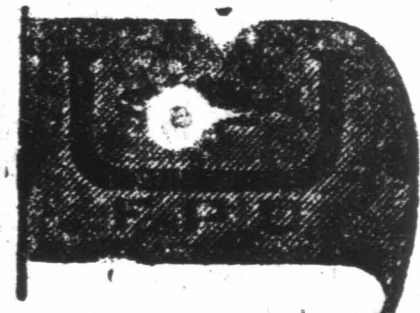


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## The Mail and Advocate

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

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JUNE 2nd., 1916.

## ROYAL COMMISSIONS

DISCUSSING one of famous inquiries now going on by Royal Commissions in Canada, The Toronto Telegram has a very significant paragraph which applies here as well as it does in the Dominion:

"The finding of a Royal Commission has no more effect than is given to that finding by public opinion which learned judges may form on the facts brought out in evidence, but rather by the opinion which the people themselves form on the basis of these facts."

The Monetary Times (Toronto) says of the same inquiries:

"After reading newspaper reports of the fuse inquiry at Ottawa, the people will not desire to read the judicial finding upon the evidence. The country has weighed the evidence to date, and it is hoped that the Premier and his colleagues are sufficiently posted from points outside Ottawa, as to what is the opinion of the country. Royal Commission reports have no weight with the independent voter."

We have had all sorts of Commissions since the Morris Government came into office. Some of them have fayed reports; others have not, so far. But, it was just as well for the Government to have saved the amounts spent in these Commissions, as the great tribunal of the public opinion has already judged the cases. Some of these Commissions, or what were tantamount to the same thing, "investigations," were purely partisan findings, e.g. the Goodison scandal, when the only plea possible was "the custom of the country," or the Morrison investigation, where the excuse was "he forgot the law."

We have given incontrovertible data in these cases; so we do not wonder that the people of the country are fully justified in the verdict which they have rendered. From all points, west, south, and north, we have received commendations on our attitude in these so-called investigations. The people have pronounced their verdict; and it will be registered at the polls when the electorate shall again exercise the franchise.

## Break the Big Stick

Westminster Gazette. — Again and again the German Government has broken in upon peaceful negotiations to threaten war, if it did not have its way, until German sabre-rattling and the German big stick have become proverbs in the world. In speaking of the destruction of Prussian militarism we mean that we are resolved to put an end to this system which has blighted international relations, filled the world with mutual suspicion and hostility, piled up armaments, and finally brought us to this catastrophe.

## DR. GRENFELL

ELSEWHERE we publish a letter from Mr. A. Sheard, the Secretary of the Grenfell Institute, in which he says "Dr. Grenfell will receive the clippings tomorrow and upon arrival, on or before Monday, will meet the allegations made."

We hope Dr. Grenfell will lose no time in dealing with those press reports as we think this matter is one which has of late years been "worked to death." We have received cards and letters from friends in the States asking for pictures of native type of women, and we have been often asked how we manage to live amidst such awful surroundings as are supposed to exist here. All this is the direct result of Grenfell advertising of Newfoundland. Scare headlines can be seen in American papers telling of some Harvard or Yale students going to face the bleak Newfoundland Coast with Dr. Grenfell in his heroic work.

A false impression is given outsiders of true conditions here and we say it is time now to stop this business. The "bleak" and "treacherous" Labrador in summer time is the best climate in British North America and it is no heroic feat to spend a few months there cruising around in motor boats.

However, now that Dr. Grenfell is going to deal with the matter, we will refrain from further comment for the present.

## RUSSIA'S GREAT WORK

NAPOLEON, at the height of his career, said that in half a century Europe would be French or Cossack. He might now say that very shortly, as to military dominance, continental Europe will be French and Cossack. The heroic work of the French at Verdun is more than matched by the extraordinary achievements of Russia in every quarter of her wide field.

With the same dramatic suddenness as marked the arrival of the first installment of Russian infantry at Marseilles, the news comes of the arrival of Russian cavalry on the south shore of the Tigris, where they have effected a junction with the British force under General Gorringe. With this reinforcement the British are now able to accelerate their approach to Bagdad.

