

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1916

## The Evening Times and Star

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The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.

Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier \$3.00 per year, by mail \$2.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, Brunswick Bldg. 4th fl.

CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association Bldg. 5th fl.

MONTREAL, J. C. Ross, Bessie Bldg. 5th fl.

London and European—Frederick A. Smith, 29 Ludgate Hill, LONDON, E.C., England.

## CONCERNING LEADERSHIP

Hoping to divert attention from the failure of Sir Robert Borden as leader of Canada in the greatest crisis in Canadian history, the partisan press has invented a story about alleged dissensions in the Liberal ranks. The St. John Standard gleefully reproduces the story today, with editorial comment. We are told that Sir Wilfrid is to retire and to be succeeded by Premier Murray of Nova Scotia. The whole purpose of the story is discovered in the artful suggestion that the change is to be made in order that the party may be "resuscitated from its present position of representative of the sentiment of but one province." That province, of course, is Quebec. The story scheme is to array, if possible, the rest of the provinces against Quebec, while at the same time the Nationalist colleagues of Sir Robert Borden will be expected to go about that province telling the people to beware of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who says that when Britain is at war Canada is at war, and therefore Quebec young men should enlist—which is the last thing the Nationalists want them to do.

The scheme is too thin. The rest of Canada will not permit itself to be arrayed against Quebec in order to save a government at Ottawa which has utterly failed to give the country leadership. The Liberal party is not looking for a new leader. The man whose unselfish patriotism and broad statesmanship has most impressed the Canadian people since the war began is Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and his high qualities as a patriot and statesman stand out in striking contrast to the partisanship which has marked the conduct of the government.

The Liberal party is not looking for leadership. The people of Canada as a whole are looking for it, and they have not found it at Ottawa. They would welcome a change. They read of what is being done in England, in France, and even in Russia, to organize for war and mobilize the full resources of the nation; and then they turn to Ottawa to see a government that does nothing and is always waiting for something to happen.

The insidious campaign to raise the race and religion issue in Canada, and to have the other provinces make war on Quebec comes with an ill grace from a party which is so closely allied with the Quebec Nationalists and accepts some of their spokesmen as its leaders.

When did Sir Robert Borden's Nationalist colleagues tour Quebec in a recruiting campaign? What are they doing now to rouse their own supporters to set an example to the province in the matter of recruiting?

It is not the Liberal party but Canada that needs leadership, and if the Conservatives cannot take the lead in the situation they should stand aside. While the Mother Country is preparing to mobilize the whole civil population, and is preparing for meatless days, and perhaps even for the issue of food tickets, the government at Ottawa marks time, or goes on playing the old familiar game of favoritism and partisanship. In Britain there is no Liberal and no Conservative, so far as the conduct of the war is concerned. Why is it not so in Canada? Ask Sir Robert Borden. He was offered and has received the cordial support of the Liberal leaders in all war measures. They have been rewarded by seeing the patronage committee at work everywhere, and they have been humiliated by the failure of the government to give the country fearless and non-partisan leadership. But there is no excitement in Liberal circles over the Liberal leadership. That party is prepared at any moment to give national leadership, of an entirely different type from the wait-and-see policy of Sir Robert Borden and his Nationalist friends.

## THE NEW CABINET.

Premier Lloyd George has completed his cabinet and war council with apparently little difficulty. Liberals, Unionists and the Labor party are all strongly represented, although one misses a number of familiar names. It is unquestionably a cabinet of strong men. Particular emphasis is placed upon the fact that there is to be no war council of which Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Milner and Mr. Arthur Henderson are the leading spirits, though Lord Curzon and Mr. Bonar Law will also be members; and that this council will meet daily to prosecute the war. The new premier accepts for himself far greater powers in this war council than he was willing to concede to Mr. Asquith. Evidently the country is presented with a practical dictatorship, and the country is apparently quite ready to accept it. We may look for important changes as a result of the cabinet changes, and for a more vigorous prosecution of the war. The late premier and his colleagues will offer only friendly criticism at the outset, and the country will rally to the new leadership. Some very radical changes are predicted. For example—

"The measures of the new government for the control of supplies will be preceded by one for the entire control of the liquor trade, according to well-informed sources. Absolute prohibition of the consumption of spirits, except medically, and restrictions on the beer trade, are expected. The whole resources

of the spirit trade, it is believed, will be put under state control early in the new year, and the accumulated stocks diverted to other purposes than drink. The distillation of whiskey and gin will be prohibited."

