

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JUNE 14, 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.

ST. JOHN AND THE N. T. R.

In an interview published in the Telegraph on Saturday morning, Mr. Walter E. Foster, figuratively, raises his hands in holy horror at the imputation that in fomenting an agitation in connection with the question of the National Transcontinental Railway's entrance to St. John, he should be seeking to create political prejudice against the Federal and Provincial Governments. Mr. Foster says that the Board of Trade is a non-political body. It is true that that organization numbers in its membership many prominent staunch Conservatives, but it is equally true that the Liberal party is well represented on the job. Then, again, whenever those Liberals display special activity the Telegraph and Times at once rally to the espousal of their cause, and Mr. Foster does not require to be told that vigorous espousal of any cause by the Canterbury street newspapers is generally sufficient indication that somewhere there lurks an Ethiopian in the underbrush. Consequently, while Mr. Foster may be entirely innocent of any political designs, the activity of his champions is sufficient to draw cold suspicion upon the whole movement.

Mr. Foster's method of presenting his memorandum on the N. T. R. matter to the public was at least peculiar. The Standard is informed that at the Board of Trade meeting referred to there were not more than fourteen members in attendance, and if one had been politically inclined he could have mustered up, out of that gathering, a fair Liberal majority. Also the Standard is informed by a gentleman who was at the meeting that Mr. Foster, instead of speaking at length in favor of his resolutions, handed a typewritten document to the newspaper reporters, which was, the following morning, published as a report of his speech. True, the document was submitted to the meeting and accepted but the Standard is informed it was not read. If this information is correct, then the gentlemen at the meeting, who were so unfortunate as to be Conservative in politics had no opportunity of knowing what the statement contained until they saw it in the newspapers the following morning. The Standard does not charge that this was done from political motives, the incident is only referred to as another evidence that the Liberal members of the Board of Trade are always on the job.

There probably is no need to point out that if the N. T. R. had been properly routed it would have come down the Valley of the St. John River, and the present Valley road would hardly have been necessary; probably it has no bearing on the case to remark that the railway was routed past St. John to the city of Moncton, because Mr. Fielding's ambitions for Halifax could then be the more easily realized; there is no occasion to recall the circumstances surrounding the resignation of the late Hon. A. G. Blair, or to refer to the statement he made that he was "standing with his back against the wall fighting for St. John"—a fight in which he was aided by every Conservative member for this province. These things are probably wide of the mark. But Mr. Foster, at that time, was a prominent and active member of the Board of Trade, and we do not recall that he permitted his energy and keen interest in the port of St. John to agitate him to the point where he joined Mr. Blair in his fight, or where he pronounced against the action of the government of that day. If Mr. Foster did take such a stand, and will supply The Standard with any memorandum on the subject that he thought it worth while to use in the newspapers, we will be pleased to publish it.

Conditions have changed. The National Transcontinental Railway, through the province of New Brunswick, has passed under the control of a Conservative Government and consequently there is no longer danger of the diversion of freight from St. John which might have obtained if it had remained under the control of the "Frank Pacific." That there was, at the time of its planning, a very lively fear that American ports would benefit from Canadian traffic is evidenced in the construction the

Times of 1904 placed on the initials G. T. P. That paper was even known to remark that the initials of the railway really meant "Goes To Portland." There is now no danger of an American port reaping the profit of Canadian traffic that should be carried through the ports of Canada. The Borden Government will see to that, and Hon. Mr. Hazen can be depended upon to continue to look out for the interests of St. John as he has always done. There is no need for fear as to the future and it looks very much as if this attempt to promote railway construction at a time when, because of the war it is difficult to get money for any save war purposes, savors more of politics than of a movement for the benefit of St. John. It will be remembered that during the last session of Parliament, when a request from the Board of Trade for the extension of the breakwater to Partridge Island was up for discussion in the House of Commons it was Mr. Pugsley who wanted the work postponed and also suggested that the work of port development might be cut in two. The Telegraph and Times did not find it necessary to repudiate Mr. Pugsley by backing up the Board of Trade—those newspapers said nothing for St. John. Nor do we recollect that Mr. Walter E. Foster then had himself interviewed in the interests of the port. Now, however, those newspapers and that gentleman have discovered a danger that the N. T. R. will not come here and that the Valley Railway will not be built soon enough. Their fears are groundless. The Valley Railway will be built, and in good time, but not at the dictation of a ring of Grit politicians. It may be remarked that out of a total length of 214 miles of that road, 120 miles have already been completed and in operation, and this in face of every obstacle Mr. Pugsley and his newspapers could bring to bear.

