

# The Evening Times and Star

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## THE WAR NEWS.

Germany has replied to the American note which expressed hope that an agreement might be reached between Great Britain and Germany to free neutral commerce from the dangers to which it is now exposed. In reply to suggestions made by the American government, Germany expresses a willingness to abandon the use of drifting mines, and not to employ force against mercantile vessels which do not oppose the right of search, providing the latter also abstain from the use of neutral flags and from carrying guns. Naturally Germany heartily agrees with the proposition that food supplies imported into Germany should be used exclusively for the civil population, but wants other raw materials, including fodder, added to the list. The reply of Great Britain to the American note has not yet been received, but Washington inclines to the belief that the Allies will stick to their declared policy and prevent absolutely, if they can, the entry of supplies of any sort into Germany while the war lasts.

The carrying out of this policy would of course have a serious effect upon the trade of the United States, and would also affect that of other neutral nations; but, if a blockade is proclaimed and can be made effective, those nations would have no right to object; and, as such a policy would tend to shorten the war and thereby restore normal conditions of trade, the neutrals should be willing to suffer the passing inconvenience.

The strength of Russia is impressing itself more and more upon the mind of the world. The Russian armies when they retire merely do so in order that they may return to the attack with greater vigor. They are again strongly on the offensive along the whole eastern front, and the reports from Petrograd indicate a successful if slow progress.

What is described as a semi-official statement from The Hague is to the effect that Holland is still determined to maintain her attitude of complete neutrality, and that she is not preparing to enter the war.

Sir John French confirms a previous statement that a party of the Princess Patricia's captured a German trench and displayed great dash in the attack while all along the British line the enemy has been held in check or forced slowly backward.

A cable from Athens declares that the allied squadron has advanced within two miles of the narrowest point in the Dardanelles, and that they have captured a fortress on the Asiatic side. A report comes from Geneva that a fleet of Austro-German submarines, torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers is on the way to the Dardanelles. This lacks official confirmation.

Today's cables give figures, showing the losses sustained in the British armies through sickness, and the losses for seven months, in proportion to the number of men enlisted have been so small that the low death rate is said to have probably established a record. Evidently the provision for the health of the troops has been of the most thorough character.

## THE POTATO INDUSTRY

The potato growers of the state of Maine have been in conference this week in Bangor, and proper grading and co-operative marketing were two of the strong points urged by the various speakers. Mr. J. E. Merriam, who is distributor for the Farmers' Union of Maine in New York City, said that in years gone by many potatoes had gone through six or eight hands before reaching the consumer, and the aggregate profit was far more than the farmers received for four years labor in producing the potatoes.

"But," said Mr. Merriam, "yesterday in Bangor I was in your potato house, the Farmers' Union Distributing Company, and saw your potatoes being sold direct to the retailer, meaning that instead of six or seven profits being made out of you there was only one, and that the retailer. This is the system you must strive for in all the large cities. You have to a large extent eliminated the profit of the speculator at this end, but unless you go a little farther you are up against the same proposition that confronts the buyer, and that is the difficulty in getting a satisfactory deal at the city end."

Summing up the substance of a very interesting address Mr. Merriam said:—"Now what we must strive to do is: First, raise the best possible potatoes; then use all due care in digging and storing, then all stand together in marketing. Keep posted as to market conditions and plan never to offer more potatoes than the market warrants. Every one support the Boston Distributing house. For the time being sell to dealers in other cities who are sure to live up to their contracts, (always being sure to live up to ours.) Plan just as fast as possible to do away with bulk shipments and get a trade-marked package for all your first class stock and work with the and in view of establishing at the earliest possible time your own distributing house in each of the large eastern markets."

Supplementing the remarks made by Mr. Merriam, Mr. O. B. Abbott, the Boston representative of the Maine Farmers' Union, urged the necessity of proper grading. It will save the freight on a lot of worthless stuff and also save the credit of the Maine potato. Mr. Abbott told of seeing over one hundred cars of Maine potatoes rejected in New York, and he also saw shipments that netted a loss in Boston and Providence, simply because the potatoes had not been properly graded. He also urged very strongly the importance of co-operation, and of the farmers establishing their own distributing centres in all the large cities.