When Grand Duke Nicholas was withdrawn from the operations south of Petrograd, and sent to take command of the army in the Caucasus, the impression was common that he was being held responsible for the great retreat of the Russians from Warsaw eastward. Those who were more correctly informed, however, held that that retreat was due solely to lack of munitions, and that the Grand Duke, whose military genius was of the first magnitude, would yet, distinguish himself in the Asian theatre, where indeed his success would become of cardinal importance. This view has been vindicated by subsequent events.

The Minister of War who really was accountable for the shortage of munitions, has not only been dismissed, but now languishes in a dungeon, under suspicion of treason. Munitions have become more plentiful, and the Russian hosts in Europe have proven themselves more than equal to Germans and Austrians at every point of the long line in Courland, Volhynia and Galicia. Nicholas has advanced from victory to victory, till now he has virtually put an end to Turkish dominion throughout Armenia, Asia Minor, and the head waters of the Tigris and Euphrates.

The Russian forces advancing from Persia to the Tigris were last heard of at Khanikan, just over the border in Mesopotamia. Kurdish bands under Turkish direction, it appears, have been trying to embarrass them in the rear by crossing into Persia at Ban and Sakiz, which are considerably north of Khanikan—about halfway between that city and Lake Urmiah. But the Russians appear to have been able very easily to dispose of these marauders.

Three armies, therefore, it may be said, are now converging upon Bagdad; that from Persia, just mentioned; that from Armenia, almost if not quite upon Mosul; and the British force from the southeast, under General Gorringe. When British and Russian and Russians take Bagdad, the whole of Mesopotamia will be practically in their hands. And the Russian armies operating in Asia will have a new source of supplies—via the Persian Gulf—Hamilton Spectator.

## COLOSSAL DEBTS

THE amount voted by the British Government some days ago will bring the total amount granted since the beginning of the war to the colossal amount of Two Billion Three Hundred and Eighty Two Million Pounds, or approximately \$12,000,000,000!

France has piled up an obligation of 8,000,000,000 francs. Just what the other Powers have to their debit we do not know accurately, so far; but presumably, they are proportionately as great as the debt of France. Great Britain's financial share of the war burdens are, of course the greatest, as she is fighting in many war theatres, is patrolling the ocean, and, in addition, has been financing the smaller powers who are enlisted on the side of the Allies.

The New York Journal of Commerce says that the interest charges upon the debts new and old of the belligerent powers amount to \$2,750,000,000 per annum. An economist writes of these obligations: "While the liabilities of Germany and its component States show a tendency to rapid increase, the resources of the German Empire and people show an even greater tendency to decrease."

There is quite a difference between the financial status of Great Britain and that of Germany at the present time. Germany has to borrow money to pay its interest charges; while Great Britain never borrows a dollar without providing new taxation to cover interest and sinking fund. France follows a similar policy.

During the discussion on the last loan authorized by Great Britain, Mr. Hewins, Unionist member for Hereford, pointed to the tremendous growth of direct as compared with indirect taxation, and warned the country against underestimating Germany's economic strength. He also urged that steps be taken in the direction of trade preference within the Empire and a preferential tariff with the Allies.

Austin Chamberlain declared that Great Britain seemed to be bearing the war-burdens without undue strain, and this was proved by the buoyant taxation returns. The nation was using up its capital, however, for war purposes, while neutral countries, through large profits made at the expense of the belligerents, was accumulating resources to compete with Great Britain after the war.

France has increased taxation on alcohol, wine, beer, sugar, and tobacco to such an extent that M. Ribot says the new taxation will provide an additional revenue of 900,000,000 francs.

Somebody has suggested that if the millionaires of England would tax their capital ten per cent, for the benefit of the country, the debt of Great Britain would be wiped out, and she could start afresh the war with a clean slate. Ten per cent. off their bloated capital would not be a bit too much for them to pay an insurance upon their own ninety per cent. of their wealth. They would never miss it, and millions of their poorer neighbors are contributing a much higher percentage of their income to the national cause.

"I am convinced," says a well-informed writer, "that all they want is a little missionary work to make them recognize their duty and their own interests. If the Hun conquered Great Britain, he would have confiscated everything in sight, as he has done in Belgium. He would have appropriated the lands and buildings, the cattle and the crops, the jewels and the gold, the money in the banks, the ships and the mines, the railways and their rolling stocks."

