

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1915.

"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 HOUR FOR GREECE

The assurance that Constantine, King of Greece, is said to have given the French minister at Athens does not sound well. He is reported to have indicated that if Roumania entered the war on behalf of the Allies, or if the British and French troops initiated a successful offensive movement in Serbia, Greece would not be unwilling to change her attitude of neutrality for one of participation. Even viewed in its most favorable light the statement of Constantine gives his people but little on which to plume themselves. Plainly he wants to play the winner. If, by Roumanian aid, or the success of their own efforts, the Allies can drive the Bulgarian German invaders out of Serbia, Constantine is prepared to send his troops out in time to shout with the victors. Such a statement does not reflect the temper of the Greek people. Some of the most glorious pages in the history of the world were contributed by the rulers of early Greece, but they were men of a different kind from the present occupant of the throne.

Greece has adopted a vacillating position for many months. Given his own way, Venizelos, by long odds the strongest mind in the kingdom, would long ago have had his countrymen ranged beside the Allies. But Constantine, or his queen, intervened and the lion-hearted Venizelos relinquished the reins of office rather than subscribe to a policy of indifference. Zaimis succeeded to the leadership of the government although the Venizelos party retains the popular support and the King chosen premier held office only through the courtesy and patriotism of his predecessor. Now the end has come. Zaimis, defeated in the Chamber of Deputies, has placed his resignation in the hands of King Constantine and Greece faces the future in a decidedly unsettled state of mind.

Two courses are open. Either King Constantine can do the wise thing and recall Venizelos to office, or he can dissolve parliament and hold a new election. In either event it is likely that the party favoring participation in the war on the side of the Entente Allies will be victorious. If an election is decided upon, two months must elapse before it can be held and in that time much may happen.

Greece has not strengthened herself in the sympathies of the Allies or of the world by the weak indecision of her King. Had she acted even a few days ago she could have secured Cyprus as a reward for her services. Now that valuable possession is probably lost to her forever. It should be remembered that the Allies do not require Greek aid half as much as Greece will need the strength and support of the allied powers after this war is over, but the possible loss of this support is not the only danger she faces. The tide of popular opinion runs strongly to Venizelos and if the monarch should continue to attempt to combat that tide he may find his throne in danger. There have been instances in history where conflicts between Democracy and an unpopular king have resulted disastrously for the wearer of the crown. The decision of Athens is of far more importance to Athens herself than to the rest of the world.

SOLDIERS AND CITIZENS

The 52nd Port Arthur Battalion will spend the winter in St. John and there is no doubt everything possible will be done to make the soldiers and men feel at home, and to show them that we, in the east, can appreciate the spirit and bravery of those who offer to do the Empire's work. Arrangements are in the making for the establishment of a soldiers' club where the men can enjoy home comforts with as much freedom as possible. This is a commendable idea.

There is, however, an opportunity for every citizen, whether actively interested in the Soldiers' Club or not, to do his part in welcoming the soldiers. Last winter the 26th Battalion was stationed here and became very popular. There were occasions, however, when some of the men gave vent to their spirits by methods rather more boisterous than St. John is accustomed to and that was sufficient

to bring more than a little unjust criticism on them. The number of men in the 26th whose behaviour rendered them open to adverse comment formed but a very small part of the whole, yet more than once the entire battalion was condemned without reason. Since going to the field of battle the 26th has made a name for itself which will reflect credit on the battalion and the province. Yet the men who, facing the enemy, showed their coolness and bravery to such an extent as to earn congratulation from the brigade commander, are the same men who, a few months ago, were walking the streets of this city. The soldier differs from the civilian only in the fact that he has made his sacrifice for Empire. At home he has friends, social position and a regular niche in the community. Under mobilization, he is one of a number, but he is still the same man who in his own home numbers friends by the hundred, who will watch his career with interest.

The men of the 52nd are away from their friends and their homes, consequently home influences are lacking. St. John takes them on faith as soldiers and gentlemen and if, during the winter months, some exuberant spirits violate our conventional ideas it is to be hoped that before condemning the whole battalion St. John people will remember last winter's experiences and modify their criticisms with human kindness and common sense.