The experience of the potato growers of Maine ought to be of some value to the growers of New Brunswick. If the Carleton county farmers had a proper distributing house in St. John today they ought to be able to realize more than forty cents per barrel for their potatoes.

## LOANS FOR FARMERS

The potato growers of the State of Maine have petitioned congress asking for the establishment of a series of farm loans banks. They declare that the present banking system in the United States is entirely inadequate for the needs of the farmer. They point out that a Federal Farm Land Bill which was before congress in 1913 was not passed, and they declare that, perhaps with some modifications, it would meet the requirements of the farmers, especially if Farm Loan Associations were established. Describing present conditions these Maine farmers say:—"The present system of credits whereby the farmer is financed by the fertilizer manufacturer, general stores and other sources is unfortunate indeed. The rate of interest under this system amounts to from 20 to 30 per cent, and is disastrous to the prosperity of the farm, which is Maine's principal asset. The present banking system is interpreted by the managements thereof to be entirely inadequate to meet the requirements of the farmer."

All over the United States there is a growing interest in this question of financing the farmers, or enabling them to secure the funds required to provide them with better equipment and to enlarge their operations. The like is true in Western Canada, and the question of the reforms to which the agricultural department of New Brunswick might profitably turn its attention.

The new Salvation Army shelter has been formally opened, but the Army's plans will not be fully completed until the building now occupied as the Evangeline Home has been made a part of the new Metropole institution.

The weekly bank clearings, the customs receipts, the ferry traffic, the number of steamers in port for cargo, and various other material facts do not give the pessimist in St. John very much of a run for his money.

Letters received from a number of St. John men show that they are among the Canadian men in France. Apparently, however, if previous reports are correct, a considerable number of New Brunswick men are still at Tidworth, near Salisbury Plain.

Germany must be beaten at any cost, but the St. John Standard has a more momentous task. It has set out to exterminate the Hon. William Pugsley, and has unlimbered its big guns, little guns and pop guns for a terrific bombardment. As yet, however, it does not appear to have got the range, and its efforts have only resulted in a great waste of ammunition.

With eight square miles of land unoccupied within its limits St. John has ample room for expansion. As a matter of fact, however, a good deal of the expansion is taking place outside of the present city limits. The fact that building operations are likely to continue without serious interruption from year to year should increase public interest in the subject of town planning, and in the visit of Mr. Thomas Adams, the town planning expert, at the end of this week.

The city has only been compelled to spend \$500 this winter for the removal of snow, and there seems very little probability that the amount will be largely increased. Last year the cost was \$4,365.54. The city receives from the street railway company \$14,400 a year, a portion of which is charged against the snow account. Apparently the very mild weather of this winter will place at the disposal of the council a considerable sum of money. Why should it not be utilized to restore some of the grants that have been cut off?

**ROYAL YEAST**

IS BEST YEAST IN THE WORLD

Lighter Vein

A New York butcher was fined \$30 for killing a woman in his shop. That's once the meat carver made a mis-stake.

—Guelph Mercury.

"Sam, I'm afraid that you are an idle fellow."

"Idle? Not me, sah! Why, I gits my wife mo' work dan she din do, sah."

—Boston Transcript.

Doctor (in Philadelphia Public Ledger)—Mr. Blinks, your wife is very ill.

Blinks—Let me know the worst at once—is it Atlantic City, Palm Beach or San Francisco?

The judge had assumed his severest look and was determined to speak in his harshest voice. The conversation follows: Magistrate—It appears to be your record, Mary Moselle, that you have been 85 times previously convicted of drunkenness.

The Prisoner (sarcastically)—No woman is perfect.

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## Big Men Who Have Gone Out of The East

A Tribute to Dr. R. A. Falconer of the University of Toronto

(Montreal Journal of Commerce.)

