

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1917

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 9, 1917.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.

Subscription price—Delivered by carrier \$4.00 per year, by mail \$3.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Norling, Brunswick B.T.'s—CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association B.T.'s—MONTREAL, J. C. Ross, Board of Trade B.T.'s.

British and European—Frederick A. Smyth, 29 Lodge Hill LONDON, E.C., England

A LEADERLESS PEOPLE

Have the people of Canada shot their bolt? If the present proportion between casualties and enlistments continues there will be a pitifully small Canadian army at the front six months hence. In the face of the facts the people can only blush at the grandiloquent message of Sir Robert Borden to the men who are fighting and dying and asking why the Canadian divisions are not kept up to full strength. Sir Robert Borden sent this message:

"Reinforcements have arrived from Canada in large numbers during recent weeks. It is believed in the not distant future that splendid forces from the kindred nation adjoining the Dominion will come across the seas to fight with the Canadians. Every generation is a trustee of the future, but upon this generation rests special responsibility for the world's future and destiny. Canada has taken a part never to be forgotten in the great theatre of action where that destiny is being worked out, and each can truly feel he is playing the appointed part in the greatest effort for freedom, democracy and civilization that history has recorded."

On the same day this message was published in Canada a Canadian correspondent at the front warned the Canadian people that they must steel themselves to receive casualty lists, because the advance was slow and costly, and bluntly told them that recruiting must be speeded up or the army could not be kept up to full strength till next fall. It was further asserted that England was preparing for two years more of war. Mr. Frank H. Simonds says there may even be three years more of war. In the face of all this Sir Robert Borden tries to cheer the soldiers who are fighting and dying by telling them that help is coming from the United States. True, there are fresh troops landing in England to be drafted over to France, but they will presently figure in the casualty lists, and who will take their places? Will Blomfield's battalion be there? And what others? It is idle to ask what the Borden government will do about it. This country is leaderless in the supreme crisis of its history. The cry for men, and provisions, and ships, is answered by words, words, words.

SHIPBUILDING

The Toronto Star calls upon the federal government to take the lead in giving encouragement to shipbuilding. It says:

"The Dominion government ought at once to have a report prepared, showing all the plants in Canada capable of producing either steel or wooden ships, and their capacity. It has been announced that a census of industries is to be made by the statistics department. That department could concentrate its efforts for the present on shipbuilding. Not only large plants, but small concerns should be included, and there should be a list of available skilled workmen. The maritime provinces must contain many of these. Factories which are now manufacturing other articles for which there is no urgent need could be converted into plants for building parts of ships and machinery. This plan has been adopted in the case of munitions. There is no more important or urgent work than that of supplying the allies with food and other materials, and providing ships to carry them, or to destroy submarines. Canada and the United States, with their industries comparatively undisturbed by war conditions, can do much to help. They have the material, both for steel and wooden ships; they have the plants and the workers. Every available man and factory should be working to increase our strength on the sea."

There is little hope of any real leadership from Ottawa in this or any other vital matter. Nova Scotia and British Columbia have taken action on their own account. Whatever New Brunswick can do should be done without delay. Federal co-operation would be welcomed, but to wait for it might jeopardize the vital interests of the country.

TEACHERS WILL HELP

We learn that a letter has been sent out to all the schools from the Toronto Teachers' Association urging those who have any knowledge of farm labor to take a fortnight on the farm and thus aid production.

"Let us enjoy the hardships like good soldiers," says the letter. "We may have blistered hands and aching muscles, but when we think of what our brave boys are enduring in the trenches we will forget them."

The letter, says the Toronto Star, tells the teachers that the board of education has been generous with them in allowing them leave of absence without salary. "Let us in all honor live up to our obligation. Play up, play up, and play the game!" Some of the principals and teachers are already on the farm. The arrangement with the board is that those who get their salary minus whatever their farmer employer pays them.

The nomination of Dr. McAllister as the Liberal candidate for the commons in the new constituency of Royal (Kings-Queens) was a deserved recognition of an able and popular public man, who will make an excellent representative in the next house. Dr. Pearson's tribute stands. "He said that he had been in business competition with Dr. McAllister for many years and he had always found him a fair and square competitor, and the man who can deal squarely in business will do the same with the people. He felt certain that were Dr. McAllister elected he would look after the interests of the country in preference to his own." The convention at Norton yesterday was large, and of one mind. It does not want another extension of the life of parliament, and it wants Dr. McAllister in the next house.

An Institute for Feeble-Minded Children is to be erected in Toronto. The provincial government will contribute fifty dollars per year toward the cost of maintaining each child. The city will do the rest. We are told that the institution in Orillia cares for 800 defectives, and Dr. MacMurrich says there are 7,500 cases in the province at a mild estimate. Public opinion is now absolutely behind the movement, and Toronto has promised to put up two buildings to accommodate 200 children each, with various industries installed.

