

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1915.

"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.

THE ONLY WAY.

The hope cherished by many that the world was drawing near to that much desired time when it would no longer be necessary for the several nations to provide and maintain costly armaments has been rudely shattered by the revelations of this present war.

As a matter of theory, no one will deny that among educated nations, it might be possible to have all differences adjusted by the decisions of what has been called "International Law." This is reasoned something after the following fashion: "Here are two neighbors who occupy adjoining farms. A dispute arises between them as to the line fence and it has not been possible for them to agree in a friendly way. They take their case to the courts and, in due time, a judgment is rendered, which is binding upon both parties. Not only so, but in the event of one of the parties refusing to be governed by this decision of the court, the department of justice has power to compel submission by application of force. For the guarantee of good order, it is recognized that not the clearest legislation nor even the most righteous of judges would avail, without the power to make binding the decisions of the court. Hence we have the so-called 'machinery of justice' for the enforcement of the law."

Now, it is argued that if two neighbors who occupy adjoining farms can have their differences adjusted by recourse to the law of the land, why should it not be possible for two neighboring nations to have their disputes similarly settled by recourse to international law?

The practical obstacles in the way of such a method for the adjustment of all differences between nations arise from the following facts:

First, there nowhere exists a complete code of "International Law," to which appeal can be made. We are far from asserting that such a code shall not in some future stage of the world's development be devised and accepted by the nations but at the present time it does not exist. All that does exist, and that which goes by the name of "International Law" is a set of principles which have received the more or less universal consent of the nations.

Then, in the second place, even were there actually in existence under the title of "International Law" a fixed and definite code of legislation for the settlement of differences of what soever kind between the nations, and were there in addition to be established a regular international court to which all such differences could be referred this international machinery of justice would not prove efficient unless it were also accompanied and supported by power adequate for the enforcement of its decisions.

It has been shown, that, in the matter of a dispute between two neighboring farmers, the court had power to compel its decision by the use of force when necessary; but where will the so-called "International Court" secure this force? If the reply is offered that the several nations accepting this arrangement for the settlement of their differences should each provide their quota of an armed force which should act as a sort of big policeman to make effective the decisions of the court so constituted, then we ask is it really possible for the nations as constituted today to do this? It might indeed be possible were all the people composing the population of the several nations homogeneous and entirely as one in their sentiments. But this is just what the world does not witness today. In the United States, for example, as is well known, there are large numbers of people of German extraction whose sympathies are entirely on the side of the central European powers in this present war. Because of their presence and political power, is it not a fact that the American government was more or less influenced to permit Germany to violate its most solemn treaty obligations, and to do this with out even so much as a diplomatic protest being sounded from Washington?

Now if these pro-Germans in the United States were able to prevent that nation standing up for its treaty rights and insisting upon their observance in the matter of Belgium, is it

at all likely that had this entire cause of war been submitted by Germany to an "International Court," and had the decision of such a court been adverse to German policy, would the United States have been disposed to have supplied its quota of a military force to assist in its enforcement. Had the American government been able to do so there is no doubt that the German sympathizers in the United States would have made its presence on the international police force of doubtful advantage.

Arm-chair strategists to the contrary, our people will for the most part hesitate to believe that this war will result in a general disarmament and universal peace, guaranteed by the offices of a Court of International authority. So far as England is concerned there is a much greater likelihood that the consequence of the war will be the universal obligation to military service on what is known as the Swiss model. This indeed was the opinion expressed recently by the Dean of Durham who in his address at West Hartlepool said: "Never again can we run the risk of having the whole fortunes of our land and Empire left to voluntary effort, however, widely distributed and magnificently rendered."

THE MANITOBA ELECTIONS

Sufficient time has elapsed since the election in the province of Manitoba to permit Liberal newspapers, large and small, to express their views on the result, and to indulge in their predictions as to the effect it may have upon the political complexion of the province in Dominion affairs.

