

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR. ST. JOHN N. B. MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1914

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ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 3, 1914.

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CANADIAN LOYALTY.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier once observed that to make a parade of the loyalty of a people was like the conduct of a man who would boast about the virtue of his wife and sisters.

Are there still a lot of people in Canada who are surprised at this? Loyalty, or is the parade that is being made in certain quarters indicative of another "flag election" in the near future?

The Montreal Star on Friday last devoted nearly half a page to the following sentences, set in very large type with a Union Jack on either side:

"Stand by the flag. Disaster to British arms means dissolution of Canada. Australia and New Zealand stand by mother land. Canada's duty imperative."

Why should there be any suggestion that Canada will not stand by the flag? Why should it be necessary to insinuate that Canadians are not conscious of their duty? From every province in the Dominion, and before Sir Robert Borden and his government had cabled to London their views on the matter, there had come the offer of groups of men and of regiments for active service in defence of the Empire. Prominent militia officers throughout the country had also tendered their services, and entirely without distinction as to politics.

"When England is at war Canada is at war," to quote again from Sir Wilfrid Laurier. All that it will be necessary for any Canadian newspaper to do in this crisis will be to give the public the news. Canadian patriotism will know, without any frantic appeals from the Montreal Star or any other newspaper, how to give an account of itself in a great Imperial crisis.

THE "EASTERN QUESTION"

To understand the relations between Russia, Austria and Serbia it is necessary to go back to the period prior to the Russo-Turkish war and the treaty of Berlin, and to consider also the effect of race and religious sympathy upon political affairs.

While Russia had great territorial ambitions and sought to secure an outlet for her fleet in the Mediterranean, she was also interested in the welfare of those peoples of Slavonic origin in the Balkan Peninsula, who were also members of the Orthodox Greek church. The people of Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and some other portions of what was formerly the Turkish Empire in Europe belonged to the Orthodox Church and also claimed a national kinship with the Russian people. In Hungary, on the other hand, the Magyars, who formed the ruling "race" in that part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, have always been more in sympathy with the Turk than with the Serbian, Bulgarian or Russian. Freeman tells us that "the geographical function of the Magyars has been to keep the two great groups of Slavonic nations apart, and to his coming more than to any other cause we may attribute the great historical gap which separates the Slav of the Baltic from his southern kinsfolk in the Balkans."

Russia has never forgiven Austria-Hungary and Germany for their attitude when the treaty of Berlin was formed in 1878, at the close of the Russo-Turkish war. Russia had entered upon this war partly no doubt to enlarge her own territory, but also to manipulate Bulgaria and Serbia, and to set up in the Balkans buffer states which would regard Russia as their friend, and whose people were akin to her own in race and religion. After her victorious armies had arrived at the very gates of Constantinople, and were in a position to dictate the terms of peace, the other great powers intervened, and refused to ratify the treaty of San Stefano. By the terms of that treaty Turkey would have been compelled to recognize the independence of Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro, all of which were to be increased in size, and there was also to be established the autonomous tributary principality of Bulgaria, extending from the Black Sea to Albania, and from the Danube in the north to the Aegean in the south. This would have practically blotted out Turkey as a European power. Bosnia and Herzegovina were to be granted extensive reforms.

England and Austria-Hungary refused to recognize the treaty of San Stefano, and gained the support of Germany, France and Italy. The Congress of Berlin was therefore called, and after a month of deliberations the Treaty of Berlin was signed, modifying and making such changes in the treaty of San Stefano that Russia, while forced to yield with a good grace, was filled with bitterness that has never been overcome. She expected nothing from England, since the latter has always opposed her movement toward the Dardanelles, but she did expect something from Austria-Hungary, and much from Germany. We are told that as the congress progressed, and the treatment of the Slavie cause at the hands of the Germans and Magyars became more apparent, an intensely angry feeling sprang up in Russia, and so violent became the manifestations of the feeling against Germany and Austria-Hungary that Bismarck deemed it prudent to form an alliance

with the latter power. This alliance was joined by Italy three years later. By the Treaty of Berlin the area of Bulgaria was reduced by more than one-half. Bosnia and Herzegovina were placed under the control of Austria-Hungary, along with the Sanjak of Novi-Bazar, and while Serbia and Montenegro were recognized as independent principalities they only received slight accessions of territory.

There have been many changes in the Balkans since 1878, and Turkey has been shorn of more and more of her power. Austria-Hungary, however, has continued to be jealous of the growing power of Serbia, while the Serbians, perhaps encouraged by their consciousness of Russian sympathy, have been quick to resent any real or fancied grievance. The tension between the two countries has been all the greater because Bosnia and Herzegovina, which were handed over to Austria by the Treaty of Berlin, are inclined to be Serbian in sympathy, as many of the people are in race and religion. Indeed millions of Austrian subjects are of the Serb race, and Austria's ambition has been to absorb more and more of the territory to the south.

