

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 29, 1916.

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IT IS WAR TO THE END.

Discussion of Germany's peace talk and the attitude of the Allies and of neutral countries continues to occupy first place in the press of Europe and America. It grows more and more clear that Germany wants a peace conference now, before the great spring drive of the Allies begins. She realizes that her success in Roumania is not and cannot be of a decisive character. She knows that as the months pass the internal conditions in Germany, and especially in Austria, will grow worse. Knowing that she will never again be in so good a position as now to drive a bargain, she eagerly welcomes President Wilson's note and asks for a peace conference. Every intrigue, every possible influence, is being exerted in neutral countries, to induce them, under the guise of a professed desire for world-peace, to aid in playing the game of Germany. The answer of the Allies, however, is uncompromising and emphatic. They will not permit their war preparation to lose its momentum, nor will they consent to a peace which would leave Germany in a position to renew the struggle at a later date. Even if the German terms are greatly modified they will still be rejected. Germany must ask for terms, and not dictate them; and she must accept the terms offered. Russia has declared her purpose, and will not be turned aside. Britain and France have made equally clear in general terms what they are fighting for, and they are not less determined; nor has Italy any intention of making a peace that does not settle her long score against Austria and guarantee her against future aggression.

HON. T. C. CASGRAIN.

The death of Hon. T. Chase Casgrain, K. C., L. L. D., comes as a shock to the country, for he was not an old man. A member of a distinguished Quebec family, he had himself won distinction at the bar and in public life, and was one of Sir Robert Borden's ablest lieutenants in Quebec province. Hon. Mr. Casgrain is described as one of the leading men of the Canadian bar, and it will be remembered that he was junior counsel for the crown at the trial of Louis Riel. The highest honors of the Quebec bar, apart from judicial honors, which he did not seek, were conferred upon him. He was a member of the Quebec legislature for eight years, and for five years filled the office of attorney general. He was a member of the house of commons from 1898 until 1904. In October, 1914, he became a member of the Borden cabinet, and was elected without opposition. Mr. Casgrain was appointed a member of the International Waterways Commission in 1911, and chairman of its Canadian section in the following year. One of the leaders of the Conservative party in the province of Quebec, his death is a severe blow to that party. An able debater, having the advantages of long experience and close personal relationship with the political life and leaders of his province and of Canada, he brought strength to the cabinet, and the loss at this critical time in cabinet affairs will be severely felt. Mr. Casgrain earned and held the personal goodwill of his political opponents. He was a power in the political life of Quebec. The Parliamentary Guide tells us that "while attorney general of Quebec he introduced important reforms, and carried legislation for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections which was declared to be the most advanced and thorough enactment of the kind ever adopted in Canada."

CANADA'S FIRST DUTY.

Canada needs a war government far more than she needs a delegate at an imperial conference. The imperial conference will not tell us any more than we know now about Canada's failure to organize on a war basis, on the principle of universal national service and as near equality of sacrifice as possible. Nor will such a conference tell us any more than we know about the best method of mobilizing the man-power and all other resources of the country on a real war basis. England has set the example, and Canada has only to follow. A war government, national and non-partisan, is the solution of the problem. Judging, however, by the news from Ottawa, Sir Robert Borden has decided against any organization, and in favor of continuing the war at the will and pleasure of the patronage committee. If that is really so, the situation is full of possibilities, and it is suggested that there may even be an appeal to the people within a few months. The demand for a national and non-partisan government grows steadily, for Canada must do more than is now being done or is in prospect. The policy of waiting for something to happen must be abandoned. Half-hearted plans will not bring results. The country needs bold, vigorous and resourceful leadership.

THE SOCIAL SERVICE CONGRESS.

