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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1917.

"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.

WAR COMMENT.

The Allied forces have again made important gains on the western front and although the "spring drive" is not expected to start before next month, the British and French troops have been giving a very good imitation of a drive on a smaller scale during the past few days. Following close upon the occupation of Bapaume comes the news that the British have entered Peronne and have driven the Germans back in some points to a depth of ten miles on a front of forty-five miles. This movement attracts comparatively little attention in the cables although such a success a few months ago would have been told of at much greater length. Evidently the daily advance of the Allied forces at some point in the western line is now regarded as a mere matter of routine.

Bapaume, which the British entered on Friday and Saturday, is one of the most important railway points on the western line. Its capture means cutting off an important supply avenue for the enemy and certainly indicates greater successes in the near future. While this has been going on in the west our Russian allies operating against the Turks have not been idle. Just as a measure of celebration over the triumph of the "win the war" party in the recent revolution, the Russian troops yesterday captured the city of Van, which is a city of 25,000 population, is situated in the vilayet of same name in Turkish Armenia. Before the war it was the centre of an important cloth trade. It is on Lake Van where the American Missionary Society had operated an important station. It was also much in the news at the time of the Armenian atrocities, being a centre for American relief work.

Although the war operations of the past few days on all fronts have taken a turn decidedly favorable to the Allied cause.

THE WAR BONDS.

In the way of investment there can be nothing better than the 5 per cent. 20-year war bonds the Canadian Government is offering to the public at 96. They are literally as good as gold. Nay, they may well be accounted better than gold, for not only are they redeemable and their interest coupons payable in that precious metal, but when they mature the Government will pay back for every \$100 unit of them \$4 more than it now receives. The return on the money invested in them is about 5.4 per cent per annum. After the war settlement, and when the new belligerent nations have begun to reap the fruits of peace once more, there is no country in the world that has more reason to expect a fair run of prosperity than Canada. It can be safely said that the security behind the bonds, splendid though it now is, will be a steadily-growing one for many years to come. Tremendous as will be the burden of war debt the nations must carry far into the future, the day of easy money may come sooner than some of our keenest financial men expect. It is hardly less than a certainty that these bonds are cheaper now than they will be before they are a dozen years old. Once money becomes plentiful and interest rates fall considerably, the bonds will go to a price that will greatly reduce the return on the money the future buyer pays for them. The Canadian who can get some of them at the issue price of 96 ought to do so. If he does not he may yet be buying them on the stock exchange at 110 or higher. Besides their intrinsic value and investment value, the bonds have a sentimental value, says the Toronto Mail and Empire. It must be the desire of every loyal Canadian to have some souvenir of the war that he or his children after him can take a little pride in in the days of peace. What could be more satisfying in this way than a war bond? Children yet unborn will have come to manhood and to womanhood before these bonds have matured. The interest receipts from the bonds will be part of the income upon which many families will be maintained. In the eyes of young Canadians whose lives did not begin until the terrible war was overpast there will be something peculiarly worthy in the piece of scrip certifying to the fact that their father or other near relative had loaned the Government some of the money by which it financed Canada's part in the war. The bonds will be like the military relics brought back by older members of the family who had fought at the front. It must be the ambition of every true British subject in this

country to be the owner and the holder of one of these war bonds.

HUNS STILL DEFIANT.

Cable advices of last night brought the news that the German U-boats had sent three more American vessels to the bottom, in each case attacking them without warning. Whether the crews of the vessels in question were saved is not yet known, but in the case of one vessel, The City of Memphis, sunk off the Irish coast, there appears to be some doubt.

The escape of the crews, however, does not lessen Germany's culpability, as frequently the crews of vessels sunk at night have been able to reach shore in their boats or have kept afloat until rescued. The fact that the Hun U-boats have not hesitated to attack these vessels without giving warning of their intention shows very plainly that Berlin takes little stock in American threats and is prepared to continue her unrestricted submarine warfare irrespective of what the United States may or may not do.

