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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 23, 1916

"IDLE TALK."

The rumor-mongers are busy just now with reports about men being shot for offences against military law. No soldier has been shot in Canada, or in Great Britain, for such an offence since the beginning of the present war. Surprising testimony on this point was given a few days ago in the British House of Commons. There are cases in which the death penalty would be necessary, of course, but they have not yet occurred. In reporting the debate referred to the London Times says:

"The Attorney-General protested against the manner in which hon. members spoke of the possibility of men being shot for trivial offences. 'It may interest the House and the country to know,' he said, 'that of all the millions of soldiers who have from time to time been collected in this country from the beginning of the war until the present day, and with the mass of grave offences which naturally have occurred in this country from the beginning of the war, not one man has been shot from the time of the outbreak of war until the present day. Let us have less of this idle talk about men being shot.'"

"Speaking later on an amendment moved by Mr. Snowden, and supported by Sir W. P. Byles (Salford, N., L.) and Mr. Outhwaite, providing that 'no provisions in any Acts or regulations referred to in this section which impose the death penalty shall have effect under this Act,' the Attorney-General said he made this statement on the authority of a very distinguished officer connected with the disciplinary side of the war. Although some three million troops had been trained in this country since the outbreak of the war, there had been no single case in which the capital sentence had been carried out, or even indeed pronounced. That being so, the discussion was a very academic one. In his view there was no case for differentiation as between the men who had volunteered and those who would be brought in under the present Bill. Whilst we could congratulate ourselves upon the crimelessness of our Armies, he would be a bold man who would say that in no case in the future it would be necessary to resort to the terrible sentence of death."

Those who circulate stories about the shooting of soldiers in Canada after court martial will observe that they have been engaging in "idle talk."

THE TAXES ON PROFITS.

There was some confusion in the first despatches which reached St. John regarding Sir Thomas White's proposals to tax business profits. In the report of his speech it was not made sufficiently clear that taxes applied to profits in excess of seven per cent. in the case of incorporated companies and in excess of ten per cent. in the case of unincorporated lines of business. Further, the despatches were somewhat obscure as to the manner in which the banks and kindred organizations are affected. The following verbatim report of a portion of the Finance Minister's speech will clear up the details referred to. He said:

"To particularize, our proposal is as follows:

"Upon all incorporated companies carrying on business in Canada, excepting the life insurance companies, which are otherwise dealt with, and those engaged in agriculture, we propose to impose a tax of one-fourth of the net profits for every accounting period ending since the outbreak of the war in excess of seven per cent. upon paid-up capital. Provision is made for determining the profits and paid-up capital made and employed in Canada in the case of non-Canadian companies carrying on business in Canada and subject to the tax.

"Upon individuals, firms, partnerships and associations we propose a tax of one-fourth of the net profits for every accounting period ending since the outbreak of the war in excess of ten per cent. upon the capital engaged in their business.

"The taxation will not apply to persons, firms or companies whose capital is less than $50,000. This limitation will not, however, apply to those engaged in manufacturing or dealing in munitions or material of war and supplies for war purposes. The duration of the measure will be limited to August 3, 1917. Banks and companies which are already taxed under the provisions of the special war revenue act, 1915, shall during the period of the measure now proposed be exempt from taxation under its provisions to the extent to which they are taxed under the said special war revenue act. The yearly taxation under this measure will be payable on or before the first day of November in each year. The first payment will therefore not be called for until next November."

Sir Thomas White directed attention to the difference between the proposed taxes on incorporated as compared with unincorporated enterprises, and said that the reason why incorporated companies are to be taxed upon a higher basis than individuals and partnerships is that "capital in the case of joint stock companies frequently represents intangible assets or capitalized earning power or the good will. We found it a practical impossibility to go behind the capitalization of companies and endeavor to ascertain the precise value of their assets, as can be done in the case of individuals or partnerships." He said railways, public franchise, and so called holding companies, mining and other corporations would illustrate this difficulty. There was, in addition, the further fact that shareholders in incorporated companies have purchased their shares and received their dividends upon the basis of issued capital stock.

He said that provision would be made to prevent any individual or company from evading this taxation of profits by further stock issues, or by the incorporation of companies to take over existing businesses, and that measures were in preparation also to prevent the postponement of the distribution of profits on operations or contracts wholly or partially performed.

