

The Evening Times and Star

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IT IS A GREAT TASK

Writing on Sept. 30, after the British Victory at Loos, the London Times military correspondent said: "While the result is highly satisfactory, the sacrifice of life is as tragical as ever."

Almost two weeks have passed since the above was written. Since then the British casualties have amounted to more than 21,000. Is any further evidence needed to prove that more and more men must be sent to the front?

"Besides the rearward trenches, protected by barbed-wire and studded with sunken block-houses of the first main line of German defence, which we are now attacking, there is behind it another well-prepared zone of defensive works, which stretch right across Belgium, and into which the Germans mean to retire if their first line is forced, and if they can hold back the pursuit long enough to effect the retreat in good order."

In the two weeks since the British and French gained their notable success in forcing the Germans back for a considerable distance, they have had to ward off a constant succession of counter-attacks and to consolidate their positions, making slight gains here and there; and it has resulted in more than 21,000 casualties. Let us get the significance of this firmly fixed in our minds. It will help us to realize the magnitude of the task that confronts Sir John French, and the urgency of the need for more and more men and munitions.

There seems little doubt that the Germans have pushed troops from the east to strengthen their armies in the west for a time, and this may explain to some extent the fact that the pressure against the Russians has been somewhat relaxed; but whether we turn our eyes east or west or south we find the Germans everywhere fighting with amazing energy and with still the best of the struggle. The tide will turn only when the Allies have an overpowering weight of men and munitions. There is no evidence that the German supply of munitions is falling off and their armies have not yet been reduced to a state of inferiority in numbers. The Allies must put every available man in the field or the war will be indefinitely prolonged.

THE BALKAN PROBLEM That the late King Edward foresaw grave international difficulties as a result of German and Austrian disregard of treaties is shown in the Memorios of Lord Redcliffe, shortly to be published. An advance review of the book, after finding that King Edward and the Emperor of Austria were on very friendly terms, says: "But the betrayal of 1908 (says Lord Redcliffe), when Baron Aehrenthal annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, making the Treaty of Berlin into a scrap of paper, and borrowing a phrase from Kant, justified his action as a categorical imperative, was a violent shock to King Edward. It was on Oct. 8 that the King received the news at Balmoral, and no one who was there can forget how terribly he was upset. Never did I see him so moved. He had paid the Emperor of Austria a visit at Teich less than two months before. The meeting had been friendly and affectionate, ending with a hearty and balding Wiederschen. Baron Aehrenthal had been with the Emperor; Sir Charles Hardinge with King Edward. The two sovereigns and the two statesmen had discussed the Eastern question—especially the Balkan difficulties—with the utmost apparent intimacy, and the King left Teich in the full assurance that there was no cloud on the horizon. Now, without a word of warning all was changed. The King was indignant, for nobody knew better than he did the danger of tampering with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, and he saw that to make any change in the Turkish provinces was to light a fuse which, sooner or later, was bound to fire a powder magazine. Personally, the King felt that he had been treacherously deceived. His forecast of the danger, which he communicated at the time to me, showed him to be possessed of the prevision which marks the statesman. Every word that he uttered that day has come true."

The Balkan question is far more disturbing now than in King Edward's time. In parliament the other day the Marquis of Crewe said: "It was a sad and familiar fact that the relations between some of the Balkan States had been completely poisoned by the events of 1913. Several of these

States entertained a profound distrust of each other's motives, and ascribed to the actions of the other States a meaning which might not be warranted, but which prevented anything like an increase of amity between them."

Bulgaria, Roumania, Serbia and Greece might have got together, but mutual suspicions, jealousies and ambitious pretensions, prevented. Their failure to agree caused Sir Edward Grey to issue a very strong statement concerning the attitude of Great Britain and her Allies, and now a strong Anglo-French force has been landed at Saloniki. If Bulgaria is to aid Germany, and Greece and Roumania are to remain neutral, they must in the end accept whatever re-arrangement of the Balkan states may be deemed desirable by the Allies. It would have been much better to have arrived at an amicable understanding themselves in such a way as would have given all of them an opportunity to square accounts with Austria and their ancient enemy, the Turk. However, there is still a possibility that a more satisfactory alignment of these states may result from present negotiations.

