

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1915.

"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.

## ITALY'S CRACK TROOPS.

Last night's despatches mentioned the Bersaglieri as being in the front line of the Italian advance into Austria. It could hardly be otherwise, for the Bersaglieri, or Light Infantry, of the Italian army, will rank with the finest soldiers enrolled under any of the banners now flying on the battlefields of France, Austria or Galicia. The Bersaglieri occupy the same place in Italian military reckoning as the Life Guards of Britain, the Prussian Guards of Germany and the Cossacks of Russia. Up to the present war the Prussian Guards were counted as the finest soldiers in continental Europe, but events have shown that they could not stand up to the crack English regiments when it came to breast to breast fighting, the fighting where mettle counts.

The Italian Bersaglieri are the flower of the army, athletes every one of them, inured to hardship and peculiarly well adapted for campaigning in the country to which their efforts are likely to be confined. They are in the front of the advance, where the brunt of the fighting force will strike, and may be depended upon to give a good account of themselves.

The endurance of the Bersaglieri has been proven on several occasions. Some years ago, during the Russian Japanese war the Japanese set up some wonderful marching records and it was then held that no European troops could equal them. The Bersaglieri accepted the challenge and in tests made during military manoeuvres, not only equalled the record but beat it beside finishing in excellent condition.

The word Bersaglieri, really means "marksman", and such a splendid position does the corps occupy that it is not uncommon to find three generations consecutively represented in the ranks. They claim direct descent from the little army of 70,000 men who faced the Austrians in the war of 1848 in a gallant but fruitless struggle for liberty. This time they are also fighting for the liberation of their countrymen but with much better prospects of success, for the entrance of Italy into the war will undoubtedly turn the scale so heavily against Germany that Italy at the end of it will find herself allied with a combination of the world's most powerful nations and in a better position than ever to work out her plans for a larger place in the sun.

## WHAT THE WOMEN HAVE DONE.

That a comprehensive effort is to be made tomorrow, June 3rd, to secure a representative contribution to the Belgian Relief Funds is very largely due to the splendid spirit of sacrifice and the untiring energy displayed by the women of St. John. In all lines of patriotic work the St. John women have been zealous and their efforts have been crowned with splendid success. Whether organizing entertainments, the proceeds of which were devoted to patriotic funds, or providing socks and other comforts for the men who are doing men's work in the fore-front of the Empire's battle lines, or in visiting the wives, mothers and sisters of those men, dispensing a word of cheer and consolation, and providing assistance where needed, the women of this city of the Loyalists have proved well worthy of their ancestors.

And they have benefited by the experience. Patriotic endeavor knows no social lines and the mingling with each other of women who, in ordinary social life, would not meet, has been generally beneficial. It has tended to broaden the viewpoint and enlarge the sympathy, it has proved a pleasant relief from the routine and while pleasant has left behind it the consciousness of good work well done.

Many times have the men of St. John had reason to express their gratitude to the women of this city, but on no occasion more than in connection with the important items of relief work made necessary by the war, and which are being so well attended to by the various women's organizations. The women of St. John are women to be proud of.

## GERMANY AND UNITED STATES.

If the United States government does not sharply express its dissatisfaction with the German reply to the American note in the matter of the sinking of the Lusitania it will go contrary to American opinion, as expressed by some of the great newspapers of the republic to the south of us. An editorial appearing in the New York Herald on Monday morning may be taken as fairly representative of the view of the New York newspapers which do not give thick and thin support to the Wilson administration. The Herald says in part:

With regard to the attacks upon the American steamships Cushing and Gulflight, the German government says it "is investigating," and then proceeds to advance the naive suggestion that there might be another investigation under the auspices of the Hague agreement. In the light of Germany's continued breach in letter and in spirit, of practically every article of that agreement, is it not an insult to the government of the United States and to the intelligence of the American people for Germany to come forward at this late hour with a proposal to submit to the Hague the protection of American rights?

"Scarcely less thinly veiled is the insult contained in Germany's recommendation to the 'attentive examination' of the United States what it is pleased to call 'facts' in the Lusitania case—facts not substantiated and which cannot be substantiated, and which would have no real bearing on the issue if they were substantiated. Here is plain intimation that the United States has not been protecting its own neutrality, that it has not been attending to its own business, or that it went off 'half cock' in protesting against the slaughter of the Americans who were passengers upon the ill-fated vessel."

