesterday.

The measure, which has been prepared by Hon. C. J. Doherty, seems to take account of all conditions to be met and to provide as fully as possible for the collection and counting of the votes of the Canadian soldiers. That is no easy task, but the Government is making every effort to have it properly done.

The soldier vote will be a big and, possibly, the determining factor in the election. Generally it is believed that the men in khaki, as well as those who have returned from overseas, are solidly behind the Government in all measures looking to the winning of the war. That our boys at the front are convinced that the policy of the Laurierites means delay in securing needed reinforcements is evident from the following sentences taken from a letter received a day or two ago from a young Canadian officer who has been wounded in action and is now convalescing in England. He says: "The boys here are strong for conscription and they don't want any referendum about it or unnecessary delay in putting it in force. We enlisted and came over here of our own accord. Lots of others in Canada were better able to do it than some of us. Conscription will make those men toe the mark. That's why we want it, and most of the boys will support any government which decides for conscription."

In taking the soldier vote two considerations must be the subject of special attention. The first is that the opportunity to vote shall be extended to every soldier whether he is in the line of battle, in hospital, or convalescing. This will necessitate a longer time between nomination and polling and the intention of the Government's measure is that the soldier shall have at least four weeks for the purpose. The second consideration is the collection and counting of the ballot and the Government proposes that it shall all be done in England under the supervision of English authorities. That is distinctly the fairest and most businesslike method.

In arranging for the soldier vote the Government will take every step to insure that the man in khaki shall have the opportunity to cast his ballot and that ballot shall be counted. There will be no contrivance of the vote as was the case in Alberta, where the Liberal government practically deprived the soldier of the right to vote in his own constituency, giving him as a poor substitute the opportunity to elect three soldier representatives. In the coming election the soldier will have the opportunity of voting for the representative of his own constituency just the same as if he was at home, the only difference being that it will take longer for his vote to be counted and added to those already polled in Canada. In consequence of this the result of the election may not be known for several weeks after polling day.

It is expected that the Laurierites will put obstacles in the way of the bill, for it is not the desire of the anti-conscriptionists to allow the soldiers to vote at all if it can be prevented. As they are unable to prevent it, it is not impossible that they may seek to have the bill amended to provide for the herding of the soldiers in certain constituencies. Such a plan cannot succeed as the basis of representation has already been determined by the redistribution measure and the Government will not consent to allow the rights of the soldier to be interfered with in any way.

The measure now before the House of Commons contains all the safeguards that the best thought in the administration can devise. The soldier will have the opportunity of casting his ballot for his own candidate in his home constituency. That is the fair and honest method of conducting the business, the only method by which the soldiers can exercise their full influence. That method the Government has adopted and it will commend itself to all Canadians, irrespective of political affiliation, who believe that, after all, the welfare of the Empire and the soldier of that Empire is the most important issue to be decided by the electors. And who has better right to decide that issue than the men most affected by it?

AN EPOCH MARKING EVENT.

In the Grant and Horne shipyard yesterday the keel was laid of the

first vessel built in St. John for many years. Those who participated in or witnessed the ceremony expressed the hope which is in the mind of every citizen today, that the industry, the start of which was marked by yesterday's event, may grow and develop until St. John once more comes to the position of importance it once held in the world as a centre of shipbuilding.

When wooden shipbuilding was in its prime, in what we are wont to call "the good old days," the port of St. John ranked with the first half dozen in the British Empire in the volume of that business. Times have changed and the great steel shipbuilding industry of today finds its centre in Great Britain and Ireland. With the revival of the sailing vessel the wheel has turned again and there is no reason why this part of the world should not resume its former station.

St. John has great natural advantages as a shipbuilding centre and it is a matter of congratulation that after many years these are attracting attention. Already one concern has started the actual work of ship construction. Two others are preparing their yards and plant, while there is every reason to believe that negotiations looking to the establishment of an immense steel shipbuilding plant in this port are progressing favorably. To date much of the money invested in these ventures is outside capital, but it is believed that citizens of St. John may soon have the opportunity of demonstrating their faith in the possibilities of this port. The Grant and Horne company, the Saker concern, and the St. John Shipbuilding Company are all deserving of the greatest measure of encouragement from civic and municipal authorities and from our citizens. The business in which they are engaged is capable of great expansion and development. With such expansion St. John must prosper and develop correspondingly. Therefore, the event of yesterday is likely to become of epoch marking importance August 13th, 1917, may go down in history as the date on which this grand old city took the first step toward regaining the title it once had—the greatest shipbuilding centre in Canada.

SCORN, CONTEMPT AND BLAZING INDIGNATION.

The more we hear of the Liberal convention in Winnipeg the more does it seem to resemble the George P. Graham convention in Toronto.

In each case a beautiful set of unanimous resolutions was given to the public and in each case it has transpired that the delegates were far more divided than the public had been given to understand.

The Winnipeg convention has been repudiated by the Liberal press of Winnipeg just as the Graham convention had to be repudiated by the Liberal press of Toronto.

