

# The Evening Times and Star

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## THE NEW YEAR.

One of the most tragic years in human history draws to its close. The storm of war still prevails, and presses ever more hard upon the world. The year 1917 brought more nations into the struggle, and taxed more and more severely the resources of those which were in it during the preceding two and a half years. So many millions of men were withdrawn from productive industry and devoted to the task of destruction that in the war zones the pinch of want was added to the other horrors of the conflict, which reached out and sent succeeding waves of sorrow round the world. The year was marked by terrible destruction of life, and by a dissipation of resources which many years to come will not restore. In this death-grip of the nations there can be no truce. One side or the other must achieve a complete and lasting victory. The Central Powers, who precipitated the war and caused so much unexpected opposition, would be glad to pause and prepare for another stroke, but such an outcome cannot be tolerated by the democracies whose very existence is at stake. Whatever the sacrifice, they must see this thing through. That is why the present peace talk between the Central Powers and the dominant faction in Russia excites but a passing interest in the countries with which Russia was allied before the revolution and for some time after that event. The Russian democracy has of late proved recreant to its trust, and its future course is so clouded and uncertain as to make the whole war outlook far less satisfactory at the end of the year than was anticipated at the beginning.

After nearly three years and a half of war, the necessity, in the interests of civilization, for the complete destruction of Prussian militarism is more clearly and convincingly apparent than it was even a year ago. War-weariness must not weaken the arm of retribution. The enemy of civilization must be overthrown. This must be the New Year resolution of the people of the British Empire and their Allies. To make it effective every energy must be devoted to war work, with a singleness of purpose that takes no account of lesser aims except as these may be subordinated to the supreme object to be attained. The world must be made safe for democracy, or subjected to the will of a barbaric autocracy. It is for every citizen of Canada to ask himself or herself how he or she is related to a war that must profoundly influence human destiny, and in what way his or her individual effort may be made most helpful and effective.

The world is at the parting of the ways. Even more sternly than a year ago must men and women resolve to walk the path of sacrifice, and to suffer hardship for the sake of an ideal, and in devotion to a cause whose triumph is worth all the suffering and sorrow the strife may bring. So far as the Allied nations are concerned, this is not a war of conquest. Whatever boundaries may be readjusted at the close, it will be done for the good of the people and not to exalt a ruler. Nor would the struggle accomplish its desired purpose if the German people themselves were not emancipated from a thralldom which makes them the tools of a ruthless autocracy. They who are blind must be made to see that they have been duped for more than two generations by their masters, and that this thralldom must cease.

The New Year finds Canada unfaltering and unafraid, though realizing more fully than before the grim nature of the task to be performed. Her decks are cleared for action. The voice of the people has been heard. The nation has stripped for war to the very end. This democracy, with the great democracy to the south, must provide more food, more ships, more munitions and more men to turn the scale in Europe, and make the victory decisive. The war should end in 1918, but we had hoped it would in 1917. The strength of Germany is still unbroken, and the Allies must strain every nerve.

Canada has enjoyed a year of great and amazing prosperity. Her people have not suffered through lack of food, or of any of the necessities or even the luxuries of life. The conditions will change before the coming year is ended. In

order that Europe may be fed, and the armies kept on a fighting basis, this country must send more of its food products overseas, and to that end the strictest economy should be observed by one and all. The government must assume such supervision of the life and conduct of the people as would be wholly unnecessary in times of peace; and the people must heartily agree and co-operate. To do less would be to help Germany, and we have just declared our unalterable resolution to fight and not to stay our hand until the foe is vanquished.

Instead of New Year rejoicing and festivity the country is face to face with a great task, the performance of which is necessary to make succeeding New Years bright with promise. If there are any who would seek to keep alive the spirit of controversy between Quebec and other provinces, they should be reminded of the greater common danger and the need of unity in the face of a common foe. The provinces can adjust their differences when the danger of becoming German provinces is past. In all the years of his history Canada never needed as she now needs the spirit of unity and universal devotion to the cause of democracy. The road of high endeavor is never an easy one, for the individual or the nation. It calls for sacrifice, and for the exercise of those stern virtues which alone can overcome the perils and the hardships of the way that leads onward and upward to the heights.

King George says: "The world-wide struggle for the triumph of right and liberty is entering upon its last and most difficult phase. The enemy is striving by desperate assault and subtle intrigue to perpetuate the wrongs already committed and stem the tide of a free civilization. We have yet to complete the great task which more than three years ago we dedicated ourselves."

To eliminate waste, to conserve food, to produce more, to earn more money and have a surplus to lend to the state, are resolutions all should make for the new year, which is to be an epoch-marking year in human history. A great task must be greatly done, and all must lend a hand.

Ordinarily the Guatemala earthquake would send a thrill of horror round the world. We have become so accustomed to horrors in the last three years, however, that the calamity in Guatemala City becomes merely an item of current news.

In commenting on the rejection of conscription in Australia for the present we must not lose sight of the fact that Australia has sent to war many more men in proportion to population than Canada has done.

Will 1918 see the end of the war? Whether it does or not, the war must not end until Prussian militarism has been crushed. The world must be saved from a repetition of the horrors of the last three and a half years.

