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(To Every Man His Own.)

The Mail and Advocate

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Editor and Business Manager: **JOHN J. ST. JOHN.**

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., APRIL 17, 1916.

OUR RETURNED HEROES

TO-DAY St. John's—and through St. John's—the Colony well-come back from the battlefield and navy nineteen heroes who when the war began, hastened to give their all for Empire and Country. They return as men who have shown that in them lived those grand principles of courage and bravery that throughout all ages have enshrined the brave warrior with a halo of glory that is never bestowed on men in any other occupation in life.

The Country is proud of those nineteen lads; consequently we honor them as few men in Newfoundland have ever been honored. Their names will be read in our history while the English language endures. Some of our brave boys fell never to rise again and for them there can be no joyous home-coming, but their memories will always live, for in future years our Empire will select a day every year that will be devoted to the celebration of events that will forever keep fresh the doings of those who fought and fell in this great war.

Let us hope that all our returned heroes will speedily recover from the effects of their wounds, and those that will always remain incapacitated, will, we feel sure, be amply provided for during life by a grateful country.

RECRUITING

THE number of outport boys joining the ranks nowadays is indeed very encouraging. Twillingate District is doing splendidly over 50 of the lads now in training here belong to Twillingate District; this does not include the Grand Falls contingent which enlisted in February. At present there are nearly 400 lads in training. They are a splendid lot of chaps, the equal of the best so far raised by the Colony.

It is surprising too how quick those boys in training shape up and look the soldier. In a matter of three or four weeks after enlistment a great change is apparent, their step taken in a spring and regularity that can only come from training; they become erect the round soon comes 'off the shoulders. A close observer must recognize the great value of the training, even if they never face the foe, those chaps will make far better citizens because of the training they are receiving, and what ever the cost, it will prove money well spent.

Every lad of 19 would immensely benefit by a few months of such training. Every one of those lads who return and re-enter the ranks of our citizens will be a superior man physically and industrially, and that will be an asset that will in years repay the Colony for some of its war expenditure.

PIT PROPS

THE Union Councils at Goose Bay, B.B., has resolved to charge 20 cents per hour from 6 to 6 for labor handling pit props and 30 cents per hour for all other time. All Councils are asked to take note of this and act accordingly. We consider this scale of pay reasonable for this sort of work.

LABOR OUTLOOK

THE labor depression which has been so noticeable in the city for some time seems to be growing less menacing; and the coming season promises to be brighter than early indications led us to believe. The exceptionally valuable sealing voyage will give us a good start; and there will be a good deal of employment for the people. This will have a beneficial effect on the country generally. It will, moreover, stimulate business interests, and there will be a good deal of money in circulation.

The Mining Companies will doubtless be operating at full capacity; and the men who have been engaged in mining operations will find abundant employment. The Steel Companies have had an unusually prosperous year; and the outlook for the Companies is bright.

We glean this from the following statement made some days ago to a representative of the Montreal Gazette by Mr. Frank Workman, President of the Dominion Steel Corporation.

Mr. Workman is reported as saying that the Company was working at full capacity and something beyond. The steel output is practically sold up to the end of the current calendar year. He added that the chief trouble of the D.S.C. at the present time centred on the output of the coal mines. Prices are very high. Mr. Workman's statement in this respect is very aggressive.

"If it were a question of selling as much as you are asked to sell there is no reason why they should not go higher, for the demand is there and it is insistent all the time. At the same time the present level is so satisfactory that I doubt whether there is any desire on the part of steel interests to see further advances."

The Nova Scotia Steel Company has evidently had a very prosperous year also; and it has a very excellent harvest of profits, some 2 1/2 million dollars, so Canadian exchanges tell us.

We now ask, if the Bell Island miners are receiving any consideration from the Directors of the organizations which are reaping such handsome profits. Wabana ore furnishes the raw material for the manufacture of the products the sale of which has been such a source of profit to the shareholders.

The Government, of course receives the **Munificent Royalty** of seven cents per ton on all ore exported. How generous!

We think it is up to the Morris Party to get busy now and see to it that the operatives are taken care of, at least whilst the Companies are so flush with money.

JINGOISM

THE recent utterances of the German Chancellor, Bethman-Hollweg, are the most fiery and bombastic which have passed the lips of Wilhelm's truckling minister since the victory of the Marne chastened his military spirit. The Chancellor began his harangue with a recital of German victories as recounted by Wilhelm, adding that "deep gratitude to God... filled the Emperor's heart!"

