

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 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.

Reports from the war fronts, during the past few days have indicated that the Allied forces are making steady progress. The Rumanian reverse in Transylvania, although it is as yet doubtful whether it was a reverse or a strategic retirement, appeared to be the only dark spot, and now that it is brightened by the news that the armies of Ferdinand are driving the Teutons back over the border and are in a fair way to regain the territory they formerly held—with more added to it. Even without this gain Rumania's Transylvanian venture proved its value—it caused the Germans to withdraw troops from other areas to concentrate in that and while pressing back the Rumanians the Huns were losing ground elsewhere. Now that Russian troops have effected a juncture with the Rumanians in Transylvania the campaign in that area is likely to speedily develop.

The Italian operation, while not contributing materially to the war reports, is progressing favorably for Italy and her allies. With the Italians pressing them in the Alpine fastnesses and the Russians pouring in through the eastern gateway, the Austro-Hungarians are in a serious way. Practically all of their available men are required to withstand these onslaughts, while both Italy and Russia have effective forces to spare for other campaigns.

The Greek situation is clearing. King Constantine, pro-German in his sympathies, is not likely to prove dangerous in view of the fact that the greater part of his army and practically all of his navy has already decided to espouse the cause of Venizelos and the Allies. With Greece definitely aligned as an ally or a benevolent neutral, the Allies will be in a position to make greater progress through Saloniki and it is held by some reviewers that developments may be looked for from that quarter. From the Russian front the report is encouraging. The Czar's armies have met with no serious setback and are progressing steadily though not at their former speed. Austrian opposition has been practically crushed while the German forces are being held in check. The coming of winter is certain to prove a distinct advantage to the Muscovites and material gains are to be expected from their field of effort.

On the western front important events are impending. The British and French armies, which have been driving their German opponents on the Somme on a thirty mile front, have advanced from ten to fifteen miles since July 1st and have consolidated all positions behind them. Defenses held by the Germans to be impregnable have been stormed or reduced and the wastage of the enemy's forces in such a process must have been enormous. While the reports of the past few days have not told of important advances the Entente armies are now almost at the gates of Peronne and Bapaume and the loss of these positions will be a very serious blow to the Germans. In Belgium, the line stands practically where it did eighteen months ago. The Germans have captured no territory and the Belgians have lost none. With additional forces in the Belgian field there must soon come a mighty advance there that is likely to undo in short order all the Germans gained since the outbreak of war.

Altogether the situation is encouraging. Germany is still putting up a stiff resistance but it is now the opinion of those who have followed the campaign from the first that when the collapse does come, as come it must, the march to victory will be rapid. Allied troops may not occupy Berlin but if not it will only be because Germany makes unconditional surrender before that stage is reached.

GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

Any hope that Germany's four and a half million of Social Democrats might prove a powerful influence in favor of peace proposals—even though the military party still desired to continue the struggle—is disposed of by Frank Bohn in a recent article in the New York Times. Mr. Bohn who was the United States delegate to the Inter-

national Social Congress at Stuttgart in 1907 says that the Social Democrats in Germany count for absolutely nothing politically, and, consequently, have no influence. The Socialist leaders, like all other Germans, are under orders from the Kaiser and the General Staff.

Mr. Bohn, who was born of German parents and knows all German Socialist leaders personally, recalls a conversation in Berlin in 1915 with Franz Mehring, a veteran leader of the original Marxist group, in which Mehring declared that there was not the slightest hope of German Socialists working for peace and democracy at home.

"The leaders of the German Social Democracy," said he, "who are in the Reichstag would rather lose their right arms than give up their 3,000 marks a year. They are a lot of old, fat, ex-working people who have climbed into the middle class socialists. They will sit where they are until they die of old age. They will do exactly what they are told to do by Bethmann-Hollweg and the militarists. In private conversation some of them will talk quite boldly. But let the police tap at their doors, and they will tremble in their boots and their teeth will chatter." Another German Socialist delegate to the congress said, when all the Germans refused to open their mouths against militarism and absolute monarchy: "Oh, yes, we all agree with the French in that matter, but if we say anything out loud we shall go to jail." Karl Liebknecht, who is now in a German jail, sentenced to four years' imprisonment, for opposing the authorities in consonance with his principles, said to Bohn in 1915: "Don't be deluded by any foolish hopes. I have worked for months to get a single other individual in the Reichstag to stand with me in an out-and-out position against the government. It is impossible."

