

The St. John Standard

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H. V. MacKINNON,
Managing Editor.

ALFRED E. MCGINLEY,
Editor.

United States Representatives:
Henry DeClerque, Chicago, Ill.
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British Representative:
Frederick A. Smith, 29 Ludgate
Hill, London, E. C.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1915.

"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.

COALITION GOVERNMENT.

From time to time suggestions have appeared in Liberal newspapers that a coalition government for Canada would not be a bad experiment at this time. Some of the more rabid Grit organs of the cheaper grade have intimated that Canada should follow the example of Great Britain and in this crisis, entrust destinies to a government composed of the brightest minds of both political parties. The Hamilton Herald, a sane Liberal newspaper, does not agree in the coalition talk. Dealing with the matter editorially, it says:

"In Britain the coalition government was formed because the national danger had become so imminent that it was necessary to unite the political parties in order that all the political resources of the country might be mobilized and organized to meet the danger. Coalition failed over a perilous crisis."

"There is talk of coalition at Ottawa. If there were any real need for a coalition government in Canada, party interests should not be allowed to stand in the way. But we fail to see the need of it. The government appears to be equal to the task of administration. No serious mistakes are being made—at least we do not hear of any complaints of want of energy or of prudence. To all appearance the machinery of government is running smoothly. Such being the case, it would not seem wise to risk trouble by a change in the operation of the machinery. There is no such national crisis here as there was in Britain when the political leaders were driven into coalition as the only means of safety."

The Standard has already ventured to point out that the conditions which made coalition government necessary in Britain have not existed in Canada. The Asquith administration, composed as it was of many diverse elements, and assailed vigorously by its own party, was forced to take a drastic step to prevent a condition of chaos which would have proved terribly serious. There was very general dissatisfaction over the manner in which Mr. Asquith's cabinet dealt with questions of national importance. In Canada there is no such feeling. Liberal partisans have indulged in criticism of the government but it has not been general and even those critics are, to quote the Toronto Globe, prepared to drop the criticism if "Sir Robert Borden will promise that no general election shall be held until after the war."

Criticism that can be stifled with a promise is not to be taken seriously. It does not spring from dissatisfaction but from a desire to condemn the government because it is Conservative, and reminds one of nothing so much as the clamor of a child wishing to be pacified with sweets. Outside of a few rabid Liberal partisans the Government has not been criticized. On the contrary its handling of an unprecedented situation has been such as to convince the great majority of the Canadian people that they made a wise exchange on September 21st, 1911, when the Laurier Government was hurled from power and an honest businesslike administration installed in its place. There is no need for a coalition and Grit newspapers advocating it are but wasting time, ink and paper.

CONCERNING MACHINE GUNS.

The Times last evening stated that Senator Loughheed, acting Minister of Militia and Defence had wired to Mayor Frink that the Militia Department still open for the gifts of machine guns and then kindly added: "This is the official denial of the story published in The Standard recently that no more machine guns are required by the department."

Whether there are sufficient machine guns for the requirements of the Canadian forces The Standard does not know, neither does the Times. The fact remains, however, that on August 21st, one week ago, the acting Minister of Militia issued from Ottawa a statement that the donations for machine guns received at that time were sufficient for all requirements. This statement was sent broadcast and received wide publicity. The Vancouver World of August 21 carried the statement of the Acting Minister as follows:

Ottawa, Aug. 21.—Senator J. A. Loughheed, acting minister of militia, today gave out the following statement:

"ing official statement regarding the new fund to be raised to aid disabled Canadian soldiers: 'Donations for machine guns already received have exceeded the expectations of the government. The government has placed an order for all the machine guns at present available and further donations would not result in furnishing any additional equipment of guns to our troops.'"

The Ottawa correspondent of the Telegraph also dealt with it and in the issue of that paper of August 23rd appears the following: "The appeal for machine guns has brought in offers aggregating over \$2,000,000 and the government now has funds for all the machine guns that can be possibly secured or used for many months to come."

The Ottawa Journal of August 26th, in an editorial dealing with machine guns and other purposes for which public subscriptions are being asked, said:

"Subscriptions for machine guns continue to pour in upon the Government, and while they reflect deep sense of patriotism it is time the country was impressed with the fact that for the present, no more machine guns are wanted. Money subscribed for machine guns just now, if the Journal understands the situation aright, is of no possible service, and may never be utilized at all."

Possibly conditions have changed during the past few days but enough has been published to show that there was ample warrant for the statement The Standard made. Whatever may be the condition of the machine gun funds there can be no question of the need of subscriptions to the other funds being raised in connection with this war. The Patriotic Fund, for instance, is rapidly becoming depleted by reason of the demands upon it and unless something is done soon it will be totally exhausted. Of course it is an attractive proposition to give a machine gun and to know that by such a medium one may play a real part in the Empire war, but it should not be forgotten that the estimate of the Patriotic Fund managers is that for \$15 a Canadian soldier can be kept on active service for one month, surely not an undesirable achievement. We cannot all give machine guns but very many men who have as yet made but small contributions to one of the funds can well afford to keep a soldier in the trenches for several months. If we cannot go on active service ourselves, and can afford the gift, by all means keep a representative in the battle lines.

