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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24, 1917

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The Audit Bureau of Circulations audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

The political situation in Canada grows more and more interesting. Premier Murray of Nova Scotia and Hon. W. S. Fielding have declared themselves in support of the union government plan. The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Social Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK. Frank R. Northrup, 303 Fifth Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association Bldg. British and European—Frederick A. Smyth, 29 Ludgate Hill, LONDON, E. C. England.

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ROBBING THE POOR

With potatoes retailing at sixty cents per peck in St. John it is perfectly evident that the food controller is not worth his salt. There is no scarcity of potatoes in New Brunswick. There is no scarcity in Canada at large, or in the United States.

It is not without reason that more and more people are asking whether the farmer is willing to pay his share of the cost of the war, or whether, having got a taste of profiteering he proposes to go the limit.

When the St. John increased production committee was at work last spring, considering what would be done to ensure a supply of fertilizer for the farmer, and to aid him in other ways to increase his acreage, the question of the price at which he could afford to sell his potatoes was discussed by men familiar with farming, and while it was agreed that he must get more than in former years the widest estimate did not come anywhere near what is now being asked.

At the very time when the food-controller is employing everybody to use more potatoes and less wheat, the price of potatoes is boosted to a hold-up figure and the food-controller takes no action.

If the laboring men of this country assumed the attitude that they ought to get the last possible cent for the labor they have to sell, all work would cease. Are they the only ones who are to be tortured on the need of patience and forbearance and service and sacrifice?

If the new government means what it says there is a fine field for its activities. The "high cost of living" is too high, and everybody knows it. There is no excuse whatever for placing famine prices on an article of food that exists in abundance. There are evidently other profiteers than Sir Joseph Flavelle and the Big Interests, as the government should get after them with out delay. Everybody agrees that prices generally must remain at a high level during the war and for some time after it, but that is no excuse for grinding the faces of the poor.

The arrest of a Sinn Féin and a German in New York, charged with complicity in a German plot to land arms in Ireland is proof that the United States does not propose to tolerate any anti-British propaganda in her territory. Count Von Bernstorff was connected with the plot. By linking themselves up with Germany the Sinn Féiners forfeit utterly the sympathy of America as well as of England.

The Germans punished Belgian villagers who gave apples to passing British prisoners. German hatred of the British never lacks some medium of expression. And yet when the day of reckoning comes John Bull will doubtless forget the hatred and deal more leniently than he deserves with the biter. That is a British characteristic which is perhaps unfortunate in dealing with such a foe as Germany. Even the Turk deserves more consideration.

The brilliant success gained by the French yesterday north of the Aisne is described as their most important success since the repulse of the Crown Prince at Verdun. The blow was swift,

strongly sustained and to the Germans unexpected. Much important ground was gained, heavy loss inflicted on the enemy, and 7,500 prisoners and 25 guns captured. Instead of being as thin as we have been led to believe, the French lines are evidently very strongly manned and fitted for the most aggressive work. Both British and French continue to drive forward with a degree of success that is the best evidence of the growing weakness of the German armies.

Germany is endeavoring to get a grip on Holland and on Denmark that might be useful to her after the war. But all German deals will be off when the Allies sit down after the war to frame the basis of a peace that will not be broken again by Germany. Neither commercially nor in any other way will she be able to dictate to any of her neighbors.

British and French airplanes not only carry on observation work, attack enemy machines and drop bombs on enemy positions, but they go forward with the infantry, flying low and raking the enemy troops with machine gun fire. The development of the air service is one of the great achievements of the Allies since the war began.

A Petrograd cable expresses the view that even if the Germans win through to Reval, on the Gulf of Finland, they will not be able to get to Petrograd before the winter sets in. The capture of Reval would nevertheless be a serious blow to Russia and it is fortunate for her that winter is at hand.

The union government meeting in Regina, addressed by Hon. Messrs. Calder, Meighen and Crerar, was held in the Metropolitan Methodist church, and an overflow meeting was held in the First Baptist church. This is characteristic of the west, where traditions do not count for so much as in the east.