The Social Service Congress to be held in this city on Jan. 23 and 24, is to be a provincial congress. Similar ones have been held in the western provinces, and others will be held in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and Prince Edward Island. These congresses are part of a nationwide movement under the auspices of the Social Service Council of Canada. The provisional programme, as adopted by the St. John local committee of representatives of churches and other organizations is printed in today's Times, and shows that a very wide range of social welfare work will be covered by the two days' discussions. This movement is the more important because all religious denominations are going to promote social reform. The local congress is important because it will be addressed by some of the ablest social workers in Canada and an expert from Chicago, whose services are so much in demand that he is booked two years ahead. Out of this congress should come a provincial organization which would not only successfully promote needed legislation, but conduct such a community welfare propaganda as would bring New Brunswick to the front among provinces and states where such work has broken down barriers and brought the people together to promote social welfare, elevate moral standards and conserve child life. In order that the discussions may bear fruit and the message be carried to all parts of the province, the churches and other organizations in the towns and villages and country districts should see that delegates are sent; and to every man and woman interested in social welfare work and the broad programme of discussion the congress offers a rare opportunity.

TORONTO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

There are one hundred and sixteen pupils in Toronto schools classed by the teachers as feeble-minded. Inspector Cowley urges that they be given separate instruction. It is obvious that their presence in the regular classes cannot ensure proper instruction for them, while it is bad for their class-mates. A suggestion made by the supervisor of physical culture in the Toronto schools is of interest. It is: "That some provision be made for the simple corrective treatment of those children so much in need of it who cannot, in the regulation time, get sufficient setting up exercise to correct advanced cases of round or drooping shoulders, hollow chests, etc. Also, I should like to suggest that if classes in folk dancing, rhythmic marches, etc., could be arranged for senior girls, while the boys of their classes are at military drill, great improvement might be made in posture, grace, poise and self-control of those girls who get practically no exercise outside school hours." We read with interest also that the total cost for kindergartens in Toronto public schools, salaries and supplies, was \$120,549.51. The cost per pupil on the basis of total enrolment was \$12.50 for salaries and supplies. There were 9,645 pupils registered in the kindergartens during the last year, with an average daily attendance of 5,012. No less than 185 kindergartners were employed. We are also told that the cost of free text books issued in 1915 was \$14,982.14. The cost per pupil on the basis of enrolment was twenty-five cents. St. John has some lessons to learn from the public schools of Toronto.

The British have taken over most of the French line on the western front. That involves more men to keep the fighting ranks filled. Canada must do her share.

NEW YORKERS SAY BIG SHIPS WILL NOT GO TO HALIFAX

New York, Dec. 26.—Trans-Atlantic steamship men said today that there was absolutely no foundation for the report that the British government, in pursuance of the suggestion of arming all merchant vessels with cannon fore and aft for defence against submarines, intended to transfer all sailings to Halifax, in anticipation of President Wilson's objection to the use of American ports by vessels with such heavy armament. It was said that no news of this character had reached this side of the ocean, and steamship men generally were very skeptical of the practicability of using Halifax as a substitute for New York. They pointed out that if New York could not be used as a port by armed British steamers, every other American port would be in the situation and the glut of shipping thus sent to Canadian ports would require larger facilities than Halifax had to offer. It was also said that it would be much more efficient for the Admiralty to detail a sufficient number of fast, well armed cruisers and destroyers to convoy merchant vessels than to adopt the practice of arming merchantmen, which would require the use of thousands of guns and the withdrawal from the naval service of other thousands of trained seamen to man them. It is thought to be quite possible that one phase of the new plan of campaign against submarines which the Admiralty is expected to put in force at an early date will be the establishment of some such system of convoys for transatlantic sailings, combined, too, with a more vigorous offensive against submarines near their base. In other words, the British navy, under this plan would carry the war against the submarines close to the German coast, and thus seek to restrict their zone of operations.

LIGHTER VEIN

Sometimes. Louisville Courier-Journal—"I told him he couldn't kiss me." "Well?" "Nothing. It's rather pleasant to have people differ with you now and then, don't you think?" Too Delicate. A man traveling in Maine met a middle-aged farmer, who said his father, 90 years old, was still on the farm where he was born. "Ninety years old, eh?" "Yes, pop is close to 90." "Is his health good?" "Taint much now. He's been complainin' for a few months back." "What's the matter with him?" "I dunno; sometimes I think farmin' don't agree with him."—Western Christian Advocate.

Playbills

The Actor Man (modestly)—As a matter of fact, I could show you letters from—laugh in—almost every place in which I have appeared. The Sport (with conviction)—Landladies, I suppose.—Tid-Bits.

