

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1914.

RUSSIANS IN FRANCE.

Although not confirmed by either the British or Russian war offices, reports that 72,000 Russian troops were landed in Britain, on August 27, destined to join the reconstructed Belgian forces in Belgium and the north of France, have much to give them color. It will be remembered that tourists returning to New York by trans-Atlantic liners from England were quite certain that the troops had actually been transported through England, from a Scottish port, and were shipped from English ports to Belgium. Some passengers declared they had seen some of the troops and identified them as Russians while others told of steamer trains being held up to permit of the passage of troop trains filled with soldiers who, at least, wore Russian uniforms.

Whether the report is or is not true it suggests the formation of a great second army in Belgium to strike down through France behind the Germans with the purpose of cutting them off from their base of supplies. Such a plan, if adopted, would introduce an entirely new factor into the campaign against the German army of invasion. It has hitherto been imagined that all the Russian forces available were being used on the eastern borders of Germany and Austria, where they have been meeting with some marked successes. However, the Russian Empire is of such vast extent, and her armies and reserves so colossal, that it is quite within reason to believe that she has forces which, while they might not be easily available for fighting on the German-Austrian front, could be transported by the route mentioned into France and operated there with much effectiveness.

Great Britain holds the command of the sea and it would not be at all unlikely that a Russian force such as mentioned could be transported under convoy to a suitable landing place in Scotland, transferred to British railway trains and, eventually, landed in Belgium or France to fight side by side with the British and French armies. The possibility is accepted as reasonable by quite a number of Canadian and United States newspapers, and while all direct information regarding any such movement would naturally be suppressed in English and European news sources, it is not impossible that the story told by the returning tourists should have in it a very large proportion of truth. If it should be so, those Russians will be heard from before long, for the reports from the eastern part of the war zone illustrate plainly that they do not remain inactive when there is fighting to be done.

Since the foregoing was written, the despatches have brought additional information to prove that the tales brought by the tourists are not without foundation. A well-known American writer, who arrived at New York, yesterday, on one of the trans-Atlantic steamers, says the number of Russians passing through England is not 72,000 but 150,000, and that they were despatched at once to France and, in all likelihood, are marching to attack the German army in the rear. He is also authority for the statement that other thousands of the finest Russian troops are on the way.

This may afford the key to the continued retreats of the British and French troops which, according to reports, have proven exasperating to the British soldiers. Analysis of the despatches of the past week will call to mind that in every case where the allied forces met the Germans, the Kaiser's men were given better than they sent, until, for some unknown cause, the allies were ordered to retire to new positions.

The German army has made rapid progress toward Paris and it may be just possible that the army facing them was not altogether unwilling that they should proceed so far from their base of supply as to give opportunity for the very movement which, apparently, is being carried out. With the allied forces in front of them, and a huge Russian and Belgian army in their rear, the Germans are likely to find themselves in an extremely uncomfortable position within the next few days.

THE EXHIBITION

Those who attended the opening of the exhibition on Saturday evening must have been surprised at the extent of the big show and more than all of the condition of preparedness in which they found it. A criticism concerning St. John exhibitions which has been voiced with some reason in previous fairs was that too much was left to be done on the opening day of the exhibition. Saturday night saw some booths still awaiting their finish touches, but generally the big show was more than usually complete.

It is expected that in all departments the fair will be enjoyable and

instructive. The industrial buildings are complete with the wares of Canadian commerce and industry, the live stock departments are especially well filled, while the special attractions, and amusement features, are expected to be as good as in previous years. All that is required now to insure the success of the undertaking is favorable weather, and generous patronage on the part of the public.

WHERE THE FARMER CAN HELP.

Hon. J. A. Murray, Chief Commissioner for Agriculture in the New Brunswick Government, made an excellent suggestion to the agriculturists of the province, in the course of his address at the opening of the St. John Exhibition, on Saturday evening. Hon. Mr. Murray first referred to the action of the Government of which he is a member, in contributing to Great Britain 100,000 bushels of New Brunswick potatoes. This will be the gift of the Government, and the potatoes will be purchased and paid for out of the revenues of the province. The Government's action will be ratified by the Legislature when that body assembles for its next session. Acting Premier Clarke having received assurance to this effect from the members of the local house.

In the case of the Province of Prince Edward Island, where the Government offered gifts of cats, the report is that the people of the island are making contributions toward this offering. The Government of the Brunswick does not ask that the farmers of this province shall give of their product to make up the gift, but Mr. Murray suggests that, if they wish to do so, farmers may supplement the gift by as many additional bushels as they feel they can spare. The fact that the offer of the Government, and of every government in Canada, has been thankfully accepted by the agriculturists, proves that the suggestion will be most acceptable and, in this, itself, should be sufficient to stimulate our agriculturists, who have had generous yield from their acres during the present year, to share their prosperity with the Empire. There is no doubt that the suggestion made by the Commissioner for Agriculture will be speedily adopted, and the gift of New Brunswick's best potatoes will be increased much beyond the quantity originally decided upon.