These opinions differ according to the interests of the papers themselves and their degree of alliance with Liberal politicians in their several constituencies. Some newspapers, owing their existence to the wish of machine Grit politicians for an organ by which to express their views and advance their interests, use the Manitoba result as a text upon which unreasonably to base a forecast of a sweeping Liberal victory, not only in the provinces, but in the Dominion as well. Such predictions are not worth consideration as they are the production of inspiration or direction rather than judgment or belief. Others accept the result, not so much as a triumph for the Liberal party as a protest against the graft and dishonesty revealed in the investigation into the parliament buildings scandal.

We doubt if the scandal entirely accounts for the outcome, although there is no doubt that public attention in Manitoba was riveted in uncompromising fashion on the members of the Roblin government who were shown to have been connected with the transaction. In no respect can the failure of the reorganized Opposition party to overthrow the Norris government be construed into a reflection on Sir James Aikins, the new leader. He stood as high in the public confidence as did Mr. Norris and in every respect was the equal if not the superior of the leader of the government. There was not the slightest tarnish on his public career and even by his enemies his word was regarded as good as his bond. Yet not only was his party beaten but he encountered personal defeat.

The province of Manitoba is the poorer because of the decision of the electors of Brandon to support Sir James' opponent. He would have been a distinct power in the public life of that province and the government would have been the better for his presence in the Legislature. When he uttered his pledge for honest administration the majority of the people of Manitoba who knew him believed that if elected he would carry his pledges into effect. It is doubtful if they had the same faith in Mr. Norris. Consequently it is likely that there is reason in the argument that the real cause of the overwhelming defeat of the Aikins party is to be found in something else than public indignation over the malfeasance of a former administration, a condition which Sir James had pledged himself and his party to end for all time.

A comparison of the platforms of the two parties may throw some light on one of the causes for the success of Mr. Norris. The Norris government stood pledged to a referendum on the liquor question. The Opposi-

tion promised absolute prohibition as soon as returned to power. Had the Opposition been successful the necessary steps to make the province "dry" would have been undertaken at once. Consequently, liquor interests in self protection were forced to support the government. On the other hand the Liberal advocates of prohibition found it not difficult to convince themselves that they also could support the government without forsaking their prohibition principles. They could vote for the idea of a referendum and trust to the opportunity it would provide them to strike at the liquor traffic.

Liberal politicians of course contended that Sir James Aikins was but another name for Sir Rodmond Roblin and that if the newly organized party was sent to power it would speedily adopt the methods that led to the downfall of the Roblinites. Such politicians preached that a vote against the new party was a vote against corruption and had little difficulty in bringing prohibition advocates to the same viewpoint. The result was that prohibitionist and liquor men were found voting for the same set of candidates to the defeat of the avowed prohibition leader.

On other matters of importance, such as the Caldwell amendments to the School Act, which contributed not a little to the success of the Liberals two years ago, there was little choice between the two parties. The Norris government stood pledged to repeal the amendments if sustained; the Aikins platform contained the same plank. Consequently there was no way in which Sir James could gain support from those opposed to the amendments.

Of course it is admitted that the revelations in connection with the parliament buildings contract had a large place in the result. But they would be indeed foolish who would declare that the people of Manitoba were convinced that the Liberal party was the party of honesty. Such a view cannot be supported by the history of that party or its chief members, either in Manitoba or anywhere else.

In any event Premier Norris now has an opportunity to show the people who trusted him that his own honesty and that of his colleagues is above and beyond all suspicion. And the result will not hurt the Conservatives. Rather will it strengthen the better element of that party in the determination to unite strongly for the clean administration promised by Sir James Aikins and of which Sir Robert Borden's Government at Ottawa is such a splendid example. If Manitoba Conservatives conduct their affairs on the high lines laid down and carried out by the Premier of Canada they have no need to fear the effects of Premier Norris' victory. The result of the recent election may cause temporary disappointment but eventually it will be beneficial.

Chaplain of The Forces

"I have once more to remark upon the devotion to duty, courage, and contempt of danger which has characterized the work of the chaplains of the army throughout this campaign."—Sir John French, in the Neuve Chapelle dispatch.