He then launched out a discussion of the future policy of Germany and it seems that optimism has so taken hold of the chancellor that he declares that Germany has no intention of returning to Russia any of the territory which she now holds and formerly belonged to the Czar's dominions.

He declares "there must be a new Belgium—not the old Belgium restored," for says the baron, the new Belgium "can never be a Franco-British vassal." She is to be a Germanized Belgium. This by the way is not a new idea; for if we have not misread the story of Prussian aggressiveness when the "Man of Blood and iron"—Bismarck was at the head of affairs, he made a similar utterance; but Bismarck was relegated to the shades by Wilhelm after the smoke of the Franco-Prussian War had cleared away; and Bethmann von Hollweg will like meet the same fate in the not distant future.

So confident does the chancellor feel that he "denies" that Germany has any intention of rushing off to the American Continent and attempting to conquer Can-

ada—and Brazil. Yet this is precisely what Germany would like to do in the event of a permanent victory, as Canada would suit admirably as a German colony—a new Germany beyond the seas—a German-speaking United States. Canada were a most desirable place to round out the dominions of the Vaterland; it has an excellent climate, surpassingly rich and practically untouched resources and an almost unpeopled agricultural area.

The very fact that the German Chancellor thinks it worth while to pause in the midst of the murderous and thunderous war to deny officially that he has his eye on Canada is both sinister and significant.

Presumably we are too insignificant to bother with just now; but would not this little possession make an excellent duplicate of Helligoland for Germany? Possibly it has been forgotten that German emissaries have been very active on our coasts for years, and there is hardly a port from Cape Race to Cape Chidley with which they are not familiar.

What was the "Panther" doing so long a few seasons ago along the northern coasts? We did not pay much attention to the incident at the time; but in the light of recent events, much has been revealed which is indicative of sinister motives.

THE CAMPAIGN IN TURKEY

IT is not generally known how important Mesopotamia is to the British Empire; and arm-chair critics are rather denunciatory in their views regarding this phase of military operations in the East.

Ever since the Napoleonic period British interests have been supreme from Bagdad to the Persian Gulf; and this was the only quarter of the globe where they successfully held off the German political trader.

Since the reign of Queen Victoria England has policed the Persian Gulf acting through the Indian Administration; and previous to the war, a regular line of steamers plied up the River Tigris to Bagdad. This is one of most important cities in the Turkish area. It has a population of some 250,000, and its foreign trade alone in 1912 amounted to \$19,000,000 and it was mainly in the hands of merchants in Great Britain or India. Basra is also an important trade centre, with a population of 80,000, its chief exports being dates of which 75,000 tons were exported annually before the war. The value of this exportation was nearly 3 million dollars annually.

There are immense oil fields in the Mesopotamia Valley, and shortly before the war, the British Government invested \$10,000,000 in acquiring control of the Anglo-Persian oil fields. This deal is regarded as on par with the acquisition of Suez Canal shares many years ago.

During recent years Russia and Great Britain have had an understanding regarding this region, which is in reality a part of the Persian Empire; and on August 31, 1907, Great Britain and Russia agreed between themselves to limit the spheres of their respective interests in Persia to the Persian Province adjoining the Russian frontier on the one hand, and the British frontier on the other. The two Powers respect the integrity of Persia which is in reality more sick than "the sick man of Europe." But, at the same time, they contemplate the possible necessity of financial control in conformity with the principles of the agreement.

German agencies have been at work in Mesopotamia for several years, and were instrumental in bringing about disaffection in the Russian areas at the outbreak of the war. Turkish forces entered Kurdistan and announced that they were on their way to conquer India and the Russian East, while their compatriots would overrun Egypt. These were the fairy tales with which the Germans had originally enticed the Turks into the war. The Turks were willing to believe them, and apparently did believe them. The responsible Germans, however, had no such illusions, but hoped to attain their ends by causing internal disturbances in India and Egypt.