The Manitoba Free Press, which is the most influential opposition newspaper west of Toronto, openly condemns the Winnipeg convention for calling upon the West to support Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his opposition to conscription. The Free Press concludes a scathing article with the words:

"The Liberals of Western Canada who have given their blood and treasure to this great cause, whose homes are desolate by the sacrifices of the war, are to do this in order that ambitious gentlemen in Edmonton and Vancouver may recover or secure certain jobs that are attractive to them. The Western Liberals will regard the proposition as an unspeakable infamy. They will reject it with scorn, with contempt, with blazing and wrathful indignation."

The Winnipeg Tribune, independent Liberal, is equally vitriolic in its editorial review of the convention. It emphasizes the enormous and unprecedented difficulties which the Borden Government has had to overcome in presence of the war. It condemns the delegates as a crowd of party politicians bent on the achievement of office.

It scores them for planning to use Sir Wilfrid Laurier in consolidating all the disloyal elements in the population against conscription. It declares that all true Liberals and loyal Canadians must unite in a determined effort to defeat such an unpatriotic conspiracy.

The Great War Veterans' Association has already denounced the conclusions of the Winnipeg convention as an insult to the Canadians on the firing line, to their friends and relatives at home, and to all decent-minded Canadians everywhere.

The Toronto News correspondent says the convention was composed of hand-picked machine delegates, many

of them representative of the alien, anti-British sections of the community. Under the leadership of furious partisans and incurable idolaters like Hon. Frank Oliver and Hon. C. W. Cross, this packed gathering passed eulogies on Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It also evaded the paramount issue of conscription for the support of the 150,000 Western Canadians overseas.

The Winnipeg convention has clarified the atmosphere. It has accentuated the division between what Dr. Michael Clark has called the winners and the quitters. The quitters are lined up behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the winners behind Sir Robert Borden.

Patriotic citizens are with the Prime Minister and all the disloyal people with the opposition leader. This is true of Western as of Eastern Canada. And we believe that the patriots are the more numerous.

The vitally important problem facing Canada today is that of adequately reinforcing the country's defenders at the front in the shortest possible time. To this object home-keeping Canadians must devote all their energies.

GERMANY'S TRADE IS A TOTAL WRECK

Terrific Commercial Cost of the War—Best Customers Now Enemies.

Washington, August 13. — German faith in German victory in the war already has been shaken, and now is manifesting itself publicly in pocket-book quarters.

The German trader is for self, first, last and all the time, now he is beginning to realize that in place of the world trade which Prussian military diplomacy promised as his reward for financing the conquest of the world he must reap only ashes; that not only has the friendliness of most of Germany's customers through the civilized world been hopelessly alienated, but German trade already has been destroyed in three-quarters of the face of the globe. Germany's great merchant ships are in the hands of her enemies and the elaborate and scientific commercial machinery she has built up has been destroyed as completely as the engines in her captured merchantmen. This weakening of German hope has figured in the debates in the Reichstag, where the Conservative centre party has voiced its strong suspicion of the Government and is chafing over the cost of a war which promises only ultimate bankruptcy. Germany's foreign trade and reached the enormous total of \$5,000,000,000 a year just before the war opened. Germany's second only to Great Britain in exports and merchant fleet, and her salesmanship had proved superior to that of any other nation. All this great commercial fabric has now fallen, while rival nations are rapidly learning the secrets of German efficiency.

What Germany is Doing.

The cold statistics of the United States Department of Commerce appear fully to justify the growing apprehension in Germany over the enormous trade losses the country must suffer as a result of the war. Far more than one-third of the export trade of Germany at the outbreak of the war, these figures show, was with the nations which she forced into the war by acts of Prussian terrorism. In other words, of the \$2,485,229,300 worth of German products which she exported in 1913, \$1,755,000,000 were sold to the nations now at war with her and whose bitter and determined hostility is being passed on to her through the present generation. In the meantime, and until the Prussian war lords sue for peace, all but a comparatively negligible proportion of Germany's normal foreign trade of \$5,212,000,000, including exports and imports, is completely wiped out, due to her isolation, while the countries with which she was taking over her markets.

German Merchant Ships Seized.

That part of Germany's merchant shipping which has not been seized by her enemies or interned in neutral ports is locked up in her harbors, while hulls rot and engines grow rusted. Just how much of her tonnage has been seized by her foes cannot readily be ascertained, although some idea is suggested in the fact that the United States alone seized some ninety-three vessels of an aggregate tonnage of between 450,000 and 500,000 tons.

At the outbreak of the war Germany boasted 450 steamers and sailing vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 5,163,724 tons, or approximately 6 per cent of the world's shipping. Cargo tonnage entered and cleared from German ports at the rate of \$2,000,000 tons a year. How long it will take Germany to regain the proud place she now holds as a merchant marine, then occupied, with her enemies, and particularly the United States, concentrating strenuous efforts on building ships, is one of the elements of uncertainty that is beginning to plague the German people, according to information that reaches here from the neutral countries adjacent to Germany.

Only Ruins to Show for Plans.