THE GERMAN VIEW

German newspapers are not hesitating to criticize those who are misleading the people as to the prospects for victory. At least two of the most influential journals in Berlin openly predict for the Teutons a long war and much distress. Harden, one of the greatest of German editors, in his paper, the *Zukunft*, warns his compatriots not to indulge in cheers of victory because hard times are still ahead. He says:

"Bride your joy at tidings of victory. Rouse your conscience and the conscience of your neighbor, Austro-Hungary. The hardest times are coming. We have no desire that those who are unarmed and safe from danger rend the air with loud mouths and demand that their brothers in the field conquer new worlds. All must go forward together if we are to win. Let those who are so desirous of battle loose their murderous fire at the front, where it will do some good."

"We want no more admonitions from those whose enthusiasm for the heroic age is probably connected with a desire to prolong the war on account of the business by which they are flourishing. We do not want usurers, who take advantage of the needs of the masses, who are seeking modest and indispensable food. He who at this time is a user of food is committing a deadly sin. He who corners meat, corn or vegetables is a downrightascal. He who stores butter, hoping that the price will rise higher, belongs on the gallows."

Gadke, in the *Vorwaerts*, is equally outspoken. He says:

"The war has not reached its culmination, yet the enemies of the fatherland are far from their last gasp. Let us beware of over-estimating the initial successes in Serbia. It was well known from the first that the Serbians would be unable to withstand the Teutons crossing the river. This was a matter of superior artillery and higher technical skill. But we must remember that once before Belgrade was in Austrian hands, and the Austrian army came to grief."

"The nature of the interior of Serbia makes advances there slow. The further the Teutons penetrate, the more they suffer from the wild nature of the country."

"As to the western front, it is wrong to say that the recent attacks of the Allies were unsuccessful. The German official reports clearly indicate that they made progress. The Allies are certain to make repeated attempts to cut through the German lines."

"In the east, the Russian have gained ground over certain areas. The strange lull there at present is difficult to understand. "Germans must prepare for a long duration of the war."

A year ago the same papers were preaching a gospel of certain victory and glorious aggrandizement. Now they are prepared to admit the possi-

bility of defeat. The lesson of the past twelve months is having its effect.

Those who are inclined to complain that because Italy has not made territorial gains she is not playing her part should not forget that Italy has already caused Austria to lose thousands of men and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of materials. And it is the loss of men and munitions that will count most in deciding this war.

The Times continues to support the Board of Trade's policy of interference in the question of having soldiers stationed here this winter. The Times' attitude does not alter the case. Hon. Mr. Hazen has the matter in hand and can be depended upon to exert every effort in the interests of St. John. When it becomes necessary for the Board of Trade to act they will probably be advised to that effect.

At the outset of the war Germany referred to the British forces as French's "contemptible little army." It is notable now that that army contains more than one million men.

WINTER PROTECTION OF YOUNG APPLE TREES

Some practical hints for Fruit Growers to prevent injury to trees by vermin

Precautions must be taken to prevent injury from mice, rabbits, etc. Many failures in apple growing here and elsewhere are caused by these pests and a large annual toll in the form of dead trees is annually exacted by them. As far as possible crops harboring and attracting such pests should be avoided and the accumulation of litter, trash, weeds, long grass, etc., which furnish suitable winter quarters for these animals, prevented. Mice work under the snow and damage from them may be prevented by tramping the snow solid round the tree after the first few snowfalls. This method of protecting is, however, somewhat dependent on the weather. The cheapest and safest protection is secured by wrapping the trunks cylinder fashion with paper, wood veneer or some such material. Good strong building paper, as light as possible in color gives good satisfaction. This may be placed round the trees in the fall, not tightly, but leaving an inch or so of space between the inside of the paper and the bark of the tree. The soil should then be mounded up around the bottom of the paper to a height of six inches or so. Veneer tree protectors, made of this material, one-eighth inch thick, 12 inches high, 12 inches wide, and costing about one cent each will last two and three years, and afford good protection. The paper or veneer as the case may be should be removed in the spring, about the middle of April.

