

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 29, 1915.

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## FOOLISH PEACE TALK.

Certain busybodies in the United States, and certain others in neutral nations in Europe appear to think they have a license to agitate for peace. If they have any business of their own that is worthy of attention, since they refuse to fight on the side of the Allies and so help to bring to the world permanent peace, they should give it their attention without further loss of time. The New York Tribune says there will be no peace until the Allies have conquered Germany or have tired of the enormous sacrifices the policy of crushing entails. That is true, and they will not tire. Of what use would all the sacrifices already made be to them if they gave up and left Germany in a position to renew the struggle a few years later?

So far as the western front is concerned, Germany is beaten. In the east, she will not be able to do to Russia next year what this year she failed to do. In the south, even if she conquered Egypt it would not give her the freedom of the seas, or the markets of Europe and America for her products. She would still be far from anything but a barren victory, and all the time her enemies in Europe would be exerting more and more pressure of the kind that gradually but surely exhausts and kills. The Allies know their strength and the advantage given them by the British navy, and they will not weary of their task, however long it may take, until German militarism is utterly crushed.

Germany would welcome peace negotiations today, for she is in a good position to dictate terms, having gained so much success in the invasion of the territories of Belgium, France, Serbia and Russia, and we can well believe that she regards with favor the movements of the Ford peace party. They are playing her game. She knows that so long as the stranglehold of the British navy is on the throat of her commerce she will grow weaker month by month, and her ability to make satisfactory peace terms, from her standpoint, will be infinitely smaller six months or a year hence than it is now.

The strength of Germany's present position, however, must not be overlooked or underestimated. General Castelnau, chief of the French general staff, very properly points out that it would be folly to undertake any military action on any front without complete preparation. Because of a lack of preparedness Belgium and part of France were overrun, and part of Russia and all of Serbia. These cannot be regained until the Allies are able greatly to outnumber the enemy in men and munitions, and that time has not yet arrived, and because of this fact the war is prolonged.

But peace talk is wasted at the present time. The British, French, Russian and Italian are so determined to see the war through to a final satisfactory result to them as they were when they began to fight, and not one of them is at all interested in the peace talk of neutrals whose battles they are fighting; since this is a fight for civilization, neutrals have been committed by the Allies, but when we think of what Germany set out to do and how far she is from its accomplishment there is no room for a pessimistic view of the whole situation. We have the men and we can produce the munitions, and only the refusal of men to enlist, or of men to work in munition plants could bring disaster to the British cause. The King of Greece is reported to have become convinced that Germany cannot win, and when that conviction becomes deeper and more widespread in the Balkan region the conditions there will become much more favorable for the Allies. In the meantime the demand for more and more men and munitions is urgent and must meet with a ready response.

The French minister of war said yesterday—"Eighteen months ago France wanted peace; today she wants war more energetically, and to that end will use all her resources." Britain and Russia wanted peace eighteen months ago, and now they also want war to the end that Prussian militarism may be crushed and lasting peace assured.

IS IT TO BE CONSCRIPTION? There are likely to be some further changes in the British cabinet. If even a modified form of conscription is adopted there will probably be some resignations; and it is reported on what is said to be good authority that a bill for the conscription of single young men has been approved by a majority of the members. Apparently Lord Derby's plan has not succeeded in bringing single young men to the colors in sufficient numbers, and if there is to be conscription it should first be applied to them.

The London Times says:—"Few persons ever advocated the principle of conscription for their own sake, and most people would probably have been glad if the war could have been won without it. But the dominating desire of the country is to win the war, and if compulsory recruiting is shown to be imperative, we believe the nation will accept it in the same determined spirit it has shown throughout the conflict. The need for men has become very real and urgent."

The Irish and Labor parties are opposed to conscription, but if it is shown

to be absolutely necessary—how can they continue their opposition? There is, of course, the chance that the knowledge that they will presently be forced to enlist may within the next few days cause so many young men to rush to the recruiting offices that it will not be necessary to enforce conscription, but that does not seem probable. Lord Derby has given every man a fair chance; and, if enough men have not been registered of their own free will, the safety of the Empire demands compulsion. Until a full report on the Derby plan has been submitted, it cannot be stated positively that the plan has failed; but last night's cables certainly convey that impression. Its failure would mean partial conscription, which in turn may mean changes in the cabinet.