He is a courageous leader who takes this step, and yet it is obviously a step that should be taken. It would be an amazing thing if the food supply of the people were made the subject of government regulation and the drink traffic were permitted to go on as usual. Lord Northcliffe's organ predicts the arming of merchantmen to fight submarines; the mobilization of the civil population between the ages of fifteen and sixty; a more effective blockade of Germany; the rationing of the people by the issue of food tickets; increase of home production; prohibition of luxuries and of work not material to the war; the institution of meatless days; and the preparation of a great spring offensive.

Possibly this forecast is not altogether accurate, but we may be sure the new government will bend every energy to the task of winning the war. Premier Lloyd George is pre-eminently a man of action and resource, and he appears to have surrounded himself with men who will not hesitate to tread unbeaten paths in the great struggle for victory over a still powerful and very resourceful enemy.

What is the lesson for Canada in this great change that has been brought about in England? How much longer is Canada to suffer through lack of leadership? What is being done in this country to meet the actual war conditions? Are we providing recruits as we should? Are we mobilizing the manhood and womanhood of the nation as we should? Are we practicing economy and cutting out needless waste as we should? Are we getting after the profiteer who gets rich on government contracts or boosts the cost of living for his own benefit?

The answer to all these questions is a simple negative—and the explanation of it is found at Ottawa.

Chief Simpson's striking presentation of the case for a larger and better paid police force, published in the Times on Saturday, should impress both the citizens and the city council. The city demands police protection and complains if it is not provided. Give the chief the men and the problem will be solved. And to get the men, and keep them long enough to be trained, they must be paid in something like the proportion of wages available elsewhere.

St. John heartily welcomes the western battalion which arrived this morning. This city has so many of its own sons in the war that its people claim kinship with every man in khaki, and it has already learned that there are no finer fellows in the ranks of Canada's army than those who come from the breezy west.

The war news is without important features. The Roumanian army is still retreating but not beaten. Conditions in Greece are still very unsatisfactory. Trench raids are the feature on the western front. There is no news of special importance from the Russian, Italian or Macedonian fronts.

France, like England, is to have reconstruction and a war cabinet of fewer members, with reorganization of the high command. One Frenchman in every six is now said to be actively engaged in the war. Compare that with Canada.

If another German war craft is at large in the Atlantic may do a good deal of damage, but its career will be short.

The new British cabinet and its programme is an answer to German patter about peace.

## NO BEER AND WINE LICENSES THERE

"I wouldn't be candid with you if I held out any hope of an amendment to the Ontario Temperance Act permitting the issuing of wine and beer licenses," declared Premier Hearst of Ontario this week to a deputation of twenty leading labor men which had waited upon the government and presented among other resolutions affecting Ontario legislation, as passed by the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, one asking that the Temperance Act be amended to allow beer and wine licenses to be issued.

Premier Hearst added that the evidence which came to him was that the act had been of great benefit to the people of the province generally. There had no doubt been resultant depreciation in values of hotel properties, and losses in business to certain classes, but much good had flowed from the act, and this had more than counterbalanced the losses referred to.

## A GOOD WINTER HABIT

Many people dread winter because the sudden climatic changes bring colds, grippes, rheumatism, tonsillitis or bronchitis. But thousands of well-informed men and women today avoid much sickness for themselves and their children by taking a few bottles of Scott's Emulsion to make richer blood, fortify the membranes of the throat and chest and create body-heat to resist sickness. Soldiers at war receive cod liver oil; it will also strengthen you.

Scott & Bowne, Toronto, Ont.

## Killing the Calves

All sorts of excuses are offered for the high price of beef, the most plausible being the alleged demand for veal—"the killing of calves which should be allowed to grow into regular beef." You cannot have beef if you eat it as "veal," but you can have Shredded Wheat Biscuit which contains more real nutriment than beef and costs much less. Shredded wheat biscuit is the whole wheat steam-cooked, shredded and baked. Make it your "meat" for ten days and see how much better you feel. Wholesome and strengthening for any meal with milk or cream or in combination with fruits.

Made in Canada

## LIGHTER VEIN.

Gov. Whitman of New York, discussing war prices, said in Albany the other day:

"Our war profiteers have the face to tell us that, because our wheat, for example, commands a war price abroad it ought to command a war price here at home."

"Such reasoning reminds me in its absurdity of a waiter in a Broadway restaurant."

"A guest, beckoning this waiter to him, said: 'See here, my man—this bill here—one lobster, \$1.75, plus one steak, \$1—that makes \$2.75, not \$4.75, doesn't it?'"

