

The St. John Standard

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H. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor. ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1917.

"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 VALLEY RAILWAY ENQUIRY.

Some newspapers published outside of this province have referred to recent developments in connection with the construction of the St. John Valley Railway as if they constituted evidence of corruption upon the part of the late administration of New Brunswick. This is always to be expected of the Liberal party press, but it will be noticed that those papers paid little or no attention to the recent scandalous revelations in British Columbia. It is evidently the desire of the commission investigating Valley Railway matters to endeavor to bring out something to the discredit of the recent administration. This is evident by its action in regard to Mr. Cozzolino. As soon as he had made his brief statement the commission adjourned until June 19th, making no attempt to secure easily available evidence on the other side, but allowing Mr. Cozzolino's story to be circulated uncontradicted and unexplained throughout the length and breadth of the country.

No member of the late Government had anything to do with the letting of the Valley Railway contracts. The whole management of that road has been entrusted to an independent commission consisting of F. W. Sumner, Richard O'Leary, J. D. Palmer, E. Girouard and W. Shives Fisher, all of whom are men of high business standing and undoubted integrity. The contracts were let by these gentlemen without dictation or interference, and let to the lowest tenderer, but not until that tenderer had substantially reduced the prices on some of the items.

The duty of Royal Commissioner Stevens cannot be sufficiently discharged without calling to the stand every member of the late provincial administration and every member of the Board of Directors of the Valley Railway Co. Unless this is done, the investigation will be stamped as entirely partisan in character, and conclusions arrived at by such a method will have neither justice, reason nor evidence to sustain them.

THE EX-KING OF THE HELLENES.

It was splendid news which came over the cable from Athens last night. The abdication of King Constantinos, brother-in-law of the Emperor of Germany, will undoubtedly contribute greatly towards clearing the troubled and murky atmosphere in southeastern Europe. Constantine, to use the anglicized form of his name, through his family connection with the Hohenzollerns, has been a thorn in the side of the Entente Allies since the great war began and has been the principal cause of an intolerable state of affairs in his own empire which has been akin to civil war.

The Allies found it necessary on more than one occasion to interfere in Greek affairs and have from time to time seized Greek cities, villages and even sea-ports, as well as blockading the coast of the country. Constantine, although personally popular and democratic among his people, was a tricky customer and did not always keep his promises to the Allies. In fact the Allies were obliged to send ships, land troops and police parts of his kingdom before the sovereign would condescend to be reasonable.

Without doubt all of Greece, instead of a portion, would be at war today on the side of the Entente had the queen been other than the sister of the Kaiser. The great body of the Hellenic people were loyal to their sovereign, but only a small percentage sympathized with the Central Powers. The country found itself in the most delicate situation of all the neutral countries, for trouble loomed large whether Greece entered the war on either side or remained out of it.

She attempted to remain out of it, but found it impossible to steer clear of hostilities. An important element headed by former Premier Venizelos openly revolted and cast its lot with the Entente and is today fighting for the cause of freedom.

Whether the abdication of Constantine will be followed by Greece officially entering the ranks of the Allies remains to be seen.

AN HONEST MEASURE.

If there is one feature of the military service bill which compels the admiration of all Canadians it is its straight forward honesty. It has no flaws, offers no opportunity for objections or criticism on the ground of favoritism. The man who opposes it must do so as an anti-conscriptionist and for no other reason. Nothing can be done against this bill by the cheap politician who is for or against a measure according to whether his own political party fathers it or opposes it. The bill is sufficiently sweeping to completely cover the case. It eliminated every possibility of discrimination as between provinces or parties. It is fair and just to all alike.

Moreover the bill is so drawn that it will bring to the army the men best qualified for military service and will not rob essential industries of men thoroughly well fitted for those lines, but who, if transferred into khaki, might prove but very indifferent soldiers. The present bill is very carefully drawn in regard to that. There are ten classes of men between twenty and forty-five years who are liable to be called for military service under the act. When a class is called out every member of it must consider himself a soldier ready and willing to obey whatever orders he receives. If he has an occupation in which he can better serve the state than by fighting he has the right to apply to his local

tribunal for a certificate of exemption and from the decision of that body he can appeal to an appeal tribunal specially composed of one judge of any court designated by the chief justice of the province in which the appeal is entered, and above that body there is to be a central tribunal composed of one judge chosen from the Supreme Court of Canada and sitting in Ottawa.