From Sunscald. This form of damage is very common in some localities, so common, in fact, that a tree which escapes it is a rarity. The greater part of the damage occurs in late winter, or during the warm spring days when the snow is going off. During the warm afternoon sun, reflected from the snow against the southwest side of the tree trunks, becomes very warm. The trunks are thoroughly warmed on that side. They are thawed out, and the bark becomes soft, sappy and pliable. Then, when the sun goes down and the temperature falls again to zero, the bark is again frozen tight. The next day the same thing happens, and so day after day the young bark freezes and thaws, and by this means is torn to shreds. When spring arrives the bark is killed and broken open. Then various kinds of fungi get in and the damage which begins by freezing and thawing ends with spread of canker and other troubles about the trunk of the tree. The best preventives of sunscald are low heads and veneer and paper cylinder protectors. High-headed trees, which are of doubtful value anywhere, are undesirable in places where sunscald is bad. The protectors of paper or wood veneer recommended above for mice and rabbits will also give practical immunity from sunscald. This trouble is a very serious one. It is not uncommon to find young orchards ruined by it. In sections where this trouble is prevalent great pains should be taken to protect young orchards from it. For the benefit of the fruit growers, the Fruit Growers' Association has secured a number of veneers and will fill orders for them at cost price. Apply to A. G. Turney, Secretary-Treasurer, N. B. Fruit Growers' Association, Fredericton.

CANADIAN FISH FOR BRITISH MARKETS. Under the auspices of the Canadian Government and the Canadian Fisheries Association, a large shipment consisting of samples of Canadian fish were forwarded to Great Britain from Montreal recently, says the Canadian Fisherman.

The samples are of frozen, smoked, cured and filleted sea and lake fish, and were collected for the government by the Canadian Fisheries Association from the concerns identified with the organization. The fish is being transported in refrigerated chambers aboard the steamer, and will be taken care of on arrival in England by representatives of the British Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The

Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

Mrs. Wilkins was wheeling her baby Winfield down the street this afternoon and she went in our house to ask me something, leaving the baby in the baby coach in back of the front steps and asking me to mind it, with I was setting there minding it and who came down the street but Sid Hunt wheeling his baby brother, Sam Kwassa and Pude Simkins being with him. Hello, Benny, have you got wun, to, now, sed Sid Hunt. No, this is Mrs. Wilkins, I wouden have wun, I sed. G, lets have a baby show, sed Sid. Wich we startid to do, Sam and Pude being the 2 judges, Sid Hunt showing his baby first by climbing up the lamp post with him and holding him and put him over the letter box, holding him there and saying, Now, ladies and gentlemen and judges, heers wut I call a reel baby, look at all its hare, look at its eers, look at the size of its feet allready, it minds its mothir and never cried in its life because it didnt want to stop laffing lawng enuff, amen.

And he took the baby awt the letter box and jumped awt the lamp post and I took Winfield out of his baby coach and held him there and saying, Now, ladies and gentlemen and judges, heers wut I call a reel baby, look at all its hare, look at its eers, look at the size of its feet allready, it minds its mothir and never cried in its life because it didnt want to stop laffing lawng enuff, amen.

Wich jest as I was lifting it awt the letter box Mrs. Wilkins came out the front door and yelled as if she thawt her baby was a mile up in the air instid of only about 2 yards, and I was so scared I dropped Winfield and he startid to fall, and Mrs. Wilkins yelled worse than the first time, and if the 2 judges hadent of cawt the baby between them it probberly woud of suffered pritty much asent the pavement, even akount of falling hed sed and Mrs. Wilkins grabbed it and kissed it and put it in the baby coach and wheeled it away saying she woud never bring it neer the house agen, and the judges was aw excited they forgot to say wich baby was the best.

ly exported to England and hold a good market. Canned salmon and lobsters have been on the British markets for many years, but it is the other varieties of our food fish—haddock, cod, pollock, skate, whitefish, herring, etc., smoked, filleted, cured and in a frozen state, that we wish to introduce, and it is these lines which compose the bulk of the samples shipped. The importance of this venture cannot be underestimated and it is sincerely hoped that a permanent trade—apart from a temporary war-time demand—will be built up and a new export business be inaugurated for the products of our Canadian fisheries.

Canada, with her inexhaustible fisheries, is in a splendid position to export certain lines of fish food to augment the supply in British markets, and the samples now being forwarded will show what we can do. For some years now, British Columbia frozen salmon and halibut have been regular

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Tinted Lenses For Winter Wear

You'll find tinted lenses will add a great deal to your eye comfort this winter.

Snow is likely to fall almost any day now and when it comes more light than the eye can accommodate itself to with comfort will be reflected. This extra work for the eyes is more than disagreeable—it causes actual strain.

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