"Ah, but sir," said the waiter, 'you forget that everything has gone up since the war.'"

"It's no use," growled Mr. Smith to his wife from the bathroom, 'I can't do it.'"

"What is it, dear?" asked his wife in alarm.

"Why, the doctor told me this morning to drink hot water an hour before dinner for my indigestion. Here I have got a quart down, and am nearly bursting, and I haven't been drinking fifteen minutes yet!"

## FLOUR

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PURE MANITOBA

AT MILL PRICES

\$10.60 per barrel

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Delivered to all parts of the city

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## BETTER THAN LEATHER

"Duffer" Sole Shoes made only by J. M. Humphrey & Co. in this city, are damp-proof and easy on the feet—just like cushion soles. They have been tested for two years and are in great demand.

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J. M. HUMPHREY &amp; CO., SHOE MANUFACTURERS ST. JOHN, N. B.

Plaid Felt Roll Top Slippers!

For Men ..... \$1.75

For Women ..... \$1.75

Very Comfy.

Very Durable.

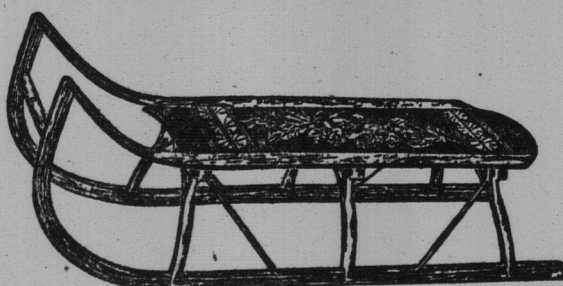
The most satisfactory house slippers. These make an ideal Christmas Gift

Call and make your selection before the sizes are broken.

McRobbie

Foot-Fitters : 50 King St.

## SLEDS AND FRAMERS



What is Christmas to the boys and girls without a sled or framer?

Don't disappoint them.

## Board Sleds, N. B. Pattern

Length, inches	32	36	42
Price	\$1.30, \$1.55, \$1.75		
Framers	85c, \$1.30, 2.00, 2.25, 3.00, 3.50		

## I. M. AVITY &amp; SONS LTD.

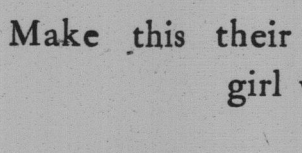
Christmas Specials  
Your Boy's Christmas Gift

Make this their happiest Christmas. This is what your boy or girl will tell you if their gifts include

## EXPRESS WAGONS

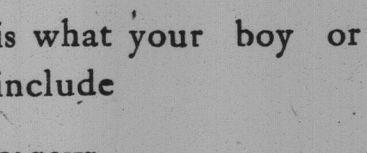
Just What the Small Boy Will Appreciate.

Prices, 70c, \$1.00, \$1.35, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$4.00, \$5.35, \$6.50



## WHEELBARROWS AND CARTS

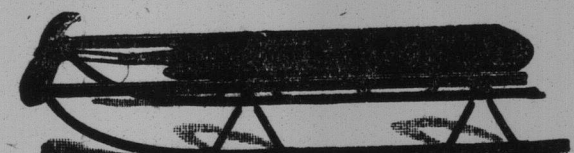
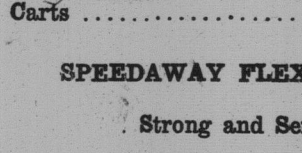
Wheelbarrows	65c, 95c, \$1.40
Carts	45c, 55c, 75c



## SPEEDWAY FLEXIBLE FLYERS

Strong and Serviceable.

Prices, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00



## SLEDS AND FRAMERS

Sleds	35c, 55c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.35, \$1.70, \$3.35
Framers	50c, 85c, \$1.35, \$1.75, \$2.25, \$2.40, \$2.75



## WATCHES

Practical and Useful Gifts.

Maple Leaf ..... \$1.25

Eclipse ..... \$2.00

Wrist Watches, \$3.00 to \$8.00

Britannic Watch Fobs ..... 25c.



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Automobile and Long Reach.

Automobile Skates ..... \$1.25 to \$6.00

Long Reach Skates ..... \$1.40 to \$2.25

Hockey Skates ..... 50c. to \$3.50

Hockey Sticks ..... 10c. to 60c.

Hockey Pucks ..... 15c. and 20c.

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## A Welcome Gift!

