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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1918

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TRAFALGAR DAY

This is the anniversary of Trafalgar. The glory of Nelson shines the brighter that the British navy which he made supreme is still the guardian of human liberty and has made Allied victory in the present war possible. The spirit that animated Nelson animates every man in the fleet, from the youngest boy to the admiral. There have been but few naval battles in this war, but that is because of the supremacy of the British navy, which chased the enemy (submarines excepted) off the sea. The world knows that but for Britain's navy and mercantile marine the war would have been lost. To the great feat of rendering the German navy useless was added the transportation of millions of men and constant supplies for armies and civilians, making possible the military victory which now crowns the arms of the Allies. What it has meant to the world to have Britain supreme at sea we know today far better than ever before. Realizing as never before the value of the navy and the mercantile marine, it is not surprising that the Navy League grows in numbers and there is more and more interest in the welfare of the men of the navy and their dependents. It is natural that in British countries today parents and teachers should talk to the children about Britain's sea-power, and what it has meant for civilization. It is a thrilling and wonderful story, in which stand out heroic figures, worthy to rank with the bravest and best of all nations and of all time. But the Canadian people have a new and special reason for their interest in both the navy and the mercantile marine. This country is to have a vast and growing commerce by sea, and must have a naval service of its own as well as a mercantile marine. The government has embarked upon a shipbuilding policy. The ships of Canada should carry an ever increasing share of Canada's commerce. More and more of her young men will be looking seaward when they choose their avocation. With such a stretch of seaboard on both sides of the continent, and the great trade routes of the world open, there is no limit to what Canada may accomplish in building and manning ships and sending them to sea. Commerce to all parts of the world. With the traditions of the British navy to inspire them it would be strange indeed if Canadians halted on the threshold of this great national adventure.

THE WAR SITUATION

While Germany is said to be preparing to deny that she is responsible for any outrages, or that any have been committed, the reports from Lille and Donai show that not only is the policy of wanton destruction and pillage still carried out by German armies before they retreat, but that outrages upon women have not yet ceased. It is useless for Germany to make denial. If she had been victorious she could have pursued that course with impunity, but now there must be a reckoning. Every new revelation of German savagery is another reason for fighting on until the enemy consents to unconditional surrender. The triumphant advance of the Allies in Belgium and France continues. The Germans are forced to abandon great quantities of material and many prisoners are taken. It is reported that 15,000 had to cross the border into Holland, where they are interned. The news from the western front is evidently having its effect in Berlin. The militarist party would have liked to send a short and sharp reply to President Wilson, but there is so much difference of opinion in the Reichstag that the sending of the reply is delayed while its wording is subjected to careful scrutiny. The policy of unconditional surrender is a very bitter pill to swallow, and may not yet be approved, but Austria and Turkey will not wait long. They realize more and more the futility of trying to uphold Germany, and if the latter does not give a satisfactory answer to President Wilson we may be certain that Vienna and Constantinople will be heard from in a manner not at all to the liking of the power that duped and used them in its effort to dominate the world. For the third time merchants near the head of King street had their stores entered from the back. Three were visited last night, with not much success, and one on Charlotte street was plundered from the front. No large amount of booty was secured, but there is no body in jail for the offence. Are more policemen needed?

It is said that Major-General Lipsitt, who went to France with the First Canadian Division, should now, near the end of the war, fall a victim to a German sniper. The war has taken heavy toll of Canadian officers, because they were brave men who never shirked their duty.

Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, Admirals Beatty and Jellicoe and Sir Douglas Haig, on this Trafalgar Day, pay glowing tributes to the work of the British navy and mercantile marine.

ADMIRALS ALL

Effingham, Grenville, Raleigh, Drake, Here's to the bold and true, Benbow, Collingwood, Byron, Blake, Hall to the Kings of the Sea, Admirals all, for England's sake, Honor be yours and fame, And honor, as long as waves shall break, To Nelson's peerless name. Essex was fretting in Cadiz Bay With the gallions fair in sight, Howard at last must give him his way, And the word was passed to fight, Never was schoolboy gayer than he, Since holidays first began; He tossed his bonnet to wind and sea, And under the guns he ran. Drake nor devil nor Spaniard feared, Their chins he put to the sack; He sang his Catholic Majesty's beard And harried his ships to wreck. He was playing at Plymouth a rubber of bows When the great Armada came; But he said "They must wait their turn, good gods!" And he stooped—and finished the game. Fifteen sail were the Dutchmen bold, Duncan he had but two; But he anchored them fast where the Texel shoaled And his colors aloft he flew. "I've taken the depth to a fathom," he cried, "And I'll sink with a right good will, For I know when we're all of us under the tide, My flag will be fluttering still." Splinters were flying above, below, When Nelson sailed the Sound; "Mark you, I would not be elsewhere now," Said he, "for a thousand pound." The Admirals signal made him fly; But he wickedly wagged his head, He clapped the glass to his sightless eye And—"I'm damned if I see it," he said. Admirals all, they said their say "The echoes are ringing still!" Admirals all, they went their way To arrange for those days, but it is none too soon to plan for the weeks and months and years that will follow. One of the changes which we can expect will be that our indoor and office life will no longer appeal to the thousands of young men who have been living in the open. They will demand the freedom of the out-of-door life, and the broader scope of individual action which goes with it. The independent life of the scientific farmer will appeal to them as never before, and for their own good and the good of the nation, this desire should be met in a comprehensive manner. Secretary of the Interior Lane, with admirable foresight, has worked out a plan which is both practical and desirable. At the close of the Civil War there were vast areas of the choicest land which had never felt a plow, that thousands of returning soldiers were allotted under the homestead law. That was over fifty years ago, when hundreds of our now well-known western cities and towns had not been thought of. While there remains some good unclaimed government lands in various states, its total is a mere garden compared to what was available then. The problem of supplying productive lands in both our warm and colder climates becomes one largely of reclamation. Take the swamp and overflowed lands of Florida and the Gulf States, and a few other states, of which there are some 60,000,000 acres of the richest soil. There are also the cut-over lands which still lie waste, and other now barren lands in the far west, rich as the valley of the Nile when water is poured upon it. These three classes of land are all capable of enormous production, once they are reclaimed and tilled. This work of reclamation would immediately offer