The people of Canada may well apply to themselves these words of President Wilson, the leader who leads: "This is the time for America to correct her unpardonable fault of wastefulness and extravagance. Let every man and every woman assume the duty of careful, prudent use and expenditure as a public duty, as a dictate of patriotism which no one can now expect ever to be excused or forgiven for ignoring."

Manufacturers and merchants and other employers of labor should act promptly in the matter of arranging to release employees at a stated time for vacation, so that the men could help the farmers and the farmers be assured that the help would be available. There is no time to be lost. The board of trade's appeal ought to meet with such a response as will give new heart to the farmers in regard to the help they must have to plant and harvest greater crops.

Confidence is expressed in Washington that a means of coping more successfully with the German submarine has been discovered. Meanwhile last week's losses of ships showed a decrease, although it is significantly added in the report that there is no guarantee of a continued decrease.

Events transpiring in Greece point to a revolution like that of Russia. The king is steadily losing his followers and a mass meeting at Salonika has demanded that the king and dynasty be deposed. That would be another gain for democracy in the world.

The Germans are fighting desperately along the front held by the Canadians. We must anticipate more long lists of casualties. The Canadians are holding the most advanced salient. It is the place of honor, but also the place where death holds carnival. How are the thinning ranks to be filled?

The Maritime Baptist calls for a national government. The time for a national government was in August or September, 1914. There is no hope whatever that the Borden government would consent even now to the formation of a real national administration. The patronage committees would never consent.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley's review of the shipbuilding situation is timely. But for the action of the Borden government St. John would now have a great shipbuilding plant in operation, employing thousands of men. It is well to remember the fact.

Sam Hughes proposes to move for conscription of men. Is that all? What about conscription of wealth and of every available resource for patriotic service at home? Are the young men alone to make a sacrifice?

A woman suffrage bill has been introduced in the Italian parliament. At what stage will New Brunswick get into the procession? Not at the end, let us hope.

A Washington dispatch says: The American winter wheat crop shows the lowest condition recorded since 1888 and promises a smaller yield than any other since 1904.

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Could Hardly Stand Burning, Could Not Sleep. Healed by Cuticura Soap and Ointment.

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"It lasted for seven years. Then I sent for a free sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment. I afterward bought more, and her hands were healed." (Signed) Mrs. Robert Vaincourt, Franklin Centre, Que.

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LIGHTER VEIN

Diagnosed Fisherman (emptying his bait into the stream)—"Hanged if I'll wait any longer. Here, help yourselves."

"Your wife is very fond of society?" "I should think so. Why, she came into the world as a twin so as not to be alone."

Mother—"Where are those oranges that were on the table?" Tommy—"With the tarts that were in the cupboard, I suppose."

Mrs. Naggit—"I don't feel like myself at all tonight." Mr. Naggit—"Then I'm sure we shall have a very enjoyable evening."

He—"I suppose if I kissed you, you would never speak to me again?" She—"Why do you always look on the dark side of things?"

"The widower is very attentive to that young lady." "Yes, I wonder if he'll have cheek enough to tell her she is the only girl he ever loved."

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IS WHAT FOLKS SAY OF BUTTERNUT BREAD

"The Bread With a Taste of its Own"

Maritime Baptist Calls For National Government

(Maritime Baptist.)

It is with great hesitation that we approach a question in regard to which our readers probably hold strong and diverse views. But the importance of the issues involved, and the gravity of the situation which now confronts the civilized world, may justify us in departing from our policy of silence in respect to political questions and measures. It will be understood that we have no authority to speak "as Catholics" for the United Bishops of these provinces. This is but the expression of our personal opinion, and of the issues involved. We believe, further, that amid the clamor of political controversy the non-partisan religious press should voice the convictions of independent men concerning this and other questions of national import.

Believing this, and our conviction that the time has come in Canada when party government should be superseded by a coalition government, we are moved to express our views on the whole of the resources of the nation be mobilized for the discharge of the duty we owe to the Empire and to civilization. In saying this we do not intend any reflection upon the present government. It was inevitable that in the performance of its duty it should be subjected to much criticism. Some of this, doubtless, deserved for it is scarcely to be expected that the unprecedented conditions caused by the war could be met without some mistakes being made. But much of the criticism was more partisan fault-finding, indulged in with the hope of making party capital out of the perplexities and difficulties of the administration. We believe that on the whole the present government has accomplished as much as could be expected of any government similarly constituted, and that some respects the results achieved have been magnificent.

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