CHRISTMAS—just around the corner—prompts us to recommend a most appropriate and welcome gift.

## A FUR COAT OR A FUR SET

HUDSON SEAL AND MUSKRAT are the favored coats this season. We have an assortment of both models and prices that you will like.

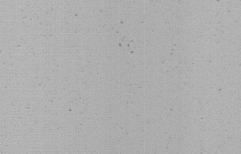
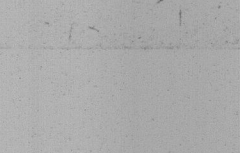
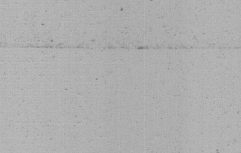
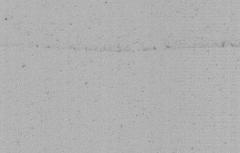
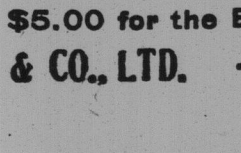
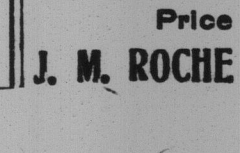
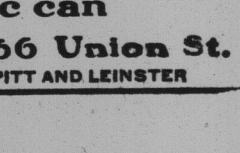
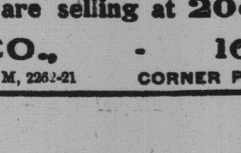
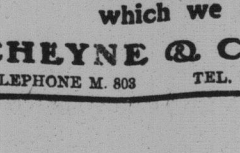
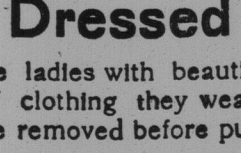
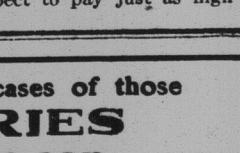
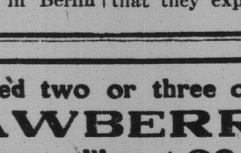
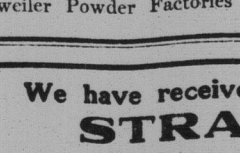
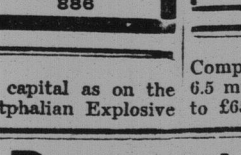
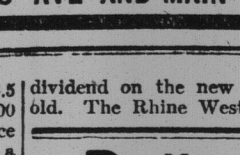
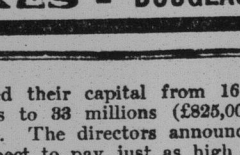
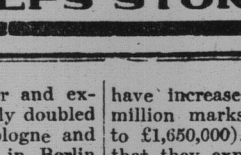
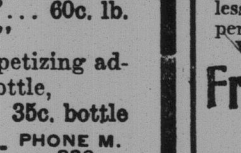
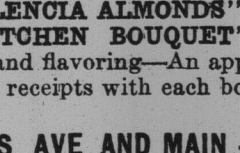
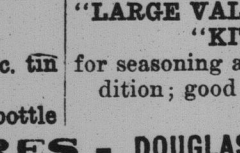
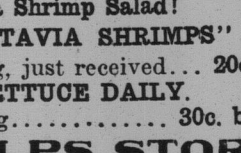
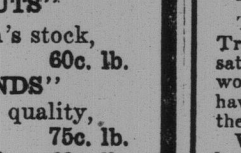
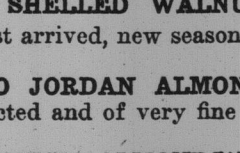
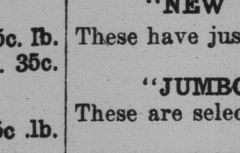
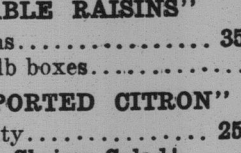
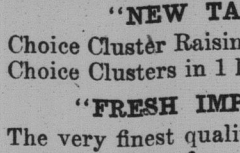
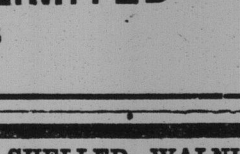
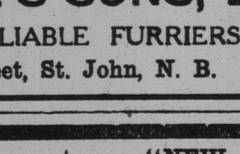
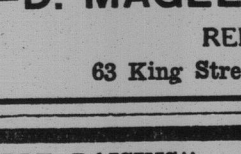
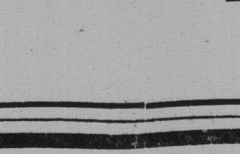
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