WELL MERITED PRAISE.

Liberal newspapers of the class of the Telegraph and Times which have blamed and criticised the Government for its war measures, and in most cases with no reason, will almost be inclined to read the Ottawa Free Press out of the party. That journal, representing the Liberal party, has actually had the hardihood to give credit to Major General the Honorable Sam Hughes for the excellent manner in which he has handled the matter of munitions.

In its issue of June 11th, the Free Press publishes a summary of General Bertram's speech telling what Canada is doing to solve the munition problem and, incidentally, pays high tribute to the Minister of Militia for his part. The Free Press admits that the Borden Government was not backward in grappling with the war problems and in this respect made even a better showing than the British government. On this point the Free Press says:

"What Britain has begun to do today after the lapse of seven months, what Britain has formed a coalition government for the purpose of carrying on, what Britain has just created a separate government department for with its brainiest statesman and organizer at the head—that Canada started to do within four weeks of the declaration of war."

Rather an interesting tribute from a Liberal newspaper, especially one which for years has been regarded as speaking for the Liberal party in the capital. The Free Press is equally frank in paying tribute to General Hughes as the man responsible for the splendid showing the Dominion has made in the matter of playing its part in the Empire war. It says:

"This paper has poked fun at General Sam Hughes, but always with the underlying idea that behind all his idiosyncrasies there was real competency and merit. Today we take off our hats to him. His critics, including ourselves, have been confounded. He stands revealed a genius. And the evidence is an array of startling, cold facts presented by an unimpeachable, calculating, practical mechanic, calm business man, able captain of industry, and military officer of distinction—for that is the way General Bertram can be correctly described."

"At the very outbreak of war General Hughes had the vision to realize what in a very short time would be the Empire's greatest

need; he had the courage of his convictions; he had the ability to select just the right men to work out his vision; and he had the force of character, enthusiasm, and energy to inspire those men to achievement."

The Free Press then deals with the difficulties confronting the Minister of War; the fact that on September 2nd he called a meeting of experts and to them outlined his ideas as to what Canada should do in the way of manufacturing munitions. General Bertram, himself an expert, confessed that he doubted whether this country could make good with the task it had undertaken. General Hughes did not doubt. He resolutely turned his face to the task and went at it with his characteristic energy. As the Ottawa Liberal organ again says: "General Hughes' courage was indomitable. It is big enough to lead him to tackle an army corps single handed, and he insisted on the big job he had outlined being tackled." The result was that, with a total equipment of 75 shells per day, Canadian manufacturers gave their attention to the shell problem until today, to quote General Bertram's report, 247 factories in 78 Canadian cities and towns are making war munitions, 70,000 Canadian workmen are being employed and \$1,000,000 per week is the estimated pay roll. The daily output is now in the vicinity of 25,000 shells and this it is expected will soon be increased to 50,000. Canadian shells to the number of 650,000 have already been shipped from this country and as far as they have been tested have given every satisfaction. Of course as good results could not have been achieved without the co-operation of the Canadian manufacturers, but it was General Hughes' energy and vision that caused the wheels of industry to be set in motion and it is refreshing to see that the Free Press is sufficiently broad minded to admit it. The Ottawa Liberal paper has set a good example. It is too much to expect that it will be followed by the Canterbury street newspapers.

THE WAR SITUATION.

From all areas in the war zone reports are favorable to the Allies. In the East, the Russians have checked the advance of the Austro-German forces and are making successful counter-attacks. In the West the British and French troops are holding back the enemy despite the fact that he has been reinforced and was expected to launch a great offensive movement, which, according to the reports from that area, is still looked for. In the Dardanelles, too, the operations of the British and French troops, aided by the Australian contingent, are gradually bringing them closer to the goal. The Serbian forces, re-organized, are starting once more to invade Austro-Hungarian territory and are putting up a stiff fight. Altogether the situation is bright.

But even in the midst of successes such as have attended last week's fighting it is unwise to conclude that the enemy is beaten. There is still need to strain every nerve and bring to bear every resource if the work the Empire has started to do is to be well and thoroughly done. Men and munitions of war are needed now as greatly as at any time since the war commenced and while the task of contingents yet to go to the front has been made easier by reason of the strenuous fighting in which Canadians have been privileged to bear such a signal part, yet, at best, the outlook is for a long and costly struggle before the might of Prussian militarism has been beaten to the point where it is prepared to make unconditional surrender.

