

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1916.

"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 CALL FOR MEN

While recruits are coming forward at a fairly good rate, yet this province is not doing as well as she must if the portion of additional troops allotted to New Brunswick are to be secured in time to be of service. Canada's contribution to the forces of the Empire, up to January 1st, was about 325,000 men. This is to be increased to 500,000 and it is the general opinion that it will not be difficult to raise them. To bear her share of this additional number New Brunswick must put into khaki something like 10,000 men within the next eight months.

According to the estimate of one of the speakers at last evening's recruiting meeting this will mean about 1,200 men each month, or fifty for each day of the week, exclusive of Sunday. This number is hardly being secured.

The Citizens' Recruiting Committee has devoted much time and effort to the campaign to get young men into the King's uniform. Their work is not appreciated at its full value for it must be remembered that it is a different undertaking to get men now from what it was a year ago. Then, the war was wrapped with all its romance and glamor; now a good deal of that has worn off. Young men who today answer the call of Empire do so with the full knowledge that it entails much sacrifice and a deal of hard work.

Of course there has been no lowering of the Canadian spirit, but the belief that the contest against Germany was to be a short, fierce struggle followed by a triumphant march into Berlin has pretty well disappeared. Victory is as certain now as when the war commenced, but it is also well assured that it is not yet in sight and that before it comes there will be much hard work. The whole energy of the nation must be devoted to the task of whipping the Germans and liberating the world from the thrall of militarism which had its inception in Berlin. There is work for every young man to do and those who engage in it have first claim upon the gratitude and thanks of their countrymen.

THE NAVY'S WORK.

While the despatches from the zone of war supply sufficient information regarding the work of the Allied armies to furnish the people of the Empire with a fairly good idea of what the lads in khaki are doing and how they live, the world, because of lack of information may forget the great part which is being played in this struggle by the British navy and its influence upon the victory that is to come to the Allies.

A striking acknowledgement of the navy's work is to be found in German sources and in quarters where a year ago there was nothing but constant bragadocio regarding the part to be played by the German High Seas fleet. In Hamburg, where the facts are well known, Prof. Gerhard Schott says that the freedom of the sea is a question of time, and Britain has the night. "We, indeed, are feeling in our flesh England's world domination at sea. The ships of our mercantile marine, the second greatest in the world, are lying idle in our ports or those of neutral states; our colonies cannot be protected by us from the shores of our own country; our wireless stations are destroyed; our cables are cut; and we are cut off from all overseas traffic. And the enemy which has inflicted all this undeniable damage upon us is England. It must be noted that this damage is done to us, not in virtue of any military or naval successes during the war—it has been inflicted without England being compelled to attack us at all. She can keep her navy back in some port in safety, and merely support with her army the armies of the French or Serbians. Her mercantile marine is in a position to pursue its tasks almost as little disturbed as in peace time; the departures of the mail steamers are announced and take place as usual; and our submarine war can only disturb, but by no means stop, the overseas commerce."

Admissions of this nature show that, at least, Germany is not "seeing red" as she did a year ago. Daylight is commencing to penetrate. Even Herr

Baillon, head of the Hamburg-American Line, who a year ago was bursting with confidence, is now quoted in an American newspaper as saying: "This is a cruel and an idiotic war."

On land, during the past year, the success of the Allies has been negative. They have prevented Germany from doing the things she set herself to accomplish. But their great and enduring triumph has been on the sea and the British fleet will in the end be the prime factor in the enforcement of the conditions of peace.

A BELATED REPENTANCE.

One plank in the platform of the provincial opposition party which seems to have escaped its due share of attention from the Telegraph and Times is that pledging electoral reform. In this regard the party placed itself on record as follows:

"We will also consider amendments to the election law to make bribery in municipal as well as provincial elections impossible."

This pious expression comes with remarkable grace from a party which, during its entire term of power, notoriously violated the law already on the Statute books. That the revision and improvement of the present laws should even be suggested at a convention numbering in its membership some gentlemen who could be mentioned as prominent in its proceedings is most peculiar.

The present opposition party wants the people to forget that it ever was in power, but in this it builds its hopes too high. It is a matter of comparative recent history that this party, both in the House of Assembly and in the courts of the country, defied the Rothery election forgeries, so it may be that the present day profession of desire to improve the electoral laws is a somewhat belated expression of penitence.

It will not soon be forgotten that Hon. John E. Wilson, when in opposition, and without a seat in the House, virtually compelled the late administration to give to the province the advantage of the secret ballot. Though the government of that day was permitted to obtain a seat by acclamation on the distinct understanding that this measure of reform would be granted, it became a very difficult matter to induce the then leaders to keep even the letter of their promise.

Today, the party puts forward a measure of reform in the hope that the people will forget its miserable failures of the past. It will not do. The provincial opposition of 1916, to all intents and purposes, is the provincial government of the period prior to 1908, and if entrusted with the reins of power tomorrow would do no better than the pirates who fathered suspense accounts, the Central Railway steal and juggled financial statements.

