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## Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 27, 1916.

### THE GUNS MUST DECIDE

Whatever Germany's food resources are, her armies show no lack. Vegetables can now be grown again. Much of the territory is made to produce food for the troops. Therefore, Allied peoples are being warned, and rightly, not to count upon starving Germany, but to make resolute and ample preparation for heading down her armies. The guns, not the theories of statisticians, will win the war. If the German lack of food becomes a big factor in time it will count all the more if it is accompanied by German reverses in the field and increasing evidence that the Allies are growing constantly in striking power and have shown it by breaking the German front, East and West.

As to food, the situation is still by no means clear. Germany is the greatest grower of potatoes in the world, although it is a small country compared with many others. When we are weighing the stories about the appearance of starvation in the German Empire, it may be well to give thought to an official report recently issued by the Canadian government on the world's production of potatoes. Of crops which are grown for human consumption the most important is wheat. Next comes the potato.

Russia, taking a ten year period, from 1906 to 1915, devoted on the average 10,500,000 acres to potatoes during each year. Germany was next during the same period with 8,000,000 acres; then France, 3,794,000; United States, 3,340,000; Austria, 3,138,000; Hungary, 1,647,000; United Kingdom, 1,178,000.

But when we come to the average yield per acre we find Belgium first with 238 bushels while Russia's average was only 95 bushels.

The German average was 204 bushels, and because of this large yield its total production has been 1,681,855,000 bushels, as compared with 1,155,451,000 for Russia, although the Russian acreage in potatoes is greater by 2,500,000 than Germany's.

Austria's Hungary's total production of potatoes, namely, 882,877,000 as compared with 407,844,000 for France and 260,738,000 for Great Britain.

Before the war Germany used only twenty-eight per cent of its potato crop for human food, forty per cent being used to feed animals, and the rest being used for seed purposes or for making alcohol, starch, and the like.

The necessity for producing alcohol for industrial purposes would still be very great. We do not know to what extent Germany has been able to keep up its average crop since the war began, but we must remember that Germany and Austria-Hungary have been accustomed to employ a great many old men, women and children in the fields, and it may be assumed that this practice has been pursued even more ruthlessly than ever under the pressure of war.

There is no question that food scarcity has become a pressing question in Germany, but its immediate effect, or its effect within the probable period of the war's duration, ought not to be exaggerated. Much may be hoped from the increasing rigor of the British blockade, but it is well to keep in mind, also, the nature of the German government, the readiness with which the people yield to restrictions and rules imposed by the authorities. Waste under such iron conditions can be prevented to a greater degree than in any other country of France, the natural frugality of whose people in itself is a mine of great riches.

Germany is complaining at one hour of the "crucelty" of the British blockade, and the next hour is proclaiming its ability to feed, and to munition itself for years to come. The truth probably lies between these extremes, but the truth is very difficult for outsiders to ascertain, and there can be no doubt that very cunning and very extensive efforts are continually carried on for the purpose of deceiving the outside world with respect to conditions in Germany. The truth, of course, will come out in time. When the next German crop has been harvested, and winter is again coming upon the country, even the rigor of German precautions will scarcely suffice to keep from the world the essential facts regarding the amount of food still available, and consequently, the real outlook for Germany during another winter campaign.

We may reasonably hope that Germany has begun to feel the pinch of scarcity and the drain due to its tremendous losses.

But the Allied countries have learned at last not to build overmuch upon these things. So many prophecies made before this war as to what would occur during a European conflict have been proved baseless, it becomes necessary to be very cautious with respect even to predictions based upon the experience of twenty months of war. In fine, the thing to think about is the business of beating Germany in the field, of defeating its armies, of sending those armies, broken, reeling back across the German frontiers and the marches of Austria-Hungary. That will be a frightfully costly business at best, but only when it can be done will the Allies be able to dictate satisfactory terms.

**THE WAR.** Just as many military writers were declaring that the struggle at Verdun was virtually over, the fighting there has suddenly become more desperate than at any time since the first few days after it began in February. The news of last night describes what appears to be a final and resolute attempt of the Germans to take the position by sheer weight of artillery and the most ruthless sacrifice of infantry. This new assault is not yet over, but though some progress is being made, it is convinced that the key positions are safe and that Verdun is not to be taken, no matter how madly the enemy is willing to bid for it in German blood.

