

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1917.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until the 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.

INCREASED PRODUCTION.

The outstanding feature of yesterday's Increased Production Conference at Fredericton was the manifest desire of all classes of New Brunswick citizens to co-operate in every way to make the campaign a success. This is the proper spirit, but such a campaign must have intelligent and aggressive leadership which must come from Fredericton. The proceedings of the day were very largely confined to the agricultural phase of the question, the necessity for increasing the production of foodstuffs, and several good plans were suggested. It may, perhaps, be remarked that such plans might well have come from the head of the New Brunswick agricultural department or the premier of the province and that, with a really aggressive government in control of affairs, they would be well underway by this time. However, the fact that the government showed no disposition to follow the splendid lead of Hon. J. A. Murray and his associates should not be allowed to interfere with the success of the movement now that it is launched.

If New Brunswick can produce more potatoes, and oats, and wheat, and cattle, and general farm and dairy products during the coming summer that is the really important end to be achieved.

Yesterday's conference suggested various plans of work to bring about such a greatly desired result. All are worthy of support. The government has an opportunity of showing its interest in the movement by increasing the measure of aid usually extended to agriculture. Hon. Mr. Murray had such a plan in view at the present government can do no better than follow along the same line.

And, apropos of increased production and conservation of food, the opinion of Herbert C. Hoover, head of the Food Board of the United States, is of interest, as touching another phase of the question.

Mr. Hoover not only urges increased production but decreased consumption. The chief duty of Canada at the present time is to supply food to the Allies, both to the armies in the field and to the civilian population at home. It was to prevent delivery of foodstuffs from this continent that Germany's underwater campaign was instituted, but the purpose of that campaign can be defeated by the American continent.

Mr. Hoover also is authority for the statement that the Allied supply of food is not sufficient to last until September if the people of the American continent continue in the present rate of production and consumption. By drastic measures England, France and Italy are reducing their consumption of food, and yet they ask for more than double the normal export from this continent in the next three months.

Ninety million bushels of wheat is the minimum need of the Allies in Europe. To provide this, Hoover estimates that it is necessary that every man, woman and child in America—must do with one wheat loaf less per week, at least. Something else must be eaten as a substitute, or else be done without.

He further says:

"We must also plant everything and everywhere it will grow, or next year the food problem will be absolutely unsolvable and the world will face absolute starvation."

By taking advantage of every means to increase the production of food the people of New Brunswick will not only add to their own prosperity and the prosperity of the province, but will also assist materially in increasing the quantity of food available for export to the men in the field. This is the end chiefly to be attained, and it is a worthy one. So, all together for increased production and make the campaign as successful as it must be to meet the requirements.

CONTRADICTIONARY WAR NEWS.

Canadian newspaper readers and the newspapers themselves have every reason to complain of the contradictory character of the so-called "news" which is permitted to escape from the countries engaged in the world's greatest war. Except for official communications from the headquarters of the armies in the field, and actual accounts of battles and successes gained or reverses suffered, the accounts of conditions, more particularly political and economic conditions, in the Allied countries as well as among our enemies are so conflicting as to be absurd. For instance, we are told one day on

the authority of "a member of the British Parliament" that the German submarine campaign has been so effective as to constitute a great menace to the success of the Allies. We are despondent. Gloom, however, gives place to joy a few hours later when it is learned, also on "the highest authority," that the losses inflicted by the Hun "U" boats are more than overcome by the hundreds of thousands of tons of new shipping turned out each month from British yards.

A "military expert of high position" warns our hearts and stimulates our hopes of victory by the definite statement that the success of the British armies in smashing the Hindenburg line has "broken the spirit of the enemy," that Germans are surrendering "by thousands," and that, at the present rate of progress, the war will be over in a few months. Hardly has the intelligence gratified thousands of Canadians before another "reviewer" discovers that "the morale of the enemy is unbroken," his powers of resistance unimpaired," and he proceeds to dilate upon the probability of more years of fighting for possession of Northern France and Belgium.

The scene shifts to Russia, as it did yesterday, and we are told by an authority that "the Russian government is determined to prosecute the war to the finish," that any thought of a separate peace will not be countenanced, but that the great Muscovite nation is with the Allies until the power of German militarism has been beaten to the dust and victorious peace crowns the many months of conflict. All this, the correspondent assures us, is certain to happen, unless—here is the fly in the ointment—the "Russian people rise en masse, as they are hourly expected to do, throw the government in the Neva, declare a separate peace at once and offer the Kaiser the keys of Petrograd."

Such a condition would be amusing if it were not serious, but this is a grave and serious business, and the people have the right to know the truth concerning it, so far as that truth can be learned. It should be remembered that all the cables sent to this continent are subject to governmental censorship at the point of sending and that the gentlemen charged with that duty must pass the despatches sent forward. Canadian newspapers will not ask for news which it would be against the interests of the Empire to publish, but they have a right to demand that the news they get represents as nearly as possible conditions as they exist. As it is at present the war news contradicts itself on an average of twice a day. It should be possible to bring about some better arrangement. It seems to be high time to attempt to put sense in censorship.