If the reports of food riots in Austria are well founded, and if it is true that Bulgaria and Turkey want more German help to withstand the coming armies of Greece, the outlook in that quarter is far more cheerful than it has ever been for the Allies.

The Russian fleet, hopelessly outclassed, appears nevertheless to have given a good account of itself in the recent battle at Moon Sound, and inflicted far greater loss than it sustained. Moreover, it drew off in good order and is able to fight again.

Reports from the front show that German prisoners tell of growing discontent in the German army. One officer was shot by his own men, who then surrendered to the British. Unrest of this sort is bound to spread.

The French workman who held up with his gun the crew of nineteen of a fallen Zeppelin and prevented them from destroying it deserves the recognition he will receive at the hands of his government.

It is very evident from the political developments in various parts of Canada that support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier will not be entirely confined to Quebec. The union government has strong support, but it must fight for its existence.

Montreal has tried the combined city council and board of control system of city government and found it a failure. The two bodies unite to agree that a change must be made.

While differing from him on the selective draft, Hon. Mr. Crerar describes Sir Joseph Flavelle as "one of the greatest statesmen Canada ever produced."

This looks better. The enlistments of Canadians for the first half of October exceeded the wastage by 571 men. That is as it should be.

Dr. Michael Clark has been nominated as a "win-the-war" candidate in Red Deer, by a joint convention of the two great parties.

Well, if everything in the shape of ordinary food goes too high in price, we can all go out to the park and browse.

A campaign to promote the use of more fish for food has been begun in Quebec province. Now watch the price of fish go up.

Salvage Corps Celebrates
Commissioner McLellan formally presented to No. 2 Salvage Corps last night a motor truck recently completed for the corps. He also presented, on behalf of the safety department, a silver shield on which is engraved the names of the members which are overseas. An elaborate programme was carried out. Among the guests were Mayor Hayes and Commissioner Fisher and F. W. Connors, whom the chassis for the truck was purchased.

LIGHTER VEIN.

No Room For Choice

First Little Girl—Your pap and mamma are not real parents. They adopted you.

Second Little Girl—Well, that makes it all the more satisfactory. My parents picked me out, and yours had to take you just as you came.—Exchange.

Able to Handle Men

Marie Willis—How inconsistent the government is. For their officers' training camps they say they want applicants who can handle men.

Jane Willis—Yes.

Marie Willis—And yet they won't let us women enlist.

Free Information

"I suppose a great many ask for information who have no idea of taking a train."

"Yes," said the weary official. "When some people spy a free bureau of information there's a free temptation to stock up."

Fundamental

He looked at his wrist watch.

"Will you marry me?" he said. She blushed.

"There is really no time to lose. You see I have only had 24 hours' notice. I must report at headquarters tomorrow at nine. We sail for France in three days. Will you marry me?"

"I don't mind," she said. "Only—I should like to make one condition."

"And this is?"

"I have dreamed for years of getting married; but not in this way. But I will marry you if—when you return—you will propose to me all over again, and we can go on a honeymoon, and I can be courted, and—well, you know, I am sure."

"All right," he said, with a smile. "To be honest with you, dearest, I thought I was going to escape all that—but I see it's no use. I might have known better. Even a war like this cannot keep a woman from having her own way—especially about a wedding."

LOSING FAITH IN FOOD CONTROL

(New York Commercial)

Sugar has become scarce because too much has been exported to France and American housewives have consumed unusual quantities in preserving fruits and vegetables. The canning factories have also packed enormous quantities of fruits and vegetables and the wine-makers have bought sugar to give body to their products, a good market for which is assured by the high tax on distilled spirits. Government officials warn the public that the shortage of sugar will not be relieved until the sugar beet crop has passed through the factories and new sugar comes on the market in Louisiana, the West Indies and other countries that raise sugar cane. For three successive years Europe has forestalled the American sugar market and this year the domestic shortage is more acute than ever.