The Belgian minister at Petrograd declares the German peace proposals are not acceptable to his country. He is right. Belgium must be restored and also guaranteed against any future destruction by German barbarians.

The most sought-after persons in society today are the coal man and the plumber. And yet it is doubtful if they feel very highly flattered by the attentions lavished upon them by all classes.

Have we all been suffering from the cold streak that went down the spine of certain patriots when news came of the re-opening of the Valley Railway enquiry?

Moose in St. John are not a novelty, and a polar bear in the streets yesterday would have seemed quite natural. Is Steffanson moving the North Pole this way?

It is said that the Germans had a million casualties along the French front this year. And the French had the best of the fighting all through the year.

Out of fifty-four German Zeppelins forty have been destroyed since the war began. The Zeppelin proved to be one of Germany's failures.

Perhaps the cold wave will lessen the heat of controversy in certain sections of Quebec and Ontario. It would be worth a few shivers to witness such a result.

New Year's Eve will be celebrated this time without the aid of a whisky bottle. That is one great source of satisfaction for the citizen.

The Germans are on the offensive in the west. Thank Russia for that.

## NEW YEAR'S SPECIALS

1 lb. Block Pure Lard.....	27c	3 lbs. Cornmeal.....	25c
1 lb. Block Shortening.....	27c	3 lbs. Graham Flour.....	25c
1 lb. tin Crisco.....	32c	3 lbs. Pearl Barley.....	25c
Choice Butter—Per lb.....	48c	3 lbs. Buckwheat.....	25c
Clark's Chili Sauce Beans.....	22c	"Special" Fresh Ground Coffee.....	37c
Klondike Jelly—Per pkg.....	10c	"Crescent" Fresh Ground Coffee.....	50c
Tuna Fish—Per tin.....	30c	24 1/2 lb. bag Regal Flour.....	\$1.75
Yacht Club Mayonnaise.....	20c and 50c	4 cakes Comfort Soap.....	25c
30c. pkg. Quaker Oats.....	27c	4 cakes Castile Soap.....	25c
Pure Strawberry and Raspberry Jam.....	27c	4 cakes Dingman's Electric Soap.....	25c
Good Tomato Ketchup.....	15c	3 bottles Ammonia.....	25c
Good Worcestershire Sauce.....	2 for 25c	3 pkgs. Borax.....	25c
Pears (2c.)—Per can.....	20c	3 cakes Infants' Delight Soap.....	25c
Peaches (2c.)—Per can.....	20c	Express Metal Polish.....	22c

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In the Highlands.  
The wind and the wave at their wildest  
Are beating upon the isle;  
But you, for all that was dearest,  
Are absent, many a mile.  
The corn is ripe for the gathering,  
Whenever the skies are blue,  
So we light our lamp in the gloaming,  
And not stay our hand until the foe is vanquished.

Dear lad! We can never forget you,  
Who went with the willing men  
When the call for the best came ringing  
Along by the moor and glen.  
Your dust is asleep in Flanders  
Because your heart was true,  
So we light our lamp in the gloaming  
And silently think of you.

'Tis not a long road to the meeting,  
When the world's great pain is o'er;  
We'll patiently till the shadows  
Sink over the sea and shore;  
And then, while the last hour's darkening,  
And we wait for the love we know,  
We'll light our lamp in the gloaming,  
And silently think of you.

A heavy explosion occurred in Sydney last night in the Cross Fertilizer plant near the steel plant. The explosion set fire to the main building.

## WORTH PASTING ON.

(Great Thoughts.)  
Here are a dozen don'ts for daily duties:  
Don't leave the sky out of your landscape.  
Don't use a pile driver to pin on a bow of ribbon.  
Don't let your stream of life be a murmuring stream.  
Don't fail to love your neighbors, yet pull not down your hedge.  
Don't measure success by accumulation, for this measure is false.  
Don't pack up worries. You can get them anywhere as you go along.  
Don't talk over "prevailing conditions." Just make friends with your luck.  
Don't preach too much. None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.  
Don't waste your feelings. Feelings are too rich cream to be skimmed for nothing.  
Don't argue with the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat.  
Don't kill yourself with unnecessary work. There was once a woman whose epitaph read: "She hath done what she could!"  
Don't be too patient. "Once in a while," said Uncle Eben, "a man compliments himself on having patience when he's simply too lazy to make a thing."

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## CHURCH, CONVENT AND GLEBE HOUSE BURNED.

Gloucester Bay was visited yesterday by a fire which destroyed St. Ann's church, St. Ann's convent and the Glebe House. The church, Glebe House and two small buildings were burned to the ground.

## The loss exceeds \$100,000. The theory is that the fire was caused by a defective flue in the rear part of the church.

Sixty boys in blue, from ships now in the harbor were entertained by the G. W. Y. A. on Saturday night at a smoker and a pleasant evening was spent. The 118th band rendered music.

## Senator Thorne presented to each employee of the firm of W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd., a cash Christmas present.

Those longer with the firm were given Victory Loan bonds ranging as high as \$500.

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