As frequently has been the case after a renewal of the attack, the issue will remain in doubt until more fighting has been done; the French believe they have seen the worst the enemy can do; the Germans must think they can take the position or they would not have piled yesterday's awful sacrifices upon those of the last ninety-four days.

Meanwhile what is the general situation? In two striking articles just published in the New York Tribune Mr. Frank H. Simonds discusses Verdun and the outlook elsewhere. He says Germany's position is weakened by its "manifest eagerness for peace." The Allies are not ready to talk peace now, so he thinks Germany will try again later, ask less, and get nothing until the Allies are ready. He says:

"In sum, after two years of war, Germany, by her peace proposals, seems to lay aside the hope of breaking that iron ring which her enemies, to use the German view, had drawn about her before the war. The ring is not broken, rather, it has been forged by the terrible struggle, and what was a loose entente is now a close alliance. The political situation remains as it was in 1914, but the military situation has worsened immeasurably, because a Europe approximately as well armed as Germany, possessing absolute control of the sea, now maintains more men on the firing line than Germany has or ever can hope to have, even with the aid of her allies."

And again:

"The men who are fighting the Germans are just as anxious to get themselves out of the trenches as men can be, but they are a little more anxious to keep their own boys out of these trenches a few years hence. Therefore they are willing to go on. Germany has lost a war; but her enemies have only in part won a war; they have blocked, not convinced, Germany. They are fighting now to establish the fact that a German attack upon European civilization can never succeed, and that the cost of it is beyond all conceivable profit. This, and not peace terms, is important; this, and not peace terms, is the thing that prolongs the war and will prolong it until the Allied purpose is realized or Allied strength fails."

"Germany has lost the present war," he says. "She is shouting the fact from the housetops. She is ready for peace on terms that give her next to nothing for her great sacrifices. But why? Because she desires to preserve the possibility of a resumption of her attack subsequently, when her diplomacy shall have separated the nations which, united, have helped her. She desires to preserve the glory of her army and to be able to enlist her people by asserting that what was accomplished in 1914 can be accomplished again, in 1924."

Mr. Simonds does not expect an early peace. He looks rather for long and desperate fighting.

### ANOTHER EXPOSURE

Proof that the local government deliberately "faked up" its surpluses by altering dates of accounts and requisitions was produced yesterday in the Westminster campaign in the form of an affidavit from Mr. H. M. Blair, former secretary of the Public Works Department. That members of the government knew of this procedure is shown. The affidavit is printed in full on another page of today's issue, but a few outstanding paragraphs are presented here also in discussing the record of the government which the Standard describes as one of "honesty and courage."

"That in the months of August, September, and October, 1915, I did present to the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer's department for payment certain accounts which were almost exclusively for ordinary expenditure on roads and bridges, amounting to between \$55,000 and \$60,000. These accounts had been checked up in the Department of Public Works, and the proper requisitions had been signed, and all were made ready for payment. They had been sent to the Treasury Department from day to day as they were prepared, but they were not paid."

"During the latter part of October, in order that the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer might be able to declare that the government had completed the year with a surplus, these accounts, amounting to between \$55,000 and \$60,000, were



For her devotion to duty in the Red Cross work in France, Serbia and Macedonia, Mrs. Harley (center), sister of Field Marshal Sir John French, was recently decorated at Salonika by Gen. Sarrai (man with folded arms at right) with the French Military Cross. The decoration took place in the presence of British, French and Greek officers and a number of Mrs. Harley's co-workers in the Red Cross. On the extreme right is Gen. Mabon, the Greek commander at Salonika. On the left, with his stick, is Gen. Sarrai, the British commander.

handed back to me by the Treasury Department, and I was asked by that department to hold them over until after the end of the fiscal year.

"I was further asked by that department to change the dates of all the requisitions, so as to make it appear as if they belonged to the following year. These alterations so requested by the Treasury Department were made. The dates were changed as of the following fiscal year; and the requisitions filed in the department, if examined, will show where the changes were made."

