

## The St. John Standard

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"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 GRIT "SHELL GAME"

Despite the violence of a section of the Liberal press and the strenuously abusive tactics employed by Mr. Pugsley and that other sweet flower of purity, Mr. F. B. Carvell, evidence continues to accumulate that the charges made by members of the opposition party in connection with the supply of shells and munitions of war will prove to be as big a "shell game" as the boot charges ventilated some months ago.

It may be recalled that shortly after the first Canadian contingent had been despatched to Britain, Liberals made a great noise over the footwear supplied to the men. It was alleged, first, that the boots were of inferior quality and, secondly, that contracts had been improperly awarded. As the supply of boots to the Canadian soldiers was a matter purely within the jurisdiction of the Canadian authorities, the Dominion Government at once granted the request for a full and free investigation. The Public Accounts Committee took the matter up, witnesses were called and samples of the footwear were submitted and examined. Later, a commission was specially appointed to hold a complete and thorough investigation into every charge and the result was a splendid vindication, not only for the Government but for the great Canadian boot and shoe industry. Since that time the newspapers which led in the campaign of scandal in the boot matter have given publicity to scores of letters from Canadian soldiers at the front bearing testimony to the superior qualities of the Canadian boot compared with those furnished by the British army officials.

Undeterred by their experience in the matter of boots or, probably, relying on their knowledge that an investigation cannot be held without the sanction of the Imperial government, Liberal members of parliament are now attempting another scandal campaign. This time it is in connection with the supply of shells to the British and other Allied forces. The charges are, first, that the shells were of inferior quality and sold at exorbitant prices and, secondly, that contracts for their manufacture were obtained as the result of pull rather than ability to do the work.

The charges were introduced by Mr. Pugsley and followed up by Mr. Carvell. These men, in the presentation of their case went beyond the limit of decency, but while their peculiar methods may be cited as evidence that they are not gentlemen, they do not detract from the seriousness of the charges, if true, and consequently need not be considered here.

The first and most serious charge has to do with the quality of the shells and the price at which they were purchased. Naturally, if contractors supplied an inferior article and thus defrauded the British Government, it might be expected that the British Government would refuse to purchase again from the same contractors. There is no record that shell orders have been lost to Canada on this account. Mr. Carvell, in his address, however, mentions one or two cases of alleged wrong-doing. Of one of these the Telegraph yesterday said:

"From the plethora of glibly charges Mr. Carvell directed special attention to one, which he characterized as the 'most obnoxious and disloyal' which had come to his attention. He charged that the Albion Machine Company had been organized in New Glasgow for the securing of shell contracts with Walter McNeil as president; Charles McNeil as vice-president and Alex. Fraser as secretary. Of the first contingent of shells this company manufactured, 1,500, Mr. Carvell stated, were condemned and rejected. These were marked and returned. A month after, the member proceeded, these self-same rejected shells with the marks obliterated were mixed with others and returned. Fortunately the obliteration in some cases was detected and led to discovery."

In this case the fraud was detected, but that fact while illustrating the vigilance of the inspectors charged with the duty of seeing that all shells sent forward were up to the standard does not relieve the contractors of the intention to defraud, and if Mr.

duct is so urgently required.

It cannot be said that Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Carvell made their charges in ignorance of the true conditions. The Bertram Shell Committee took the Liberal opposition privately into its confidence in regard to all contracts placed in the period under criticism. This is a known fact, and has already been given publicity in the columns of the Ottawa Free Press, and has not yet been contradicted by Mr. Pugsley or Mr. Carvell. Men sitting alongside of the charge-makers are in possession of documentary information which both Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Carvell could have obtained if they had asked for it. But it is not on record that they attempted at all to fortify themselves with facts before engaging in criticism. The reason is obvious. They preferred to create an atmosphere of scandal, and to send broadcast an impression that the Government desired to conceal some sinister details in connection with shell manufacture.

The attempt will not succeed. The vindication of the Government which followed the Grit outcry in the matter of soldiers boots will be repeated in the matter of shells. For the Liberal party the explosion of the shell charges will prove disastrous, but if Pugsley and Carvell are buried in the debris, Canada will be the gainer in the end.

The Times appears to be somewhat peevish because this newspaper compared Mr. Pugsley to Senator Philippe Auguste Choquette, who uttered traitorous remarks in the Red Chamber. The Times' grievance is well founded and we apologise to Senator Choquette.

It is sincerely to be hoped that wide publicity will be given to the speeches of William Pugsley and F. B. Carvell. If those gentlemen can be induced to continue in their present strain there will be no Liberal party in a year or two.

### THE DEFENCE OF EGYPT

Egypt has two frontiers, an eastern, which is much the more important, towards Turkey, and a western frontier facing towards Tripoli and the still independent tribes of the back country. On both sides there is desert, and the problem of Egyptian defence is the same on both east and west. Namely, the right treatment of the marches of the desert. It does not follow, however, that because the problem is the same its solution must be the same. Much depends on the resources of the enemy on either front. The danger to Egypt in the past has always come from the east, because only on that side has there been a strong organized State capable of making head against the civilization of Egypt. That is still the case now. Turkey is the modern Assyria, and our difficulty in Egypt as regards Turkey is the same as that of the old Pharaohs as regards the great military Empire of Assyria. On the west there is not now, any more than in the past, an organized State sufficiently powerful to invade Egypt to any purpose. The southern frontier of Egypt, from which danger and invasion have also come in her past history, are now negligible, except in so far as a German East Africa that is in a position to dominate our possessions in Uganda might be held to be a menace to the safety of the Upper Nile Valley. The appointment, however, of General Smith-Dorrien to command in East Africa shows that the danger to Egypt from the south side, in so far as it exists, has been provided against. There remain the problems of defence on the east and west. Ancient Egypt defended herself by securing the allegiance of the cities of Philistia, on the coast road to Syria, and of Judea, overlooking the Philistine plain from the hills on the east. That is still the only rational principle of defence on this Egyptian frontier. The desert is more easily crossed now than at any time in past history; railways have overcome the problem of transport and a pipeline can be laid to carry water. It is said that the Turkish attack on Egypt has been postponed for lack of railway material, but a system of defence which depended on the absence of railway material in Palestine is self-condemned. The strategic frontiers of Egypt are in Palestine, now as always.