It is irritating to find the government officials who urged American women to preserve all the fruits and vegetables they could afford now blaming them for buying too much sugar. The average home kitchen is not equipped with apparatus for canning fruits and vegetables by some vacuum sterilizing process and has no such sugar. The average home kitchen is not equipped with apparatus for canning fruits and vegetables by some vacuum sterilizing process and has no such sugar. The average home kitchen is not equipped with apparatus for canning fruits and vegetables by some vacuum sterilizing process and has no such sugar.

If federal food experts cannot look ahead and grasp the probable results that will follow taking their advice, as in the case of sugar, they should keep quiet. So far they have done more harm than good and the prices of necessities of life have advanced in the face of larger crops. They said that prices should come down in October but we are past the middle of the month with the tendency still upward as far as retail prices are concerned. Before Christmas the consumption of sugar by candy makers and bakers is always heavy and the problem of distributing enough of the sugar will be serious, even if the supply is adequate. The more government experts talk about milk the higher goes the price and the same thing threatens those who use sugar. The public is fast losing faith in food control.

A Real Success.

"Would you say that's a success?"

"In every way. He is making all his money he needs; he gets along well with his wife and children and he plays golf well enough now that a few millionaires have to ask him for strokes."

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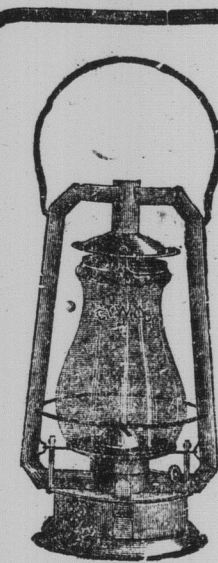
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W. S. Fielding Asks Support For Union Gov't

Former Cabinet Minister Offers
For Election—Endorses Course
of Hon. A. K. MacLean

Ottawa, Oct. 23.—Hon. W. S. Fielding, for fifteen years minister of finance under Sir Wilfrid Laurier, gave out tonight a statement asking general support for the Union government, endorsing the action taken by Hon. A. K. MacLean in entering the government as the representative of Nova Scotia Liberals. Mr. Fielding's Liberalism and sincerity are beyond all question. His close and long personal friendship with Laurier and his admiration for Sir Wilfrid Laurier are known to all.

Mr. Fielding, while not criticizing in any way Sir Wilfrid's attitude in regard to the conscription issue and while fully recognizing the great difficulties and responsibilities of his position, has no doubt but that the union effected is a real union and deserves the honest support of all Liberals so long as fundamental principles of Liberalism are not violated.

May Enter Parliament.

It is rumored that Mr. Fielding himself may be in the next parliament, either contesting or being elected by acclamation for one of the Nova Scotia seats.

His full knowledge of the circumstances leading up to the conscription position to him, I approve of the action of Hon. A. K. MacLean in accepting a seat in the union cabinet. I am not surprised to find that the first thought of most Nova Scotia Liberals has been not to Liberal from the province should enter the cabinet. Not only differences of former years, but differences of very recent date, seemed to make any union of the two parties very difficult. I believe, however, that they have now reached the point where they have reached the opportunity of carefully considering the situation, the Liberals of the province will approve of Mr. MacLean's action in accepting a seat in the cabinet.

The press that Hon. Mr. Murray had agreed to take a seat in the cabinet were "shell shocks" to many Liberals. These announcements were, as I know, entirely unauthorized and incorrect. Mr. Murray, at no time, gave any assurance that he was undertaking. It is a service of much labor and anxiety, in which he is likely to meet many difficulties. I know that he takes up the burden with a patriotic purpose. If he should receive the sympathy and support of Liberals in the trying situation, the vigorous prosecution of the war to a successful ending. It is my judgment that in this crisis, both the public interests and the ultimate good of the Liberal party will be promoted by the co-operation of the Liberals of the maritime provinces with the Liberals of Ontario and the west who have deemed it their duty to participate in the formation of the union government. Holding this view, I approve of the action of Mr. MacLean in entering the cabinet. 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