"As a result of these transactions the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer declared a surplus of \$12,000. If these accounts had been paid in full, as they were, the surplus would have been a deficit to the extent of \$40,000 and \$50,000 on these items alone."

"During other years while I was in the Department of Public Works the Treasury Department compelled us to adopt similar tactics and make similar alterations."

"It frequently has been charged that the alleged surpluses of this government were produced by the crooked method here described, but until now direct proof has been lacking. Now comes the information from the inside, detailed, corroborated by the documents themselves, on file. The government in that year had dissipated an income great beyond any in New Brunswick's history. Yet it had spent more than its immense revenue and was ashamed to confess the truth. So a small surplus was solemnly announced. In reality there was a big deficit—how big we do not yet know. It never had a real surplus in its history."

This is the government of "courage and of honesty." What do the decent voters who supported the administration in 1908 and 1912 think of it today? Will they answer the crack of the party whip once more? Or have they had enough?

### A LIVELY CAMPAIGN

The by-election campaign in Westmorland is at its height, and it is one of the hottest in the history of a county which has seen many hot political battles. Dr. Smith, whose nomination was received with strong approval in opposition circles all over the province, has justified that approval by conducting an energetic and straightforward fight, bringing home to the electors in telling fashion the nature of the government's record and the fact that the government is more than Mr. Mahoney's that is on trial.

Dr. Smith is a strong candidate, and he has a great cause. He has able assistance in arousing Westmorland to a realization of its duty and responsibility at this time. With little time for preparation the opposition has brought into service a powerful battery of speakers, and they are everywhere receiving, and deserving, a fine reception.

The government's orators are telling about the sins of the previous administration, but the people know that it is being tried. The public has heard many generalities in general. It sees in Messrs. Clarke, Murray, Baxter and Landry four gentlemen who whitewashed Mr. Fleming and who are now trying to persuade Westmorland to condone or approve of that notorious transaction.

Mr. B. Frank Smith is at Mr. Mahoney's elbow in the fight—an impressive exhibit—but Mr. Fleming is not there. Mr. Pinder is not there; Mr. A. J. H. Stewart is absent. Mr. Robichaud is not in evidence. Mr. Sheridan is not there. Mr. Morrissey is absent too. Mr. Berry and Mr. E. R. Teed are not there. Colonel Guthrie is not there. If he were he could tell of the message he carried from the Premier to H. M. Blair.

These are significant absences. Dr. Landry is there. His presence will remind voters of those manufactured surpluses. Mr. Baxter has been there, briefly. He is the gentleman who gave back \$500, and who does not consider it necessary to investigate the \$6,000 liquor license fund, because he is afraid of a sworn testimony in public on that question. Hon. Mr. Murray is there. It was

his department which handled the patriotic potatoes.

These men ask Westmorland to declare by its votes on May 30 that they have done well and honorably their duty. Westmorland knows what they have done and what they have failed to do. It is to speak to all Canada concerning them next Tuesday.

### MORE EXPOSURES

Thursday, May 25. The campaign in Westmorland was marked yesterday by further sensational exposures of the local government whose standard-bearer is seeking election.

Fresh chapters of the story of the collection of \$60,000 from St. John liquor licenses, which was detailed during the closing days of the Legislature, were given at several opposition meetings last evening, speakers in four places reading a solemn declaration by H. M. Blair, former secretary of the Department of Public Works, who related how a law partner or former-law partner of Hon. Mr. Baxter tried to induce him, Blair, to join in buying up members of the Legislature at \$50 each with part of the money raised here to defeat legislation adverse to the liquor interests, or at least, raised so used. Mr. Blair, in his proposed declaration, says that when he was approached, and asked to take part in this proposed bribe, he told Hon. Mr. Baxter about the matter, told him the identity of the lawyer who had made the proposition, and what the proposition was. He says Mr. Baxter told him he, Baxter, could not know anything about it, but, to put it mildly, did or said nothing to discourage the enterprise. In justice to his own reputation, the Attorney-General should demand an enquiry into the whole matter under oath, before an impartial commission with the powers of a high court.

