

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1916.

"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.

WAR COMMENT.

The past few days in the war have not produced any particularly startling or significant events. On the Somme sector of the western front, where the British and French troops made much progress during July, there has been a relative slackening although both war offices have reported minor successes. The British and French have repulsed severe German attacks, and in the vicinity of Poitiers and Basentin have pushed their lines forward a little, but it is evident that the time has been largely employed in a consolidation of ground already won and preparation for renewal of the struggle on a still larger scale.

Those who expected that the first successes of the British drive would be followed by daily advances until the enemy was forced back to the Rhine have need to curb their optimism. There is no longer room for doubt as to the eventual result on the western, as on all other fronts, but it is too much to hope that each day will bring news of a precipitate German retreat. It must be remembered that the enemy is fighting on ground he has occupied for months and which he has well prepared. Also his supplies of men and munitions are not yet exhausted and with the technical skill attained as the result of years of preparation he will be able to put up a stiff fight for months. Consequently the progress of the Allied armies on the western front, while assured and steady, may not be rapid, and it is only reasonable to expect more than one reverse before they have succeeded in clearing the invaders out of Belgium and Northern France.

On the eastern front, where the fighting has been practically continuous it is evident that the Austro-German forces have been reinforced or are occupying positions of greater strength than when the Czar's soldiers started their advance. The strongest movement of the Russians appears to be in the direction of Kovel, where, in the past few days, they have captured more than 40,000 men and large quantities of munitions and supplies. The Russians also report the repulse of German attacks on the Stokod River and Austrian attacks near Brody. One report also said they had penetrated the lines of General von Bothmer near Buczac, but as no further mention is made of the operation in that area it is presumed the Germans were able to drive them back again. While much is to be expected from the Russian movement an occasional reverse is not surprising for the line of battle over which the Czar's men are fighting is more than twice the length of the western front and it is hardly possible that there should be a general advance along that whole line without setbacks being encountered at some points.

Reports from all fronts and from all sources tell of stubborn fighting and it is only too true that in every engagement the casualties to friend and foe have been heavy. Doubtless the commanders of both armies feel that upon what is happening now depends the success or failure of the future and this knowledge would contribute added ferocity to the fighting. Generally the past week or so has seen but small gains but an encouraging feature is that they were all made by the Allies.

While the result of the war is no longer in doubt the necessity for maintaining preparations for a campaign of many months has not yet passed. One encouraging sign is that munition contracts entered into by the Allied governments during last week contained the special clause cancelling them in the event of the cessation of hostilities which marked the first few months of the war but was later abandoned. This in itself looks as if the supply of munitions is regarded as well up to the probable demands and that new contracts are being entered into only as a preparation for a longer conflict than generally expected.

BRITAIN'S WAR BILL

Britain's latest vote of credit for the war will bring the expenditure of the country up to the amazing figure of \$14,160,000,000.

Can Britain go on spending money at the rate of thirty millions a day

with such a huge millstone of debt around her neck?

There seems to be no reason against it at present, says an American exchange, which goes on to point out that after the war with Napoleon the United Kingdom, with her income one-tenth of what it is today, was able successfully to meet a national debt of \$4,000,000,000. On this basis she ought to be able to meet a debt of \$40,000,000,000 today. But of course she will not be asked to do anything of the kind. Long before the cost of the war has reached \$25,000,000,000, Germany will have sued for peace. Then Great Britain is taxing herself today in a fashion which no other country in the world dare attempt. She is running the war on sound financial principles—not like Germany on "craps of paper" that only victory can make good. Great Britain can contemplate her financial future without fear.

A REMARKABLE FORECAST.

One of the most interesting newspaper forecasts of the present war was that made by Charles P. Norcross a noted journalist, in the columns of the Kansas City Star, of November 29, 1909, and which the Star has recently republished. Writing from London almost seven years ago Mr. Norcross, after referring to the statement of Lord Roseberry that an "ominous hush" brooded over Europe, went on to speak of the tense situation in all the capitals. War was in the air, and each nation was dreading the day when it would burst with destroying violence.

Mr. Norcross' remarkable article was in part as follows:

London, Nov. 29, 1909.—The stage is being set in the Old World for a great drama. With in every cabinet in Europe, behind closely guarded doors, around great tables, grave and thoughtful men are peering anxiously into a portentous future. The tension is felt acutely in the brooding eyes of Pinchon, the great Foreign Minister of France. With phlegmatic calm, von Bethmann-Hollweg, the grim Chancellor of Germany's war lord, studies the statistics of the superb army, the impregnable fortresses and the huge fighting craft that fly the flag of the fatherland....