Continuance of such events as the sinking of the Algonquin, chronicled a few days ago, and of the City of Memphis, recorded this morning, is certain to lead to open war between the United States and Germany. The United States has not objected to blockade of certain sea zones. For many months Great Britain has maintained an effective blockade of certain zones and coasts, but the British blockade is of the same nature as a land-blockade and does not countenance murder or piracy. Vessels intercepted by the British blockading craft, if they are found to be carrying contraband cargo are searched and arrested, but not sunk, then they may be seized and taken to a British port. The very nature of the craft with which Germany is carrying on her blockade work, however, prevents the towing of prizes to German ports, for submarines cannot do work of that sort, so saying nothing of the difficulty they would experience in evading British cruisers. Hence the policy of sinking.

It has not yet been made definitely clear whether a submarine, having stopped and searched an American vessel, even though armed, may then destroy the ship after jettisoning the cargo, without bringing on war with the United States. President Wilson's views on this point, and on the arming of American ships, have been thus summarized:

- 1—Arming a merchant ship for defence is a right under International Law and is not a belligerent or unfriendly act.
2—The placing of gun crews from the United States navy on board American merchant vessels to operate the defensive batteries is not a belligerent act, and is justified by the circumstances.
3—American merchant vessels carrying arms for defensive purposes furnished by the United States government and having gun crews from the United States navy, still preserve the character of merchant vessels and are not auxiliary cruisers or war vessels.
4—Such American merchant vessels may carry usual cargoes which are subject, if contraband, to confiscation or destruction, provided the ordinary requirements of visit and search are complied with by belligerent warships.
5—If belligerent submarines or other warships encounter armed American merchant ships, these warships are privileged to exercise the right of visit and search with attendant penalties.
The last two paragraphs of the foregoing indicate that the submarine may hunt and search an American vessel carrying contraband and sink her but must provide for the safety of her passengers and crew. Germany harbors no such humane design. Her submarine policy as enunciated from February 1st takes no account of human life.

The Algonquin case served to impress this fact upon the President. The City of Memphis should emphasize it. Germany is still defiant and cares not whether the United States declares war or continues in the role of a neutral. For the Hun, in his present condition, one or two more nations arrayed against him will not matter in the least except that it may give him an opportunity to cry quit on the ground that he cannot continue to "stand alone against a world in arms."

A SOBER BRITAIN.

That drunkenness is very rapidly declining in Great Britain is the contention made by the London Times which proves its case by quoting police returns of convictions for drunkenness in all the large towns of the Kingdom during the "last" four years. These returns show a reduction of more than one-half in the aggregate number of convictions, there being 158,831 in 1912, and 77,896 in 1916.

"The reduction," says the Times, "has occurred almost wholly in the last three years during the war, the fall between 1913 and 1914 being only about 3,000, while in London there was actually a rise of 200. In the next twelve months the aggregate reduction jumped to 30,000, and in the year just passed it increased more than 40,000."

It is difficult to arrive at the causes for the great reduction in drinking to excess which the Times shows. First, it would naturally be thought that the withdrawal of large numbers of men for the army would take from the streets of the large towns and consequently decrease the amount of drinking. Balanced against this, however, is the influx of munition workers in the industrial centres. These men are earning more money now than ever before and drinking might be expected to show an increase from that cause. In several of the towns reviewed, where munition workers were largely employed, drunkenness did increase, so it is evident that general enlistment was only partly responsible for the changed showing.

Female drunkenness has also declined although not to so large an extent as among men. Between 1914 and 1915 the convictions of females showed a decline, but the real reduction came in 1916, when there was a falling off of nearly 14,000 cases.

It was in August, 1915, that the restrictions enforced by the British Liquor Control Board were generally applied and the great falling off in convictions dates largely from that time. A considerable improvement was noticeable in the latter part of 1915, but last year, the first full year of the control, the decrease was so marked as to be without precedent in British history.

The likelihood is that never again will the consumption of intoxicating liquors in Britain reach the figures of before the war days. The war has had a steady sobering effect upon all the nations engaged in it, and in this respect has been a more potent agency for temperance than all the prohibitory legislation ever placed on any statute book.

BENKEI AND THE BOASTER

A Kaiser Story from Old Japan—The "Grand Push" in the Springtime.

