

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 16, 1916

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## HAS GRAFT BECOME A BRITISH INSTITUTION?

Has graft become a British institution? Does the Hon. Geo. J. Clarke, premier of New Brunswick, entertain that view?

The St. Croix Courier reflects the views of Premier Clarke. In this week's issue, an article which we may fairly assume expresses his views, and which deals with the campaign in Carleton county, concludes with a statement to the effect that a victory for the government candidates will be a victory for those "who seek a continuance of British institutions."

There it is, as plain as a pike-staff. The chief characteristic of the present government has been its tolerance of graft. Perhaps the word tolerance is not strong enough to fit the case. Grafting operations have been exposed over and over again by its own royal commissions, and only yesterday the charge was made that Premier Clarke knew about \$2,500 paid as graft by a contracting firm in order to get a settlement of a claim against the government. The Standard, commenting on the subject, said:

"The affidavit on its face, shows that the premier did not receive one cent of the money."

Is that all the defence the premier has to offer? Let us hope not.

But Mr. Clarke, in the Courier, pleads for a continuance of British institutions. Are the people to understand that in order to preserve those institutions it is necessary to continue in power a government which condoned the plunder of the Southampton Railway and the Valley Railway, the hold-up of the lumbermen, the looting of the timber land revenues, the farm sales graft, the road and bridge graft, and the hold-up of the liquor dealers?

Premier Clarke has commanded personal sympathy because of the state of his health, but he has retained the office of premier and must accept responsibility for the acts of the government. He should have resigned. He has made it necessary for the people to save him that trouble by voting him out of office, and they are only awaiting the opportunity to do it. His newspaper organ, which has had almost nothing to say on the subject of provincial politics for a long period, would have gained more credit by continuing its silence. But it was characteristic of the whole government policy that the Courier should try to make it appear that Mr. Carvell is the issue in Carleton county.

The people are not deceived, and they will also refuse to accept the doctrine that graft is a British institution and ought to be preserved. New Brunswick is about to put the seal of its utter condemnation on graft and the grafters.

## THE WAR NEWS

The steady advance of the British and French in the west will not be received with undue caution, for we do not yet know what the present German plans may be. Von Hindenburg is credited with holding the conviction that the war is to be decided in the east, and it may be that he is willing to give ground gradually in the west in order to prepare for a mighty blow in the east.

It is nevertheless clear that there are to be no more German gains in the west. The British and French have been able to pierce the German third line of defence, and what they have gained and are gaining will be held. The German grip is loosening in the west because it must, and today's cables hint at Allied operations on a wider scale as a result of the great success of the last week. A glance at the map shows that since the first of July the Allies have made very important gains, and they are still forcing the enemy back on the Somme front.

With regard to the east the news is also satisfactory, especially in the Balkan region. We must wait, however, to learn what the enemy will do as a result of the recent conference. If they are unable to concentrate forces enough to create a formidable diversion at some points the winter will find them driven back everywhere within greatly narrowed limits, and Bulgaria and Turkey practically out of the fight.

The Italians have again resumed the offensive on an enlarged scale, and the pressure on Austria is heavier than ever. The Allies have this advantage that they can strike where and when they choose, with such force as to keep the enemy constantly worried over the situation and never sure where the next great blow will fall. The situation is everywhere hopeful for the Allies.

## A PERFECTLY CLEAR CASE

The Standard this morning publishes affidavits from Mr. E. Lorne Merrithew and Mr. Luther B. Smith, who were partners with Mr. R. J. Arnill in the transaction which netted Mr. James H. Crockett the sum of \$2,500. It also prints an article from the Frederickton Gleaner. The substance of the affidavits and the Gleaner article is that the transaction was between Smith and Merrithew and the Hibbard Company, and St. John and Quebec Railway Company, and the government had nothing to do with it.

This is all very fine, but the check in settlement of the Smith & Merrithew claim was signed by Mr. Irving R. Todd, as president, after the affairs of the St. John & Quebec Railway Company had been taken over by the government and its appointees placed in charge.