And Mr. Bohn's own conclusions, as expressed in his letter to the Times, are equally bitter toward German Socialist Democrats. "To advocate peace today, outside of Germany, is to be a traitor to every principle of political freedom as understood in America. There can be no hope of freedom or democracy or political conscience in Germany until a new generation has been born and bred. These Socialist leaders of Germany have been the most contemptible traitors to their following, and to every decent principle of human civilization. Let the working people and their leadership in the Allied countries be warned against trickery and fraud."

The editor of the Times confesses that "half a dozen quinine tablets and a dose of salts" proved sufficient to call forth a most wonderful editorial in Wednesday's issue. After careful perusal of that article the young men on the Standard staff have "sworn off" salts and quinine forever.

Captain Dice, the Montreal police officer who objected to a French-Canadian alderman interfering with him while he was dispersing a crowd of Laval students who were rioting in opposition to recruiting, has been dismissed. Isn't that just like Montreal?

The Toronto Mail and Empire declares that residents of that city have given their sons automobiles on condition that they would not join the overseas forces. Apparently Quebec is not the only province to possess slackers.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier now announces that he has been converted to belief in "Votes for Women." Canada's grand old opportunist is preparing for another general election.

The Telegraph predicts a general election "before Christmas." If it is proportionately no nearer the truth in that than in its guess on the date of the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, election day will be due sometime next summer.

BAYSWATER ORANGEMEN ENTERTAIN CITY MEN

A very pleasant fraternal gathering was held on Wednesday evening, the 18th, at Bayswater, under the auspices of King George V. L. O. L., No. 157. About fifteen of the local Orangemen under the leadership of C. B. Ward, county master, and William M. Campbell, P. C. M., visited them and conferred the purple, blue and Royal

Arch degrees on four of their members.

A large delegation from Boyse L. O. L., No. 15, of White Head, Kings Co., were also present and took part in the ceremonies.

P. C. M. William M. Campbell presided and assisted by a strong staff of officers chosen from among the visitors exemplified the various degrees in a very satisfactory manner.

After this part of the evening's proceedings had been brought to a close a number of interesting and patriotic speeches followed. Those participating in this part of the programme were: C. M. C. B. Ward, P. C. M. S. B. Bush, Commissioner R. W. Wigmore, County Secretary W. H. Sullis, P. D. M. Sergt. James G. Sullivan, J. K. Lawson, W. M. L. O. L., No. 1; J. H. Burley, W. M. L. O. L., No. 7; H. C. Lawton, W. M. L. O. L., No. 24, and others.

During the evening refreshments were served and the visitors returned to the city at an early hour on Thursday feeling highly pleased with the reception which had been accorded them by the Bayswater brethren. This lodge, which is composed of live, active men, is in a flourishing condition and a bright future is predicted for them.

NEW BRUNSWICK MAN IN PECULIAR SUIT

Although Maine Has Prohibition, Court Recognizes Rights of Purchaser of Saloon in Bangor Who Was Defrauded.

A Bangor man is in the toils of the law because of a certain little business transaction he had with Stephen Savoy, of McAdam Junction, and a peculiar situation has developed. Camille Aucoin, the Bangor man, owns a saloon in that city. A few weeks ago, however, he was warned out by the owner of the building—an advance notice of the dust storm which is due to strike Bangor about January 1.

Shortly after this, Savoy tempted by dream of the easy money to be won in Bangor's weller of wine, offered to buy the saloon—and Aucoin sold him the stock, fixtures and good will for \$900, neglecting, however, to mention the landlord's ultimatum. This oversight may have been due to poor memory on Aucoin's part—but Savoy, on learning the full circumstances, refused to accept this charitable view. He had the stock and fixtures, such as they were, all right; but there wasn't any "good will," because the owner of the building had taken it away. So Savoy had Aucoin arrested for fraud.

