

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 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.

THE WAR SITUATION

The despatches from the war zone during the past forty-eight hours carry but little indication of important developments in the campaign. In the West the French claim successes from the Vosges region, where it is admitted there has been sharp fighting on German territory. In the East, the battle of the Carpathians has been temporarily suspended on account of the spring weather converting the mountain passes and roads into veritable morasses and making it impossible to move heavy bodies of troops. There is a liveness of interest in the operations in the Dardanelles where it is reported a new offensive on the part of the Allies is about to be launched, but a great incentive to speed in that campaign is said to be removed by the opening of the harbor of Archangel which will give to Russia an opportunity of getting her vast stores of grain to market and at the same time permit of the importation of necessary war supplies.

From German sources the word comes that a great sea and air attack is to be launched against Great Britain, but the information has so far caused little concern. Aerial raids on Britain in the past have proved serious to non-combatants and property owners, but compared with the amount of preparation involved have been practically fruitless. As for a combined sea and air attack it must be remembered that the British fleet is still in the North Sea and is well protected against submarines. Also that necessary precautions have certainly been taken against the possibility of the enemy's underwater boats inflicting much damage except where they can manage to catch merchant vessels isolated and away from the protection of the fleet.

It is said to be the intention of the German High Admiral to include in his attacking force the dreadnoughts and battle cruisers of his navy as well as the submarines. If this be so the prospect will be eagerly awaited by the British armada for it will afford the first real opportunity of testing the strength of the opposing fleets and from such a test there can be but one result.

Politically the situation has not changed. Italy is said to be drawing nearer to participation in the conflict, and the torpedoing of a Greek merchant steamer has increased the feeling of resentment against Germany on the part of the Greek people. While the Premier of Greece and his government favor neutrality, it is apparent that the popular feeling in favor of war is growing. Nothing has occurred during the past few days to cause political and military observers of the trend of events to change their oft expressed opinion that both Italy and Greece will be found on the side of the Allies before the summer campaign opens.

TRUTH COMING TO ITS OWN.

Gradually the Canadian public is coming to realize that the Government of Sir Robert Borden is worthy of high commendation in the manner in which it handled the army supplies contracts. Some weeks ago the Grit opposition in the House and in the country attempted to raise an outcry to the effect that the soldiers had been served with "rotten boots," mounted on "unsound horses," given binoculars for which too much money had been paid, and, generally, that the whole business of supplying Canada's army had been conducted with an eye to profits for middlemen and grafters rather than efficiency and value for the money spent.

For a time this Liberal campaign of slander and misrepresentation was carried on through the country with little opposition, but then the committees and boards appointed to investigate the statements got down to work and secured first hand evidence of transactions which had been questioned. The result has been that the production of evidence in the cases has completely discredited the reckless allegations of the Liberal press and brought into the white light of publicity the outstanding and irrefutable facts that not one member of the Government countenanced any suspicious transaction or profited to the extent of one cent from the business in war supplies, that the boots supplied to the soldiers were good boots and the manner in which the contracts were awarded and handled left no room for complaint, except in one case where it was shown that a firm of contractors had paid a rake-off or commission to the man who secured the contract for them. The man who received the money and the men who paid it were Grits and had done much work in the way of supplying boots to the Canadian militia under the former government.

In the case of binoculars the glasses over which there was complaint were purchased from a Liberal firm in the city of Toronto and the Militia Department was represented in the purchase by a Liberal official and the brother of a Liberal member of the Ontario Legislature.

In the case of surgical supplies it was shown that a young man in the employ of Mr. Garland of Ottawa, had made a large profit and that the department had paid more money on that item than it should have paid. The matter was referred to the Department of Justice and restitution of the money paid in excess of the fair price was secured with interest added. In the case of horses it was shown that some dishonest Nova Scotians had taken advantage of the inexperience or credulity of A. DeWitt Foster, and had sold to the Government's agents some animals unfitted for the purpose for which they were to be used. At least two of these men boasted that they had managed to get ahead of the Government, and no less a purist than Mr. F. B. Carvell rewarded them by saying to one, "Selfridge, I am proud of you," and by promising to defend the other should the Government take action against him.

Speaking particularly of the matter of shoes, the London Free Press sums it up well when it says:

It is a subject upon which Canadians may well be congratulated that there does not remain a single allegation of graft or collusion in connection with these shoe contracts. Some of the manufacturers did not more than make expenses upon their supply of goods to the Government. The Liberal case has been reduced to the claim that the army shoes were too light for the purpose. But these shoes were well designed for marching. They were a shoe that had been produced by a committee under the Liberal Government in 1905, and were an advance upon the shoes furnished the Canadians who fought in South Africa. The Government acted upon this shoe. They accepted it as representing the best that the judgment and skill of the military men and experts that the Liberal government, at a time when there was no haste, had been able to produce. The Liberals may have turned their back upon the shoe today, but Gen. Hughes declares it is so good that the Canadians have discarded the British shoe for it.

Moreover, it should be remembered that the officers in the department of militia charged with responsibility for the army shoes are themselves Liberals, who received their appointment under the Liberal government, and who have not been displaced. Sir Robert Borden pointedly asked in the House if the Liberals are without confidence in these men, and was met with silence.

In the whole matter the Government and every member of it has stood the acid test well. The people of Canada today realize that, despite the honeyed disclaimers of such men as Mr. Pugsley, the sole idea of the Liberals was to make political capital out of expected scandalous disclosures. That purpose has not been achieved.

So far the threatened German air raids on Britain have not come up to advance notices. Sort of "hot air" raids.

It is reported that German officers directing the campaign in the West have decided to maintain defensive warfare only. It was Napoleon who said that an army which stuck to its trenches was a doomed army, but the Germans will not even be able to stick to their trenches very long.

