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R. W. McCREADY, President and Manager.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N.B., AUGUST 30, 1916.

THE WAR.

Berlin announces that Italy has declared war upon Germany. The news is welcome, although such a course has been taken for granted since Italian troops joined the Allied offensive in the Balkans. The formal declaration adds little to the military situation, but politically and sentimentally it is of value as committing Italy unreservedly to the plans of the Allies in the large, and indicating an agreement as to the part each of the Allies is to play in the Balkans now and when the day of settlement comes. In some measure, too, the completion of the Allied circle against Germany is one more piece of evidence that must be considered in Bucharest and in Athens. To Greece and Roumania the danger of hanging fire until their wares have no market must be increasingly plain.

Germany long hoped to keep Italy out of the war. Even when it was seen that Italy and Austria were bound to engage, the Kaiser's shrewd agent, Von Bülow, contrived to make a special agreement whereby Germany and Italy promised to respect the lives and property of each other's subjects. The Italians living in German territory at that time were said to number 40,000, and Germans had property and interests of immense value in Italy. To Britain, France, and Russia, this Von Bülow agreement was unwelcome, suggesting as it did a divided interest. When Italy agreed to make no separate peace, and then began to undertake a heavier share of the actual fighting, it became evident that the truce with Germany must soon give way to war. The declaration against Germany is a natural if belated development. It is another reminder of the sort of future Germany faces with respect to that much coveted "place in the sun." In the Balkans, in the Mediterranean, in Africa, in Asia Minor, the Allies will exclude Germany and arrest German influence.

The week ended with considerable fighting on all fronts, much or all of it showing Allied gains. It was preparatory rather than decisive fighting. In every case the Allies gained ground which will be used in preparing and launching the greater movements to come. The Allied offensive in the Balkans is beginning to gain momentum. In some quarters the suggestion again appears that Bulgaria will not fight to a decision, but will seek to sell a part of its territorial gains to the Allies in exchange for peace. That is possible, but it is to be expected that a trial of military strength will come first, and if the Bulgars are beaten in the testing process their chance for a bargain—if it really exists—will vanish. Bulgaria's policy and its methods in war have raised up enemies who prefer the sword to the council table. With Bulgaria eliminated, Turkey cut off, and Austria visibly staggering, the whole face of the war would be changed. Some weeks of heavy fighting must come before the pace and effect of the Allied autumn offensive can be measured. Any day may bring unexpected developments on any front. The Balkans seem likely to furnish the first of a fresh chain of sensations. Rumania is now holding one more national council. There have been many before, but the need for a decision was never so great as now—and the time for profitable choosing is short.

WAITING.

It is about time to hear something definite in regard to the government's new road policy. It has promised to put the roads in good repair, but has done nothing except to send its engineers on a flying trip over the province and to get and reject tenders for macadamizing St. John's Marsh road. If anything much is to be done now is the time, as the road making season will soon be over for this year. What does the new Minister of Public Works say about it?—Chatham, Wood.

Mr. Thomas Sharkey, the sailor pugilist, was engaged once upon a time to attend a prize fight in Madison Square Garden as one of the representatives of a great newspaper and record his impressions of the slaughter for its readers. It was no secret that while Mr. Sharkey's eye was good and his judgment of scientific fistuics excellent, he was incapable of turning his thoughts into newspaper English. Half way through the bout a wag noticed that Mr. Sharkey's pencil was in repose and the paper still blank before him, and he asked why the pugilist-reporter had not set to work, and again. This rate bear de-



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MORE TROUBLE IN TORRY RANKS IN FREDERICTON

Fresh Division As Result of Note Which Secretary for Agriculture Gave to P. A. Guthrie for Stock in Dredging and Construction Company—Rev. Mr. Daggett's Defence is Interesting

Woodstock, Aug. 25.—The spoils of office and the spoils of contractors are polluting the Tory party. There is a fresh division in the ranks at Fredericton. Rev. John B. Daggett, who is secretary for agriculture, and was recently in the forefront of an affidavit of Harry M. Blair in connection with carrying \$500 to one T. V. Monahan to pay on an election note, is now refusing to pay a good sized note which he gave to Percy A. Guthrie for stock in the St. John River Dredging and Construction Company.

It would seem by Dr. Daggett's statement of defence which has been filed and is now a public record, that he accuses Percy A. Guthrie of misrepresenting many things, and he also says that among some others H. P. McLeod, M. P., and Harry M. Blair got their stock for nothing. The "agile young Tories" gathered into this company in Fredericton as if to a feast as soon as the dominion government changed. There were local members, members of the senate, officials of the departments, and prominent Tory henchmen, all in the ring, and the smart ones got the money; the others got left.

Rev. Mr. Daggett is refusing to pay, and by so doing will bring all his friends into court and make more noise even though his other transaction in which he and his minister, Mr. Murray, and Harry Blair and T. V. Monahan, and the Guthrie family, were engaged in the election note figured.