Business men who have been examining Hon. Mr. White's proposals will see that the difficulties in the way of an equitable tax on profits will be very great. In some cases corporations or firms in which only single individuals, or a few men, are interested, have not always properly allowed, in their bookkeeping, for depreciation, and in other cases issues of stock in one company have been small as compared with the number of shares issued in other companies whose earnings are no greater. But, aside from these difficulties about treating all profits alike, it must be evident that many wealthy men will escape this special form of taxation altogether, because their money may not be actively employed in enterprises which Hon. Mr. White's plan will reach.

The exact form of the resolution under which the Minister of Finance is to act will be found on another page of The Telegraph to-day, and business men will probably give it careful examination.

EGYPT AND THE TURKS.

Rev. Canon Gould, secretary of the Church of England Missionary Society, who has spent thirteen years in Syria and Arabia, told the Toronto Canadian Club, a few days ago, that no immediate invasion of Egypt is possible. He declared that the enemy has neither the troops to spare for such an undertaking nor the means of transporting them. Egypt, he said, is safe from the Germans and the Turks and can easily be kept safe if Great Britain does not take too much for granted. "It is vital," said Canon Gould, "for Britain to maintain her status in the near east. Should Germany succeed in dominating the holy cities she could dominate as she wishes the whole Mohammedan world."

The canon said that there was not a single double-track railway in Turkish Asia when the war began, and he believed that none had been completed since. He did not credit the stories that British aviators had secured photographs of these sections showing that new tracks had been completed. "The maximum Turkish force that could attack the Suez Canal numbered not more than 80,000 last year," said Canon Gould. "Owing to the lack of railroads that number could not now have been more than doubled."

Canon Gould told his audience that the proclamations of the Kaiser were so worded that they could be translated word for word into Arabic language and distributed throughout the Mohammedan world. This was, he believed, aimed at the supremacy of the Kaiser over the Sultan so that the Kaiser could finally become the protector of the holy cities of Medina and Mecca and the Hejaj. Germany was now in forcible control of the material and human forces of Syria and to a material extent of the Arabian peninsula also. This, however, was of no immediate benefit as there were great areas of Turkey in Asia that are on the verge of starvation. This condition the speaker ascribed to a great plague of locusts which swept the country last year. He also declared that Constantinople is nearer the verge of starvation at this hour than any other great capital.

Canon Gould will find many military observers who will agree with him in what he says regarding the much talked of invasion of Egypt. It is evident from Lord Kitchener's remarks in the House of Lords on Tuesday that he does not fear such a development. The War Secretary is confident that a move of this kind can be prevented, and he undoubtedly speaks from first-hand information. The British seem pretty sure of Egypt. They have done too much there to take any chance of losing it to the Turks. In Canon Gould's words: "The true history of what Britain has done for Egypt has yet to be written. The channels of justice have been swept clean. The usurer and the despot have been struck down. The glory of this work would stand as long as the British Empire stands."

THE WESTERN FRONT.

Lloyd George evidently expects the heaviest kind of fighting this spring. He is not thinking about a war of attrition, but of heavy assaults upon the enemy's lines. The latest English mail brings full reports of an interview he recently gave to an Italian newspaper, some mention of which we recently had by cable. In reading what he said a month ago, it is well to remember that "next spring" is already at hand in France and Belgium. "By next spring," he said, "we shall have turned out an immense amount of munitions. We shall have for the first time in the war more than the enemy. Our superiority in men and materials will be unquestioned, and I think the war for us is beginning only now."

He said there can be no lasting condition of stalemate: "The victory must be a real and a final victory. The long line, extending to 2,000 miles, held by the enemy must be broken. You must not think of a deadlock. You must crack the nut before you get at the kernel. It may take a long time, but you must hear the crack."

How long a time it will take will depend largely upon the coming spring campaign. The preliminary fighting is already going on. Around Ypres the Germans are battling desperately to wrest from the Allies certain ground which the British and French might use later on as gun positions when they begin their artillery "preparation" of the trenches against which they will subsequently launch their infantry.