This, of course, is the transaction of which the Standard says no member of the government knew anything. This is the transaction the government refused to investigate, on the plea that the matter was a private one between the St. John license holders and their clients. The Blair accusation makes an early and complete investigation necessary in the public interest. Premier Clarke and the Attorney-General must now see how necessary it is to bring out all the facts. They cannot afford to permit the solemn declaration, publicly read yesterday at several meetings to go unanswered.

There is only one way to answer it. That is by summoning all those who took part in the transaction, here and in Fredericton, before an impartial tribunal and hearing their testimony under oath. That should have been done long ago. The developments of yesterday mean that further refusal to let a royal commission to work on the matter at this time will convince the public that the government does not face the evidence that would be forthcoming. The whole truth must be brought out. If it clears members of the government so much the better for them. If it involves them, so much the worse.

### LIBERALS SWEEP QUEBEC

Sir Lomer Gouin in the Quebec election of Monday leaves scarcely a corporal's guard of the enemy. Early bulletins give the Conservatives six or seven seats—out of eighty-one. A few more or less will not matter. The Liberal Premier has too many rather than too few followers after the battle, but it is due to him to say that a big majority in the past has not rendered him any less vigilant or less scrupulous, and that he is too sound a leader to be spoiled by the greater victory that now comes to him. Quebec has had good government from the Liberals, and realizes it. Arguing from the past, it has every reason to look forward with complete confidence to another term of progressive and honorable administration. The opposition leader, beaten by 800 votes in his own constituency, and seeing only a scant handful of seats carried by his party, has said that he will not seek another constituency. He is finished.

The election of Monday will be studied in other provinces because of their national belief. They give signal proof of Sir Lomer Gouin's increasing hold upon the province, which means a corresponding decrease there of the power and influence of the Borden government.

The country sees Quebec standing firm. It sees Liberalism growing steadily in Ontario under Mr. Robt. D. D. It notes the return of Manitoba to the Liberal column. It sees the Middle West under Liberal rule. It feels that the Borden government in British Columbia is on its last legs. It finds Premier Murray at the helm in Nova Scotia. It expects that New Brunswick will strike down the present local government when finally it is compelled to go to the country.

Sir Lomer Gouin has been Premier since March, 1905. After the elections of 1912 the standing of the parties in the House was:

Liberal ..... 69  
Laborite ..... 16  
Conservative ..... 10  
Ind. Lib. .... 3  
Nationalist ..... 1  
Government majority ..... 42

The vote of yesterday shows that no man in Quebec's history enjoyed its confidence so fully as the present Liberal Premier.

### NOTE AND COMMENT

Peel, Victoria, Vancouver by-elections in those places, condemned graft. What will Westmorland do with similar evidence before it?

The Nationalists, the Bordenites, the Laborites and their allies, were raised against the Gouin government in Quebec yesterday. They have their answer.

Hon. Mr. Baxter's newspaper quotes the Chatham World as saying the action of Mr. Baxter in returning \$600 to Mr. Gould was most virtuous. Well, some of the money obtained by Mr. Fleming from the lumbermen was returned also. Giving it back is something of course, but the merit thereof is necessarily measured by the circumstances attending the renunciation. These are fully on the record.

### WAR OFFICE TAKES ISSUE WITH BIRRELL REGARDING TROOPS

London, May 22.—A statement giving full particulars of the acts for which British participants in the Irish rebellion had been executed, was being prepared and would be presented shortly, Premier Asquith was told yesterday in the house of commons today.

The premier added, in reply to a further question that he was anxious, because of misunderstanding in America on this subject, that the statement should be presented at the earliest possible moment.

The statement of Premier Asquith will be presented to the house of commons Thursday, there was no cabinet meeting today, but Mr. Asquith was in consultation with different ministers, including David Lloyd George, minister of munitions, and also with John Redmond, the Irish leader.

The putting off of the statement until Thursday was for the purpose of enabling the cabinet thoroughly to review the situation.

London, May 22.—At the continuation today of the royal commission's inquiry into the Irish revolt, Viscount Middleton declared the action which he said he had taken to bring the activities of the Sinn Fein to the attention of the Irish authorities before the outbreak.

Viscount Middleton stated that he had conferred with Augustine Birrell, then chief secretary for Ireland, and had strongly urged that the National Volunteers be disbanded. Mr. Birrell had said, in effect, declared the witness, that the movement was to be laughed at, not one to be taken seriously.