THE LIBERAL POSITION

The Toronto Globe is generally regarded as the leading newspaper organ of the Liberal party and, consequently, its suggestions merit some attention as embodying ideas fairly representative of Canadian Liberalism. Recently the Globe had the following:

"If Sir Robert Borden will publicly announce that there shall be no general election until after the war, the criticism will cease." It is difficult to follow the Globe's line of reasoning. Either the Liberals have been indulging in frivolous criticism of the Government for purely partisan purposes, or else they are prepared to neglect their plain duty as critics if the Government will make a deal not to go to the country until after the war, by which time the Liberals evidently hope to be better prepared for the conflict, possibly with a new leader, and something like a real constructive policy.

If the acts of the Government are wrong they should be criticized, war or no war, and if the Liberals are prepared to refrain from just criticism then they are remiss in their duty. If, as is really the case, although we did not expect the Toronto Globe to admit it, the Government's policy is the correct policy and the Government's actions are in the best interests of the country and the Empire, then what Liberal criticism there has been was undertaken solely for partisan purposes, and not because there is ground for complaint.

This is what The Standard has contended, but the Telegraph and the Times have strenuously denied that their criticisms of Hon. Mr. Hazen, New Brunswick's representative in the Borden Government, are unfounded, or indulged in only for purposes of party politics. Now the Toronto Globe gives the same answer. Really, the

sages of Canterbury street, should speak quite plainly to the reverend gentleman who presides over the Globe's editorial pages.

WOMEN OF CANADA DO YOUR "BIT"

Soldiers Need Home-Prepared Fruit to Maintain Health.

A movement has been made by the Canadian Clubs and Red Cross Societies to furnish the Canadian Soldiers in the trenches of France and Flanders with canned fruit. The war office supplies jam, but it does not in any way take the place of preserved fruit. Much of the sickness of our men has been found to be due to the lack of fresh and preserved fruits. In several cities an organized effort has been made to supply this need, by getting our patriotic women to do down a little more than they require for family use, and send a few jars to the Red Cross or Canadian Club. Women in other sections of the country may join in this good work. Those who wish to do so should communicate with the Secretary of the Canadian Club in Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa or London, or better still, prepare the fruit and ship it to the Red Cross. The Overseas Club will look after the distribution by an arrangement made with the Canadian Clubs. Let our Canadian women show that they are not indifferent in this matter. An extra basket of peaches or plums will not cost much and the home preserved fruit will do a great deal of good. The best peaches to use for this purpose are the St. Johns, Elbertas, Crawford, and Smocks. The best preserving late plums are Bradshaws, Gages, Lombards, Reine Claude. The city women have responded nobly. Will the women in the smaller towns do as well? The Fruit Branch Dept. at Ottawa is offering substantial prizes in all leading cities for window displays of Plums and Peaches.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

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Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

"Ma was reading a book in the setting room last nite and pop was setting there smoking, and awl of a sudden he sed very lowd, Mothir, look, well of awl things, yure feat are axullly attached to yure boddly. And ma quick dropped the book into her lap and looked down at her feat, saying, Wat, wat, O, yure simpli thing, are you perfectly krazy? Ha ha ha, not at awl, sed pop. I was jest deminstrating a scientiffic artikel I red the uthir day, argewing that its the tone of voice rather than the axull werds wich causes the effect on the lissener, and now I no its too, I merely informed you that yure feat were attached to yure boddly and you awlmost jumped a mile, ha ha ha. Vebhy brilliynt, Im sure, scaring me haff out of my senses with yure krazy tawk, sed ma.

Ha ha, yure feat are attached to yure boddly, ha ha, sed pop. And he kept awn smoking and startid to teen back in his chare as if he was thinking of sumthing impertine and ma looked at him a wile and then she yelled out awl of a suddin. Willyum, Willyum, youve got eers awn the sides of yure fase.

Wats that, wats that, sed pop. And he dropped his segar out of his mouth and put both hands up to his fase and then he quick tryed to get his segar agin and berned his fingirs awn the lighted part, saying, confowid it, jimmity blast it.

Hoe, hee, sed pop. Meening it wasent. And he bloo awn his fingirs and leened back in his chare agin and in about 10 minits ma looked at him and he was looking up at the seeling thinking and smoking, and ma yelled out, O, goodness grayshiss, Willyum, yure mouth is rite undir yure nose. Something as if she was saying the house was on fire or sumthing, and pops dropped out of his mouth agen and he looked mad and grabbed it and put the lighted end in his mouth and bloo it out agen even quicker than wat he had put it in, saying, Goshbang the histiry blastid blazes, I say, ding it awl to smithirens, attir a joak ceeses to be a joak, it has ceesed to be a joak, thats awl.

Hee hee, that scientiffic artikel must have bin rite, I gees, sed ma. Wich maybe it must of bin.

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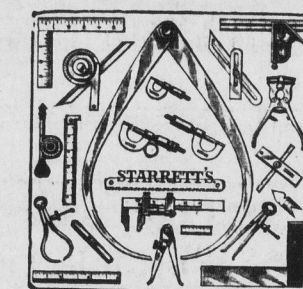
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