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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 26.

"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.

THE NEW BRITISH CABINET.

If great names and wealth of experience count for anything, the new British cabinet should prove exceptionally strong. Not in many years has a ministry contained so many men of world-wide reputation. The new selection, as a coalition government, includes the brightest minds of all political parties, and with such men as Balfour, Bonar Law, Lansdowne, Curzon, Walter Long, Austen Chamberlain and Earl Kitchener added to the well known genius and experience of Asquith, Lloyd George, Reginald McKenna, Augustine Birrell and Winston Churchill there cannot but be excellent results.

The Admiralty breach may be bridged by placing in control of that most important department Mr. A. J. Balfour, himself a former premier of Britain and admittedly one of the greatest minds of the country. Mr. Bonar Law, a New Brunswicker, is secretary for the colonies, a position in which he will be brought closely in touch with Canadian affairs, and Canada will have a sympathetic friend at court.

David Lloyd George, who as Chancellor of the Exchequer, had done phenomenal work, is again placed where great strength is needed. In the new cabinet he is minister of munitions, and upon his shoulders will fall much of the responsibility for the successful conduct of the war. A better choice could hardly have been made. Mr. Churchill as chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, takes a position of comparatively minor importance, but he will continue to leave no impress of his personality and wonderful ability large upon the British nation.

The new cabinet is a decided vindication for Earl Kitchener, inasmuch as he is continued as secretary for war. This was not unexpected, but it must be disappointing to men of the Northcliffe school who had hoped to drive the hero of Khartoum from the war office for ever. It is not likely that the new cabinet will depart from the war policy of the former government or that the nation's interests will at all suffer. As before remarked the coalition ministry represents the very highest development of the political truce, and from this standpoint should afford a particularly interesting subject for students of world politics and world governments.

THE DEBT TO BELGIUM.

The people of Canada should not require to be reminded of the great debt the whole British Empire owes to the Belgium nation. When Germany's hordes started on the march to Paris, before the French and British armies had taken the field, and before their organization was in shape to put up effective resistance, it was the gallant soldiers of King Albert who stepped into the breach and by deeds of heroism, which will live in history, held back the Kaiser's might until the lines could be formed and preparations made for adequately meeting an attack as swift as it was powerful.

If the men of Belgium had faltered, the story of the war to date might have been differently told. Eventually, of course, the valor and quality of the Allies would have won over Germany, but without the assistance of Belgium the German attack would have gained such great headway that the channel towns of France might have fallen and the landing of British troops consequently been prevented. England, her might have had to repel an invader. But Belgium did not fail in the time of trial. Liège, Namur, Antwerp, all tell the tale of her heroism, and the gallantry shown there contributed very materially to the success of the whole campaign.

When the history of the war is written by a competent historian, the subjects of King Albert will receive full credit for their share in the glorious result. Belgium will be simply recompensed for the property lost, but nothing can requite her for the great hardships her people have suffered, hardships the extent of which cannot be gauged by monetary or territorial standards. Hundreds of thousands of Belgian men and women are starving, without shelter or clothing, and

their terrible plight cannot be remedied except by the action of the civilized world.

The Empire debt to Belgium is sufficiently great to warrant sacrifice and self-denial on the part of Canadians. From the Atlantic to the Pacific the call should not fall on deaf ears. St. John, loyal to the Empire and Imperial traditions, should do its part, and in this connection it is confidently expected that when the appeal is especially made, as it will be on June 3rd, the date chosen for Self Denial Day for the suffering Belgians, there will be prompt response.

THE WAR SITUATION.

That Italy should score the first success in the fighting against Austria is not surprising. The Italian government delayed entrance to the war until all preparations had been carefully made and when the order finally came it was received by officials, men and plant fully capable of carrying it out to the letter.

The Italian army, mobilized, equipped and only waiting for the word, got underway at once and while the results so far achieved must be regarded as of but comparatively slight importance they augur well for the future.

The entrance of Italy is likely to have some effect upon Germany's attitude to the United States. Despatches last night chronicled the fact that the German government has requested an additional delay of a week in which to reply to the American document in connection with the sinking of the Lusitania and it is expected the Kaiser's advisors will adopt a much more conciliatory tone than would otherwise have been thought of.

Italy is also exercising a strong influence on the Roumanian situation, the sole desire of Berlin now being to maintain friendly relations with the government at Bucharest. That the effort will prove fruitless is generally believed, as Roumania's interests in the near east are identical with those of Italy and it is difficult to see how the two nations can achieve their desires without acting in the closest concert.

