

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1915

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 19, 1915.

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street every evening (Sunday excepted) by the St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act.

Telephone—Private branch exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417.

Subscription prices—Delivered by carrier \$3.00 per year, by mail \$2.00 per year in advance.

The Times has the largest afternoon circulation in the Maritime Provinces.

Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank R. Northrup, Brunswick Bldg. 5; CHICAGO, E. J. Powers, Manager, Association Bldg. 5; MONTREAL, J. C. Ross, Board of Trade Bldg. 5.

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## WHO STANDS ASIDE?

About the most contemptible wretch in Canada today is the man who gives thought only to the means by which he may enrich himself out of the war. At a time when tens of thousands of men are offering their lives, and when the very existence of the country is at stake, when the appeal to all that is highest and best in human nature is more urgent and compelling than ever before in our history; and when there are so many tasks of supreme importance to be performed, the man who not only withholds his personal support but regards the nation's tragedy as his opportunity for gain is of all men the most to be condemned. Any honorable and patriotic citizen should not only be well-contented but should entertain some doubt about the quality of his patriotism if at the end of the war he is one dollar richer than when it began. For if he has the opportunity to acquire wealth his immunity from personal danger and loss is bought by the blood of other men, whether they be Canadians, other British subjects, Belgians, Serbs, French, Russians or Italians. This is humanity's war against the swelling tide of barbarism, and the Canadian who is safe owes some of that safety to all of the men who have died and are dying in the conflict.

It is not merely by going to the front that men can serve. Money must be provided. The families of fighting men must be cared for. The wounded heroes who return must be given due recognition. The reconstruction period after the war must be provided for and plans formulated before the time for action arrives. The recruiting campaign must be kept up until there is no more need of new battalions. On every side are avenues of usefulness for every man, and he who refuses to see them is only different from an enemy in that he maintains a neutral attitude with one eye on the gain chance.

Nor does the mere contribution of funds absolve any man from further thought or activity in this supreme crisis in the history not only of the British Empire, but of humanity. In this hour of world-travail when a new democracy is struggling into birth, and the whole future of mankind is involved, the burden of a great responsibility rests upon every individual. Whoever lives through this war, and falls not in duty done, will have the right to rejoice in the task accomplished and the new and better era that shall dawn upon the race.

There are two great issues in this war. Democracy is fighting for its life against military bureaucracy, and what is even more important, the champions of honor among the nations, of the sacredness of treaties, and of the rights of the smaller groups of people on the earth, are contending against a power which would trample upon the rights of the weak, and make political expediency the justification for wholesale murder.

How then can any individual in Canada be neutral or indifferent? Above all, how can any man concentrate his mind on thoughts of personal gain, when the ladies are so stupendous, and whatever immunity he enjoys is purchased at incalculable cost by those who bear the brunt of the attack? The business of this country is war. Social and religious life is on a war footing. Whoever, therefore, stands aside to profit by the sacrifice of others should be of all men the most despised today, and in the years to come the most miserable.

## SIR GEORGE FOSTER.

The years have not robbed Sir George Foster of his mastery of felicitous phrases, nor of his power to sway the emotions of an audience. The great assemblage at the Imperial Theatre last evening listened with the keenest interest to his clear and very comprehensive review of the war situation, which was much more thorough and exhaustive than that of any previous speaker during the long series of recruiting meetings held here, and then settled itself down with a pleasurable thrill of expectancy to hear the eloquent summing up, the solemn words of warning and the fervent appeal. Sir George made it perfectly clear that the Empire Powers should win this war, but not less clear that only supreme effort will bring the victory. There was no attempt to under-rate the power of the enemy. In the most impressive manner he declared that the British Empire stands at this moment in the gravest peril, and that the crisis calls for more and far more effort, of devotion and of sacrifice. The spiritual aspect of the great conflict, its significance in relation

to world welfare and the future of our civilization, were brought into clear relief. The sense of the personal responsibility of Canadians, and the vital relation of the war to all their future lives was pressed home, and the fact also that it was only a matter of geographical position which saved Canada from the fate of Belgium. With relentless logic Sir George Foster made it clear that he who dodges the issue and refuses to accept his share of the burden is alike false to himself and to his country. Whether the finger points to duty in the trenches or at home, it leaves no honorable loophole of escape. The appeal in behalf of Belgium, of the Patriotic Fund, and of all other claims arising out of this war was forcibly presented, and if there were any in the audience who went home without feeling a deeper conviction of personal responsibility and a stronger sense of duty, there is little hope of ever accomplishing in them such a feeling as would make them a vital force for Canada, the Empire and humanity in the greatest crisis in world history.

It is welcome news that the new hospital for advanced cases of tuberculosis will be opened next month.

Now to fill the ranks of the 118th Battalion. St. John is especially interested in the 118th Battalion.

Lord Lansdowne told the country yesterday that this was no time to talk of peace. The Allies, he said, had entered upon a great struggle and intended to carry it to a successful issue. "To be really successful, the struggle must end in the complete destruction of German militarism."

Those who heard Sir George Foster speak last evening can be under no delusions concerning the peril in which the British Empire stands today. His position as a member of the government of Canada gives the opportunity for more complete knowledge of the situation than is afforded the people at large. He asserts, however, with the fullest confidence that the Allies can win if all the people do their full duty. The responsibility is brought home to every individual.

Mr. Bonar Law, in parliament yesterday, said that despite what was happening in the near east, he was more hopeful than he had been for many months, and, looking at the tendency of the whole war, things were not going as badly as they would seem to be. Due weight will be given to these measured words from a member of the government, but Mr. Bonar Law went on to say that the financial situation was serious and that the people must make greater sacrifices to maintain the financial ability of the country.