In court Aucoin's lawyer contended that Savoy was attempting to secure redress for fraud exactly as though he had purchased a legitimate business. A self-confessed law-breaker, he yet sought to invoke the power of the law to punish the man who had outwitted him in an illegal transaction.

It did seem a trifle daring even for a city in which so many persons neglect the niceties of social conduct; but Judge Blanchard decided that the testimony of the deputy who had served the landlord's warning-out notice had some bearing, and Aucoin was held in \$500 for the February grand jury.

THE HUNTING OF THE HUN.

You should see old Ichthyosaurus—What we call, for short, a "Tank"—As she chases the way before us. And we follow her, rear and flank; She's a Noah's Ark survival From dim aeons ago, All her playful tricks outwail And the tactics of the foe.

With her outside prehistoric and her inside stuffed with guns, She's a dream phantasmagoric as she hunts the startled Huns; She tears up trees with a mammoth's ease and a palaeolithic grunt, And she'll hunt the Huns, the Kaiser's Huns, till there are no Huns to hunt!

With her body armor-plated Like some scaly beast of yore, She looks as if she dated Back to Adam, or before, With primeval might confronting Every peril in her way, Old Ichthyosau goes hunting Through a warring world today.

She speaks with a voice of thunder From the morning mists of Time.

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Little Benny's Note Book

We fellows wanted to get up a game of hop scotch today, only we didn't have any eraser shells, so me and Skinny Martin and Reddy Merly volunteered to go up to Krauses eraser place and ask for some. Wich we did, and when we got there the man was opening erasers and counting to himself, and Skinny whispered, Dont ask him while hes busy opening erasers or he mite get mad and not give us any.

So we didnt ask him yet, all setting down at a table with a thing full of crackers in the middle of it.

G, look at all the crackers, sed Reddy. They look all rite, dont they? I sed.

You never see an eraser place without crackers, do you? sed Skinny. And first he took a cracker and then Reddy took one and then I took one and we ate them, and then Reddy took one and then I took one and then Skinny took one and we kept on going that way until the cracker thing started to look as if it wasent so full as it was before and we all stopped taking them and looked at the man and heer the man had stopped opening erasers and was looking at us, being a man with a red face and rolled up sleeves.

Wood you mind giving us a couple of eraser shells, please? sed Skinny Martin.

We want to play hop scotch, I sed. One will be enuff if you aint got 2 to spare, sed Reddy.

Look at that cracker bowl, do you kids mean to say you any came in heer to bum eraser shells, sed the man mad as anything. And he started to run around the counter and me and Skinny and Reddy ran out as if we was scared sumthing feare, wich we was, and the man picked up a handful of crackers and throo them at us all his mite and they went all over the pavement, and we etch stopped long enuff to pick up 2 and keep on running.

A scourge to make men wonder At war's colossal crime; To reason she'll restore us When we've crushed the cruel Hun, So "Good hunting," Ichthyosaurus, Till the world's great peace is won!

With her outside prehistoric and her inside stuffed with guns, She's a dream phantasmagoric, as she hunts the startled Huns; She tears up trees with a mammoth's ease and a palaeolithic grunt, And she'll hunt the Huns, the Kaiser's Huns, till there are no Huns to hunt! —Mary Farrah, in the London Chronicle.

BIG GUNS JOSTLE SMALL ON THE BRITISH FRONT. Weapons Were so Close in Great Duel That One Could Barely Pass Between Them.

Special cable to the New York Times. London, Oct. 14.—Beach Thomas, the Daily Mail correspondent with the British armies in the field, sends a dispatch describing the fighting on Thursday. He says in part: "Though comparatively small as an infantry advance, the day was a colossal artillery duel. The size as well as the quantity of munitions, especially the 9.2 and 8-inch guns, crunched here, there and everywhere. In front of them guns filled the slope in diminishing scale. So close were they in places that you could scarcely pass between them."

"German guns, too, multiply. They slipped down from upper parts of the line and new ones came up to supply the great wastage, but always we out-multiply their multiplication, and all the while our gun birth-rate exceeds between them."

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