The Government has no hand or part in constituting any of the tribunals and therefore it cannot be charged that political influence will be a factor in any way. This bill satisfies all conditions and has no weakness. It simply makes the issue one between conscriptionists and anti-conscriptionists, between the man who feels that Canada's duty to the Empire is the all important consideration, and the other man who would cry quits at this time and leave our khaki-clad heroes without that full measure of support to which they are entitled. That is the whole story and there is no ground upon which anything else can be made of it. As a result, the debate, when it comes, should be short and sharp, with no excuse for time-wasting and trifling. This bill is an honest bill and must receive honest treatment.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN'S OPPORTUNITY.

The selective conscription measure introduced by the Premier on Monday is now before Parliament and members on both sides of the House are engaged in digesting it in preparation for the second reading which may come today, but is more likely to go over to Thursday or Friday.

It is now for Parliament to say whether the measure shall be expeditiously enacted and made effective at an early date or whether it is to be held back, its principle opposed and its operation delayed. There was some hope that the measure would go through with comparatively little discussion but this seems to be glimmering away now that Sir Wilfrid and a wing of his party are definitely opposed to it.

If there is bitter opposition in the House, as seems likely, the result will be delay, and in a great war measure such as this, delays cannot be permitted. If Sir Robert Borden is unable to secure from Parliament that support essential to the quick passage of this legislation and secure from the people the mandate to replenish the ranks of Canada's fighting forces.

The Premier's position is undeniably strong. He has but one paramount purpose and that the winning of the war insofar as Canadian effort can attain that end. In such a situation he cannot tolerate the delay which obstruction would cause. The future security of Canada may well depend upon the issue which today is before our law makers. The issue is big, throbbing, vital. It goes above and beyond politics and parties. History will be made at the capital during the next few days.

Considering the importance of the question the scene in the Commons when the Premier introduced the bill was not so spectacular as expected. There was prolonged applause when the Premier finished, but it was the tribute of a sober, thoughtful nation, manfully determined to engage upon a necessary but dangerous undertaking. It was a time for sober, careful thought, rather than the enthusiastic demonstration usually accorded to the leader of a great political party by his followers. Sir Robert Borden has had an opportunity such as comes to men but once. He has carefully and

thoroughly measured up to it, and today stands out pre-eminently as the embodiment of all that is best and finest in Canadian character and patriotism.

WE HAVE THEM HERE.

It appears that the Canterbury street amporium of gloom and other places in the province where doleful tales originate and where fantastic financial statements are handled are not peculiar to New Brunswick. They evidently have somewhat similar institutions in the United States. The New York Evening Post says: "Americans have long borne the reputation of being the most good-natured and cheerful people on earth. But some of our newspapers act as if they thought the country was filled with acrid, suspicious, and gloomy citizens. To meet the desires of these imaginary readers, they employ writers at Washington and elsewhere who daily essay the double role of Cassandra and Jeremiah. Everything is going wrong. * * * "The cheer-up man ought now and then to be given a job in certain editorial offices as well as in Congress. There is one comfort, however. The professional dweller in the cave of gloom becomes, in spite of himself, a comic figure, and so unintentionally lightens the spirits which he seeks to depress."

Some remarkable personage has written to the Globe solemnly affirming that "worthy gentlemen" (meaning the commissioners of the city of St. John, are receiving \$50 a day from the taxpayers. The writer, who signs himself "Observer," concludes: "Some town, isn't it, Mr. Editor?" Yes, it is some town, likewise some salaries and some observer.

The method of figuring employed by the Globe's correspondent must be similar to that of the Carter-Veniot government in fattening the liabilities of the province.

PTE. DANIEL LITTLEJOHN WAS KILLED IN BATTLE.

Died of Wounds on May 31 After Seven Months Fighting with New Brunswick Comrades—Interesting Letter.

It was with the deepest of regret by many friends, when the word was received yesterday, announcing that Pte. Daniel Littlejohn had died in France as the result of wounds received during a battle in one of the recent big drives. The sad message was received by his wife, Mrs. Gertrude Littlejohn, of 104 Britain street, in a telegram from Ottawa. The brave soldier died in No. Four Field Ambulance, May 31st.

Private Littlejohn trained in St. John under the command of Col. Beer and on arrival in England was drafted to another New Brunswick battalion. He fought side by side with his New Brunswick comrades for the past seven months and was through a number of big drives before he received his fatal wounds. He is survived by his wife and six small children, the youngest only six months old, also three brothers, James and Alexander of this city, and Thomas of Boston; and three sisters, Mrs. E. A. Coolen of Halifax, Mrs. E. A. Dionne of Westmount, Montreal, and Mrs. Lecher of Glen Falls.