"COURAGEOUS AND CLEAN."

The Telegraph appears to be greatly impressed with the character and courage of some of the gentlemen who took a leading part in the convention of the opposition party which closed on Tuesday. Here are some of those courageous and clean patriots who have consecrated themselves to the task of leading the opposition out of the slough of despond into the promised land of power:

Mr. E. S. Carter Mr. A. P. Bentley
Mr. F. B. Carvell Mr. L. P. Harris
Mr. E. J. Venter Mr. P. J. Hughes
Mr. A. B. Copp Mr. L. A. Dugal
Mr. W. E. Foster Mr. Wm. Orrile

Now, would not a provincial government led, say, by Mr. Carter, and including in its membership the other apostles of purity named, be a real treat?

But here are a few of the prominent and solid Liberals who, as far as known, did not honor the convention with their presence. At least they are not "mentioned in despatches":
Hon. Wm. Pugsley Col. H. H. McLean
Mr. Geo. McAvity Mr. F. J. Knowlton
Mr. T. H. Estabrooks Mr. John E. Moore

A GERMAN PROMISE

A United States newspaper calls attention to the fact that, whereas

the Germans, Van Papen and Dumbas of Germany and Austria were given safe conduct on the ocean, Robert N. McNeely, an American consul removing to a post of duty, did not receive similar consideration. McNeely, it will be remembered, was one of the passengers on the sunken steamer Persia, which was sent to the bottom in the Mediterranean by a German submarine. The United States newspaper referred to argues that he was travelling solely on the strength of the promise of the German government, through the German ambassador at Washington, that Germany would not, in future, torpedo harmless merchant vessels without first searching them and giving all opportunity for passengers to reach safety.

Acting upon the request of the Washington government, the British government agreed that the German and Austrian conspirators dismissed from the United States should be given safe conduct across the ocean. Until this pledge was given not one of the gentlemen referred to dared to set foot on shipboard. But once given the pledge was kept.

The German and Austrian governments pledged themselves to respect the rights of humanity in their treatment of unarmed and harmless merchant vessels. Almost before the ink was dry on the official undertaking they sent the Persia to the bottom. There was a promise broken and a convincing illustration of the difference that exists between the British and the Hun conception of honor.

The First Contingent

(Written by One of Them.)
You say that the first contingent
Are "bums" and "rotters" and
"snydes";
You say that we sullied your honor
And a whole lot else besides.
We are probably all you call us,
But you must admit we're men,
So I smile when I hear your bragging
For we fought at St. Julien.

We were a bit wild and roughish
Though a soldier isn't a lamb,
And we drank and squandered our money
And none of us cared a d—;
So you thought us black as painted
And you'll change your opinion when
You meet the souls of the Germans
That died at St. Julien.

When you've learnt the lust of battle,
When your bravest and best are gone,
When seventy per cent. are stricken
And the rest keep fighting on;
You come to mind the ravings
Of an editorial pen.
When you've tasted blood and slaughter
At a fight like St. Julien.

For though we of the first contingent
Are "bums" and "rotters" and
"snydes";
The dress of a nation's manhood
And a whole lot else besides;
Though we ruined your reputation
And blackened your name, and then,
We held the line for the Empire
At the fight at St. Julien.

Owed His Life to Kitchener

A prominent part in the attempts made by the enemy to influence Mohammedan sentiment against the Allies, according to information from German sources, has been played by Karl Neufeld, the well-known German Eastern trader and traveller, says the Central News.

The irony of it lies in the fact that Neufeld is indebted for his life to Lord Kitchener and the British troops who overthrew the Khalifa at Omdurman in September 1898. Neufeld was made a prisoner by the Mahdi while trading in the Sudan and for ten years was kept in captivity in the Mahdist capital, suffering all the tortures of the terrible Umm-Hagar in company with Slatin Pasha and Father Ohrwald.

Neufeld, in his book of reminiscences, "A Prisoner of the Khalifa," tells how on being thrown into prison, three sets of iron shackles were attached to his feet, and rings and chains fastened about his neck. He wore the rings and chains on his neck for nine months, after which they were removed, but the remaining fetters were carried by him practically throughout his captivity. He was flogged with the asafar, and on one occasion received 600 lashes.

From these horrors he was saved when the English gunboats came up the river and the roar of artillery and rifle fire told of the destruction of Abdullah's hordes.

Disguised as a Pilgrim.
During his imprisonment Neufeld gained a fluent knowledge of Arabic and great familiarity with Mohammedan ways and customs. The German government appear to have profited by these assets in dispatching him to the holy cities of Arabia as a propagandist. Like Burton, he is said to have penetrated in pilgrim guise to both Medina and Mecca.

At Medina he seems to have had a rather uncomfortable time. Suspicion fell upon him and he was conveyed to the Tomb of the Prophet and there made to take an oath that he was a Mussulman. A searching examination by Mohammedan doctors of law followed, from which he emerged safely, thanks to his ability to quote freely the Koran.