At the opening of today's session, before Viscount Middleton was called to testify, Mr. Birrell was recalled as a witness, a difference of opinion having arisen between himself and the war office as to what had happened during the conferences mentioned by the former chief secretary for Ireland in his evidence last week.

Lord Hardinge, a member of the commission, read a letter written by Major-General Macready of the adjutant-general's staff of the war department, at the request of Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, the secretary for war, in which General Macready said that the conference of March 20, at which Mr. Birrell, according to his testimony, had

asked for more troops to be sent to Ireland, had reference to the state of recruiting in Ireland, and that there was no proposal that troops should be sent to various parts of Ireland to encourage men to join the colors.

Viscount Middleton, continuing his testimony after his presentation of the extract from Mr. Birrell's letter, entirely gave further evidence of warnings he declared he had given Baron Wimborne, then lord lieutenant of Ireland; the Marquis of Lansdowne and others of the impending danger. The witness said that he had told Sir Matthew Nathan, then under-secretary for Ireland, that John Redmond, whose advice the government had taken, would hardly carry a single seat in Munster should there be an election, and further that the situation was so bad that Mr. Redmond was in danger of his life.

Six days after the outbreak occurred the witness said he again warned Baron Wimborne of the results that would follow if no action were taken.

### Baron Wimborne's Story.

Viscount Middleton, having also testified in private, Baron Wimborne was then called. He said that since the chief secretary for Ireland had dislodged the lord lieutenant in the cabinet, the lord lieutenant's powers had been entirely usurped by the chief secretary and the under-secretary. He had no confirmation of reports of other men that which might reach him from castle sources, and no executive machinery with which he could take action, independent of his colleagues, he declared, nor had he any means of asserting his views when they conflicted with those of his nominal superordinates. His functions, in fact, he said, were confined to unsolicited advice and energetic representation.

Lord Wimborne declared he imagined the charge that would be brought against the Irish government would be one of dealing with the propaganda, and the hostile demonstration of the Sinn Fein. Even since the departure of the Irish lord lieutenant, at the end of last summer, he said the Irish garrison had been inadequate, and in March of this year he urged on General French the desirability of sending a division of troops to Ireland. He advanced the internal situation as the reason why more troops were needed.

Early this year the police reports showed that the Sinn Fein movement was growing and Lord Wimborne said he then suggested operation or internment as a remedy.

Lord Wimborne caused a stir in the room when he stated that the admiral at Queenstown had received information that Sir Roger Casement had departed from Germany, and that his ship, accompanied by two submarines, might be expected off the Irish coast about Sunday. That information, he said, had not been communicated to the Irish government.

It was pointed out, added Lord Wimborne, that association with the enemy must first be proved. Subsequently it was thought that this was proved, and he urged the simultaneous arrest of between 50 and 100 leaders.

The rebellion broke out while this was being considered, and he wrote to Mr. Birrell.

"The worst has happened just when we thought it had been averted. Had we acted with decision last night and arrested the leaders it would have been averted."

"The commission will hold its next sitting on Thursday in Dublin."

As Ye Sow.

(It is said that Germany has asked the United States to intercede for peace.)

You would have peace, you Hun? Well, peace you'll get.

When England, France and Russia say: When you have paid in full your ghastly debt.

And when your weakened voice no more is heard.

When your black buzzards you call eagles stand.

Stripped of their feathers, ugly, naked, shamed.

When that foul thing you call "the mailed hand" is, but a rattling bone, by vengeance claimed.

Who think you, Hohenzollern, that you are?

Great Joshua of old, reincarnate, To lead the chosen into lands afar?

You would be called "the Conqueror," "the Great."

You spun your poisonous web of espionage, And criminal-like hid ever from the light.

Men of Eisen tolled that war might wage, And by thick walls were hidden from the sight.

With bows beneath the sea, airships above, You thought to crush the Briton's grand home fleet.

Then in your warships, you your might would move To Britain, making victory complete.

With all prepared, you dared to drink "the day."

That you would cause our mighty power to cease.

But now your plans are slowly swept away, And now you look to neutrals to make peace.

You would the Lion rouse, you thought his rest.