## THOSE SHELL CONTRACTS.

The Montreal Mail says:—"Major-General Bertram, chairman of the late uncompleted shell committee, answers his critics with a statement that, in contracts of \$845,000,000, he had secured prices \$45,000 lower than the estimates of the War Office. This is an important announcement, although it would be more illuminating in the light of further information to show the extent of the profits of the manufacturers of shells in Canada, especially in the early stages of the committee's work. General Bertram must have known the prices which from time to time have been allowed by the British War Office to manufacturers in Great Britain and the United States, and also the prices allowed by the French and Russian governments. If the prices fixed by the Canadian Shell Committee approximated to those paid by Great Britain and her allies, there would be slight ground for criticism. What lends weight to the assumption that extravagant prices were paid in Canada are the reports of the profits made by Canadian shell manufacturers, ranging as high as 150 per cent. Rumor often takes undue license with facts, but, without doubt, fanciful profits have been made by a number of concerns in Canada, engaged in the manufacture of munitions. It is this fact which gives point and gravity to the charges affecting the conduct of the late Shell Committee. Explanations are in order, in much greater detail and more definiteness than General Bertram has thus far seen fit to offer."

## THE WINTER PORTS.

A Portland, Me., letter says:—"The sailings this week were all important and heavy cargoes of grain were taken out and the forwarding of it from this port for the use of the allies was resumed. The average cargo now is in excess of 900,000 bushels and the sailings follow in rapid succession. Whatever may be the final result of the great war of all wars, there is no doubt that for the time being at least, the export business of this port will be benefited." St. John would be getting much more of the winter steamship business if she had the facilities. The failure of the government to replace the Intercolonial Railway elevator has resulted in loss of business to this port. There is still no more to have more elevator space provided here. Elevators are not built in a day. What better off will St. John be next winter? How much longer will trade go to American ports that should come here?

The military demonstration in St. John on New Year's Day will be a memorable event in the city's history. How it would hearten the lads in the trenches if they could see it.

The death of Mr. James A. Belyea, K. C., deprives St. John of a good citizen. He had an excellent record as a lawyer, and was a man of kindly and generous nature. Mr. Belyea did the city good service in connection with the drawing up of the new charter, and in the campaign that resulted in the adoption of the commission plan of government. The news of his death comes as a great shock to a wide circle of personal friends in the city and province.

The Standard rejoices that despite all royal commissions and their reports there is "not one suspicion of wrong-doing on the part of the government and its members." Well, they are whitewashed. Fleming, Will they also whitewash Stewart, Robichaud and Sheridan? Will they prosecute Berry? Will they probe the hold-up of the liquor dealers? There are many guarantees of good faith they could give if they wished. An eager public awaits the guarantees.

Capt. Emmerson, Major Anderson, Major Markham and others have during the last few weeks written home telling of the need of socks and underwear, but especially socks, for the men in the trenches. The Soldiers' Comforts Association is laboring to provide what the fighting men need in this winter weather. If there were any who doubted the need of such an association, they must be convinced by the appeals direct from the officers at the front, that it should have received even more generous support than it has received since its organization.

## THE UNDEFFECTIVES

(By Kathleen Norris.) In the world there has died a baby: eager to part with breath, He has slipped from the world's hot noises, back to the cool of death.

Sightless and dumb and unhearing, he is done with his days of pain!—And an eager army has risen, aghast at a baby slain!

Parents—clergymen—doctors—public defile his wild delirious cry.

Among hundreds of men and women who know the love of a child.

And their right to dispute his sentence, which one of us will gainsay? But what of the other baby, who will die of neglect today?

Not a defective baby, shut in a world of his own, But a conscious child, who is hungry, or sleepy, or cold, or alone.

A whole, sweet, confident baby, a baby with eyes and ears.

Who clings like a little soldier to the scanty hope of the years.

Until in the cruel summer, oh the winter's cold, he goes.

A gallant baby outnumbered by a hundred subtle foes!

Foes in the milk we give him, foes in dirt and disease.

Dangers of street and gutter, and greater danger than these.

Born of a social system that counts the rent and the wage.

And keeps the heart of a baby shut up like a beast in a cage.

You, who have risen in protest, call this a crime if you will!

Or, better, so find a baby, perhaps one is living still!