Today's cables say that Bulgaria has invaded Serbia and that Roumania will eventually join the Allies.

THE DOTH PROTEST TOO MUCH Has President Wilson assumed the mantle of William Jennings Bryan? In an address to the Daughters of the American Revolution yesterday he declared the United States should keep out of the European war, not to avoid trouble, but to preserve the foundations upon which peace must be built.

"We should keep out of the quarrel," he declared. "America has promised the world to pursue a course guided on justice. We are not trying to keep out of the trouble. We are trying to maintain the foundations on which peace must be built. America must preserve the cause of humanity."

President Wilson is quite mistaken if he assumes that a nation which did not sufficiently regard its own honor to protest against the violation of the integrity of Belgium can "preserve the peace of humanity, or is in a position to maintain the foundations of peace. The only foundation upon which peace can be built is the ruins of Prussian militarism. If the United States desired to "pursue a course guided on justice" she would ere this have called Germany to account for the crime of the Lusitania and the Turk for the massacre of the Armenians. High sounding phrases kill no Germans, and that is the particular business today of those who wish to preserve the foundations upon which peace must be built."

Ex-President Eliot of Harvard, in an article in the October number of the University Magazine says that the sympathy of the American people with Great Britain is "both hearty and impressive." Colonel Roosevelt, better than President Wilson, expresses the feelings of the American people. He realizes that the road to abiding peace lies over the graves of the Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs.

Are you thinking daily of the lads in the trenches? The concrete on Main street is coming up. The city treasury is going down. The municipal elections in St. John county promise to be lively. There are vigorous contests in every parish.

Two platoons left St. John last week to see the ball games in Boston. Wanted one platoon for the game in Flanders. The streets of St. John will soon be made lively again by the march of men in khaki. Perhaps that will help recruiting.

With the ranks of the 88th to be filled and a siege battery to be formed there is every reason why young men should do some hard thinking. The great recruiting meeting in the Imperial Theatre on Sunday evening did not lack enthusiasm. It only lacked recruits. The National Anthem was sung with great fervor. So were the hymns. There was much applause when Rev. Capt. Harrison declared that the young who was fit and free to go but did not go was a traitor to himself and to his country. Having thus saved the Empire the great audience went home, and the doctor and recruiting officer in the wings sat and waited for results. Finally they also went home. And the men of the 20th were in the trenches and the British casualties in the last ten days were over 81,000. The gray heads will have to don the khaki.

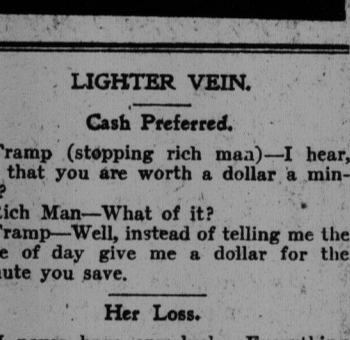
In the vaults of a Baltimore trust company more than a score of violins have been packed away by Frank Della Torre, a prominent society man. In twenty years Torre thinks the instruments will be worth \$4,000 or \$5,000 each.

Isadore Willansky of Springfield was fined \$2 for keeping an unlicensed dog, and soon after he earned the amount in the court room by acting as a Polish interpreter for the court.

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IT'S A HEALTHY HABIT AT ALL GROCERS WAR ORDERS AS FACTOR IN AMERICAN PROSPERITY Present prosperity is based largely on the necessities of the Allies for food, clothing, the paraphernalia of war, and the means of winning battles.

CHARLES B. RAND, THE FAMOUS OPTICAL expert, will be at his St. John office, Room 20, Robinson Block, Market Square, for one week, beginning Monday, October 11, and ending Saturday, October 16—special hours, 9 a.m. until 8 p.m.—where he will examine eyes by the RAND SPECIAL SYSTEM of fitting glasses, without the use of lines and charts hung on the wall and without asking questions. Examination free for this visit. Glasses fitted at very reasonable rates.

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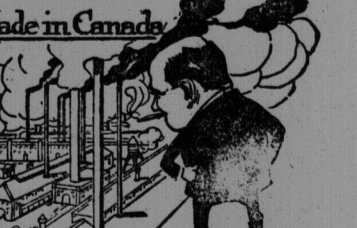
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