Was the deep sleep of aged incompetence.

You even flouted him, and thought it best.

To wage your war with every vile offence.

You sent your rowdies into peaceful lands.

To outrage, murder, pillage and spoil.

With maudlin gloatings and in bloody hands.

They did the "goose-step" over Belgian soil.

Now with existence and your throne at stake.

You would have peace made, and your troubles o'er.

'Tis not in yours, nor neutral hands to make.

Yours to begin, 'tis ours to end the war.

—P. M. C. in Toronto Mail.

A young woman recently received the following note, and in reply wrote: "You needn't expect me up to your house no more Sunday nights. A girl that leaves toilet a stickin' on the parlor chairs for a feller to sit on ain't no girl for me—Jim."

Lawyer (examining witness)—"Where was your maid at the time?"

Lady—"In my boudoir, arranging my hair."

Lawyer—"And were you there, also?"

Lady (Indignantly)—"Sir!"

## TO MEET IN JUNE

Following is the programme of the thirty-third annual session of the New Brunswick and P. E. Island Conference of the Methodist church, to be held at Thursday, June 8, 1916.

Tuesday, June 6.  
9:00 a.m.—Stationing and statistical committee.

Wednesday, June 7.  
9:00 a.m.—Ministerial session.  
9:00 a.m.—Laymen's Association.  
1:30 p.m.—Committee on relations.

9:00 p.m.—Ministerial session. Report of committee on conference relations.

8:00 p.m.—Sermon by Rev. Samuel Howard, B.D., sacramental service.

Thursday, June 8.  
7:00 a.m.—Prayer service, Epworth Hall, Rev. George Tilley, B.A., leader.  
8:00 a.m.—Opening of conference. Roll call and election of officers. First draft of station sheet laid on the table.

1:30 p.m.—Nominating committee.  
2:00 p.m.—Conference session.  
2:30 p.m.—Reception of Delegates; civic greeting by His Worship Mayor Jardine; report of nominating committee; meeting of committees.

8:00 p.m.—Conference session. Report of school committee on conference relations; address by Rev. James Endicott, D.D., general secretary of Foreign Missions.

Friday, June 9.  
7:00 a.m.—Prayer service, Epworth Hall, Rev. Ovid H. Peters, leader.  
8:00 a.m.—Conference session. Reports of committees. Consideration of superannuated matters. Consideration of book room and Wesleyan affairs. Report of superintendent of missions.

11:30 a.m.—Address by Dean L. J. Birney, D.D.  
2:00 p.m.—Conference session. Reports of committees.

8:00 p.m.—Conference session. Report of committee on social service and Smith, B.A., secretary.

Saturday, June 10.  
7:00 a.m.—Prayer service, Epworth Hall, Rev. William Lawson, leader.  
8:00 a.m.—Conference session. Reports of committees. Reading of station and election of chairmen.

11:30 a.m.—Address by Dean L. J. Birney, D.D.  
2:00 p.m.—Conference session. Memorial service. Reports of committees.

8:00 p.m.—Historical Society; lecture by W. H. Barrackough, B.A., subject, One Hundred Years of Methodism in America.

Sunday, June 11.  
7:00 a.m.—Prayer service, Epworth Hall, Rev. J. F. Rowley, leader.  
8:30 a.m.—Song service in Epworth Hall, led by Rev. J. C. Berrie.

11:00 a.m.—Ordination service, sermon by Rev. Richard Ople, ex-president.  
2:30 p.m.—Conference session of Sunday school and Epworth League societies. Address by Rev. Frank H. Langford, B.A., associate secretary, followed by discussion. Miscellaneous matters.

Sunday services in other churches. Presbyterian: 11:00 a.m.—Rev. James Endicott, D.D.

7:00 p.m.—Rev. Prof. W. Gladstone Watson, B.D.

Baptist: 11:00 a.m.—Rev. Frank H. Langford.

7:00 p.m.—Rev. J. W. Smith, B.A. Central Street, Christian.

11:00 a.m.—Rev. Hugh Miller.  
7:00 p.m.—Rev. B. O. Hartman.

REV. RICHARD OPLE, President.  
REV. D. R. CHOWAN, B.A., Secretary.</