Who will not be here tomorrow, whose battle is nearly done.

Who has lost the unequal struggle for comfort and food and sun.

Bring back his tiny conviction that the world is kind and right.

And that hunger and want and fever are only dreams in the night.

And when he is strong and happy, with his own little place on earth.

Then form your organization to save the delicate at birth.

## LIGHTER VIXIN.

Little Davy is forever asking questions.

"You'd better keep still or something will happen to you," the tired mother finally told him one night.

"Curiosity once killed a cat, you know."

Davy was so impressed with this that he kept still for three minutes. Then—"Mother, what was it the cat wanted to know?"

Looked That Way.

"See here, girl, I bring you flowers and candy, while that fellow does practically nothing for you."

"He dig salt for me."

"Bah! So he wants to worm his way into your affections."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"What's the temperature of this room?" growled Mr. Blower, after waiting for several minutes.

"It was only seventy degrees when you began to fret and fume," answered Mrs. Blower, without looking at the thermometer, "but I dare say it's much higher now."

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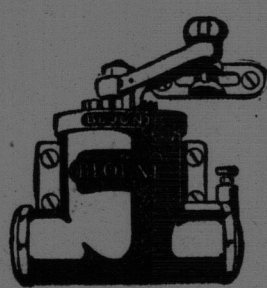
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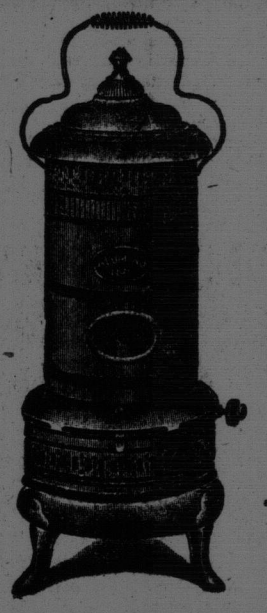
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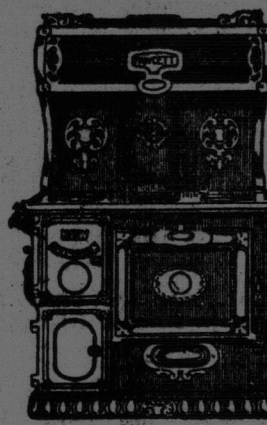
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dominance in parliament and especially in the government of the spirit that is the most antagonistic to science—the spirit of the advocate."

The great danger of the lawyer-politician in times of crisis according to the speaker, is that he has been accustomed to live in an atmosphere of compromise, of action based on finding a mean between conflicting interests and of scrupulous regard for precedent. In war, the advocate makes the worst possible guide. The British government has decided a number of vital issues without scientific evidence and even then, for the sake of appearances, has clung to his mistakes. As the result thousands of lives have been sacrificed.

As an instance in point, Prof. Poulton spoke of the ignorance of science on the part of the ministry that had to be driven into declaring that fats, oils and cotton as contraband. One-third of the German munitions for heavy guns consists of nitro-glycerine, and fats are the only source of glycerine.

The speaker pronounced it dangerous for a country whose prosperity depended on science to be ruled by politicians and civil servants, utterly ignorant of scientific knowledge. Manufactures are based on applied science. Great Britain is a manufacturing country.

While Britain has taken a greater lead in the development of science than Germany, science still stands apart in the general educational scheme. In Germany science is put to every possible use by the government. German success in the war has been largely due to science. The British government on the other hand long delayed asking for and accepting advice on scientific aspects of war from men qualified to speak.

SCARLET FEVER EPIDEMIC SWEEPS OVER GERMANY

London, Dec. 29.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Amsterdam tells of a serious scarlet fever epidemic in Germany, extending from Bromberg to some villages in Posen, where the sickness is unusually acute.

All military hospitals, which have been requisitioned to deal with the epidemic, are crowded, and the government measures, according to the despatch, have proved altogether inadequate.

The Bromberg garrison is so overrun with the disease that it has been evacuated by one entire regiment.

## SKIN TROUBLE ALL OVER CHILD'S HEAD

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"I was given a wash for it and a salve and I used them and they did her no good. Then I got — Cuticura which did her no good. I was told about Cuticura Soap and Ointment which healed her head in two months." (Signed) Mrs. James Flood, Mar. 11, 1914.

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