Among the pilgrims at Medina and Mecca he spread fantastic stories concerning the great number of Mussulmans in Germany, and about that country's great Caliph, who had gone

Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE

Pop went fishing with Mr. Lewis yesterday, bringing home with him his last fish and going rite to bed awn akout of being so tired, and this morning wile we was eating breakfast he sed to ma, Well, mothr, I gess there wasent anything the mattir with that catch I made yesterday, wat.

I suppose not, sed ma.
Wat do you mean by you suppose not, sed pop, grate greet, if I didnt have any more enthusiasm than youve got I'd rite a book awn how it feels to be an icicle, heer I go and hook a 10 pounder fine enuff to make old Ike Walton jellus, and you calmly sit there and suppose theres nothing the mattir with it.

Well, I dont suppose there is, its satisfactory, issent it, sed ma.
Satisfactory, satisfactory, yee gods and little angle worms, satisfactory, was evirr such a woman, if you eood of seen the file I had with that snny mongster, if you eood realise that skill and nollage of the piscatorial art it required to land that scaley giant of the deep, you wood run and tell the nayers wat a wonderfil husband youve got, sed pop.

Perhaps, perhaps, sed ma.
Jest hark at her, sed pop, her husband, by consummack skill and payphants, lands a fish worthy to be stuffed and put in the parlor for the edification of future generations, and she sits there like lehkabibble awn a monument and sees it was satisfactory.

Well, thats wat he asked me, sed ma.

Who, wat, sed pop.

The fish dealer, sed ma, he called up about an hour ago and wanted to no if the fish he sold you last nite was satisfactory.

In throo, sed pop, in throo, if you choose to take a ignorant fish dealers word in preferents to yure lawfill husbinder, I decline to finish my cawfee. And he got up and went out and slammed the front door, ma saying, Hee hee.

to war for the deliverance of the Prophet's faithful people from their Christian oppressors.
Neufeld is alleged to have returned eventually to Berlin "with a mass of useful information and a flask of miraculous water, which Arab admirers had sent to Field-Marshal von Hindenburg as a curative for his gout." The "miraculous water" is probably from the famous well Zem-Zem at Mecca, which is held locally to be of miraculous origin. Many virtues are claimed for it, though the cure of gout is a new one. It is nageous to the taste, resembling "a teaspoonful of Epsom salts in a large tumbler of tepid water." It seems doubtful, therefore, whether Marshal von Hindenburg will take kindly to the remedy.

Afflicted with Lame Back
THREE YEARS AGO
COULD NOT SWEEP THE FLOOR.

Women are coming to understand that weak, lame and aching backs from which they suffer so much circulating pain and agony are due to wrong action of the kidneys.

The kidneys are overtaxed—given more work than they can do, and when the back aches and pains it is hard for a woman to look after her household duties, for no woman can be strong and well when the kidneys are out of order.

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PATRIOTIC

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SOLDIERS' COMFORTS ASSN.

The monthly business meeting of the Soldiers' Comfort Association was held yesterday afternoon in Centenary church parlors, with Mrs. George McAvity presiding. The reports of the secretary and corresponding secretary were read and adopted.

The treasurer reported funds on hand \$1,843.04, this includes the grant of \$1,000 from the municipality of the city and county of St. John. Special donations during the month amounted to \$195.

Mrs. Walter Holly, convener of the wool committee, reported that during the month \$235.30 had been expended to purchase yarn, and that the total returns of knitted work were as follows: Socks 1578 pairs, 108 mufflers, 124 pairs wristlets and 176 pairs mittens.

The reports from the circles and districts were read and adopted, all showing the same desire to do their utmost to help the "man in the trenches."

The special appeal for socks has met with a general response, so far 2,341 pairs of socks and \$409.50 have been donated.

During the month letters have been received from the Canadian War Comforts Association secretary, Mrs. Eleanor McLaren Brown, commending the work of the Soldiers' Comfort Association and the excellent quality of the goods sent to them, also cables from Miss Plummer of the Field Comforts Depot, acknowledging the cases of individual packages consigned to her.

The Soldiers' Comfort Association is still receiving parcels addressed to the individual soldier, providing they are addressed and wrapped correctly, and do not exceed five pounds in weight.

An incident told at the meeting goes to prove that socks shipped through the Soldiers' Comfort Association reach the men in the trenches and also that the officers of the 26th Battalion look after the interest of their men. When Mrs. J. L. McAvity called for socks for the 26th Battalion in October, two pairs were sent with a letter in the toe addressed to Pte. Geo. Beards, D Company. These reached France after Pte. Beards had been invalided to England. They were re-addressed to the sender, and arrived in St. John with the mail on the Scandinavian. Other letters acknowledging the receipt of socks and comforts shipped through the Soldiers' Comfort Association were also received in the same mail.

Response to Appeal.
Mrs. E. A. Smith, Regent of the Royal Standard Chapter, I.O.D.E., at deeply appreciates the prompt and generous response to her appeal for socks for "B" Squadron, 6th C. M. P.