A RECIPROCITY ARGUMENT SMASHED.

Those Liberal spellbinders who, during the reciprocity campaign of 1911 told us that in Eastern Canada, that the pact which Laurier sought to impose on the Canadian people would tend to lessen the cost of the loaf of bread have had the falsity of their argument abundantly demonstrated during the past few days. They held that American wheat would be admitted to Canada free of duty. This would tend to increase competition and would result in cheaper wheat and, in turn, cheaper flour. Of course their argument was not intended for consumption in the Canadian west. There the game was to tell the wheat growers how much they would benefit from the opening of the "wider market."

Canada has given free entry to American wheat ever since the recent change was made in the Canadian tariff. In that time flour has risen to a point which it is stated was never equalled in this country. Where does the cheaper bread argument of the Liberal reciprocity come in?

If free entry of American wheat in 1917 does not produce cheaper flour, how could it have been expected to have that result six years ago? It is admitted at once that prices in all lines of foodstuffs are much higher now than they were in 1911, but the number of dollars a man must pay for a barrel of flour does not affect the principle that under free trade the price should decline. In 1911 the effect of free wheat would have been just what it is today. It would not have decreased the price of flour one cent per barrel, and yet, when opponents of reciprocity made that statement in the reciprocity campaign they were condemned as false prophets and enemies of the poor man. The condition today demonstrates which political school numbered the false prophets on its register.

FIRST TO FALL FOR UNITED STATES

By a strange variety of fate, the first American to lose his life fighting under the American flag in France was Edmond Genet, of Ossining, N. Y. He was a great-grandson of "Citizen" Genet, who was the first minister of the French Republic to the United States. His tragic fate calls to mind an important episode in American history, and, in a sense, redeems the Genet promise and prediction of a Franco-American military alliance.

In the second administration of Washington there developed a bitter rivalry between the pro-British and the pro-French in this country and in the cross-fire Washington suffered cruelly. There was a large and noisy element in the young country eager for the United States to cast her lot with France and against England in the wars in which those countries were then engaged. Washington held firm for a neutrality which the United States adhered to until three weeks ago.

"Citizen" Genet's Activities
Into this fight "Citizen" Genet was injected, and he became a central figure in the bitter rivalry. Accredited as the Minister of the young republic he arrived in Charleston and was loudly acclaimed. The enthusiasm over him and what he represented passed all bounds and quite carried him away from usual diplomatic moorings. He began the fitting out of privateers to prey on the commerce of Great Britain and also he projected an expedition against Louisiana. Meanwhile he appealed to Washington to join an alliance with France and when Washington firmly refused he threatened "to appeal to the people." Then upon Washington's demand and obtained the Minister's recall.

Mr. Genet, however, decided to remain in this country. He married the daughter of George Washington, the home which the couple built stood until recently in East Greenwich, in the outskirts of Albany. The marriage marked the union of French and American. The great-grandson of the couple who died under the American flag was fighting for the British-American cause.

It is interesting to note that so far made by America's entrance into the present war. Events in those days did not move so swiftly as now. Steam had not then been applied to the telegraph, and the news had not been dreamed of, much less wireless telegraph, ocean cables, the submarine and the aeroplane were only in the realm of speculation. If any one wishes to follow what may prove to be a prophetic parallel between the history of 1793-98 and that of the present he should keep those dates in mind and make due allowance for differences which have been made inevitable by the progress of invention.

Policy of Isolation
Sharp differences among the people regarding the true policy of the United States in its relations with France continued throughout Washington's administration and after he had delivered his famous address, which enunciated a policy of non-interference in European affairs. The question remained a problem for John Adams to deal with when he became President on March 4, 1797. France now officially urged the government to form an alliance with her against Great Britain. Both Adams and the Congress subscribed to the doctrine of Washington and refused. The insistence of the French Directorate amounted to a demand. The refusal of the United States was followed by a military mission to France and a demand for American commerce. Mr. Pinckney, the American Minister, was ordered out of France.

A declaration of war did not follow, but Congress recognized a state of war and steps were taken to assume the attitude of a belligerent, the steps taken being almost identical with those taken in recent weeks. Pinckney's answer to the French Ministers was "millions for defence, but not one cent for tribute." The answer of Congress in 1917 in effect was "billions for defence and offence." Congress in 1798 passed an act completing the organization of an army, and within the next ten days its successor is expected to take similar action. Washington, then the only President in retirement, was called upon to command it. Here will be observed a break in the parallel. Now our only one-time President who also is a military man will not be in command of the army, but he is willing.