The Standard appears to resent the expression by the Times of its satisfaction that Hon. Mr. Blondin has delivered a very loyal speech to his constituents in the province of Quebec, and of the hope that Mr. Blondin, having made so excellent a beginning, would continue and make recruiting speeches all over his native province. The Times begs to repeat its previous remarks, and would hail with equal satisfaction the conversion of Mr. Blondin's friends, Bourassa and Lavergne. The Standard is quite right in saying that "this is not a time to accentuate differences or to attempt to arouse racial hatreds," and if the Standard and Mr. Blondin can silence Bourassa and Lavergne they will be doing the nation a great service.

The visit of Miss Saunders, national secretary of the Y. W. C. A., to St. John has emphasized very strongly the need of more fully organized work for the welfare of young girls. Her illustration of how the Y. W. C. A. in large cities takes hold of young girls coming to the city to seek employment and brings them within the circle of a wholesome fellowship reminds us that we in St. John should do much more than is done for those girls and also for the girls whose homes are here but who are growing up without a right interest in life and its higher possibilities. After the war, when the new-born energy now so nobly directed into patriotic channels is free to seek new fields of service, there will be a great development of community welfare work, and when that time comes the seed sown by Miss Saunders will bear fruit, and the girls will come into their own.

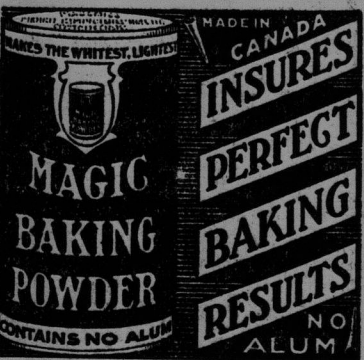
## MORNING WAR NOTES

Voluntary recruiting will be given until December 11 to prove its effectiveness before compulsory measures are discussed in Great Britain.

Copenhagen says that a squadron of British cruisers has been seen entering the Cattegat.

The American schooner Helen has been damaged by striking a mine but managed to reach an English port.

In the house of commons yesterday Austen Chamberlain said that the loyalty of India as a whole has been proven. The only trouble has been caused by outside agitators, and a few extremists. In northern India the people themselves put an end to an agitation fomented by an anti-British association which has its headquarters in the United States.



## LIGHTER VEIN.

Editor (to contributor)—Why don't you make your story true to life? Contributor—What's the matter with it? Editor—What's the matter with it? Why here you say that "There was the sound of a shot and immediately the street swarmed with policemen."—From *Village*.

A story is told of an American traveling in Europe. While in Paris he went into a jeweler's shop and asked the price of a pin on the counter. He was told it was 20 francs. "That's too much," said the tourist; "I'll give you five francs for it." "Zen it would be I at gave se present to your sister," said the Frenchman with a deprecatory shrug, "and I know not se young madoiselle."

The Professor—Humph! Dear me! I gave that young man two courses on the cultivation of the memory, and he's gone away and forgotten to pay me, and I can't for the life of me remember the fellow's name. Now, preying!—The Pathfinder.

A woman appeared at the office of the claim agent of a western railroad. "Yo' steam cars is dole kilt my mule, Sally," she announced in a decidedly tragic manner.

"Well, madam," replied the agent, "if it was the fault of the company you will be recompensed, you may be sure. What were the circumstances and what was the mule worth?" "Sally was the best mule Ah ever seed," said the woman, as she wiped her wet eyes with her handkerchief. "Ah done plowed with dat mule fer going on nine years, an' thar war's nothin' the matter with her cepin' she was a little lame in her nigh hand leg an' kind o' blind in one eye. Ah give \$40 an' three beddills an' two pecks of dried pears for her, and she was as good as the day Ah got her."

"Where was the mule killed?" the agent asked. "She was at the crossin' an' yo' fast mail train just knocked her plumb over that fence an' inter a gully" was the woman's reply. "And the mule strayed upon the track, I presume?" queried the agent. The woman gave him an indignant look.

"O, no!" she declared. "Sally never would 'a' been fool enough to walk in front of no train—my ole man was ridin' her!"—Green Book Magazine.

"You will excuse me. I never learned geometry." "Geometry nothing! It's only the plain truth I'm telling you." "Yes, but you tell it by so many angles that it sounds to me more like 'plane geometry.'—Judge.

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## MILITARY MATTERS

Four Recruits For 115th—Casualties in the 26th—Fairville Man Dangerously Wounded—Presentation to Chaplain—Soldiers Entertained

Leslie Moffatt, Perry's Point, N. B.; A. L. Hickson, Rockland Road; F. J. Fowler, Fairville; and Robert Caulston, Britain street, were among yesterday's recruits for the 115th, at the Mill street office.

Another meeting was held in the offices last night, and was regarded as most successful. Much of the success is due to the efforts of the young recruiting officers in charge, the men who have been aiding in the recruiting activities for some time past. Edmund C. Chase was the chief speaker, while Private Shaw made a brief address also. Mr. Chase has two sons in khaki.

Rennie Poirier, Balmoral, N. B., and Sergt. Chas. D. Campbell, Upper Blackville, N. B., are reported wounded with the 26th Battalion, and John Marshall, of Fairville, dangerously wounded. Gen. Taylor, 26th Battalion, wounded some time ago, is recovering in hospital in England.

Sir Sam Hughes has received a cable from his son, Brig.-Gen. Garnet Hughes, saying that Lieut. Chester Hughes had been buried at Loos after being killed by the explosion of a shell.

Major Belyea, 26th Battalion, writing home an account of the attack on a German crater on October 18 says that the men were unable to find the body of Sergt. Frank Cotter, but no doubt the Germans got it.

Geo. P. Lanyon, son of Wm. T. Lanyon, sergeant in the 104th Battalion band, has been transferred to the latter unit from the C. G. A. at Halifax.



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