## COALITION TALK.

Coalitions were popular in Canada at Confederation. The first Dominion Government was a coalition and so was the first Government of Ontario. A new order of things had been ushered in, and it was thought that nothing but evil could come from prolonging old feuds and revamping old shibboleths. But that egregious humbug, George Brown, soon abandoned his belief in coalitions and raised the cry that they were immoral because they involved a sacrifice of principle by one party or the other or by both. He used to talk much in the Toronto Globe about the "fixed principles" of Reform and Liberalism although no one knew what they were, his one fixed principle through life being to lay hold by hook or crook of other people's money and waste it in his wild speculations.

Liberals have now abandoned all pretence of having distinctive principles. A suggestion that Sir Wilfrid should join Sir Robert Borden's Cabinet, at all events till the war is over, was made the other day in Manitoba, and Mr. Norris, the new local Premier, said he was sure Sir Wilfrid would "accept the proffered hand," "especially," as an independent Liberal paper in Winnipeg added, "because Sir Wilfrid has now no policy of his own except opportunism." So far as one can ascertain, however, the Conservative party does not favor a coalition. There is no reason why it should. The Asquith Cabinet, which, as has been noted, was remodelled on a coalition basis, came to grief in consequence of the fiction of Mr. Winston Churchill, who undertook to set himself above the naval experts, and also because through someone else's bungling a sufficient quantity of high explosive shells had not been supplied to the army in the Western theatre. The Borden Government, on the other hand, has discharged its arduous duties since the war began with conspicuous courage and success and possesses the confidence of the country.

The Liberals want to return to office, but surely it does not follow that Sir Robert Borden should dismiss a number of his associates in the Cabinet in order to make room for them, or that Canada should have a coalition because one has been forced by circumstances upon England. We can quite believe that if Liberals entered the Cabinet they could embrace Conservative doctrine without difficulty, having no settled doctrine of their own the party has become a mere heap of sand, an incoherent mass of individuals each one interested in his own crochets but ready to abandon it at a moment's notice for the comforts and emoluments of office. Conservatives are doing a great work for Canada and the Empire which they wish to carry to a successful issue; besides which they desire amongst other things to uphold the protectionist policy they inaugurated nearly 40 years ago, that has done and is doing so much for the material advancement of the Dominion. In other words, they have sane and definite aims and are quite capable of realizing them without any help from those who have been striving by unscrupulous methods to thwart them.

## The Haze of War.

"Our fellows came back to the attack . . . their language was strong and wonderful."—A Canadian Officer's Letter.

"The enemy used asphyxiating bombs."—German Wireles.

Who's upon our left? remarked the feller next to me.

"The Bosches are a bashin' them as far as I can see;

"The Bosches they have carried all the trenches of their line,

Here go our gunners for to paralyze the swine!"

An' lookin' somewhat leftward through the glasses that I found

At Neeve Chapelle upon the person of a German 'ound,

I saw a bit of khaki goin' backward for a spell,

I didn't hear their rifles, but their language it was hell.

And I sez to the chap on my right, "Them fellers that's having a fight,

Are Canadians—plummy old Canadians.

Who'd a thought o' seein' 'em fightin' on this shore?"

They'll educate them aliens Like the blinky blank Australians,

Jolly old Canadians, who speak the tongue of War."

"What is goin' to happen?" sez the feller next to me;

"The Bosches are a runnin' back so far as I can see;

The Bosches they are bolitin'—their retreat has just begun,

A khaki line a comin' up to pulverize the Hun."

An' lookin' through me Zeissies, lo! I saw a noble sight;

A nippy half division blifed the German left and right.

A sort of haze was round 'em, which I natchrally implied

Was created by their language which was wholly justified.

An' the chap on my right sort of hissed,

"What creates that curious mist?"

"The Canadians—tough as teak Canadians.

So kindly close your ears," I sez, "unless you want a shock."

Their language pierced the heavens High above the four point sevens,

Steady, old Canadians, who wouldn't take the knock."

—E. W.

