

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1917

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## INSTRUCTIVE EVIDENCE.

Yesterday's evidence in the Valley Railway enquiry is of a very interesting character. It shows how fortunate were those persons who had the favor of the late provincial government. One hundred thousand dollars is a snug sum of money, even in these piping times for profiteers. Mr. Cosentino's evidence reveals quite clearly the methods by which contracts were let by the late government. We see even more clearly than before why the Valley Railway has proved such a boon to the taxpayers, and why the finances of the province are in such excellent shape. The government might have saved that hundred thousand dollars, but evidently felt that the contractors had a good right not only to reap a fat profit themselves for work sublet to others, but were also entitled to be gracious to so good a friend as Mr. Tennant.

Then there was the little matter of the gift of \$75,944.75, made to the construction company by the change in the contract for the Andover-Centerville section. These trifles were as nothing in the estimation of a government which had just decided to hold the provincial elections.

Of course the enquiry has only been fairly begun. There may be more joyful news for the taxpayers before it is ended. As the Standard has said, the people made a great mistake when they put the Murray government out of power. Who knows how many more fine opportunities its beneficent rule might have afforded the thrifty contractors and the engaging middleman?

## LAVERGNE'S STRATEGY

The Toronto Globe fears we have all misjudged Lt.-Col. Armand Lavergne, and suggests that he really wants to wallop the Kaiser and has a plan of campaign all ready. The Globe says: "The closer one studies his speeches the more clearly his main idea seems to be revealed. It is simply this: lure the enemy to Canada and fight him here. Could anything be more simple, or richer in promise of great achievement? Of course, the minor details of getting the enemy to this side of the world, and of manoeuvring to put him in the exact spot where the gallant Lavergne could talk him to death, would require a reasonable amount of skill and diplomacy. These might, however, be left to Mr. Bourassa or to such other of the long-range fighting staff as Mr. Lavergne and the staff might agree upon. Once these phases of the operations had been settled, the rest would be easy. In any event, this seems to be the plan of action most favored by Mr. Lavergne, who, by the way, holds a commission in the militia, though he does not boast of it. It would be a pity to deprive him of his military rank, as some papers suggest should be done, pending the submission of the plan to the Allied War Council. If it should result in the Kaiser himself heading an expedition to Canada, it would be a success of magnitude, because, valuable as he is with pen and tongue, Wilhelm is a mere amateur compared with Armand. His fate would be certain."

## IT IS CANADA'S WAR.

A St. John opponent of conscription is quoted as saying—"See what Canada has already done for England."  
Is it possible that there are still men in this part of Canada who think we are fighting for England?  
Canada is fighting for Canada, as much as England is fighting for England. One would think the fact that the United States, which certainly would not fight merely for this war would convince even the least thoughtful of persons that there is more in it than a struggle between England and Germany. What Canada has done has been done for Canada and for the cause of democracy in the world. If Germany won, this country would become a German state, and its people subject to the despotic rule of that country. It is not for Canadians to measure what they are doing with what others do, although such a comparison is not to the credit of Canada at this moment, but to regard herself as in imminent danger until Kaiserism has been utterly crushed. This is Canada's war. The people have no choice save that between honor and dishonor, safety and conquest by a relentless and brutal foe. If there are Canadians willing to wait on the chance of being saved by the sacrifice made by Britain, France, Italy and the United States, they are unworthy citizens of a free country. The present dead-lock at Ottawa, which has been precipitated by Sir Robert Borden's injudicious announcement of a selective draft without first giving one last chance under the voluntary system, and at the same time taking the country more fully into his confidence, is a blot on the record. It should be wiped out by such a mobilization of the country for war as should have been undertaken long ago, and men should put aside their partisanship in order to ensure the largest possible degree of national unity in the effort.

## CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH

An Ottawa correspondent writes that many Conservatives, while they are ready to support the selective draft as applied to men, do not at all relish the idea that wealth also should be conscripted. The case for conscription of wealth is strikingly set out by a writer in the Toronto Star, who says: "What does the country ask of a man? If it drafts him into the army it takes him from his business, it takes him from his work, it takes him from his earnings, and makes him an allowance of \$1.10 a day. Whether he has been drawing a wage of \$3 per day or whether his wage has been \$10 or \$50 or \$100 a day—for in business what a man earns is his wage—he is, if drafted into the army, cut off from that wage and that work and that cozy place in life which he had made for himself, and he is sent away to risk his life fighting for his country. When the nation takes this liberty with this man, why should the nation hesitate a moment about taking a similar liberty with his neighbor who is not being drafted, whose life is not going to be risked, but who owes the country just as much service as the other man? And we wish to assure the government, too, that he is just as willing as his soldier neighbor to give his country that service if the government will duly consider the matter and tell him what his duty is. When men are drafted for the war other men will not have a leg to stand on in refusing to do any national service that will contribute to the public good. It but needs that the government believe in the people and the people will do their part. If the government will but recognize the truth that along with the drafting of men there must go side by side other measures conceived in the same serious spirit, recognizing the duty of the country to the world of which this country is so fortunate and capable a part in this time of extremity, and recognizing the duty of the whole people to the country, it will infinitely strengthen its case and put out of court those who, for any cause, seek to resist the raising of a new army by means of selective drafts."

We give space today to a report of the evidence of Mr. Thomas Cassese given before Commissioner Stevens, who is investigating Valley Railway finances. It will be found interesting, though the revelations amount to not being called elevating. The Standard this morning lightly dismissed the matter with the headline "Evidence taken in the railway enquiry amounted to nothing." That's as the Standard no doubt would have it. But do the people declare it "nothing" that contractors had to promise half their profits and actually pay \$100,000 of this in advance in order to get the work? We are beginning to find out why the discredited Murray-Baxter government tried so desperately to cling to office.

Le Canada, a French-Canadian journal, has this to say to Sir Robert Borden's Nationalist friends:—"The electors of St. Anselme, Dorchester county, where Mr. Seigny had his greatest majority, have challenged their member to abandon his post if he still wishes them to have faith in his given word. Mr. Seigny triumphed in Dorchester by declaring to his electors that there would be no conscription, and it was Mr. Patenaude who succeeded in securing his election by every possible means, and Mr. Blondin, who gave strong support to his colleague, who went as far as to tell his audience to cross the frontier if there was conscription. What will he do? What do all three say?"

The young men in the United States have certainly answered well the call to place themselves in the ranks of President Wilson's army.

The deciding moment at Ottawa seems near.

'Twas a glorious morn for the June brides.

## TEMPERANCE PEOPLE MEET TO CELEBRATE PROHIBITION VICTORY

Temperance Hall, Main street, was the scene of an enthusiastic gathering of temperance workers last evening when a prohibition thanksgiving service was held under the auspices of the I. O. G. T. The event was held to celebrate the fact that prohibition in New Brunswick is now an accomplished fact. The chair was occupied by E. N. Stockford, grand chief templar, and the opening devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. Hutchinson. During the evening several selections were well given by a vocal quartette from Thorne Lodge, I. O. G. T., composed of John, Charles, William and Henry McEachern. Miss Hamm and Mr. Ferris were heard in a piano and violin duet. Dr. F. S. Sawaya also spoke, and the closing prayer was offered by George Gamm. The evening was brought to a close with the singing of the national anthem. A feature of the evening was the singing of a prohibition song to celebrate the temperance victory.

One of the things that don't come to the bald headed men who wait is hair.

## OUT OF THE RUNNING AT 40 YEARS OLD

Men at 40 should be doing their best work. This is impossible unless health is good. Many a man at 40 thinks he is getting old and out of the running, because his back aches, his joints are swollen and sore, or he is the victim of rheumatism.

We have records on file of men who felt just like this but who took Gin Pills and quickly regained the young spirit and energy that goes with good health.