The London Times argument that the western front is the vital one is strongly endorsed by Spenser Wilkinson, Professor of Military History at Oxford. On the western front, and there alone, a decision is to be sought, he says; "that belief expresses the sum and substance of the best that is known and thought in the world on the subject of the direction of armies in war." He elaborates this idea:

"The greatest teacher of the theory of war held that, when the purpose was the overthrow of the adversary, the first principle was 'to ascertain the centres of gravity of the enemy's masses, if possible their one centre of gravity; to reduce the blows against these centres of gravity to as few main actions as may be, if possible to one, and to keep all subordinate actions as subordinate as possible; in a word to concentrate the action as much as possible.' The second principle was 'to act as quickly as possible, that is, to allow of no delays and of no departure from the shortest way except for sufficient reason.' In the present war there is no difficulty about finding the centre of gravity of the adversaries' masses. It is evident that if the power of Germany were broken the German combination would fall to pieces. The defeat of Germany would carry with it that of Austria-Hungary and of Turkey. But the defeat of Turkey or even of Turkey and Austria-Hungary would leave Germany still to be dealt with. The defeat of Germany's armies on either front would cause her collapse; the French and British armies have the German armies before them on the Western front and can there act with all their might. They cannot transfer their full weight to any other front.

"The masters of land warfare have always acted on the same principle as the masters of sea warfare. At sea nothing but a navy can resist a navy. If of two opposing navies one destroys the other, the victorious fleet can no longer be resisted, because the adversary has nothing left that can stand to fight it. Accordingly the destruction of the opposing fleet leaves the victor in command of the sea. In land warfare a great general destroys the enemy's army; after that the enemy has no army left able to resist him, and the victorious army can march where it will, though its power of movement is incomparably less than that of a fleet and the range of its command proportionately restricted. After Jena Prussia was disarmed, after Waterloo France was helpless."

This is the opinion of many British and neutral students of the war; but they do not mean that they expect another Waterloo or Jena alone, but several of them. With the length of front and the numbers now engaged it is no longer possible to end the war by a single battle however great. But, as at the time of the Marne, one battle may grow into several, each followed by changes in the front measured by the striking power of the victor and his ability to strike again before the enemy is ready to continue the test of strength.

The desperate fighting at present going on along the British and French fronts is generally accepted as a preliminary struggle for positions from which to move with advantage when the ground has become dry enough for the first great test of 1916.

AN EYE FOR AN EYE.

As to the Zeppelin discussion in Great Britain, those who advocate reprisals—an eye for an eye—are no more positive than those who argue against adopting the barbarian's weapon even in fighting barbarians. The discussion has developed very sharp differences of opinion. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, one of the strongest advocates of reprisals, said in a recent letter that "blood and iron" was the doctrine of the Hun only so long as it was his iron and someone else's blood, but that retaliation in kind would soon change his policy. He is convinced that nothing short of the killing of German civilians will cause the Germans to refrain from making war upon non-combatants in Britain and France. He said:

"If such a policy were at once put in force it might act as a preventive—which is better than vengeance. But if it must be vengeance, then the blood is on the head of those who with their eyes open have provoked it. The whole world has been a witness to our patience. But for the sake of our own women and children the time has come when these murders must be stopped. If their civilians die as a consequence of the deliberate actions of their fellow-countrymen, then it is they and not we who have doomed them. There should be no limit to the bombardment of these towns. We should go on and on until we have a formal promise that this form of warfare shall stop."

This view of the case has been challenged sharply in several quarters. One curious reply to Sir Conan Doyle's argument came from a captain of artillery in the British trenches. He wrote to the London Times, saying:

"I have read with surprise Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's letter asking that reprisals should be undertaken against German cities in reply to their Zeppelin bombardments of London. I must confess at once that I have no objection to such reprisals on any moral grounds, but why on earth should we follow the German example and dissipate our military effort in killing civilians? Surely it is not asking too much of the inhabitants of London to take their chance of a few dozen bombs at very long intervals without squealing for reprisals which can have no military result. By what right do you in London demand that we in France should drop bombs on anything except the German Army and its communications? Merely to make you a little safer than you are—and God knows the risk to each one of you is not very great. I have no figures whatever to go upon but I should imagine that the amount of money and effort required to drop a ton of explosives on London from Zeppelins would suffice to put ten or twenty tons of explosives into our trenches in Flanders. Perhaps this thought might help London to look on their Zeppelin bombardments, if not with pleasure, at least with resignation."

The British government has not yet given any indication of intention to act upon the suggestions of those who advocate air attacks on German centres of population. Sir Conan Doyle, it will be recalled, suggested establishing a British airship base at Nancy which would be within comparatively easy flying distance of Frankfurt, Coblentz, Cologne, Bonn and Wiesbaden. All of these places are much closer to Nancy than London is to the eastern part of Belgium where the Zeppelins start from.