Ambassador to Christ you go
Up to the very gates of Hell,
Through fog of powder, storm of shell,
To speak your Master's message: "Lo
The Prince of Peace is with you still,
His peace be with you. His good-will."

It is not small, your priesthood's price,
To be a man and yet stand by,
To hold your life while others die,
To bless, not share the sacrifice,
To watch the strife and take no part—
You with the fire at your heart.

But yours, for our great Captain Christ
To know the sweat of agony,
The darkness of Gethsemane,
In anguish for these souls unpriest,
Vice-regent of God's pity you.
A sword must pierce your own soul through.

In the pale gleam of new-born day
Apart in some tree-shadowed place,
Your altar but a packing-case,
Rude as the shed where Mary lay,
Your sanctuary the rain-drenched sod,
You bring the kneeling soldier God.

As sentinel you guard the gate
'Twixt life and death, and unto death
Speed the brave soul whose falling breath
Shudders not at the grip of Fate,
But answers, gallant to the end,
"Christ is the Word—and I His friend."

Then God go with you, priest of God,
For all is well and shall be well,
What though you tread the roads of Hell,
Your Captain these same ways has trod.
Above the anguish and the loss
Still floats the ensign of His Cross.
—W. M. LETTIS.

Maples for Soldiers' Graves

Ritz Carlton Hotel,
Montreal, Que.,
16th August, 1915.
To the Editor of The Standard.
Sir,—My correspondence from head-

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Pawleen, pop sed to ma aftir supple last nite, I reely bleeve you are considerably richer in adipose tissues, or as the merely vulgar wood say, you are growing stout.

Well then you bleeve rong, and so dus evrybuddy elts thats bin making that reedicklus statemint to me lately, sed ma, Im going out to take a stroll, thats wat Im going to do.

Can I go with you, ma, I sed.

You may, sed ma, and her and me startid to take a wawk, me sayine. They give you swimst twice as big a plate of ice cream at Bremms as wat they do at Siders, ma.

That duzent intrist me, sed ma.

And we kepp awn wawking, and pritty soon we passed the Wilkineses frunt steps, and Mrs. Wilkines was setting awn them, and she sed to me, Good evening, Mrs. Potts, is it warm enuff for you.

Awlmot, sed ma.

I sses you feel it a lot, to, yure getting quite stout, arent you, sed Mrs. Wilkines.

I am not, sed ma. And she quick kepp awn wawking, and I sed, The ice cream at Bremms is better, to, ma, they give you twice as mutch and its bettir. Im satisfied, sed ma.

Wich jest then Mrs. Hunt went past, beeing Sid Hunts mothir, sayine, How do you do, Mrs. Potts, well I declare, Mr. Hunt thinks Im getting fat, he awt look at you.

Not at awt, he awt to look at you agen, come awn, Benny, sed ma. And we kepp awn wawking, ma sayine, I dont no wats getting into peepil, and jest then we went by the Simkineses frunt steps and Mrs. Simpkins, beeing Puds Simkineses mothir and ware he gets his fat frum, was setting awn them and she sed, Well, wel, yure catching up to me, arent you, Mrs. Potts.

Lets tern eround, its to hot to wawk far, sed ma. Wich we did, me sayine, Im glad thares yun persin in the world thats not blind, sed ma.

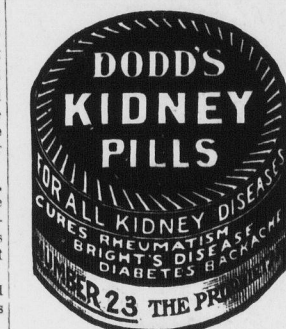
Sometimes they give you moar than twice as mutch at Bremms, I sed.

Do they, sed ma, and I sed, Yes mam, lets get sum.

O well, its pritty hot, sed ma. And we went eround to Bremms and got sum ice cream, me getting chookit and peetch and I forget wat ma got.

BORN.

HURLEY—To the wife of Capt. Wm. G. Hurley, 6 Peters wharf, a daughter.



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