You do not see the situation openly discussed in the newspapers, and you rarely hear it discussed in public. It is a subject tabooed, yet it is in every man's mind. When the leaders of England meet in Downing street or behind the closed doors of the great houses, it is the subject that is discussed almost to the exclusion of everything else. Once in a while you find some statesman that hints at it—this terror that shadows all Europe. Perhaps the best expression of the situation was that by Lord Rosebery, who recently referred to it as "the ominous hush" that broods over all Europe....

Germany and England, these are the great signatory powers to the decree of unrest. They face each other awaiting the inevitable, the final war for dominance. Europe is not big enough for them both. One must go. Germany has made its bid for dominance. England cannot acquiesce.

For a century England has dominated the sea. "Britannia rules the wave" is not the chant of a deluded nation. It is the daily consecration of a work that must be sustained.

Germany has put out her hand for that rulership. Either England must submit supinely or fight—and unless all signs fail, England will fight.

These countries are the Rome and Carthage of the modern day. Flanking them are the other nations who cannot avoid the war—and in casting lots each ruler and each cabinet will be governed, jockey like, by what can be carried off in the way of loot from the mighty conflict.

The London journalist who nearly seven years ago cabled the foregoing to his newspapers either had a wonderful grasp of the situation, or was a remarkably shrewd guesser. As the Kansas City Star points out it is a most interesting forecast.

Ain't it Sad.

Ain't it sad—when you're marching in With a charge of nice dry clothes, When you step in a ditch full of water,

That soaks you from head to toes, And you've got to stick it, for three days, p'raps four, And dry yourself out by degrees, Especially when it's snowing galore, And doing its best to freeze?

Ain't it sad when you're caught on the hop, Right out in the open at that, And to dodge a murderous shell fire, You've got to flop down flat, Or jump in a shell hole, with a head-long rush, And fancy yourself in luck, To find you are up to your neck in slush.

Ain't it sad when you want to duck? Ain't it sad when you are making tea, To warm yourself up in the morn, When the night has been dirty—and busy, And you wish you had never been born.

When just as you've finished and put in the rum, Brother Fritz throws a bomb at your feet, And blows your breakfast to kingdom come.

Ain't it sad when you can't see the joke? Ain't it sad when your numerous friends, With "squatter's rights" on your vest, Take a notion to go for a promenade Or start on a foraging quest.

And try as you might, you can't go where you want, But simply get carried away, And they take you over the top for a jaunt.

Ain't it sad when you want to stay? Ain't it sad when you're out for a rest, All wrecked with rheumatical pains, When you take a couple of snorts for a sale.

And they run away with your brains And you find yourself pegged for F. G. C. M.

Without an excuse that will fit, And you do "No. 1 P. P." pro tem, Ain't it sad when you're doing your bit?

R. WILLIAMS, C. A. S. C., From the Listening Post.

WESTFIELD NOTES

Westfield, Aug. 3.—A very successful concert was held in the Methodist church on Friday evening. The programme was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Among those taking part were Mrs. P. Corow, Mrs. J. Griffiths, Miss McHarg, Mrs. Haw Walker, of St. John; Mrs. J. T. Hawker, of Montreal, and Prof. F. Read of Sackville. And Dr. Percy Bonnell. After the concert a sale of ice cream and candy was held on the parsonage grounds. The sum of \$62 was realized for church purposes.

Miss Winnie Thomas is visiting friends in Fredericton.

Mrs. J. Buleva, of Gasquetown, is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. H. Warwick.

Mr. and Mrs. Hartley Case of St. John are spending a few days with Mrs. and Mrs. Lee B. Jones, Hillandale.

For the week-end Mrs. R. Gibson was the guest of Mrs. S. R. Jack. Mrs. J. D. Keator, who has been the guest of Mrs. J. A. Hoyt for the past few months, returned to St. John on Tuesday.

Rev. L. R. Sherman spent Sunday guest of Mr. and Mrs. R. Thompson. Mrs. G. F. Calkin was a recent visitor of Mrs. A. Macaulay, Ononette.

Mrs. Logan left on Wednesday for her home in Fredericton after spending a few weeks with her sister, Mrs. S. S. McAvity.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Tufts and daughter, of Toledo, have been spending a short time guests of Mrs. W. P. Bonnell.