THOSE TAXES ON PROFITS.

What the Toronto Star calls a sample case is presented to show some of the difficulties in the way of applying Sir Thomas White's taxes on profits equitably. "Here", says the Star, "are two businesses in the same line of industry of which The Star has knowledge. We show how they will be affected by the new taxes. They are of about equal value, whether value is estimated by assets, revenues, or profits. One has capital stock recently doubled without new capital to one million dollars, the other's capital stock is $200,000. How will the new taxes affect them? The first business will pay no tax at all, because its profits do not reach $70,000. The other will pay on all its profits over $14,000, or probably ten or twelve thousand dollars a year. What is the remedy? To go behind the capitalization in the case of incorporated companies and find out the real invested capital as the Minister of Finance proposes to do with individuals or partnerships."

In commenting further upon Sir Thomas White's scheme the Star says:

"Ability to pay and equitable application should be the fundamentals of any taxation proposals. It is no justification for the violation of these principles that they are difficult of attainment. The minister tells us 'we found it practically an impossibility to go behind the capitalization of companies.' If that is true the confession, we fear, is an admission of the unsoundness of his plan. Some way must be found by Parliament of making it practicable to apply the tax fairly and equitably as between businesses of equal 'employed capital,' and to present stock-watering from rewarding itself at the expense of the public treasury."

THE WAR.

The most encouragmg event for the Allies since the battle of Champagne last September, and possibly since the Russians were climbing the Carpathians a year ago. Such is the New York Evening Post's description of the storming of Erzerum. Once more the shock of a Russian victory is felt in every part of the whole war theatre.

"The implications for the war as a whole of the Grand Duke's victory at Erzerum are many," says the Post. "It shows Russia's recuperative powers that a successful offensive should be conducted in the Caucasus simultaneously with tremendous assaults against the Austro-Germans on the southwestern front and a vigorous defensive in the direction of Dvinsk and Riga. And because the play of forces in the war is so closely interconnected from the English Channel to the Persian Gulf, a successful stroke at Erzerum is bound to be felt elsewhere. It means a relaxation of Turkish pressure on the Tigris and in Thrace. It means the dissipation of the threat against Egypt. It means a shifting of the balance around Saloniki, and that in turn affects the situation on Russia's Balkan front, which again may bring a relaxation of German effort in the west. Not that the results will everywhere be immediately apparent. One of the lessons of the fall of Erzerum is to emphasize the deliberateness with which large-scale operations move forward."

It is expected that the Russians will now be able soon to cut the Bagdad railway where it crosses the Euphrates, and to interrupt communications between Constantinople and Bagdad. One writer suggests that the victory at Erzerum is the beginning of a chain of events that will bring the Russian capture of Constantinople. He says that, "waiving all subsidiary questions—such as the fact that it is the capital of Armenia, that it was a great garrison of Turkish troops, and a great depot of munitions, that it had for the Turks a special interest on account of their four centuries of ownership and occupation of the city and the surrounding country, and that it was their sole means of holding in subjection two millions of Armenians, who are among the most capable people in the world—the matter of transcendent significance is that Erzerum is the key of the back door into Constantinople, and that the capture of Constantinople by Russia would be accepted by the whole civilized world as the beginning of the very last stage of the war."

There is, as the Post reminds us, fresh evidence of Russian recuperation. If the Russians are as strong in men and guns as their recent activities indicate, Germany will have to meet advance movements on both fronts at once this spring. Last spring the Allies in the West were held up by lack of ammunition when Russia was sweeping Gallicia. Now there should be another story to tell.

PATRONAGE.

Ordinarily the country would not expect precisely similar views from Mr. A. K. Maclean and Sir George Foster, but they used almost the same words in the House of Commons the other day in speaking of the curse of political patronage. A few central sentences from their speeches follow here:

Hon. A. K. Maclean: "We all know, members on both sides of the House, that since the beginning of the war we have realized perhaps as never before the grip that patronage and other evils has upon our conduct of public business. We know it exists in disgusting proportions. I have seen it myself. We all have seen it. More than that I want to say I know of some ministers who have fought against it. I know of other ministers who have succumbed. When is it to end? Why not now? Why not make a determined and united set upon the evils of patronage and corruption? I know that politics is not the only sphere that requires regeneration, but there is no better place to give leading to a new and better regime than in the nation's public and parliamentary life."