These frontiers are not in our possession, and the actual line of defence is along the Suez Canal, which, though capable of being made impregnable, is none the less a very bad frontier for Egypt. The main value of Egypt to us is that it commands the shortest passage to the East. The Canal, in fact, is to India and our Eastern Empire what the Dardanelles are to Turkey and Constantinople, and a system of defence which carries our communications with India between the opposing battle-fronts is obviously bad. Supposing the Turks were able to keep up the attack on the Suez Canal line without actually carrying it, they would still have accomplished everything that the Germans could desire, because this would be sufficient to stop the Canal for the purposes of trade. We might continue to hold Egypt, but we should be virtually in the position of Turkey holding the Dardanelles straits against the operations of a Power commanding the sea. Egypt as things are—and the fact cannot be too often emphasised—is the weak spot in our system of Imperial defence by sea-power. Not until Palestine is in our possession can Egypt be regarded as safe. The chief consolation of the present situation is that one line of railway, which is the sole connection that Turkey has with Europe, cannot support more than

## Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE

I was up in the setting room thinking about getting ready to do my homework last night, and the fellow started to whistle for me outside, and I said, Can I go out, pop, the fellow is whistling. Have you done your homework, sed pop. I can do it in the morning, I sed. Well chance, sed pop, and I sed, Yes, sir, you call me when you get up and get rite up and do it. And the fellow kept on whistling, and after a while pop sed, Well, rather than be annoyed the rest of the nite by those yung hoodlums, I'll make a magnanimity out of necessity and let you go out, but remember, you've got to hop out of bed at halfpast 6 the instint I call you tomorrow morning.

Yes sir, I sed. And I went out and we got up a game of lay sheepy lay, and this morning sumbody startid to shake me and I wook up and heer it was pop, saying, Come on now, hop out, hop out. Sir, I sed. Sir your grandmothr, get up and do your lessins before brekfst, sed pop.

Wat lessins, I sed, starting to go to sleep agen. And pop pulled the covers off of me and startid to tickle my feet and I quick sat on the edge of the bed, saying, Wat time is it. None of your bizniss, get dressed and do your lessins as per contract, sed pop.

And he went out of the room to finish getting dressed himself, and I picked up one stocking and put it on, and then I picked up the uthir stocking and went to sleep holding it in my hand, and after a while sumbody elts startid to shake me, being pop agen.

Im getting dressed, I sed. O, go back to bed, sed pop, if you need the sleep as bad as all that, it will do you more good to get it and be kepp attir skool this afternoon for not having your homework.

Wich I did, and was.

one campaign. The "corridor" which Germany has won by the suppression of Serbia cannot at one and the same time support a blockade of Salonika from the land, a campaign against our troops in the Dardanelles, and a campaign against the British in Egypt. Mahdi were at Siva, which is just within the Egyptian frontier, and this place is said to have been recently occupied by him. Fortunately the Senussi Mahdi was an enemy of the Egyptian Soudan, and never had much following in Darfur.

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THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ENJOYED YEAR OF GREAT PROGRESS

At annual meeting last night reports were submitted and officers chosen

The annual meeting of the church and congregation was held last evening, Rev. Ralph J. Haughton presiding. Encouraging reports were received from the various departments, including the Sunday school, Woman's Missionary Society, Ladies' Aid Society, Girls' League and Men's League. The clerk reported the removal by death of four members. Three new members were received during the year. The financial statement showed the receipts from all sources amounted to nearly \$2,300.00, including \$180.00 for missions and benevolences.

The following officers were elected: Deacons—C. H. Flewelling, R. A. Johnston, J. A. Brooks, Josiah Fowler, Clerk—J. W. Flewelling. Treasurer—J. A. Brooks. Financial Secretary—R. A. Johnston.

Trustees—R. A. Johnston, S. S. Elliott, J. A. Brooks, O. H. Tracey, O. H. J. Flewelling, R. Brittain, W. Sargeant, W. Lenox, J. W. Flewelling. Music Committee—Miss M. E. B. Sinclair, Mrs. R. J. Haughton, Mrs. E. Macmillan, Mrs. Jas. Sterling, G. S. Elliott. Visiting committee—Mrs. R. J. Haughton, Mrs. G. S. Elliott, Mrs. J. A. Brooks, Mrs. Sterling, Mrs. C. E. Macmillan, Mrs. C. H. Flewelling, Mrs. Jas. Cunningham, Mrs. W. H. Sargeant, Mrs. Jas. Holmes.

The pastor spoke of the encouraging condition of the work as shown in the reports, and urged that all put forth their best efforts this year. The meeting was a most harmonious one, and the attendance was good.

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