They Did and Did They?

"Look at the great cities of antiquity," exclaimed the lecturer. "Where are they now? Why, some of them have perished so utterly that it is doubtful if they ever existed."—Boston Transcript.

A Hopeful Suggestion

"Here's a woman correspondent who wants to know how to get rid of red ants." "Oh, tell her to dye them blue."—Boston Transcript.

The Stopper

Lottie—He wore my photograph over his heart, and it stopped the bullet. Tottie—I'm not surprised, darling; it would stop a clock.—Sketch.

Perfectly Natural

Man—Hey, there, how came you up in my apple tree? Boy—Please, Mister, I just fell out of a flying machine.

Louisville Courier-Journal—"What's this material?"

"This article is made of near-gold." "Um. How near?"

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CHRISTMAS TREATS IN ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Two separate entertainments were provided yesterday in the school room for the children of the Trinity church Sunday school. One was for the youngsters of the junior department and was held in the afternoon. The other, for the children of the senior class, was held in the evening. A feature of the afternoon was the big Christmas tree and the appearance of Santa Claus. In the evening a playlet of the Yuletide, "A Christmas Conspiracy" was put on. There was also a varied programme of music, recitations, etc. The children of St. Paul's Sunday school, to the number of 125, recently enjoyed their annual Christmas party in the school parlors. A very entertaining programme was provided. Three hearty cheers were given for the absent pastor, Rev. E. B. Hooper. Under the direction of W. C. Peters the Sunday school has grown wonderfully. J. W. Rogers, of St. Mary's church, was made the recipient of a purse of gold by the members of the choir and the pastor, Rev. R. T. McKim, with a fine easy chair, the gift of the pupils and the teachers of the Sunday school at the annual Christmas exercises of the church, which were held yesterday in the school rooms. Andrew, Walter and George Chamberlain, William Hall, Herbert Barton and W. T. Ingraham, officers of the church, were also the recipients of gifts presented by the teachers. The presentations were made on behalf of the school by S. C. Fisher. A programme was carried out in the afternoon and also in the evening. There was a happy gathering in the Stone church school room last night, when the Sunday school scholars enjoyed a Christmas treat. Each member of the school received a gift, and a short but interesting programme was carried through.

CHRISTMAS TRAGEDIES IN NEW YORK

While Mrs. Oliver K. Buckley, wife of a retired builder, was lighting a gas jet in the parlor of their home at 28 Lenox road, Flatbush, on Christmas night in preparation for a gay Christmas party to which fifty friends had been invited, she ignited a paper ball that was part of the elaborate decorations of the room. Half an hour later the house was in ruins, and on the second floor the firemen found the bodies of Mr. Buckley and his old-time friend, Frank H. Welch. Mr. Buckley was 89 years old. He had died while attempting to save his English setter dog, that had been a family pet for fifteen years. Mr. Welch had been overcome as he crawled about in the smoke-filled upper story in an effort to save his wife, who was rescued by the firemen while he was making his frantic search. The body of the dog was found near its master's. A dozen or more guests, including Mr. Buckley's son, Oliver K., Jr., of 833 East Twenty-third street, Flatbush, who arrived shortly after the fire started, were forced to remain helpless in the street and watch the flames consume the building in which they knew Mr. Buckley and Mr. Welch were trapped. Hurrying home after mass in the Church of St. Lucy, to give Christmas presents to her nine-year-old daughter Josephine, Mrs. Anna Peris, 40 years old of 319 East 108th street, was crushed to death under a Second avenue surface car at 109th street. When the body was released from the car it was seen that one hand clutched a pair of stockings purchased for the little daughter, and the other her prayer book. Attracted by the crowd, Gluspepe Peris, the husband, reached the scene just in time to see his wife's body taken from under the car. BIG INCREASE IN TRANSPORT SERVICE FROM CANADIAN PORTS During the seven months ending December 1, 228 vessels of a total tonnage of 1,808,465 tons, cleared from Canadian ports in the transport service. This is an increase of 181 transports and 986,692 tons over the corresponding period last year.

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