Sir George Foster: "I have been for thirty-four years in public life. I have been a pretty close student of administrations, and I cannot point to a single instance in which patronage has helped the status of the bench, the status of the civil service or the public administration or has helped a member of Parliament in reality or a government in reality, but almost always brings the dry rot which breaks up a government. I would wish that in the white heat of this struggle we could speak from the heart and make an agreement between the parties that patronage should have no influence in regard to our public works. If there is any laxity in the public virtue of this country to-day, in 99 cases out of one hundred you can trace it to the baleful effects of political party feeling."

The evils of patronage were plain enough before the war, of patronage in the provincial as well as the federal sphere. The war atmosphere makes these evils more conspicuous, and the public view of them is naturally sobered and clarified by the great conflict in which the Empire is being tried by fire.

Impersonal and general recognition of these evils of patronage is easy enough; but who is to begin the work of suppression? Who is to play Moses and lead the country out of the patronage wilderness? Will Sir George Foster begin? And, if he will, then will his associates in the government and the administration's followers in the House join him in the good work? The opposition would be quick to respond to a government lead in this matter. The government has the patronage, and will control it for nearly two years to come. Patronage is bad for governments, and bad for the country. Precept is good, but practice is better. When is the government going to begin the new era?

Delay is unwise. The country is sick of the grand and petty larceny which Messrs. Maclean and Foster described in more polite terms. It is time to clean house. Will Sir Robert Borden lead the reform movement? The duty, the need, the opportunity are all pressing.

RUSSIA AND THE WAR.

Sir George Buchanan, British Ambassador at Petrograd, is very optimistic regarding the situation on the eastern front. He believes that when the spring drives are begun the Russian armies will be able to take the offensive all along the line and win victories of paramount importance to the Allied campaign. By a superb effort Russia is making good her shortage of munitions, and the brilliant successes she has lately achieved are, in Sir George's opinion, but "the prelude to greater things to come." Russia, for her part, does not doubt British determination to support her with all the resources of the Empire—and "Russia is unconquerable." The British Ambassador points out that "every day adds to the Allies' strength in men and munitions, and they are now developing their immense resources, retrieving past mistakes, and paying more attention to the concentration of forces and the co-ordination of actions."

Sir George has just issued a statement in which he declares there is not the slightest foundation for the report from German sources that he, on behalf of the government of Great Britain, had threatened the Russian government with a secret Anglo-Japanese treaty, according to the terms of which Japan was to make things very unpleasant for Russia in Manchuria and Siberia, should she attempt to conclude a separate peace with Germany. Like most of the German statements bearing on international affairs, he says, the story is false. Neither he nor his government doubts for a single moment Russia's determination to fight this war to a victorious finish. How, in the face of the sacrifices she has made, anybody can doubt that Russia will do less than her full duty, he is unable to understand. He assures the world that when the Czar has pledged his word, that word will not be broken.

But it is not only with the war and the military operations of the Russians that Sir George Buchanan deals. He refers at some length to the "great political, financial, industrial and social problems" to be solved after hostilities are ended. Turning to the future commercial relations of Great Britain and Russia he appeals to those who are best acquainted with the Czar's domain to impress on their friends in the British Empire the necessity of at once preparing for the future:

"The Russian empire offers a vast field for every class of British goods; but if we are to make progress, merchants and manufacturers must radically change their methods. They must study local requirements and tastes and must give up the old-fashioned idea that what the Englishman likes ought to be good enough for others. They must send out more British and Colonial agents and commercial travelers, and if single firms can not bear the expense, firms belonging to allied trades ought to co-operate and have a common representative. They must also be prepared to accord greater credit facilities. I urge these things because I wish to consolidate and perpetuate the Anglo-Russian alliance. I have always held that it is not by diplomatic but by mutual feelings of sympathy, friendship and confidence and by community of interest that true and lasting alliances are made."

The advice which Sir George gives ought not to fall on ears that are deaf. It should be given consideration in Canada as well as in Great Britain, for financial experts have pointed out many times during the last twelve months that there will be a fine opportunity to develop Canadian trade with Russia after the war. The United States is planning with the same end in view, and Canada should not lag behind. It is in the interests of both the British Empire and Russia, as Sir George Buchanan says, to erect a "barrier against the peaceful penetration of Germany and against the encroachments of her trade."