The following is another of the characteristic letters of a Japanese officer whose former communications to the London Daily Express have aroused so much interest. As explained on previous occasions, the letters are printed exactly as they are received, without editorial amendment or correction.

By a Japanese Officer.
Tokio, March 12—Winter season is in progress, and in Japan all thoughts are upon brave Allies in the trenches and upon the German. Germany has had poor time, and Allies have been most calculating to make him most uncomfortable. In old times wars, winter time was time for rest on both sides of the fighters, but modern wars were unlike the old-time wars. All to do to the present is to make trench raid upon the Hun, so that he is situated in the most rest-less conditions.

When Hun receive the trench raid in the night time and he is cold and asleep, he has exceeding little stomach left upon more fighting. He is to become unhappy, and is full of nerves. Allies must continue to make the nibble upon German lines, to take small trench here and make flying bombs raid all the time till spring is to arrive. Then when spring-time makes honorable appearance, Grand Push can take place.

Warrior Monk.
Kaiser is more than usual greedy to the present. First Kaiser has the design upon Belgium, then upon Russia and Serbia, and now he wants Roumania. Soon Kaiser will want the whole world. But he will not get such wish.
Long many years ago, in Old Japan, lived famous warrior monk called Saito Musashi Ido Benkei, whom I have told story of already. One day, when Benkei was young man, he has had most brilliant idea: to possess one

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Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.
The Park Ave. News.
Weather. Dry in the house.
Sports. A hand stand contest started to take place on Pude's sidewalk pavement last Thursday afternoon, but had to be postponed on account of the contestants not being able to get up on their hands all at the same time.
Intriguing Facts about Intriguing People. Sid Hunt's mother sees he gets more holes in his stockings than any boy in the world, but this is denied by Sam Crossa mother, Artis Allzanders mother, Skinny Martins, mother and Leroy Shoosters mother.
Pome by Skinny Martin—Patis Alarm.
The wind rattles the shutters.
And shakes all the windows and doors,
Wats up, fellows? A blizzer?
No, Pude Simkins father when he snores,
Sissley Notes. Miss Lilly Levy gave a domto party on her front steps last Saturday with her new box of dominos until she was called in to supper. Among those present was Mr. Benny Potts, Mr. Alger in (Skinny) Martin, Mr. Ed Wernick and Miss Mary Watkins. There was no refreshments.
Home made chewing candy, 2 peecs for a sent or 12 sents a pound.
40 chevys for a pece guaranteed. Leroy Shooser and Ed Wernick.
Short Story.
The High Cost of Living, or, It Us to Be 4.
How many sourballs for a sent, lady? 2.
The end.

EVEN CROSS, SICK CHILDREN LOVE SYRUP OF FIGS

If feverish, bilious, constipated, give fruit laxative at once.
Don't scold your fretful, peevish child. See if tongue is coated; this is a sure sign its little stomach, liver and bowels are clogged with sour waste.
When listless, pale, feverish, full of cold, breath bad, throat sore, doesn't eat, sleep or act naturally, has stomach-ache, indigestion, diarrhoea, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul waste, the sour bile and fermenting food passes out of the bowels and you have a well and playful child again.
Children love this harmless "fruit laxative," and mothers can rest easy after giving it, because it never fails to make their little "insides" clean and sweet.
Keep it handy, Mother! A little given today saves a sick child tomorrow, but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on the bottle. Remember there are counterfeits sold here, so surely look and see that yours is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company." Hand back with contempt any other fig syrup.

Ideas for the Great British Army to punish German armies in France. German brain is not stupid, but was not enough sharp to think of tank before English brain. When Hun has made the stout tongue, he say to all nations, "Look how most clever people we are to make such wonderful inventions;" and he tells to all neutral countries how he is to make honorable Allies defeated with new invention. Allies most unlike German. When Ally nation have made more surprising mechanical invention than Hun they keep the stout tongue. "Nothing is said upon the surprise until it is used against Hun with most discomforting way to make war. Old Japan proverb say, "Shut tongue, most proper soldier." Little Japanese boys playing games never talk to watchers. That is their child's training. Hun is too proud to receive lesson from smallish Japanese boy, so penalties are to him for payment.

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