

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1916.

"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.

A COWARDLY AND UNTRUE ATTACK.

In the eyes of the Grit opposition Sir Sam Hughes has committed an unpardonable crime. He has made good to such an extent that he has attracted the attention and gratitude of his King, and of the British people. That is the sin which cannot be forgotten or condoned—and which also inspires the bitter hatred of Grit newspaper attacks on him.

Ordinarily, such attacks might well pass unnoticed, but the article published in the Telegraph of yesterday, and which originally found space in the Toronto Globe, not only goes beyond the bounds of even partisan criticism but almost reaches the point where the Canadian censor might well be asked to pass judgment on it and the papers publishing it.

"The Ultimate Hughes Crime," as the production given space in the Telegraph is entitled, is the most cowardly and fanatical production ever published in a Canadian newspaper and none but the most miserable sort of journalistic coward would permit it to disgrace the columns of any newspaper with which he was connected. The Standard sincerely hopes that the editor of the Telegraph was not personally responsible for its production.

Ignorance on the part of a subordinate might afford some ground for apology, but if the article was reproduced deliberately and with a full knowledge of its character then it is high time to question the services of the officials at Ottawa who are supposed to exercise supervision over newspapers and to see to it that seditious articles, or those tending to discourage recruiting, are kept out of the columns of Canadian newspapers.

It is only necessary to reprint the first three paragraphs of the article in question in order to illustrate its seditious character. They are as follows:

"It would be a crime, the ghastliest and most murderous crime of the war, no matter what the excuse or what the cause, were General Sir Sam Hughes given a real command of living soldiers in a genuine engagement anywhere on the war's battlefield.

"And if Sir Robert Borden is a party to any such scheme, or if he fails to block it if it is being promoted in England, and if, as a result, an army of Canadians under command of General Hughes is sent to face German forces at any time, the indignation of all Canada, and of all classes and parties of Canadians, will not be restrained by any political formalities or side-tracked by any explanations whatsoever.

"The thing—even the thought of such a thing—suggested in yesterday's despatches from Ottawa, is so monstrous that the man in the street would scout offhand the suggestion were it not for the fact that, judging from the experiences of the past two years, the thing might be true. And if true—then God have mercy on the officers and men doomed to service in that command."

Perusal of the entire article shows that the sole foundation for the outburst of fury is based on two charges: 1st—"The Allison dishonor," and 2nd—"The Camp Borden horror."

The first was duly probed by a commission, the intelligence or bona-fides of which the Telegraph or Toronto Globe will not dare to question, and the finding of that commission was a complete exoneration of the Canadian Minister of Militia and of the officials of his department. It was found that Allison, a promoter, had made a commission out of war contracts he succeeded in placing with American firms. This, he denied to his friend, the Minister of Militia. For that denial he was scolded but as to his profit, itself the commission found that it was an ordinary and regular business practice. There was, however, no case against Sir Sam Hughes, not the slightest evidence of wrong doing on his part.

As for the Camp Borden "horror," let an exchange tell the story as follows:

"The camp was originally selected by Sir Frederick Borden, a Liberal Minister of Militia, but it was not given effect because the need did not then seem to exist for a great military camp. It is a camp concerning which the one complaint is that it has a foundation of sand. Salisbury Camp, in England, where the Canadians of

the earlier contingents trained, was for weeks and months in part under water. Many lives were lost because of the excessive wet, and the troops were unable to obtain that degree of training that would have made for their highest efficiency. That they did so well against the German veterans was all the more to their credit. Sir Sam Hughes, impressed with the great drawbacks of Salisbury, accepted Borden as a camp where the health of the Canadians would be insured by perfect drainage, where no matter how wet the weather, the men would be secure against the disasters of Salisbury, and where their training for a duty upon which their very lives may depend, would not be impeded."

And because of these things the Telegraph and Globe cry out against the possibility of Sir Sam Hughes obtaining a command in Europe—for it must be assumed that the Telegraph, having republished the article from the Globe endorses it and therefore is willing to share responsibility for it. Consequently when the Globe blasphemously calls to God to "have mercy on the officers and men doomed to service in that command" it is but fair to say that the Telegraph echoes the wish.