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Kaiser appears to have slipped a cog in his dealings with Washington, at last.

* * *

Swedish protests will not weaken the vigilance of the British fleet. Great Britain has too much at stake.

* * *

Newfoundland has done well, but it is not content. More men are to be sent to fight for the common cause. And Newfoundlanders are good fighters—on sea or land.

* * *

Sweden will warn her subjects to keep clear of Allied merchant ships which are armed. And she may be expected to play Germany's game in still other ways. But Great Britain will continue to keep a watchful eye on Swedish intrigues.

* * *

"It is taking some folks quite a long while," says the Berlin, Ont., Telegraph, "to really appreciate the fact that Canada is at war for the protection of the freedom and liberty which makes it possible for them to say that this is a 'free country.'"

* * *

The request to permit food to be sent to Poland is one that the British authorities would not be justified in granting too quickly. By doing so they might simply be giving permission for food to reach the German soldiers. Great Britain does not intend to feed the Germans if she can help it.

* * *

Although no official word has reached Canada regarding the latest activity of the Canadians on the western front, the Minister of Militia is authority for the statement that they have once more covered themselves with glory. A full report of their stand in the face of a heavy bombardment by the Germans will be awaited with keen interest. Meantime what do their comrades back home, to whom they are looking earnestly for help, think about it?

* * *

They are talking about changing the name of Berlin, Ontario, and probably it will be done. Among the names suggested are "Kitchener," "Cavell," and "Motorboro." The Minister of Militia and Defence has given public warning that disloyal and seditious utterances by disaffected people will no longer be tolerated in Canada, and it was supposed that he had reference to recent troubles in Berlin.

* * *

The New York World, commenting on the fact that the British government has offered the Boston and Maine Railroad five cents apiece for 100,000 old ties for use in trench construction, says:

"An odd kind of 'war order.' But if it will pay the road to ship old ties at that price, would it not pay to transport them to local points for sale as firewood? The sight of abandoned ties burning along the right of way of railroads has always conveyed a painful impression of sheer waste."

* * *

Those who think all classes in Canada are making great sacrifices because of the war should think over this paragraph from the Montreal Gazette:

"The British government hopes that the campaign to recruit 400,000 women for work on the farms will prove successful. The number is large, but as women have been filling the gaps in many lines of industry, some having taken up quite laborious tasks, there seems to be no reason why agriculture should suffer for lack of their help."

These women are taking the places of men who have gone to the battle front.

* * *

It will not be long until the weather in Europe is fit for a resumption of spirited fighting on every front. When that time comes the need for men will be greater than ever before in the Empire's history. The Canadians at the front know this, and they also know that back home are thousands of young men, as fit and free to enlist as they were, who have not yet responded to their appeals for help.

* * *

Speaking of men of German birth or ancestry in the public service of Canada, the Ottawa Free Press says:

"Should the slightest danger from a source be allowed to longer exist when it can be so easily removed without injury to anyone?"

It suggests their removal on half pay "until after the war." But why not adopt the principle that Canadians shall fill such places, now and after the war? This is not a summer shower. We are not going to be friendly with Germany next year.

* * *

"The enemy is at our gates," says the London Daily Telegraph, "and the occasion has come—if it be not long overdue—when the whole of the available manhood of the nation must be thrown into the struggle." Do the young men of New Brunswick realize that this is a fight for our national existence? Are they less brave than their brothers in the trenches, or the sons of the Fatherland? Let them show by the recruiting returns during the next three weeks that they are not. Anything less than a full and overwhelming triumph means that all we are fighting for will be lost. And the Empire must have every available man if victory is to be complete.

* * *

More than four score, Mr. John March has gone to his rest. His years were many, yet it seems only a little while ago that he was a familiar and busy figure in the daily life of St. John. Many of his associates are dead, but many remain who will miss him. His surviving sons are at the front, and several of his grandsons are already in uniform. The death of Mr. March will be regretted by a wide circle in which he was known and respected. In the newspaper offices of St. John he was in a sense a member of each staff, and in the days of The Sun he did much good work. Some of his ancestors were soldiers of the King. Now his sons are keeping up the family traditions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LIEUTENANT CORBETT A NEW BRUNSWICKER.