Shrapnel.

(Wall Street Journal.)
 The complete shrapnel is composed of three principal parts: (a) The time fuse; (b) the projectile proper, a hollow steel shell filled with bullets and a bursting charge of black powder; (c) a brass cartridge case filled with smokeless powder to shoot the projectile from the gun. This brass cartridge case is similar to the shell of an ordinary rifle or revolver cartridge. The time fuse is a very complicated mechanical device which may be set to burst the steel projectile any number of seconds or feet after it has left the muzzle of the gun. It is as delicately constructed as a watch or a safe lock and is made largely of brass and alloys of aluminum.

The time fuse is screwed into the point of the steel projectile, the projectile is filled with small bullets, usually about 250 in number and is exploded by means of a charge of black powder seated at the opposite end from the time fuse. When it explodes the bullets are hurled over a range of about 250 square yards. The bullets are 88 per cent. lead and 12 per cent. antimony.

The cartridge-case is from a foot to almost two feet long and is made of sheet brass and filled with smokeless powder. It is set off by a percussion cap and will hurl the projectile up to 6,000 yards, making that distance in a trifle less than 20 seconds.

Sergeant O'Leary

Joffre and Hindenburg, French and the rest of them.
 You needn't worry them devil a bit!

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Pop didn't come home till after supper yesterday, and after he had bin in a little while ma sed, For merseys sakes, Willyum, wat was that I jest smelt awn yure breth.
 Nothing, O yes, that, haw haw, Ill tell you about that, sed pop.
 Well, Im Haseening, sed ma.
 It was a funny thing, awl rite, sed pop, this afternoon a chap I had-ent seen for a lowing while bloo into the orris, and wat do you suppose he had with him.

A barril of whiskey, ses ma.
 Serteny not, sed pop, he had a grate big, wat do you suppose.
 Barril of brandy, sed ma.
 Yure way awl, sed pop, he had a grate big onlon, a grate big tremendous Bermuda onlon, he lives in the country now and he raised it awn his own farm, thats wy I hadent seen him for sutch a lawng while, bekause he moved to the country.
 How cood it be a Bermuda onlon if he raised it awn his farm, sed ma.

Dont ask me, Im no farmir, sed pop, the point is, he was so proud of that onlon that he insisted awn my drinking a slice of it, while he stood thare and watched me, haw haw, and of corse I didnt want to offend him by refusing.

Natcherly not, and how did he pour it, I mean cut it, sed ma.
 Wy, with his penknife, he had a penknife with him, sed pop, he cut awf a slice and I ate it and thats wat you smelt awn my breth, those Bermuda onlans dont smell like uthir onlons, you no.

Apparently not, sed ma, and then did he take the rest of the bott-ll, I mean the rest of the onlon, away with him.

My deer, I see yure not convinced, sed pop, and I feel to happy this evening to argue about it sutch a triffe as a Bermuda cocktail, I mean onlon, heer, heers a ripe 5 dollar bill to take Benny to the movies with, and no mattir how mucht you spend out of it, the change is yures.

How luvly of you, sed ma, and serteny I bleev that about the onlon. And her and me went to the movies.

You've got (and paid for) your name with the best of them—
 They with their gold lace, and you with your kit.

Sergeant O'Leary, we'd heard it had come to you.
 Price paid for Private O'Leary's V.C. Vengeance for Cuntichy some lead-bit had hummed for you—
 Fate o' first trenches paid fully in fee!

Blow out the candles in Dublin were lit for you.
 Burning in pride and in sorrow for you;
 Hear we now wait yet some other brave bit for you—
 Faith, we're glad if the tale wasn't true!

Out of the blur of the conflict satanic, Medley of names, dates and censorship blanks,
 Red maze of strategy brutal, mechanical,
 You the old, human touch gave—
 from the ranks.

Taught us and cheered us as, reading, we visioned you
 Leading your shame-rivaged captives to camp;
 How would have Bonaparte kissed and commissioned you—
 Spark that no drench of the trenches could damp!

More than that—type of sheer trait in individual
 Think we and hope we there shone in your deed,
 Bit of the lone-acting, precious residual

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—Boston News Bureau poet, (B. F. Griffin).

Blow out the candles in Dublin were lit for you.
 Burning in pride and in sorrow for you;
 Hear we now wait yet some other brave bit for you—
 Faith, we're glad if the tale wasn't true!

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