To meet this, Great Britain began operations in Mesopotamia; but the expedition which was sent from India was unable to accomplish very much; no reinforcements could be despatched at the early stages of the movement. General Townsend advanced on Bagdad with less than a division of mixed Anglo-Indian troops—some 16,000 to 20,000. Though greatly outnumbered the expedition has been able to stave off serious losses; and at the present

time, owing to the relief expeditions which have cut their way through from the Persian Gulf, General Gorrige has made very rapid strides and has taken Umm-el-Henna some eighteen miles below Kut. The atmosphere has been cleared; but there is still much to be done by the British to hold their own.

Russia is advancing from the North, evidently with the ultimate object of joining forces with the British expedition which now numbers possibly 100,000 men chiefly veteran troops from India.

Mesopotamia (meaning "the land between the two rivers") lies between the Euphrates and the Tigris which pour their waters into the Persian Gulf. It is an ancient land, for Babylon, frequently mentioned in the Bible, was once its capital, whose ruins are found on the banks of the Euphrates. Somewhat to the East, on the banks of the Tigris, stands Bagdad, the modern capital of the Mesopotamia country.

WHAT SAVED FRANCE?

ON August 3, 1914, Germany declared war upon France; and on the following day General von Emmersch attacked Liege. Between August 4 and 18 thirty-four army corps—1,500,000 men—sprang as it were from the bowels of the earth, like Pompey's legions, between the Rhine and the Elbe. Broken up into eight forces they attacked France.

Germany wished to act quickly and repeat the tactics of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 when Von Moltke's legions overran France and within a few weeks they were at the walls of Paris.

On August 27 the German Staff announced with pomp to the world that "nine days after its concentration the German army of the west had victoriously invaded French territory from Cambrai to the Southern Vosges, that the enemy had been defeated at all points and was retreating everywhere."

There were anxious moments then; for the French seemed already beaten and about to be disbanded owing to the rushing onslaught of the Germans, whose right wings were advancing at the rate of fifty kilometers daily.

But the French army was not vanquished; and the famous General of the Allied Forces—Joffre—found a way out of this dangerous predicament. Joffre's manoeuvre saved the situation. "That manoeuvre," says a Russian Military Chief-of-Staff, Colonel Kirkevno, will be compared, when all the details are known, with the most masterly achievements of Napoleon.

The Germans still continued to advance by forced marches, driving before them the French who retreated rapidly, while day and night thousands and thousands of trains from every corner of France were transporting regiments, divisions, army corps, guns and cannon to the seat of war. Joffre's plans were being evolved. He aligned the four retreating armies with the two new ones hurrying to their help on the south bank of the Marne, where on one side they were supported by Paris, and on the other side by Verdun. Against the bow formed by the French forces the rushing Germans hurled themselves. The bow unbent with such tremendous force that, in the murderous battle of the Marne, the Germans were driven back in one short week beyond the Aisne.

This is the great mystery of the war. All of a sudden, the war which had begun so violently with movement of troops, the war which seemed likely to sweep over Europe like a cyclone, settled down into the soil, implanting itself and took roots.

Joffre was the hero of the hour; he had saved France from annihilation.

At the beginning of the war, General Joffre was in command of the French armies in France and Belgium. He is now in command of all the French armies at home and abroad. He is now in his sixty-sixth year; but he is wonderfully well preserved. He probably owes his splendid health to his frugal and temperate life and frequent exercise. His stride is today so steady and uniform that he nearly always tires out his staff officers before he tires himself.

General Joffre lives in a small villa in a quiet street in a country town. His orderly has instructions always to call him at 5 o'clock; but he generally finds his master awake. Breakfast—coffee and rolls—is quickly dismissed, and then General Joffre is ready for work. The early morning passes quickly in listening to and reading reports and signing the countless documents which have to

pass through his hands. At 11.30 he has his luncheon; he is extremely temperate, and never touches spirits in any shape or form. Neither does he smoke.

His activity is equalled only by what his countrymen call **sang-froid**; and he possesses this to an almost limitless degree. In the gravest circumstances he always shows the greatest calm. The night before the Battle of the Marne, on which hung the destinies of France, it is said that an officer who had arrived at headquarters with an urgent message, found the Generalissimo fast asleep in his bed.

Another anecdote told about General Joffre shows that his activity and staying power are remarkable in a man of his age. He was making a tour of inspection of the front in Champagne some time after the offensive of last Autumn in the company of several staff officers and a distinguished neutral Military Attache. At one point it was necessary to climb for four or five hundred yards up a steep hill to an observation post. Recent rains had washed the path away, and mud and gravel made the foothold very difficult.