To the Editor of The Telegraph.

Sir,—In your interesting column, Men of the Day in the News, you speak in commendatory terms of Lieutenant Percy A. Corbett, who enlisted as a private in the Princess Patricia Light Infantry, and has won a commission, and I would like to add a word to your information in the matter.

This brilliant young man, who was a Rhodes scholar from McGill University, where he had a distinguished course, is a son of Rev. Thomas Corbett, a native of Gays River (N. S.), and his wife, formerly Miss Agnes Crowe, of Truro (N. S.), now deceased. Young Corbett was born at Richmond, Carleton county (N. B.), while his father was the settled Presbyterian minister at that place. The young man, while a son of Nova Scotia parents, is a native New Brunswicker, a fact that no doubt will add to the interest which The Telegraph has in his career. Rev. Mr. Corbett, before entering the ministry, taught school for some years in New Brunswick, and will be remembered at Milltown, Charlotte county, which for a time was the scene of his educational labors.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

L. C. MACNUTT.

Fredericton, Feb. 18, 1916.

A QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Telegraph.

Sir,—The process of naturalization does not by any means make or transform a German into a loyal British subject. He is still a German in principle, in character, and at heart, and an admirer of the Emperor of Germany. Can the two ministers of the crown, Hughes and Hazen, not find capable British subjects to fill the responsible positions now held by two Germans, Captain Hahn and Heidermann?

J. W. M.

Charlotte county, Feb. 18, 1916.

The Prisoner of Hope.

Still, let my tyrants know I am not doomed to wear
Year after year in gloom and desolate despair;
A messenger of Hope comes every night to me
And offers for short life eternal liberty.

He comes with western winds, with evening's wandering airs,
With that clear dusk of heaven that brings the thickest stars;
Winds take a pensive tone and stars a tender fire,
And visions rise and change that fill me with desire.

Desire for nothing known in my maturer years,
When Joy grew mad with awe, at counting future tears;
When, if my spirit's sky was full of flashes warm,
I knew not whence they came, from sun or thunder storm.

But first a hush of peace—a soundless calm descends;
The struggle of distress and fierce impatience ends,
Mute music soothes my breast,—unuttered harmony
That I could never dream, till earth was lost to me.

Then dawns the Invisible; the Unseen its truth reveals;
My outward sense is gone, my inward essence feels;
Its wings are almost free—its home, its harbor found,
Measuring the gulf, it stoops, and dares the final bound.

Oh dreadful is the check—intense the agony—
When the ear begins to hear, and the eye begins to see;
When the pulse begins to throb—the brain to think again—
The soul to feel the flesh, and the flesh to feel the chain.

Yet I would lose no sting, would wish no torture less,
The more the anguish racks, the earlier it will bless;
And robed in fires of hell or bright with heavenly shine,
If it but herald Death, the vision is divine!

—Emily Bronte.

Faith and Fact.

(Baltimore Sun).

Our walls of faith won't hold unless we act,
God scorns the pretext and He wants the fact.
This life were empty had it faith alone
Without the willing spirit to atone—
The bolts would rust, the doors of strongholds fly
Had faith no fact with which to struggle by.

We slip so often in our lives sore vexed
By some misunderstanding of the text.
By faith alone we sometimes think we'll rise—
But God builds stronger ladders to the skies—
Faith reenforced by service, deeds that count
When souls grow weary here and seek to mount.

We cry repentance but do not repent,
And so the strongholds of our faith are bent,
And suddenly some wind of wrath goes by
And in the dust our dreams of duty lie.
And we like wandering children in the night
Stand stunned and houseless in truth's piercing light.

—Folger McKinsey.

Scott's Memory.

The love of old texts and the extraordinary verbal memory for them was joined in Scott, as in Macaulay, with marvellous powers as vamper of old drama and antique ballad. Hogg gives an almost incredible instance of Scott's tenacity of memory, rivalling anything told of Macaulay.

Scott, with Hogg and Skene, were leistering salmon on the Tweed when their peat fire went out. While awaiting the arrival of another fiery peat in the winter darkness Scott asked Hogg to recite his (unprinted) ballad of Gilman's Cleuch. Hogg had once before sung it over; he now commenced it by request, but got stuck in the ninth stanza, whereupon Scott took up the tale and repeated every word from the first to the eighty-eighth.