Ever since the teachings of men like Treitschke began to impress on modern German philosophy the doctrine of force, the Pan-Germanist movement has been fed with the idea that only by means of territorial expansion and the acquisition of colonial possessions could Germany hope to rival her competitors in the struggle for world commerce. While stolid German burghers proceeded ploddingly and patiently along to build up a vast foreign trade for Germany through sheer force of German thor-

Little Benny's Note Book.

Pop sat down in the Morris chair after supper yesterday, and ma sed, "Why don't you smoke your pipe tonight, Willyum. It's a rainy nite, and everything and I shood think it woud be jest the rite time to smoke your pipe."

I must confess that so soon after a harty supper my brane is not equal to puzzeling out jest were the rane comes in; but your suggestion has merit. I believe I woud smoke my pipe if I suddinly found it in my mouth already filled with tobacco and with a lighted match in the foreground, sed pop.

Ill fill it, Ill fill it, sed ma. Wich she did, with tobacco out of pops tobacco jar, and then she put it in pops mouth and lit a match and held it for him, and as soon as pop took a puff his face looked funny, and as soon as he took another puff he started to kawf, saying, Well for Peets sake.

Are you surprised? sed ma. Surprised is a mild wurd for it, sed pop.

A man came around with samples of it in the cunningest little bags this aftinnoon, sed ma, and Mrs. Jones gave me her sample because Mr. Jones dont smoke a pipe, and Mrs. Wilkins gave me her sample because Mr. Wilkins dont smoke a pipe either, and Benny collected 6 more samples for me and I emptied them all in your tobacco jar, wasn't that clever?

It was brilliant, sed pop, but were in hecks my own tobacco that I jest bawt the uther day?

Thats jest it, sed ma, its so fresh it will keep till youve finished this, there awt to be enuff here to last you 3 weeks.

Not to say 3 years, sed pop.

WY, Willyum, sed ma, you dont mean to say you dont like it after all the trubbel I took, and pop sed, Well, it duzzent ixactly impress it to say I dont like it, but its wat I call single puff tobacco, that is to say, one puff is plenty, one puff leaves you with a feeling that youve had enuff, as it were. I think Ill take it down to the offfis, were I dont have time for more than a puff or 2.

Well, if thats the kind of tobacco it is, sed ma. And she started to nitt socks for soldiers, and pop lit a segar.

oughness and German efficiency, the German militarists preached the theory that by dint of military conquest Germany could gain more commerce in a day than peaceful competition could win for her in years. At the end of three years of frightful bloodshed and at the sacrifice of unnumbered thousands of lives, the German people are beginning to realize that all they have to show for their foreign trade prospects are the ruins of the elaborate machinery of commerce which they had built up during the years of peace.

Typical Methods in Latin America.

How thoroughly and painstakingly they had built up the machinery and how intimately it was bound up with the prosperity of the German nation, officials here say, is illustrated amply in the history of the German markets in South Central America. Never have the von Hindenburg or the Ludendorffs of the German general staff planned with more precision and exactness of detail their military campaigns than the German traders displayed in mapping out their commercial conquest in Latin America. Through fifty years their quiet, effective work went on, and the extent to which they succeeded is shown by the fact that at the outbreak of the European war, Germany's sales to Latin America were exceeded only by those of Great Britain. They almost equalled the combined sales of France, Italy and Belgium, and to ten of the South American countries Germany sold in 1913, \$150,000,000 worth of goods, or 12 1/2 per cent more than these same ten countries bought from the United States. Brazil alone, that great country whose territory is fifteen times Germany's area and who is now numbered among Germany's enemies, bought in 1913 German goods to the amount of \$57,000,000 a year.

Fruits of Doctrine of Force.

With typical thoroughness the German nation began tackling the peace of the Latin-American market soon after the Franco-Prussian war. German trade bodies, civic associations, manufacturers, merchants, shipowners, colleges and individuals all co-operated with the government to the common end. Elaborate government commissions were sent out to South America to study the needs of the Latin-Americans and to court their good-will. Trade and business organizations followed with experts and specialists who studied the markets in detail and sent back reports which the German government printed and circulated at home. German banks were established at the South American ports and commercial schools in Germany established special courses in Spanish and Portuguese, Latin-American business methods and even etiquette. Colonies of German emigrants were set up as nuclei of trade. Costly shipping lines were established and so subsidized by the German government that it was possible for the German exporter to ship German-made goods from Hamburg to Valparaiso at cheaper rates than to cities within the Fatherland itself. It was this elaborate machinery, rivaling in effectiveness any trade venture the world had ever seen, that the German militarists, preaching the doctrine of force, found too slow and inglorious.

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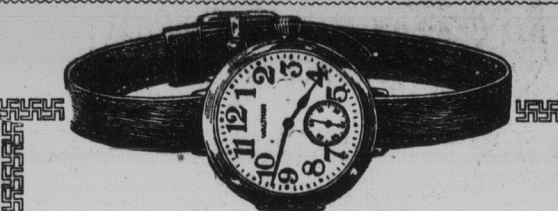
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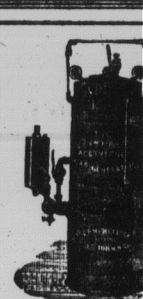
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