General Huerta, once president of Mexico, declares he did not kill Madero but that he knows who did. Those who remember the gentle methods of Huerta will be inclined to believe

that as he was the gentleman who stood to profit most from the death of his victim whatever killing was done was at his order.

Cultivating Vacant Lots.

To the Editor of The Standard:
Sir,—I have read with interest the letter by R. E. Armstrong appearing in your columns this morning and regard the proposal to cultivate and beautify the vacant lots in and about the city as most opportune. There must be many dwellers in this city to whom the opportunity of cultivating a strip of garden in their spare time would be not only health-giving but enjoyable, and if steps could be taken promptly to place any suitable land which may be available at the disposal of persons prepared to cultivate it much good may be done. As an incentive to cultivators may I suggest the idea of offering prizes for the best cultivated lot, and perhaps an informal exhibit might be arranged in the fall to show what can be done under such conditions. I assume that only a nominal charge, if any, would be made for the lots, which in certain cases might be split up into small plots to suit the demand, so that if one is not prepared to cultivate a whole lot, many might be glad of a smaller area. Could not a lot near a school be set apart for the use of the pupils? And, as will surely be pointed out, there are not a few lots where only rock gardening could be attempted. Might not such lots be placed at the disposal of the Playgrounds Association for the children who have so few playgrounds save the streets.

Yours very truly,
GILBERT J. HUNT.

EARL GREY REPLIES TO PROTEST

London, April 19.—The British Foreign Office tonight issued the correspondence which passed between the intermediaries, James W. Gerard and Walter S. Page, the American ambassadors at Berlin and London respectively, in which the German government protested against the seizure by Great Britain of the German ship *Paklat*, which was captured while carrying women and children from Tsing-Tau, the port of the German concessions in the Chinese province of Shantung to Tien-Tsin.

The German Foreign Office maintained that the seizure of the *Paklat* violated the section of The Hague Convention regarding ships bound on a humanitarian mission exempt from seizure. The British Foreign Office replied that the *Paklat*, in its view, was engaged in the conveyance of women and children from a fortress about to be besieged, and that the vessel could not be regarded as bound upon a philanthropic mission within the meaning of the article; but that this view was still to be determined by a prize court, after due deliberation.

Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, sends his reply to Ambassador Page by calling attention to the case of the French refugee ship *Amiral Ganteaume*, which he claims was torpedoed in the English Channel without regard for law or the dictates of humanity.

The British Foreign Secretary stated that in view of this it would appear to be the contention of the German government that Germany was entitled to sink, without notice, a French merchant ship carrying refugees, while at the same time protesting against the validity of capture of a German ship, engaged on a similar errand, which was being investigated and decided by a prize court. Sir Edward Grey concluded his correspondence as follows:

"I am content to leave this contention without further comment."

For Red Cross Work
Miss Hazel Winter, supervisor of the Women's Institutes in New Brunswick, has received a donation of \$10 from the branch of Women's Institute at Elgin, N. B. for the Red Cross fund.

Was Troubled With Eczema.

Would Nearly Yell With Pain.
BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS CURED HIM.

Mr. R. J. Swales, Harrison, Ont., writes: "I have been a great sufferer with eczema. I tried all kinds of salves, but they did me no good. Sometimes I would nearly yell with the pain, and would pass little white worms. I was told to get at the blood, so I used four bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters, and it was made a complete cure."

All skin diseases such as eczema or salt rheum, itching or burning rashes, boils, pimples, eruptions, ulcers, etc., are all caused by the blood becoming impoverished, and while not usually attended with any fatal results, may sooner or later develop into some serious blood trouble, and the entire system become affected.

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Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Me and pop was setting awn the front steps today, me wondering wy nun of the felles was around and pop looking up at the sky and wundring weathir it was going to rane, and a man cam alawng and stopped in frunt of our house and startid to look in the parter window, beeing a skianle man with a green neck tye.

If you dont see wat you want, ask for it, sed pop.
Ixcuse me, I was merely looking at yure parter wall papir, sed the man. I trust it meets with your approvil, sed pop.

No, it dont, Im sorry to say, sed the man, I hope you wont mind my plane speeking in the mattir, but wall papir is rathir a hobby of mine and Im reely pained wenevvr I see eny thats not quite as astistick as it shoold be, I hope you dont mind my plane speeking in the mattir.

Not at awl, sed pop, I hope I am broad mindid enuff to be able to bare critisizm of my wifes taist in wall papir.

O, then you didnt pick it out yureself, sed the man.

I shoold say not, sed pop.

I thawt not, sed the man, as soon as I saw the wall papir and then looked at your fase, I thawt to myself, That man nevvr picked out that papir, I thawt.

Wat seems to be the mattir with it, sed pop.
Its simply in artistick, simply inartistick, sed the man, in uthir werds, its far different frum the papir you wood of choosed if you had had the picking of it.

I admit that my taist runs to wall papir rathir less ornate, sed pop.

Ixactly, sed the man, in uthir werds, you are a man with a troo sents of art, and I shooodnt be seprized if sum day you shoood go and ordin an intirely different pattern and have the parter papired with it so that this preztin inartistick papir will be hiddin forevvr, I shooodnt be surprized if thats ixactly wat you will do.

Well, to tell the truth, I shooodnt be seprized myself, sed pop.

Well now, I represent the firm of Jenkins and Jenkins, the most artistick deokorators in the city, sed the man.

Good nite, I think I heer the telephone ringng, sed pop. And he got up and went inside the house.

Thats gratitood for you, thats gratitood, sed the man. And he looked in the parter window agen and shook his hed and kepp awn wawking down the street.

PURE BLOOD MEANS HEALTH

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