Miss Mildred Lister of West St. John is visiting her cousin, Miss Dorothy Finley.

Miss Jessie Gilliland is spending a few weeks with friends in Holderville, N. B.

Rev. S. R. Prince, of Nauwigewauk was a recent guest of Miss Ballentine.

Mr. and Mrs. McBride and children and Mrs. and Mrs. Howson and Miss M. Fowler of Presque Isle, Me., spent a few days this week with Mrs. J. Baxter.

On Wednesday Mrs. G. M. Campbell, Miss Campbell, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Russell, of St. John, were visitors of Mrs. Leonard, Ononette.

Miss Watters, of St. John, is spending a few days with friends in Holderville, N. B.

Mr. Stephen H. Shaw, Fairmount, Sask., writes: "I have used Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, and must say it is a fine medicine for Summer complaint. We have so much alkali water here in the west that last harvest time I had summer complaint, and became so weak I could not work. I was advised to try 'Dr. Fowler's,' so got a bottle, and in a few days I was as well as ever."

"Dr. Fowler's" is the original "Wild Strawberry." It has been on the market for the past 70 years. There are a number of preparations on the market today, claiming the same curative powers, called similar names, and trying to trade on the reputation of this wonderful remedy.

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The price at all dealers is 35c. per bottle. Manufactured only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Little Benny's Note Book

Us fellows was standing around the lamp post, and Peds Skinkies sissy cousin Percy came along eating peanuts out of a bag, Skinny Martin saying, G, hear comes Percy eating peanuts, lets get him to play sociological gardens, and we can be the monkeys and eat his peanuts.

With just then Percy came up, and Skinny sed, Your jest in time, Percy, do you want to play soo?

All rite, but I wont be any of the animals, sed Percy.

You can be whatever you want to, sed Reddy Merfy, wy dont you jest be a visitor and wawk up and down, and all us fellows will be monkeys.

All rite, sed Percy. And he started to wawk up and down like a visitor eating his peanuts, and us fellows all started jumping up and down and scratching ourselves like monkeys, and Percy jest kept wawking around and saying, Ah, see the pritty monkeys, how nice. And after about five minits with nobody getting any peanuts, but the visitor, Skinny Martin sed, Hay, you must throw us 'some peanuts, that's wat you do to monkeys.

I sint got meny left, sed Percy.

You have so, you got a half a bagful yet, sed Sid Hunt.

O, all rite, sed Percy. And the monkeys kept on jumping around, and Percy throo them 3 peanuts, being a wawll scramble to get them, and then the visitor sed, Never mind reetching, monkeys, Im not going to throw any more.

And he started to put the bag in his pocket and Skinny Martin hit his hand rfm underneath, saying, Poppy lay. And the bag went up in the air and half the peanuts floo out, and Percy cawt the bag on its way down and ran like the mischief with it, and the monkeys scrambled for the peanuts on the pavement, Reddy Merfy getting the most on account of being pritty tuff and using his feet to keep uther monkeys away from peanuts he wasnt reetching for yet.

ing a few days at Mrs. L. Jones' Miss Warwick returned home on Thursday after a pleasant visit with friends at Grosse Isle, Que.

Mrs. C. F. Woodman, of St. John, spent Wednesday with her sister, Mrs. R. B. Patterson.

Rev. Canon Hoyt was a visitor at the home of his brother, Mr. J. A. Hoyt, on Wednesday.

Mrs. Lister and family, of St. John, are visiting Mrs. L. Caulfield, Lingley. Mrs. H. C. Read and children left on Wednesday for their home in Stonehaven, N. B., after a visit of a few weeks with Mrs. Read's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith, Hillandale.

Miss Margaret Gilmour spent a few days this week with friends at Hammond River.

The ladies of the Ononette Patriotic Society held a pantry sale at the home of R. D. Smith on Saturday, the sum of \$62 being realized for patriotic purposes.

An ice cream sale was held on Wednesday afternoon at the residence of W. S. Stephenson, Hillandale. The sum of \$25 was made for patriotic purposes.

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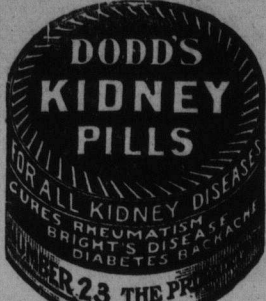
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