LIGHTER VEIN

Sunday School Teacher—"And what reward was Joseph given for saving the Egyptians from starvation?" Smart Boy—"Please, miss, he was made food controller."

At a recent dinner U. S. Postmaster-General Burleson commenting on the effects of the three-cent postage, "In addition to the increase in revenue, which was badly needed, the innovation has been a positive boon to many." He declared and explained thus—"You seem very happy? I remarked to a lady of my acquaintance, 'I am,' she replied, 'Has Fred been paying you more attention lately?' I ventured, 'Not exactly.' She explained, 'but since this three-cent postage came in he has stopped writing to a lot of girls out of town.'"

And Still Goes! The square of a certain town in the south was located about a mile from the railway station. A negro named George had a boot-blacking stand near the square. One day, while George was at work, a man came up and began to quarrel with his customer. After some heated words, one of the men drew a revolver and fired at the other. Several weeks later, when the case came up for trial, George was the star witness. "Now George," said the attorney, "describe just how this shooting took place." "Yesuh, Boss. De gen'man fired two shots. Yesuh, dey went bang-bang!" "We like dat, sah." "You say he fired two shots, George? Will you tell the court just what you were doing when those two shots were fired." "Well, yob Honah, when he fired de fust shot, I was ahinin' de gen'man's shoes, and when he fired de second shot, sah, I was passin' de deppo."

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the inducements of outdoor activities, and when accomplished, a permanent home and occupation to thousands. Secretary Lane calls attention to the vastly improved terms of his plan over that of the early homestead days. Then the homesteader was also a pioneer, who started with almost nothing in the way of buildings, farm machinery, and stock. The nearest post office was often a day's journey distant; the life was hard and isolated. Progress was slow for want of money. The more abundant the crops, the less the price per bushel. There are still those living who remember the days when the expense of hauling a load of grain to the nearest market equaled every dollar the grain sold for. Papers and magazines were almost unknown; the settler's life was hard in the extreme, and in some places in actual jeopardy. Under the proposed plan all this is to be reversed. The government would finance and engineer the reclamation; would build roads and farm buildings; would equip with necessary machinery and stock; would establish rural delivery; would pioneer all everything by the hardest work, scientific farming would reduce manual labor to a minimum; where he had to wait several years to reap from his sod but into something

better, under the new plan the settler would commence with every essential to comfort and success. With these new districts fully settled as fast as developed, and with automobiles, the buyer of these reclaimed lands would be anything but isolated or remote. New towns would spring up to supply stores, and with so large a percentage of young people, conditions will be ideal. The above plan is an expansion of one already used with success in some other countries. Nobody is to receive something for nothing. The government would use the returned soldier and pay him; as fast as one reclaimed section was completed and ready for occupancy, farms would be sold on easy-payment plans, the payments extended over a very long term of years if necessary. With their natural enterprise, the large portion of buyers would work out of debt in a few years. While the actual work of reclamation would not be undertaken during the war, the details of the plan should be, so that, immediately on return to civilian life, those who desired to go into the reclamation work could do so. To accomplish this Secretary Lane is asking congress for a few hundreds of thousands of dollars. Seidom has a more deserving appropriation been requested.

WILL NOT PURCHASE TRAPPIST MONASTERY.

The federal government has decided not to purchase the monastery of the Trappist Monks at Trappist for the purpose of a convalescent home and vocational institution for returned soldiers. Some weeks ago Hon. Albert Severy, former minister in the Borden government, visited the monastery and it is said during his visit made a deal for the purchase of the farm. It was his intention, it is said, to re-sell the property to the government. The property consists of 2,000 acres and is one of the finest equipped places of its kind in eastern Canada.

LITTLE GIRL KILLED.

Helen Miller, a six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Miller of East Bathurst, was instantly killed last Thursday afternoon by a shot fired by a little fellow who, with her brother, was firing at some targets. The little girl was struck in the breast and instantly killed.



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