With a small ash stick General Joffre set out at the head of the officers, most of whom were from twenty to fifteen years his junior. He set such a pace that it became something like a race for the top. The Generalissimo did not seem to notice that he was outdistancing the others, and when he reached the top he found he was alone, with the neutral attache some sixty yards behind him, tired and out of breath.

General Joffre is by no means the traditional Frenchman as most Englishmen picture him. Tall and stout, but with the legs of an athlete, "le pere Joffre," as he is known by his men, hardly ever makes a gesture and never raises his voice.

Such is the man who is the great strategist of the campaign, and upon whom the fortunes of the Allies largely rest.

LUXEMBURG

WE hear little these days of the little Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; but the reason is not far to seek. It is now an absolute German vassal.

From 1815 to 1866 Luxembourg was included in the now dissolved Germanic Confederacy; but by the Treaty of London, May 11, 1867, it was declared neutral territory.

At the outbreak of the war the neutrality of Luxembourg was violated by the Huns and another "scrap of paper" was torn in shreds. Unlike Belgium Luxembourg did not resist invasion; she had practically no army and was from a military point of view very insignificant.

Luxemburg is a splendid block of country, with fertile soil, rich mineral deposits, and a people of mixed origin. In area it is not larger than one of the northern districts, and its population is about the same as the population of Newfoundland. Its capital, the city of Luxembourg has a population smaller than St. John's.

At the outbreak of the war, the kaiser established his headquarters at the capital "where to his great annoyance no citizen ever saluted him in the street and no shopkeeper tried to grow rich by pushing the sale of his portrait. At last he made up his mind to remove to Charleville, and his departure was attended by all the proper pomp and ceremony."

Luxemburg breathed freely, believing that it had seen the last of him; but to the surprise of the populace he turned up again next morning. But inquisitive persons soon discovered that the kaiser had left a good deal of his baggage behind him; and some of the cars

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NOTICE!

All Local Councils, in the District of Twillingate, will please send their district assessments of Five Cents per member, to Fred. House, jr., District Treasurer, Twillingate.

W. B. JENNINGS, D.C.

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

APRIL 17

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN died, 1790.

News of war between Northern and Southern States first reached St. John's, 1861.

Rev. Father Coady died, 1862.

Police Inspector Foley arrives from Ireland, and is appointed head of constabulary, 1871.

William F. Wilson, merchant, died, 1867.

Charles Loughan, Jr., died, 1895.

A square-flipper seal shot at Pouch Cove by a man named Sullivan; pelt weighed 372 lbs; value, \$20, bought by Job Bros., 1876.

Archbishop Hannan, Halifax, died, 1882.

Rev. Dr. O'Rielly celebrated his first Mass at St. Agatha's, Rome, 1892.

Walter Grieve married to Miss Stuart, 1854.

That shortage of writing paper is not altogether a catastrophe. People write too many letters and put too many foolish things into them.

We have sublime faith in the man who can smile at a Monday dinner and tell his wife she's just as good a cook as she ever was.

In his entourage bore unmistakable marks of bullets. Further inquiry elicited information that the franc tireurs had got wind of his returning and ambuscaded the imperial party. Several persons were killed; and it was by the merest accident that the kaiser's own name had failed to figure in the list.

THE SALUTE

HE was a British sailor,
And he stood the decks between.

And Duty came and called him,
With smiling face and mien,
Said Duty, "Are you ready?"
You may have to fight and die,
And he touched his cap, saluting,
And answered, "Aye, sir, aye!"

He was a British sailor,
And the guns were booming loud
And Danger came and spoke to him.

He stood erect and proud,
Said Danger, "Are you ready?"
To put ease and safety by,
And he touched his cap, saluting,
And answered, "Aye, sir, aye!"

He was a British sailor,
And her foe her shots got home,
And Death came near and spoke to him;

The ship reeled thro' the foam,
And Death said, "Are you ready?"
For the death that sailors die,
And he touched his cap, saluting,
And answered, "Aye, sir, aye!"

He was a British sailor,
And the ship was settling fast,
And the sailors' God came near to him
And spoke to him—the last,
And God said, "Are you ready?"
To meet Eternity?"
And he bowed his knee, saluting,
And answered, "Aye, sir, aye!"

Just a Small One.

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Country Minister.—Not entirely.

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