Parallels in Preparation
However, already the navy had been busy in outfitting and preparing ships, at a previous session of Congress. The Congress of 1798 matriculated again an authorized large loan. Meanwhile trouble is brewing in the enemy country, quite in consonance with the situation in America's enemy countries today.

Those were the days before standardization, labor saving machinery and efficiency had become familiar words; even so, the American fleet was ready for sea the following year. The frigates went out in the autumn of 1799 and were not long in finding something to do. Commodore Truxtun, in the Constellation, while cruising in the West Indies, captured the insurgent French man-of-war, carrying forty guns and more than four hundred men—a formidable sea ship for her day. There was a desperate engagement, and Commodore Truxtun achieved a complete victory.

The second and only other engagement of the war of 1798, although several privateers were captured by the United States, has been familiarly known as the battle in the dark. The Constellation on the first day of February pursued what it supposed to be a French vessel, a national French ship of fifty-four guns, much the superior in size and armament of

Little Benny's Note Book

We was starting to eat supper yesterday, and I said, O, G, I don't feel much like eating supper today. That's the most startling news I've heard since the Russian revolution, don't you feel well? said pop. I feel all right, I said. You must of bin eating something wat have you bin eating? said me. I've seen him under all sorts of conditions, but I've never seen him unable to eat before, he sertenly must be sick, said my sister Gladie. Benny, you must have a pane sumware, ware is it? said ma. No ware, I said. Nonsents, you must have one sumware, said ma. There's no use giving the boy a pane if he feels satisfied with out one, said pop. Benny, its all a matter of trying, Perry discovered the north pole just by persayvering, so I shood think you cood do a simple little thing like eating your supper if you make up your mind to.

With I started to do, and I ate 2 helpings of meet, 3 helping of mashed potatoes, 2 helpings of spinitch, 5 slices of bred and 2 sawers of apple pudding, pop watching me do it and then saying, O joy, I've got a child with a temperment.

The American vessel. The larger ship led the chase for twelve hours, and then began a sally from the stern and quarterdeck guns. The Constellation replied with a broadside. The action lasted from eight o'clock in the evening until after one o'clock in the morning, when the fire of the French ship was silenced. A heavy squall came up and the French vessel disappeared. It was supposed that she had been sunk. Five days afterward the vessel, which proved in fact to be La Vendange, got into Curacao in a shattered condition. In the battle through the night 160 men had been killed and wounded. The vessel lost nearly all her masts and rigging. In the engagement the Constellation lost fourteen men, and twenty-five were wounded. At this juncture there was a change in the government of France. Evendences multiply that there now is developing such a condition in the aristocratic governments of the Central Powers. Napoleon Bonaparte became emperor, and at once sought and obtained peace with the United States. —New York Herald.

WITH PROVINCIAL MEN HOME AND ABROAD

Two Promotions in Ambulance—Pte. Thomas Beech Wounded—Lieut. Ganong Recovering in France.

Private Demaine of No. 8 Field Ambulance Train was yesterday promoted to be sergeant, and Corporal Sober of the unit was promoted to be acting-sergeant.

Pte. Ganong
The many Calais and St. Stephen friends of Lieut. Hardy N. Ganong of St. Stephen, will be pleased to learn that he is recovering from a wound received in battle in France. He is a Lieutenant in the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles, B. E. F. France. He first joined Jan. 6, 1916, and was wounded Feb. 9, 1917.

Pte. Thomas Beech
That her husband, Pte. Thomas Beech, was officially reported wounded, gunshot wound left leg and admitted to County London War Hospital, Epsom, on April 18, was the word received by Mrs. Lillian Rose Beech, his wife, yesterday morning. Private Beech is thirty-three years of age and has four children, the eldest of whom is eight years. He

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elated in a well known unit of New Brunswick and from England was transferred into another regiment from this province. He had seen service in the trenches since a little before Christmas. Previous to joining he was a longshoreman.

Died From Wounds
Mr. F. J. King of Campbellton, has received news of the death of his son, Lieut. J. J. Wallace King, which occurred in England on April 27th. Lieut. King before enlisting was employed in the Royal Bank at Pictou, N. S. He enlisted as a private, was wounded in France on 27th of September last, and later removed to Shorncliffe Hospital in England, where he remained until his passing away.

Sussex Officer Wounded
Mrs. Annie Armstrong, of Sussex, received word that her son, Lt. Frank Armstrong, had been wounded. The telegram contained no particulars beyond that he was wounded on the 28th of April. Lt. Armstrong enlisted in the ranks of the 10th as a private and won his promotion through efficiency. This is the second time he has been wounded, the first being slight.

Jackson—"Jimson, what is the longest word?"
Jimson—"Smiles."
Jackson—"Go on. Why that has only six letters."
Jimson—"I know but it's a mile between the first and the last one."

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