Ever since the Three Wise Men came from the east, there has been an impression abroad that wisdom comes only from that direction. In Canada this does not, however, go so far as to follow Kipling's soldier who wished to be shipped somewhere east of the Suez," but refers to the maritime provinces. In years the west has been coming to the front in Canada, western progress, western crops, western companies, and western opportunities have been blazoned forth on every possible occasion until we almost forgot that there was any other part of Canada but the great and growing west. Despite this, the maritime provinces have in one sense at least retained a unique position.

In college circles it took very much as if it were necessary to go to the maritime provinces to secure heads for our seats of learning. An eastern man is head of the University of Alberta, another presides over the University of Saskatchewan, a third is head of the University of Toronto, while Queen's following the custom, also secured a "Blue Nose" to direct her affairs. At Edmonton, Doctor Torry; at Saskatoon, Doctor Murray; at Toronto Doctor Falconer, and at Queens Principal Gordon came from the maritime provinces. This in itself is unique, especially when we have only a comparative few universities in Canada, and when we also remember that the late Principal Grant

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The modern university president must be a great administrator and executive head. If he has the gift of scholarship in addition, well and good, but the other qualities are necessary. Doctor Falconer possesses all three. His scholarship is not the least of his qualifications. He is equal, if not the superior, to that of any man in the country, while his executive ability has been well shown in the administration and in the rapid growth and progress which the University of Toronto has made during the last seven years. It is today one of the world's largest universities, and occupies an important place in the life of the nation.

The president of the University of Toronto received a good deal of publicity during the last few months over the retention of some German professors who were members of the staff when war broke out. The matter has been satisfactorily settled, but it served to show that Doctor Falconer was a man of conviction which he was not afraid to uphold. The writer remembers some two or three years ago, when Doctor Falconer addressed the Canadian Club of Montreal, on which occasion he took the opportunity of opposing those who advocated a rupture between Great Britain and Germany. A few days ago he addressed the same club on "The Policies of Bismarck as Preparing for the Present War," and mercilessly scored the ruthless tactics adopted by the Germans. In other words, he was opposed to war so

of Queen's was a Nova Scotian, while Sir William Dawson, a former head of McGill, also came from the maritime provinces.

Dr. R. A. Falconer, president of the University of Toronto, was born in Charlottetown, P. E. I., on February 10, 1867. His father, the Rev. A. P. Falconer, soon afterwards moved to Trinidad, where the future president was educated. He secured the West Indian Gilchrist Scholarship, which carried him to London University where he graduated B. A. in 1888 with honors in classics and philosophy. As a good Scot, he decided that he must invade the home of his fathers, and attended the Edinburgh University where, he secured his M. A. the following year with honors in classics and three years later his B. D. His education was not completed until after courses at the Universities of Leipzig, Berlin and Marburg.

On his return to Canada in 1892, he was appointed lecturer in New Testament Exegesis at the Presbyterian College in Halifax, later being appointed professor of the same, and in 1904 was made principal of the college. This position he retained until 1907, when he was called to assume the presidency of the University of Toronto in succession to Dr. James Loudon.

Doctor Falconer has been described as "easily one of the six best public speakers in Canada," and the remark is well within the fact. He has had a thorough education, has traveled widely, and has brought his way through many of the problems which confront and confuse the ordinary man. He has deep-rooted convictions which he is not afraid to defend against all comers.

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long as it could honorably be prevented, but now that we are in it, will not be content until Prussian militarism is stamped out. Doctor Falconer is a frequent contributor to the religious press, but finds time amid his multitudinous duties to deliver frequent addresses on educational matters. The president of the University of Toronto is married to the eldest daughter of the late Rev. J. C. Chandler, and was one son. His bride is all that could be desired, and possibly is a big factor in contributing to his success in life.

An amusing story comes from a remote station in South Africa, where news is not received from the outside world every hour. A young British officer in charge of the station received a message last August from his superior officer, saying: "An enemy has been detected. Arrest all enemy aliens in your district. There are no enemy aliens here," but the young officer followed instructions and sent this answer: "Have arrested seven Germans, four Russians, two Frenchmen, five Italians, two Roumanians and an American. Please say whom we're at war with."

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