Mr. Crockett got the \$2,500. The Gleaner admits it, but says it was a purely friendly transaction between himself and the contractor, Mr. Crockett is certainly happy in his friendships.

Brushing aside all the verbiage in the Merrithew affidavit and the Gleaner article, these facts appear:

1.—The claim of Smith & Merrithew was settled after the government had assumed control of the affairs of the St. John & Quebec Railway Co.

2.—That settlement must have been made with the knowledge and consent of the government.

3.—Mr. James H. Crockett got \$2,500 out of the transaction.

The people will draw their own conclusions.

## NATIONAL PARKS.

We have heard nothing for a long time about the project of converting Fort Howe into a national park. No doubt when the war is over the work will again claim attention.

It is interesting to note in this connection that a national park to be established on Mt. Desert Island on the Maine coast is to be named after Sieur de Monts, and thus our neighbors will commemorate the name of the French coloniser with whom Samuel de Champlain came to the Bay of Fundy. The Bangor Commercial gives the following interesting account of the new National Park and its attractions:

"The creation of the Sieur de Monts National Monument on Mt. Desert Island, signals the establishment of the first national park in the eastern states. This park is the first national playground to be instituted east of the Mississippi river and marks the realisation of the desire of the administration to include the eastern states in this policy of national parks."

"It has not been the easiest of tasks to achieve this object, which has been accomplished primarily through the generosity of owners of lands which were placed some years ago in a trusteeship with the definite intention of presenting the same to the United States government, which has now been done. One would go far before finding as beautiful a domain as is presented by this wide-spreading area of Mt. Desert Island, embracing, as it does, towering and rugged mountains, charming sylvan lakes and ponds and in the foreground the waters of Frenchman's bay, all affording as magnificent a vista as can be found in the United States."

"It is entirely fitting that Mt. Desert should be chosen for the location of the initial national park in the Eastern States. It is rich in historical lore, unsurpassed in its scenic charm, in its health-giving breezes and modernized by the beautiful villas of the summer colonists who come to its hospitable shores. The establishment of the national monument on Mt. Desert means that the charms of the island will never grow less. With the park of many thousands of acres maintained in its present scenic beauty, for under its government ownership no woodsman's axe will despoil its delights will be retained for the generations to come and the island will always be a Mecca for those who are seeking relief from the noise and bustle of the city and who desire to obtain inspiration and delight from the rugged and wonderful scenery where ocean, mountain, forest and lake unite to charm and gladden the eye."

"It means much to Maine that the national government has decided to commence its eastern development of the national domain system with the choice of Mt. Desert, for in the years to come this glorious playground will bring many visitors to Maine and to Mt. Desert Island."

British Columbia has turned out the grafters. What will Carleton county do?

The Globe is now able to see political corruption 4,000 miles away. It says the British Columbia government got what it deserved. Let us be patient. Presently the Globe's short-sight will equal its long-sight and it will be able to see things as they are in New Brunswick.

Untermeyer Operated On  
Yonkers, N.Y., Sept. 16.—Samuel Untermeyer, noted lawyer, was operated on for intestinal trouble at his country home, Greveline, on Thursday.

## MAGIC BAKING POWDER

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## SONNET.

September Sunshine.

How glorious is September's sun at morn!  
It is not brighter than the sun of May,  
But shines on richer tints, and new-mown hay.

On leaves of varied shades, and ripened corn.  
It is not warmer than the sun of June,  
But milder it warms our hearts for winter's morn.

Even now hints of his coming, chill and cold,  
By frosty nights beneath the harvest moon.

O! Source of life and light, thou glorious sun!  
Though life be short, shine on our fleeting days;  
Thy smile can make life's sands more slowly run.

And leaden care grows golden 'neath thy rays.  
As smoke, blown through a sunbeam, changes hue.  
HOPE A. THOMSON.

819 Princess Street.

## LIGHTER VEIN

One hears some stories, tall and short, interesting and otherwise, while traveling by train.

The other evening several miners entered a smoking compartment and immediately opened conversation with an elderly gentleman, who told them of a glaring miscarriage of justice in connection with a police court case in which he was greatly interested.