Behind all the racial feeling and local troubles lie the rival ambitions of the Austrian, German and Russian Empires, and if the present trouble between Serbia and her big neighbor cannot be localized, it will be because the great powers so long gathering their forces for a titanic struggle believe the hour has struck, and that a fitting prelude may be found in the smaller quarrel on the banks of the Danube.

GERMANY'S POSITION.

What can Germany hope to gain by rushing into war? What is behind her action in challenging Russia and France, and becoming even more belligerent than Austria-Hungary, whose ally she is? Serbia would probably not have embroiled Europe in a general war but for the attitude assumed by Germany?

The answer to these questions does not lie on the surface. The swiftness with which the present situation has developed baffles the enquirer who seeks for an adequate and justifiable cause. Neither is there any appearance of wisdom in the course pursued by Germany.

The combined sea forces of Britain, France and Russia should not only be able to destroy the German fleet, but cripple her commerce. The combined armies of the same three powers and of Serbia should overmatch those of Germany and Austria-Hungary. In this war Russia will be fighting from her home base, and with her immense resources in men can keep her armies up to fighting strength for an almost unlimited period. Without in the least disparaging the fighting quality of the German forces on sea and land, and the added strength of Austria-Hungary, the ordinary observer can see no prospect of an outcome of this war that would compensate Germany for the losses she must sustain. It is therefore extremely difficult to assign a reason for the policy she has adopted. An awful responsibility rests upon Emperor William and his advisers. They seem to have deliberately chosen to plunge Europe with blood, when wiser counsels would have averted a catastrophe the extent of which no man can estimate.

The battle-cry of France will be: "Remember Alsace-Lorraine."

What steps will our naval minister take to protect the trade of St. John in the event of war? We would be grateful for even a "tinpot navy" now.

Canadians now realize the real value of the Laurier naval policy of protection for Canadian coasts and trade routes. The abandonment of that policy was a crime against the country.

Not lightly nor wantonly will Britain enter upon this war; but if the hour comes to strike, the blow will be swift and sure. It will not be for nothing when the world's greatest war-fleet seeks out its proud and bitter foe.

Would Canadian soldiers be willing to fight by the side of the despised Hindu—who is not deemed good enough to be admitted into this country? It is safe to assert that if their services are required His Majesty's Indian troops will prove their quality, if need be to the death.

Preacher Makes Reference To Graft

In a strong sermon in the Congregational church last evening, the pastor, Rev. R. J. Haughton, decried the practice of graft among the men who are placed at the head of affairs in our country. He said that many men seek in their country only an opportunity to make and keep money and among men in positions of honor and fame, the more cleverly one can conceal his wrongdoing, the greater man he is considered—and this in spite of the fact that God has commanded, "Thou shalt not steal."

"When the police who are supposed to protect the people, will rob and steal, why wonder at the great numbers of youthful criminals?" he asked.

The speaker said that although it was unwise for a preacher to discuss party politics, the political atmosphere had become pestilential and it was time to clear the air.

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LIGHTER VEIN.

Whistler was in a London shop one day when a customer came in who mistook him for a clerk.

"I say, this 'at' doesn't fit!" "Neither does your coat," observed the painter, after eyeing him critically.

Justin McCarthy used to tell a story of Henry Beecher. Mr. Beecher entered Plymouth church one Sunday and found several letters awaiting him. He opened one and found it contained the single word "Fool!" Quietly and with becoming seriousness he announced to the congregation the fact in these words:

"I have known many an instance of a man writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name, but this is the only instance I have ever known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write the letter."

Ben Foster was noted for his shiftlessness. If it had not been for his wife he would not have done a stroke of work on his little farm and garden. It was all his wife could do to get him to work, for he preferred to sit and read all day.

One evening, after he had been reading French history with deep interest, he closed the book and said to his wife: "Do you know, Marie, what I'd 'a' done if I had been Napoleon?"

"O, yes, I know well enough," his wife responded. "You'd have settled right down on a farm in Corsica and let it run itself."

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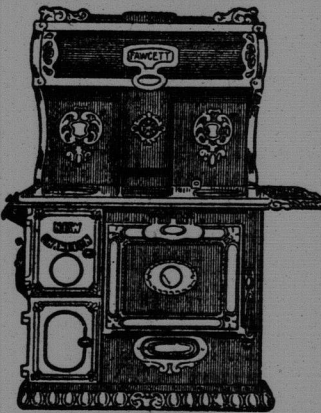
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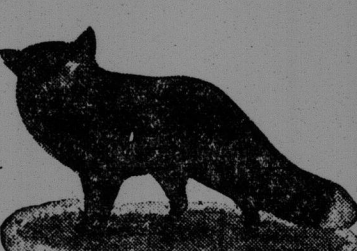
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The History of The Industry

If you inquire, you will find that the majority of rich men in P. E. Island have made their money in the Fox industry, which, while yet in its infancy, shows the probability of making a great many more rich men. This being the case, you should not let this opportunity of increasing the earning powers of your money pass without giving it your careful consideration.

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