With a pleasure party in a boat on the Firth of Forth he performed a similar feat once, but with an easier subject—namely, Southey's "Inchcape Rock." Southey had repeated it to him on one occasion.—Scottish-American.

"Why is your friend there such a convinced believer in second sight?" "Well, maybe it's because the poor duffer fell in love at first sight."

WOMEN'S WORK AS SEEN IN TH SUSSEX SCH

Practical Work in Cookin Care of the Sick Ar Features

Next Course is at Woodstock, to March 10—Good Sums for Patriotic Purposes—The Prize-Winners.

Sussex, N. B., Feb. 17—The W Institute division of the Departm Agriculture is successfully condu course in household science and a crafts in the new Agricultural s Sussex.

The classes conducted daily are lows:

9 to 10 a. m.—Basketry and tooling.

10 to 10.30 a. m.—Lectures on sition and nutritive value of food

10.30 to 12.30—Practical cookin each student has an opportunity pare one or more dishes.

2 to 3 p. m.—Personal hygie home care of the sick.

3 to 4 p. m.—Stenciling an carving.

4 to 5 p. m.—Needlework and

The first course, completed last afternoon, was very encouraging department, and of lasting benef many ambitious students presen sibly the attendance is larger handicraft classes, owing to th being newly introduced in the W Institute annual short courses. T lic was invited to inspect the plishments of ten days' work popular class, and the students h reason to feel proud of the many baskets made of reeds and raffia ous shapes. Several pieces of work include, magazine and book card cases, change purses, centr all of various designs and colo has only to look a few months see the women reaping the adva this useful work, engaged in pretty and useful articles to a home, to give to their friends a mas time, and lastly to adopt ther means to raise money wi home.

The department has equipped old science room in the school sufficiently for forty students to cooking classes. Thirty minutes voted each morning to talks o combinations and preparations the best cooking methods and th ment contained in various foods are at leisure to ask questions most beneficial parts of the lect jotted down in the note books hand. Then follows the practic and it is a pleasing sight to se middle aged and elderly women, white aprons, busily engaged in ing some savory and nutritio which inevitably turns out a gra cess, and you may be sure will again" at home, as each pupil re copy of all the recipes used du entire course.

Owing to the many complimen ing their way, the students of th ing class invited the pupils of th classes and the members of the Women's Institute, which by the a paid membership of sixty-fo o'clock tea the first Saturday opening course. Garbed in the regalia, the students served dain pared refreshments to their many Altogether it was a pretty sigh the tables, decorated with p white carnations, and the studen ing, in accompaniment to the st music ably rendered by the Ladies' Orchestra.

Prizes are given in each class was both amusing and interes see with what effort the pupils home nursing and sewing classes obtain full notes and to do the to the satisfaction of the teache student has to properly make a a patient, change the bed linen, demonstration show how to bat and turn a helpless sick perso this is only a "wee sma' note" helpfulness of the many lect home nursing.

Several useful and pretty artic sewn "by hand" at the sewing and although we would not with the sewing machine, there competition betwen Mr. Maci Miss Student as to neatness of ished article. Also, the knitting may have worked slowly and stitches may have been dropped by beginners in the knitting c before the first course closed, worked much faster and the tea led to believe that there were s men's Institutes in New B whose yield in the knitting lin be greater than ever before the spring.

It would never do to conclude marks about this beneficial cour is available to every woman an the province, without mentio prize winners in the various cla the successful event held the evening of the first course.

The department of agricul made it possible for a student as much as $20 at each course, announce with much pleasureners for the first course:

Five dollars to Mrs. Frank D of Dalhousie Junction, for best handicraft; $5 to Miss Ethel Sussex, for highest mark in wr amination on Theory in Cookin Mrs. William Howard, of Su neatest work in sewing contest to Miss Elizabeth Howard, of S highest mark received in writte nation on Home Nursing.

With the aid of the students, ters of the Sussex Women's brought to a close the first means of a patriotic concert, las evening. The assembly hall of cultural School was literally pa much pleasure was derived vocal and instrumental solos, and selections from the Sussex Orchestra. Hon. James A. Mur ister of agriculture, acted as and congratulated this branch raised during the past year over $1,200 for patriotic purp meant some difficulty in serving ments to so many people assem before the time arrived for God King each person was served of coffee, a sandwich and a piec On the whole, the women of the are to be congratulated for havi