From all the areas where fighting is in progress only the most satisfactory reports are received. In the west the French and British have made what Paris declares to be most important gains; the Russian counter-attack is also rapidly developing. Austria, however, claims to be making progress in the east but the experience has been that the Austrian claims can usually be considerably discounted. On the whole the situation is bright.

ROOSEVELT IN COURT.

In the press of more important news from the other side of the world, comparatively little attention has been given by newspapers to the very interesting legal action recently decided in Syracuse, New York, in which Theodore Roosevelt, ex-President of the United States, successfully defended a suit for libel brought against him by William Barnes, a Republican party leader.

The action was the outgrowth of last year's campaign when Colonel Roosevelt denounced Mr. Barnes as a boss of the most odious kind. Possibly the matter might have ended there, but Mr. Barnes had ambitions for a seat in the United States Senate and his managers deemed it necessary that he should be vindicated before starting his boom.

The libel action, however, did not supply the expected vindication. Col. Roosevelt's witnesses showed that Barnes controlled the State Senate and used it to forward his own interests. He had also acted with Chief Murphy of Tammany Hall to prevent the success of possibly dangerous reform movements. Mr. Barnes had also profited from contracts in a manner which recalls the case of M. P. Davis in the Transcontinental Railway deal under the Laurier government—he made money without doing any work. As a result he was shown to be a very practical politician and the statements concerning him by the explosive ex-president were justified.

Col. Roosevelt, however, did not emerge absolutely unscathed from the legal fray. Testimony was adduced to show that he had acted with Sen-

ator Thomas Platt, when their interests happened to coincide, and that Platt and he worked for each other. Platt rule has been roundly condemned by the better element of both political parties and indeed the political reputation of the Republican Senator is not savory. In short the action left no small amount of mud clinging to the robes of two prominent public men and it is very doubtful if either of them will profit by the exposure.

It is now reported that Germany is calling to the colors all physically fit men up to the age of 45. There is no doubt that they will be needed or that before this war is over even the grey-beards may be pressed into service. The Kaiser's Empire will be enormously weakened before peace is made no matter what the terms of the settlement may be.

Relief For Belgium.

"Why should I not die," sadly exclaimed a broken-hearted refugee from Belgium as she walked aimlessly up and down the wharf at one of the English seaport towns, clasping to her breast her little mite of a babe, all that was left to her of her once happy family.

"Why should I not die," she repeated with broken sobs to a big, bronzed, kindly faced sea captain who, observing her great distress, had stopped, like some good Samaritan, as indeed he was, to commiserate her woe.

"Vous êtes bien malheureuse, Madame," he gently whispered as he tenderly removed the rag of a cloth that scarcely covered the child's head and cast a pitying glance down upon its little pinched face in which two large dark eyes burned with a feverish gleam.

Touched into tears by these sympathetic words, the poor woman for a moment utterly gave way to her grief and actually swayed back and forward with convulsing emotion. The old British Sea-Dog who in his days had witnessed many a tragic sight himself seemed to feel a dimness come over his own eyes as he gazed upon her and fearing that she would utterly collapse he quickly assisted her to a seat upon the top of a box that was seen near by.

"Why should I not die," again and again she kept saying while her whole body seemed to be torn with some terrible agony. At length under the influence of the kind words of encouragement addressed to her by the sea captain she began to tell the story of her awful experience in her home town of Antwerp upon the day in which the soldiers of the Kaiser had marched through its streets.

She, herself, was standing at the door of her house with her babe in her arms and her two little boys were playing on the street when suddenly a troop of these murderous minions of the German Hun marched brutally along the street and cruelly trampled these helpless little children to the ground. Torn with grief and agony, the poor mother rushed out at the soldiers and endeavored to rescue her children but all to no avail for these murderous men brutally struck her with the butts of their guns and she fell unconscious to the earth. Just about this time her two daughters, aged 17 and 18 years, coming to the open door of the house to see what was all the confusion, were seized by the soldiers and taken away. When she came to herself she discovered that she alone with her babe had been left and there was nothing for her to do but to join the throng of refugees who were hurriedly making their way out of that unhappy and ruined city. Her husband had previously gone to the war and now at length she found herself with her babe in England the sole survivors of her once happy family. Little wonder that the poor woman wanted to die, exclaiming the old sea captain as he related this story to one of our citizens in St. John while his lips muttered an oath of vengeance.

Such was the true story of one of these poor, broken, unhappy refugees who had come over by the thousand from the devastated land of Belgium, and while the tragic case of this terribly bereaved woman is unspeakably sad, yet there are others of her nation and people whose condition is, if possible, even more pitiable for they have endured, many of them, all that she had experienced of brutality and misery, at the hands of these same inhuman monsters of the Kaiser, while in their case they have not been able to fly away from the terrors and famine of their land, to the safety and provision of the old Grey Mother of the nations whose shores are secured against all such dangers by the might of her invincible navy.