THE TELEGRAPH IS UNFAIR

On Saturday morning, the Telegraph, in an article dealing with the preparation of the report of the Royal Commission into the Dugal charges, said: "Now that the evidence in the Dugal charges against James K. Fleming and some other members of the government is complete," etc.

In this statement the Telegraph displays the same spirit of unfairness which it exhibited throughout the whole enquiry. Whether there is evidence against Mr. Fleming is a matter for the Royal Commission to decide, but there certainly was no evidence against "some other members of the government." Nor did Mr. Dugal make charges against any other member of the government. In his charge in the crown lands matter he specified Mr. Fleming, and in the Valley Railway matter he charged Mr. Fleming and Mr. McLeod. Mr. McLeod had ceased to be a member of the Government of New Brunswick some time before the charges were laid.

It is true that Mr. Dugal, acting on the suggestion of those associated with him, did seek, in a mean, underhand sort of manner, to connect Hon. Dr. Landry with some of the matters forming the basis of his charges, but when faced by the man he attempted to traduce he was very glad to make humble retraction in unmistakable fashion. He openly exonerated every member of the government of that day with the exception of Mr. Fleming. Also the Telegraph is aware that such exoneration was made, partly voluntarily and partly under pressure. In its attempt to drag "some other members of the government" into the matter, the Telegraph is meaner than Mr. Dugal dared to be. If the statement of Saturday morning's issue of that paper was made in error the Telegraph should admit it. If not it must be put down as another of its characteristic misrepresentations.

No Answer Yet

No word has yet been received from England in reference to the report that Captain Ernest Rae Jones of this city was reported missing after an engagement between the British troops and the Germans. Simeon A. Jones, a brother of Captain Jones, received word from Montreal on Friday announcing that Captain Jones was among the missing. Mr. Jones immediately cabled to England for details, but so far has received no answer to his communication.

PATRIOTIC ADDRESSES AT THE EXHIBITION OPENING

Different Speakers Urge High Optimism and Trust in Prowess of British Arms — "Big Show" Reflects Credit on Directors and is Bound to be Success.

(Continued from page 1)

TODAY'S EXHIBITION PROGRAMME.

(Morning.)

8.00 a. m.—Gates open.
9.00 a. m.—Live stock, agricultural products, plants and flowers must be in place.
10.00 a. m.—Midway attractions will open.
Judging of live stock in the ring; heavy and light horses, beef and dairy cattle.
(Afternoon.)
2.45 p. m.—Band before grandstand.
3.15 p. m.—Trained ponies perform.
4.00 p. m.—Hay Wagon Comedy.
4.30 p. m.—Auto Polo.
(Evening.)
7.45 p. m.—Band before grandstand.
8.00 p. m.—Trained ponies perform.
8.20 p. m.—Hay Wagon Comedy.
8.40 p. m.—Auto polo.
9.00 p. m.—Fireworks display.

In opening the meeting Richard O'Brien, president of the Exhibition Association, expressed thanks for the large attendance, and hoped everybody would come often and help make the exhibition a success.

Mayor Frink.

Mayor Frink was then introduced. His Worship said he had been connected with the Exhibition Association for years, and knew that the preparations for an exhibition entailed a great deal of work on the directors, though all they got out of it was the satisfaction of knowing that their work accrued to the benefit of the country.

The efforts put forth by the association should be the earnest support of the public, and if the people of St. John and the province patronized the exhibition as they should it would be a success.

In view of the war the association might have called off the exhibition this year, but it had been decided to go ahead, and the appearance of the buildings even on the first night warranted the statement that the exhibition would be a success.

"St. John," said the Mayor, "is still conducting business on the usual lines and has not any serious effect from the war. There was a feeling abroad that in view of the Empire's trouble we should go to the time for that. Rather we should put on a bold front. Nothing could prevent St. John going ahead in a normal way. It was a better position than any city in America today; reverses might come, but if it citizens showed the spirit of the province as a whole could not be prosperous."

Speaking of the war His Worship said unfavorable news might come, but he was sure history would record nothing unworthy of the traditions of British arms. We all had great faith in the right, and right and justice would win. The valor of the British armies would not fail; all our rights and liberties were the result of the sacrifice of men who went to the field of battle in the past. New Brunswick had done its part in answering the call for men to defend the Empire and if another contingent was called the province would send more men to the front.