## Current Comment

### Italian Successes

(Ottawa Journal)  
It will be unwise to expect rapid Italian successes. The road to Vienna will be no easy task for Italy. Austria has shown that she is capable of a terrific resistance, is likely well prepared, and her frontier is a natural fortress. But there can be no doubt of the end. Austria and Germany are being surely surrounded, by a ring of powerful enemies and victory cannot be doubted. The price may stagger humanity, but humanity will win.

Northcliffe and Kitchener. (Toronto Mail and Empire.)  
The Northcliffe press campaign against Lord Kitchener may have been brought on by the War Minister's refusal to give these particular newspapers special news privileges. At one time several months ago Lord Kitchener told Lord Northcliffe personally that his newspapers would be suppressed if they published a certain item ordered to be omitted. Now the Director of Public Prosecutions is being charged with the duty of still more strictly controlling infractions of the censorship rules. Lord Northcliffe will get little sympathy if his newspapers are caught.

### Less Miserable.

At Vienna, old Francis met Kaiser the Hun.  
To talk over vic'tries that neither had won.  
The Emperor looked weary, the Kaiser was bored.  
As fiercely he rattled his well polished sword.  
Said Francis, "I feel I have lowered my pride,  
When I think how my war news has constantly lied;  
Why the Russians we captured, by hook or by crook,  
Would leave none to protect their heroic Grand Duke."

"We must win," said the Kaiser, "on paper, or field,  
And our Censor must see that the truth's not revealed;  
If the Russians declare they take prisoners galore,  
We must say that we captured a full army corps;"  
"That's how war is made," went on Wilhelm the rash,  
As he took off his helmet and twirled his moustache.  
"My war-news for home is selected and good;  
Germans think we're in Paris, 'tis well they should."

## Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

I was wandering around the house this afternoon imitating the general of an army, the rest of the army following me, and awl of a sudden the rest of the army, being my puppy dawg Spout, started to sniff like he was when he smells something, and heer war was it he smelled but a pece of chewing gum stuck undir a chare in Gladdis room as if sumboddy had put it there till the next time they wuntid to chew it.

Halt, I sed. Ony the rest of the army had halted awreddy and was trying to get the chewing gum, ony he waant big enuff to retch it.

G, I thawt, that's a funny pdease to put chewing gum.

And I sat down awn the floor and looked at it. Its a pritty big pece, awl rite.

And Spout kepp awn trying to retch it and not beeing abel to, and I thawt, I gess it would be awl rite for me to take it awf and chew it, it would be awl in the famerly.

And I took it awf the bottom of the chare, not beeing hard to get awf, thinking, if I dont like it I can put it back.

Wich I hadn't hardly put it in my mouth wen who calm in the room bu my alstir Gladdis, saying, Wat are you doing in my room.

I jest calm in heer with Spout, I sed. Not lettin awn I had anything in my mouth exsept teeth and things, and Gladdis startid to wawk eround hummin to herself as if she wasent doing anything in pertickler, and aftr a wile she wawked up to the chare and felt undir it and then she looked at me, me looking back at her without moving my jaws.

Wats you looking for, Gladdis, I sed.

Nothing, sed Gladdis. And she went out of the room agen, and I dis-kuvvired the flator was speermint.

Francis Joseph looked sad—said he, "Think of my plight,

If a squadron of Cossacks should spring into sight,

Why, my people would think me gone hopelessly mad.

If I told them my troops were in far Petrograd."

Said the Kaiser, "This war is a campaign of bluff,

And Potsdammed be he who first cries 'Hold, enough!'

If we can't sink their navies, nor hack our way through,

Big bluffing is all that is left us to do."

(J. C. W.)

## Jewels and Junk.

In the list of its members a Boston orchestra advertises a violinist named Donald Breath. Our opinion is that Mr. Breath would have done much better on the bassoon.

Now that the street car difficulty has been settled, how would it do to put a few more cars on that Glen Falls route

The Old Problem.  
To gain success  
In life's grim tussle,  
A man's best friends  
Are

WORK  
and  
HUSTLE.  
—Philadelphia Ledger.

To gain success?  
This must seem funny  
To those who use  
Both

NERVE  
and  
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—Cleveland Plaindealer.

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