By the way, we think a little of the income tax medicine in this country would be very helpful. Had we an income tax it were not necessary to playing the pauper to the outside world money markets so frequently.

## MERCHANT SHIPPING

The utility of our Navy, of our Army, of our industries, of our coal, indeed, of everything we can do in the war, depend on the maintenance of this vital link in the chain, our merchant shipping service. Its personnel have done splendidly, and with little enough recognition. There are officers in the merchant service on board requisitioned ships, who have worked without respite, without holiday, with little or no increase in pay, and with practically no official recognition ever since the war began. They take their lives in their hands, and their responsibilities are enormous.—London Chronicle.

## SOME OTHER MOTHER'S BOY

JOSEPH BROWN COOKE  
In The New York Herald

AIR:—"I Did Not Raise My Boy To Be a Soldier."

SOME OTHER mother's boy can be a soldier.

Not MY own 'little tootsy-wootsy' pet!

Don't talk to me of what I owe my country;

Some OTHER mother's boy will pay the debt.

It isn't fair to ask so much of MY boy

When OTHER mother's boys have blood to shed;

My boy is too polite;

He really COULDN'T fight;

Some OTHER mother's boy can be a soldier!

Our country isn't in a bit of danger;

The OTHER boys will keep the foe at bay;

MY precious boy could never shoot a stranger;

I didn't bring my darling up that way.

Some OTHER mother's boy can fight for MY boy,

For fighting isn't neighborly or nice;

We are not so idiotic;

Only fools are patriotic—

With a million OTHER boys to be the soldiers!

MY boy has got a gentle little sister;

Some OTHER mother's boy will be her knight!

Some OTHER mother's boy will guard her safely,

Some OTHER mother's boy will make the fight;

For her some OTHER boy will write in the torment;

For her some OTHER boy will taste of Hell.

What if we both neglect her?

Some OTHER will protect her!

Some OTHER mother's boy will be a soldier!

## WORLD'S PRESS

## Bernhardt the Incomparable

New York Globe.—Mme. Bernhardt at the front to-day "somewhere in France," acting for the soldiers! What a wonderful woman! Our sister republic need never fear that it will have to bend its knee to a conqueror so long as its daughters are made of this kind of stuff. Who said that words are women and deeds are men!

## An Appeal to Neutrals

London Spectator.—If Defoe were alive to write of the plague of typhus in the prisoners' camp at Wittenberg, in Prussia, we think that he would have to heighten his language. Good may come out of this appalling episode if neutral countries would see how directly they are concerned in the very strictest maintenance of the laws and customs of medical practice in war. We are strongly of opinion that the Government should lay the Report before neutral Governments and appeal to them to lodge a protest.

## Not a Young Man's War

London Saturday Review.—To-day the sixties hold command over most of the armies. On the French side the youngest general—we speak of Gouraud—is forty-seven. Yet the average age of fifteen French generals is 60.5. They include General Joffre, 64; Foch, 65; de Castelnau, 65; Dubail, 65; de Maud'huy, 60; Langle de Cary, 67; Villaret, 64; and Roques, 60.

In the German army the average age is higher still; it is 63.5, though a list of twenty-one names includes that of the Crown Prince, who is only thirty-four. Field-Marshal von Hindenburg is 69, and Field-Marshal von Mackensen, 71. So it is evident that neither Germany nor France fights the greatest war in history with youthful commanders.

British generals in the field are younger. A list of twenty names proves the average age to be 53.9. General Sir Douglas Haig is 55; General Sir H. Plumer, 59; General Sir C. Monro, 56; and General Birdwood 51, like Lord Cavan and Sir C. Fergusson. Our youngest commander, General Gough, is 46—the age of Wellington and Napoleon at Waterloo.

There can be no doubt that the average age of leading soldiers in the field has never been so high as it is at present. Note, too, that the offensive has remained on the side of the oldest staff.

## GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

JUNE 2

THE Wolfe, first steamer to the wharf from St. John's, sailed, 1863.

Peter Brennan defeated John Casey in a bye-election in St. John's West; majority 346, 1866.