So much depends on the kidneys, whose function is to carry away the poisons from the blood stream. If the kidneys are not working right, though a man is only 20, the poisons will make him feel old before his time. Don't delay if you have a sore back, cannot lift weights, limp with rheumatism, suffer from kidney or bladder trouble, lumbar, inflammation of the bladder, brick-dust deposits, or other urinary disorder. Try Gin Pills.

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Try Gin Pills. We will refund your money if you fail to get results. All good druggists and dealers sell Gin Pills. Sample free upon request to the National Drug and Chemical Company of Canada, Limited, Toronto.

## LIGHTER VEIN.

A Habit of His Kind  
"That new recruit must have been a bookkeeper."

"Why so?"  
"I just noticed him trying to put his bayonet behind his ear."

Wider Field  
"I want to reach people in all walks of life."

"That's a narrow audience, old man. Better include all makes of cars."

His Worst Fears  
Flubdub—Why do you watch young Gortov so closely? Are you afraid he is going to clope with your daughter?

Harduppe—No, I'm afraid he isn't.

Exceeding Modesty  
Literary Crab—I see that this literary test requires that every voter be able to write english. There won't be more than two voters in the state.

Budding Author (just sold his first story)—Wonder who'll be the other one?

Her Father's Daughter  
"Did you spend so much money as this before I married you?"

"Why, yes."  
"Then I can't understand why your father went on so when I took you away from him."

Well Spent Time.  
Hub—During the time it took you to select that hat I went out and made \$100.

Wife—I'm so glad, dear. You'll need it.

A Nomad.  
Bangs—How much does it cost you a week for your beard and room?

Bealeigh—Well, some expressmen charge me \$1 and some 75 cents.

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Careful investigations show that before the war the average British family wasted 25% of their food—and we Canadians were even more extravagant.

This waste is not in a few big things, but in many little ones, each, we used to think, too small to bother about—such as careless peeling of vegetables and fruit—failure to make good use of dripping and "left-overs"—and such others as will occur to every thrifty housekeeper.

For the Empire's sake as well as your own, hunt up and cut out these leaks! You'll be helping to relieve the food shortage—saving your own money—and putting yourself in a position to buy Canadian War Savings Certificates and help win the war.

War Savings Certificates are issued in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100, to be repaid in three years at full face value. They cost \$21.50, \$43 and \$86 respectively, at all Money Order Post-Offices and Banks, thus yielding over 5% interest. Should you need it, you can get your money back at any time.

**The National Service Board of Canada.**  
R. B. BENNETT, Director General. C. W. PETERSON, Secretary.

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**BELGIAN RELIEF**

London, May 19, 1917.

To the Editor of The Times:

Sir,—In view of the fact that the United States government has generously assumed all financial responsibility for the work of the commission for relief in Belgium, it has been decided that the national committee for relief in Belgium will suspend its appeals to the public in the British Empire. Any monies received after June 1 will be held to provide for emergencies now unforeseen in connection with relief in Belgium.

This course of action is in accordance with the suggestion made by Mr. Hoover, chairman of the relief commission, who is now in Washington, and has the approval of His Majesty's government and the Belgian minister.

During the existence of the committee more than £2,400,000, subscribed throughout the British Empire for the relief of our oppressed allies in Belgium, has passed through its hands. The second annual meeting will be held at the Mansion House on June 15, when opportunity will be taken to express gratitude to those committees and individuals who have co-operated with such marked devotion in the work of the national body.

Signed, on behalf of the national committee:

W. H. DUNN,  
Lord Mayor of London, chairman.  
RANDALL CANTUAR,  
FRANCIS CARDINAL BOURNE,  
JOHN BROWN,  
Moderator, Church of Scotland.  
W. B. SELBIE,  
President, Free Church Council,  
J. H. HERTZ,  
Chief Rabbi,  
W. A. M. GOODE,  
Hon. Secretary,  
LANDOWNE,  
ROSEBERRY,  
BRYCE,  
ARTHUR HENDERSON,  
JOHN E. REDMOND, relief in Belgium.  
A. SHIRLEY BENN,  
Hon. Treasurer.

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