The deceased is well known through out the Maritime Provinces in athletic circles where he has given exhibitions of boxing. He was a clever boxer and had a large number of friends. It was only a few days ago that a letter was received from him by Jas. McMullin. The letter was dated May 8th, Somewhere in France. In part the soldier said that they were doing pretty well in France and were pushing the Germans back all the time. "We just came out of the trenches to have a little rest as we were in the trenches fighting for eleven days. Johnny Cregan and all the boys are well. I have met a big lot of St. John boys over here and was glad to meet them all. I suppose you seen in the papers where we made a big drive on Vimy Ridge, it was some fight. I hope the war will soon be at an end. We have had no boxing over here of late. I am doing a different kind of boxing now, and a good deal stiffer than the old game, they are all clean knockouts we get here.

"Give my best wishes to all the boys in St. John.

"Your old friend, "DAN."

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Little Benny's Note Book.

David and Goliath. A Play.

Scene, the Bible. Goliath (nocking down a tree and setting on it) Maybe I dont feel tuff today! One of Davids brothers. Hay, Goliath, dont be nocking down those good trees and setting on them. Goliath. (nocking down another one and setting on it) Are you talking to me or playing on your jews harp? Another one of Davids brothers. Hay, theyre good trees, Goliath. Goliath. They mite of bin good before I started to nock them down and set on them. Ha ha! If eny of you fellows want a fite, Ill fite you all together and then Ill fite you one at a time and then Ill fite you all together agen. Another one of Davids brothers. Aw, you always want to fite. David. Ill fite you. Goliath. Ha ha ha Hark to the midj!! Ha ha ha! Another one of Davids brothers. You must be nutty, David. Look how little you are. David. I may be little, but O my! (Puts a pebble in his sling shot). Goliath. Ha ha ha! Darn if I aint still laffing! David. (taking out his sling shot) Get redid aim fire! The pebble. BZZZZZZZZZZ—bang! Goliath. Owtch! Help, Im doot! —The End.

WOUNDED AT VIMY RIDGE ENGAGEMENT

Sergeant Porter of Sussex Received Two Wounds During Famous Charge April 9—Is Now in "Blighty."

England, May 19th Sergeant D. Arthur Porter a Sussex hero enlisted with the 6th battalion in his home town, and was one of a draft of one hundred and twenty men sent to Valcartier to strengthen the 5th battalion just a few days before they went overseas in 1915. He has been wounded twice, the last time at Vimy Ridge April 9th. In a letter to friends he says in part:

A few lines to you this afternoon, no doubt you will be surprised to hear from me. Do you remember the letter you wrote me in June of last year well I received it during last February, eight months afterwards. It had travelled around all the Canadian Camps in England and eventually found its way to the R.C.R. in France where I received it. I remember receiving a bundle of papers from you last July. Thank you very much for your kindness and also for the papers. Well I am one more back in Eng-

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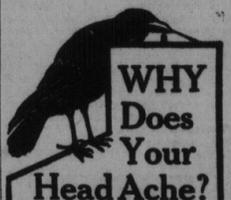
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land, after a year in France, a year all but one day. Left England for France April 14th 1917. Am wounded again, this time it brought me to "Blighty". Was wounded the morning of April 9th in right foot and left knee, the morning the Canadians took Vimy Ridge. I got it a few minutes after we started "over the top" at 5.30 a bomb exploded behind me, shrapnel going in my foot and knee, which prevented me going much further. Was in hospital at Boulogne three days after, coming across the channel to England last Saturday. It is nice once more to have a good night's sleep in a real bed. Am only about ten miles out of London, in a splendid new hospital getting the best of everything we need. Can walk a little with the help of a cane. Weather still continues cold and wet, and a very backward Spring for England. Hardly any ploughing seems to be done yet. Trusting you are enjoying good health and with kindest regards I remain yours very truly. D. ARTHUR PORTER, SERG'T No. 448776. Barnet War Hospital, High Barnet, England.



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OBITUARY

John Walsh.
The death of John Walsh at an early hour yesterday his late residence 4 Elm st. a short illness of pneumonia late Mr. Walsh was very well in the city, having been in employ for a number of years the last three or four years in the city, having been in charge of Market Square. He will learn with regret of He was about seventy-two years of age, and is survived by one son, Mr. Mary Dickson of this funeral will be held tomorrow.

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