Piers Davidson, of Montreal, married to Miss Whiteway, 1897.

Samuel Plimso, the sailors' friend, died, 1898.

General Garibaldi sailed for England, 1886.

City Council first met in Renouf Building, 1893.

JUNE 3

CAPTAIN P. DOYLE, J.P., died 1857.

Duke of York born, 1865.

Governor Hill left Newfoundland, 1876.

Alexander Burke, Placentia, died, aged 79, 1893.

Rev. P. M. O'Connor ordained, 1888.

Bishop Jones, Sir William V. Whiteaway, and Edward P. Morris, left here to attend Queen's Jubilee, 1897.

Thomas Jones, buyer for Bowring's, died in Liverpool, 1833.

Lieutenant Hobson and men sank Merrimac at the entrance to Santiago, 1898.

Libel action—Levi March vs. The Telegram; verdict for plaintiff, 10 cents, 1898.

JUNE 4

LORD WOLSELEY born, 1833.

Bishop Mullock's famous letter on "legalized robbers and state paupers," published in Patriot, 1860.

William C. Job born in St. John's, 1864.

Bishop Jones arrived first time, 1878.

Dr. J. J. Dearin married Miss Furlong, 1866.

Felix Wowsley's body arrived in St. John's; he and a number of others perished on Gull Island, near Cape John, the previous winter, 1863.

Richard Clancy married, 1893.

Dr. Tait and W. B. Payne unseated and disqualified, 1894.

Steamer Texas wrecked at St. Mary's Bay, 1894.

Alexander J. W. McNeily appointed Master in Chancery, 1839.

Hon. M. Monroe's employees presented him with a full length portrait of himself painted by Mr. Hutch, 1889.

John Murphy's boat, of Portugal Cove, lost this day crossing Conception Bay. The following were on board: Daly (Misquitol), Keefe (Harbor Grace), and two other men named Furlong and Manning, 1822.

## An Army Owns the Railroads

Leslie's (New York).—There are in the United States over 250,000 miles of steam railroads, which have about 600,000 shareholders and about 1,750,000 employees. This figure roughly one shareholder to three employees. If you will average the railroad shareholders according to the railroad mileage they would stand within 700 yards of each other along every mile of steam railroad in the nation. This means that throughout the United States each shareholder would be in plain sight of two other shareholders along the right of way under conditions of normal vision. Yet because of the free-and-easy way in which the public has attached to railroad properties the names of well-known men, the people generally have a vague belief that the railroads are owned by a few very few wealthy people.

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BLACK CUTCH in Half Cases.

GALVANIZED &amp; BLACK SHEET IRON.

COAL TAR in Tierces, Barrels &amp; 1/2 Barrels

PINE TAR in Barrels and Cases.

ROOFING PITCH, RESIN, WILMING-

TON PITCH.

One, Two and Three Ply ROOFING FELT.

I. C. COKE TIN PLATES, 14 x 20, 20 x 28.

I. C. and I. X. CHARCOAL TIN PLATES.

MUSTADS FISH HOOKS.

MANILLA HEMP and COIR ROPE.

PAINTS, VARNISHES, PUTTY, LIN-

SEED and PAINT OIL.

LUBRICATING OIL for Motor Boats and

general machinery.

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## Fishermen! Notice!

We want to purchase at our stores

3,000 BRLS. CODROES.

The following instructions must be closely followed by all packing Codroes to sell at our stores:

"First put the roes in a tight package in strong pickle for 3 or 4 days, then put them on a clean floor and leave them drain, afterwards salt them dry in bulk and leave them till you are prepared to pack them in flour or pork barrels, then pack these in flour or pork barrels and put a good iron hoop on each chime and securely nail the heads, putting 250 pounds of roes in each barrel and place your name on each barrel either in writing on the barrel or on a ticket."

We won't buy roes after August 1st. Take notice and have your roes all shipped before that date.

F. UNION TRADING CO., Ltd

Advertise in The Mail and Advocate

## Reid-Newfoundland Co.

GENERAL HOLIDAY, Saturday, June 3rd.

Excursion trains to Kelligrews  
leaving St. John's at 2.30. Return-  
ing leave Kelligrews at 2.07 p.m.

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