Think of it, today over four millions of these Belgians are standing in the bread line, stretching out their emaciated hands for that charity which will keep soul and body together and lacking which they must continue to fall a prey to the wolf of hunger let loose within their land by these ruthless destroyers of their homes.

No wonder that their pitiful condition has uttered an appeal which has found echo in the humanitarian heart of the world.

Canada, as well as the United States, has heard this cry of distress and has already made generous, if not ample, response. But the need still presses and unless in addition to what has already been done much more be added, thousands of these brave people, whose heroism, in the early days of the war, certainly saved the cause of the Allies, must perish of famine.

Thursday, June 3rd, the birthday of our Gracious King has been set apart by His Worship Mayor Frink in response to the special request of the Royal Standard Chapter of the I. O. D. E., as a day of self-denial on the part of all of our citizens, upon which

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Us fellows was awl standing around the lamp post today and we heard a cornet being blown around the corner, being the man that drives the waffel waggin and sells waffles and blows the cornet evvry wunt in a wile to let peopl no hes kuming, wich he blows it so good he cood properly get a job in a orkester if anything evvir happened to his waffl waggin.

Wun time I ate 6 of those waffils awl at wunt without stopping, sed Fuds Simkins.

That nothing, I bet I cood eet a duxzin, I sed.

So cood I, so cood I, sed Fuds, the resin I ony ate 6 was bekause thare 6 for 5 sents and I only had 5 sents.

Aw, thats no resin, I sed.

I bet I cood eet 15, sed Skippy Martin.

I bet I cood eet 20, sed Sid Hunt.

And awl the fellas startid to say how meny they bet they cood eet at wun time. Reddy Merfy getting as high as 50, being the highest, and my cuzzin Artie sed Awl rite, lets prove who can eet the most, lets have a waffl eeting contest.

Wich jest then the waffl waggin startid to go past, and we awl yelled at the man and he stoped and we ran ovir to the waggin.

We are going to have a waffl eeting contest to see wich wun can eet the most waffils, sed my cuzzin Artie, you keep awn making them and we will keep awn eeting them.

Thall be nice, and whose going to do awl the paying for this, contest, sed the waffl man.

G, we awl sed. And we startid to feel in our pockits and nobuddy had eny muny exept Sam Krawss, and awl he had was a Chinese sent with a hole in it.

Sum uthir time, maybe, sed the waffl man. And he bloo a littl toon awn his cornet and kepp awn driving his horse up the street, and we cident have eny contest.

they are asked to live upon the scanty Belgian fare and to devote all the proceeds of their self-denial towards the helping of these needy people. Surely this is a most happy thought upon the part of these Daughters of the Empire, who already have been so successful in all of their previous patriotic undertakings, and we have no doubt but this opportunity will be eagerly seized upon by our citizens, and that as a result these self-denial boxes which are to be placed in every home will be returned well filled with that which will bring relief and help to these famished people.

Addressing the women of America, the wife of the Minister of State of Belgium said that "Thousands upon thousands of these people have nothing in the world left, not a roof over their heads, no money, no clothes, and no chance of earning a living of any sort. The sight of the poor refugees streaming into Antwerp, women with babies in their arms, their older children clinging to their skirts, men wheeling their decrepit fathers in wheelbarrows or helping along a crippled brother or son, is more pitiable than any words can express."

If these terrible conditions are to be alleviated, food and other supplies must be sent forward at once. Prompt and generous action is needed and we are certain that this call from the needy of Belgium which has been so sympathetically echoed by the Daughters of the Empire will awaken a large and generous response in the hearts of all of our citizens and that the opportunity for us all to deny ourselves for so appealing a cause will be most heartily welcomed by them, and the joy which always accompanies every act of self-denial, will surely be intensified by the thought that—

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PERSONAL

H. H. Sinclair of the Sinclair
ber Company, Newcastle, was
city yesterday.

J. D. Creaghan of Newcast
guest at the Royal. He is in
to visit his son, Gerald, Creag
the Construction Corps.

J. J. McCaffrey of the Queer
Fredericton, was in the city
mess yesterday.

Dr. T. J. Bourque, M. P. P.
busto who spent the holiday
city returned home yesterday.

The friends of Hugh Campb
pleased to learn that he ha
ered from his illness and ha
opened his barber shop, 6
street.

Miss Hazel Edgett has retu
the city after having spent t
day as the guest of friends i
ton.

Rev. Dr. W. O. Raymond is
wa where he will attend the
of the Royal Society of Cana
will return home the latter pa

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