In conclusion His Worship again expressed the hope that the exhibition would receive a splendid measure of support from the public.

A number of patriotic selections were then rendered by the City Cornet Band, which were received with great enthusiasm by the audience, after which A. C. Smith sang the well known song of Blake and Van Trump, substituting the names of Kaiser William and Admiral Callaghan.

Hon. George Clarke.

President O'Brien then introduced Hon. George J. Clarke, the acting premier, saying that though he was well known he had never spoken in St. John before.

Mr. Clarke in opening, said it afforded him great pleasure to assist in opening the Exhibition, which he was notified would be one of the best in the history of the association.

In some respects the present exhibition is unique; not for half a century has it been possible to hold an exhibition while the Empire was engaged in a great war. Consequently it is with mixed emotions we meet to open this exhibition. We with the rest of the King's Dominion are under the shadow of the war cloud which presses so heavily on Europe. We have watched with emotion our young men flocking to the colors.

In the first shocks of battle victory may not always be ours, but we have reason to be proud that Britain has staked her all for the purpose of preserving her honor, protecting constitutional liberty, maintaining her good faith among the nations, going to war to fulfill a solemn obligation, not a worthless bit of paper. (Applause.)

"We regret to see our young men leaving us, but are glad at the way they flock to maintain their integrity. While it is necessary to oppose force with force, and send men to the battle field, let us remember that it is not necessary that we who remain at home should keep the wheels of industry in motion, and see to it that seed time is followed by harvest. If this war continues, as much will depend upon keeping up our industries, more particularly of agriculture, as upon the strength of armies and the might of battle-ships."

Directors' Enterprise.

"It is a matter of congratulation that the directors of the St. John Exhibition have with characteristic energy and enterprise, at great trouble and expense, have gone ahead and

machinery at the exhibition. An impression existed that the government was responsible for the roads, but the Highway Act put the responsibility up to the people. The province with a revenue only equal to that of a moderate sized city, and with many services to keep up was spending over \$300,000 a year on roads. A great improvement had recently been made in the roads, but the amount of money available would not bring the roads up to the standard wanted.

Business Good.

Speaking of the general business outlook, the acting premier said, that while business men were hampered at present, business opportunities were looking up, and business would not be stopped by the mandate of an Imperial freebooter.

St. John was advancing. Works were now going on here that a few years ago would have been considered impractical. Manufacturers and merchants were doing more business; more men were employed at steady work. It was impossible for St. John to stand still. The enlargement of the West, the development of winter port facilities, the completion of the Valley Railway (a portion of which would be in operation this fall), all these would contribute to the progress of St. John.

That the province was prosperous was shown by the exhibition, which was a demonstration of the year's work.

Our Responsibility.

Continuing Mr. Clarke said: In the times to come there will (Continued on page 6)

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PATRIOTIC ADDRESSES AT THE EXHIBITION OPENING

(Continued from page 4)
be days when the souls of the men and women of the Empire will be wracked by the conflict, and we may have bad news, but let me impress on you the necessity of maintaining that courage which our boys in the field will maintain in face of no matter what odds. We have a responsibility to face; ours is the duty to keep the fields in flower, and the wheels of industry turning, so that they who go to the front cannot fall, have an abiding faith that in this way England and the cause of Justice are right will prevail, and that the side which will show to the world the nations of the Empire of Great Britain bound together in firmer bonds. We hope the war will not be long and that our young men may soon return to us to assist in making the progress of the province, in realizing those opportunities which will be ours after the war.

Miss Amour then sang a couple of selections, making a good impression.

Hon. J. A. Murray.

Hon. J. A. Murray, the next speaker, after saying he was very glad to take part in the opening of the exhibition, congratulated the directors on the success of their labors. Many thought it would be inadvisable to hold an exhibition this year, but the majority of the directors had decided to go ahead in the face of discouraging conditions produced by the war, and the exhibition was now an accomplished fact. It was now for the people of St. John and the province to make it a success.

In the past criticism had been made that St. John had not given the exhibition the measure of support it was entitled to. St. John should rise to the present occasion and give the exhibition the support it required. Continuing, Mr. Murray paid a tribute to the men who had brought the exhibition into being, and went on to say the people of St. John were noted for their enterprise, pertinacity, purpose and sense of duty. Ever since the great fire they had been known as

Gigantic St.
Mr. Murray said that the province had made a great improvement in the dairy and poultry markets were being up for various kinds of goods. Not only were the markets better but with the department of the war, a part in the food of work which was so practical. But the department had an efficient staff of experts who were getting