To intimate that Sir Sam or any other officer would be given a command for which he was not fitted is not only an attack upon the Canadian Minister of Militia but upon the British war office and the officer who is so well directing the British operations. General Haig would not permit Sir Sam Hughes to lead in battle a Canadian division, or even a Canadian battalion, if he were not equal to the task, and if his appointment should receive the official sanction then the attack upon him strikes more deeply than probably the Globe or Telegraph intended. Possibly, however, the editors of those newspapers thought that the Canadian government could appoint Sir Sam Hughes to a command in Flanders and that their criticism would go no higher than Ottawa. If so their ignorance can only be compared to their gully and flagrant disloyalty.

In this time it is supposed to be the duty of Canadian newspapers to assist in every way in the securing of recruits for the Canadian armies. The Telegraph proceeds to do this by pointing out to possible soldiers that it may be their fortune to serve at the front under a commander to offset whose ignorance it is deemed necessary to call down the mercy of the Almighty, and whose possible appointment that newspaper regards as "the ghastliest and most murderous crime of the war."

The Standard submits that the case is plainly one for the authorities. Such unbridled and untrue attacks upon a Canadian public man and responsible official, who more than any other, has to do with Canada's participation in this war should not be permitted to go unchecked, but the newspaper making them should be compelled to prove its case or else stand forever condemned before the Canadian people.

The addition of the powerful state of Roumania to the ranks of the Entente Allies closes what was practically the last remaining gap in the ring of steel surrounding the Teutonic countries, and will probably hasten the end of the war by some months. This is the important fact in the new development of the war situation for if Roumania's resistance was ever required to ensure an Allied victory, that time has passed. The Allies could have won without her; with her the task is simplified and shortened.

And the number of fresh, well equipped fighting men the new ally can put in the field is not the most important advantage to be gained from her friendly participation. Her strategic position is likely to prove of even more value than her army. It is to be presumed that her transportation facilities will be placed at the disposal of the Russians as soon as her own armies have been mobilized. This in itself is a distinct gain. Hitherto the Russians, in their advances in the east have been forced to avoid trespassing on Roumanian soil, the latter state being neutral. Now, however, entry and assistance will be given them, and it is to be expected that the forces

of the Muscovites can bring to bear in the advance against Austria will be very considerably augmented as a result of such aid.

It is improbable that the Roumanian armies will make spectacular advances in Transylvania or Austria in the immediate future, for it has been expected for some weeks that the authorities at Bucharest would decide as they have done, and, consequently, the Austrian frontiers have been strongly guarded against the possibility of surprise.

One effect of Roumanian participation, however, will be a more vigorous campaign against Bulgaria and Turkey, and on their own territory. Roumanian commands the northern Bulgarian frontier, and as her army is several times greater than that of her southern enemy it is in that area the first direct results are to be looked for. One Parisian observer is quoted as declaring that the addition of Roumania to the Entente forces will mean the crushing of Turkey in six months' time and the bringing to bear on Austria of an extra weight of pressure that is certain to hasten her defeat as well.

Roumanian aid in land operations against the Bulgars and Turks may also result in a renewed attempt to force the Dardanelles, and by that means to liberate the great Russian wheat crop. That possibility has already received attention on the wheat markets as evidence of the drop in wheat prices which followed the announcement of Bucharest's intention, with Bucharest definitely committed to the Allied cause and the certainty of a more aggressive Italian campaign as the result of Italy's declaration of war against Germany, attention now turns to the attitude of Greece. Greek and Bulgarian forces have already clashed, and although the government at Athens may be disposed to continue a friendly attitude toward the Teutons, she can not much longer continue neutral with her last Balkan neighbor at war.

The Roumanian army is estimated at 420,000 men of all ranks. It was organized on the Austrian system and largely trained on Austrian methods. It is reported to be particularly well equipped in the artillery arm of the service. In financial resources also Roumania is well provided. She alone of the Balkan states has managed to avoid war during the past five or ten years and has accordingly waxed prosperous. She should be well able to finance her share of the campaign.

Altogether the declaration of Roumania is a decidedly welcome stroke, for her assistance can be of great importance in what may prove the decisive arena of conflict—the eastern and Balkan zones. This war was practically started in the Balkans. It may be ended there.

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