

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 5, 1914.

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THE DIE IS CAST

The die is cast. A war involving practically all the great powers of Europe, world-blighting in its effects, and the end whereof none may foresee, has been precipitated by the action of Germany.

Never in the world's history have such fleets and armies been engaged as will be brought into collision in this awful war. The race for armaments which has been in progress for years past, and the invention of new and deadly fighting machines on land and sea, and in the very air itself, have combined to add new horrors to the conflict.

The people upon whom the burden must fall, while they do not withhold the sacrifice, may well look to the future with grim forebodings. The mere withdrawal of so many millions of men from productive industry is itself a thing terrible to contemplate; but, when there is added the awful loss of life and the destruction of property upon so colossal a scale as must accompany this titanic struggle, the mind is staggered by the thought of what it all means, not merely to this generation but to the next.

One cannot but grieve at the very outset over the loss, the suffering and the heartbreak which must come to millions of homes, and there cannot be other than a feeling of resentment against the German ruler, whose arrogance and disregard for the value of human lives has hurled so many nations into the maelstrom of war.

The spirit of the Canadian people, however, is equal to any sacrifice that may be necessary, and the quick response throughout the country to the Empire's need cannot but thrill the hearts of all, and give them renewed courage to face whatever vicissitudes the fortunes of war may bring.

The suspense is ended. Since peace with honor was impossible, the people of this Empire accept what fate may decree with dauntless fortitude, and a grim determination, whatever the cost, that the fighting spirit of their forebears shall not be shamed by any sign of weakness on their part, or any desire to swerve for one instant from the plain path of duty.

THE MODERN VIKING.

The methods of the piratical forefathers of the German people have not been discarded by his most Christian majesty the reigning emperor. Not only has he sent his armies into France before declaring war, but he has violated the neutrality of Belgium, which he was pledged to maintain, and has attacked scattered units of the British fleet without waiting for the formality of a declaration of war.

science, since the government first exhausted every honorable means to restore peace, and only decided to enter the lists when the claims of national honor and good faith could no longer brook delay. The next few days will be big with destiny for Europe. The destruction of the German fleet is the first great aim of the British, and even now the deadly struggle in the North Sea may be in progress. The power of Germany must be broken. For years she has been the challenger in the race for armaments, and upon her more than upon any other nation rests the responsibility for the colossal burdens laid upon the people of all nations. The day of reckoning has come, and there can be no peace until the German war-lord is beaten to his knees. He must be taught that the viking spirit is not the spirit of this age, and that the modern pirate is deserving of no more consideration than the ruthless freebooters of the bygone centuries.

CANADA IS READY.

The Canadian government has taken prompt action following the declaration of war. Parliament is summoned to meet on August 18, and will take the necessary action to provide for the full assumption by Canada of her share in the defence of the Empire. So far as measures relating to the war are concerned, party lines are obliterated. Speaking for the Liberal party, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has cancelled all his meetings, says:—

"The policy of the Canadian Liberal party under the painful circumstances is well known. I have often declared that if the Mother Country were ever in danger, or if danger ever threatens, Canada would render assistance to the full extent of her power. Pending such grave conditions there should be a truce of party strife."

It will be found when parliament meets that the same spirit which today characterizes the parties in the British parliament prevails. He would be an extremely fool-hardy individual who would today give utterance to views in opposition to the leader of the government and the leader of the opposition in relation to Canada's duty in this crisis in the affairs of the British Empire and of the world at large.

SIR JOHN FRENCH.

Field Marshal Sir John French, who has been appointed Inspector-general of the British forces, has had a brilliant military career. He served in the Sudan campaign in 1884-85, and participated in the battles of Abu Klea, Gubat and Metemeh. In 1899 he was appointed to command a cavalry division in Natal, commended the troops at the battle of Elandslaagte, and the cavalry at Retfontein and Lombard's Kop. He commanded a cavalry division in South Africa from 1900 until 1902, was mentioned in despatches and promoted to the rank of major-general. He led the cavalry force in the operations which culminated in the relief of Kimberley, and was with Lord Roberts' forces throughout the operations ending in the capture of Bloemfontein and Pretoria. During the conflict east of Pretoria he was eight times mentioned in despatches and continued a brilliant career until the end of the war.

St. John will soon present some of the features of an armed camp, although the number of men under arms will not be large.

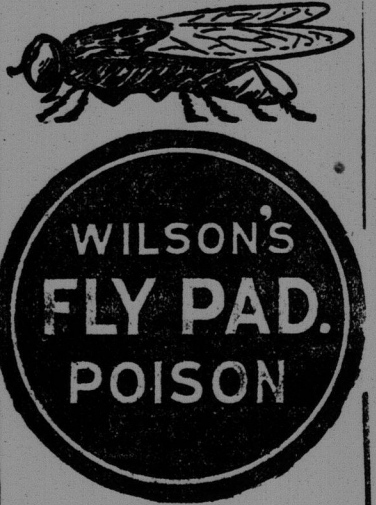
"Capture or destroy the enemy's ships," was the message of King George to the British navy. With the combined fleets of Britain, France and Russia there is no reason to doubt that the order will be obeyed to the letter.

The despatches show that intense enthusiasm prevails throughout Canada, and that everywhere men are ready to flock to the colors. A similar condition prevails in every British country. It is a remarkable demonstration of the unity of the Empire.

Despite the knowledge of the horrors of war there was something to stir the pulses of the citizens of St. John this morning at sight of the young men of the militia in uniform, marching briskly through the streets to the army, to take their places in the line of defence, and if need be embark for foreign fields to fight the battles of the Empire.

Electric machines with plungers are now employed to make waves for the delictation of bathers in the tidal waters at inland summer resorts. Anything can be furnished to order from choppy wavelets to long, rolling billows.

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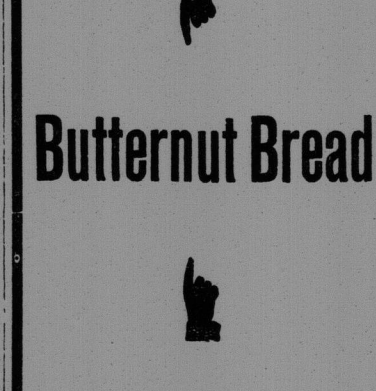
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