Then one of the miners chimed in. He said that he knew a man who was sentenced to three months' hard labor for picking up a rope.

His friends, ridiculed the statement, but the narrator stuck to his words. "Perhaps he was an 'old hand,'" suggested the elderly gentleman.

"No, he wasn't," persisted the miner. "In fact he was never in a police court before."

"What kind of a rope was it, then?" "A coal sort—about six yards long."

Still the company was unconvinced. The train stopped at a station and the miner made toward the door. Then he turned and added significantly: "You see, the magistrate happened to find out that there was a horse at the end of the rope!"

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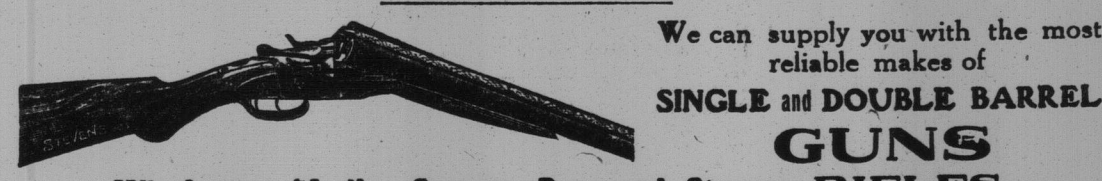
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## FRENCH LINE ADDED SHIPS DESPITE WAR

Compagnie Generale Transatlantique Made Substantial Profit in 1915

Increased Net Tonnage; Lessened by Submarine Activity and The Service to Government Offset by Large Freight Traffic

New York, Sept. 15.—The annual report of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, better known as the French Line, made public here, shows that France's merchant marine has grown instead of diminished since the war began. Among other vessels, the company has built and placed in commission a modern passenger steamship of 14,800 tons, and it has maintained an uninterrupted passenger and freight service between France and the Western Hemisphere.

At the beginning of the war the French Line placed every available steamship at the disposal of the government, and its private shipyards, dry docks, and workshops were thrown open to the French naval constructors and Ministry of Marine. Notwithstanding an almost total absence of tourist travel, the reduction to an insignificant minimum of westward emigration traffic and losses incurred through the submarine activity, the report shows a substantial profit, due to large freight traffic.

In 1915 the French Line offset the losses incurred through requisitions and the acts of enemy submarines by placing in commission, besides the Lafayette, the Vaudeuse, La Nièvre, Ardèche, Mont Blanc, La Dives, Saint Andre, Saint Joseph, Saint Jean, Saint Louis and the Saint Marc. In December, 1915, the company had eighty-five steamships, a total net tonnage of 894,000, and 889,860 horse power, an increase over 1914 of one steamship, 6,414 net tonnage and 4,000 horse power.

The heavy demand in France for material and labor has retarded construction of the gigantic new steamship Paris, which was to have been completed and placed in commission last year. Work on the Paris has been continued steadily, and it is expected that it will be ready for service soon after peace is declared.

Freight shipments were hampered through the congestion of freight and loading facilities in the port of New York and also through the inadequate equipment and shortage of labor in the French ports. Congestion in New York is attributed to the unusual number of vessels from the ports in Europe, from South American and Pacific Coast points, which made the question of berthing all incoming vessels a matter of delay and difficulty. Even after coming to a pier in New York, the report states, vessels were sometimes detained a week before sufficient facilities could be obtained to load them.

## GORKY'S SON TO STATES

Lieut. Zinovi Pechoff in the French Army Despite of Arm.

Paris, Sept. 16.—Among the passengers sailing for New York, the steamship Lafayette today, is Lieut. Zinovi Pechoff of the Russian Legion.

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with local applications as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a local disease, greatly influenced by constitutional conditions, and in order to cure it you must take an internal remedy. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts through the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system. Hall's Catarrh Cure was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years. It is composed of some of the best tonics known, combined with some of the best blood purifiers. The perfect combination of the ingredients in Hall's Catarrh Cure is what produces such wonderful results in catarrhal conditions. Send for testimonials free.

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