

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1918

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NO PEACE BY NEGOTIATION.

Germany set out to achieve peace—a German peace—through victory. Having failed, she now seeks to achieve peace—a German peace—by negotiation.

The Allies will have none of it. They will achieve peace through victory, and there will be no peace by negotiation. The collapse of Bulgaria and the smashing of the Hindenburg line explain the present German move for peace. There is also a suggestion that it is time to lessen American interest in and enthusiasm for the new Liberty Loan.

This peace offer has a dual purpose. It is designed to stir up the pacifists in the Allied countries, and so make trouble for their governments, perhaps gaining for Germany a breathing space in which to rally herself for a greater struggle. But it is also designed to influence the German people by persuading them when the terms are rejected that the Allies aim at their destruction, and therefore they must fight on, hoping that before the winter is over something may occur to disrupt the Allies or otherwise create more favorable conditions for Germany.

The Hun cannot be trusted. Even if a peace conference were considered by the Allies, there would have to be substantial guarantees on Germany's part, such as would make it impossible for her to break faith and mock at the "scrap of paper" she had signed.

Germany would not now be talking of peace if she did not know that she is facing defeat. The blasphemous Kaiser tells his hordes of baby-killers that he trusts in their strength and "in God's gracious help." He unblushingly asserts that the people at home regard with "pride and admiration" the deeds of the army and navy. He wants "an honorable peace."

Well, he will get it. And Kaiserism will also get a long rest. The Allies will see to that.

THE GERMAN TERMS.

Referring to the German peace programme, Chancellor Maximilian, in his speech in the Reichstag, said:

"It considers the solution of the Belgian question to lie in the complete rehabilitation of Belgium, particularly of its independence and territorial integrity. An effort shall also be made to reach an understanding on the question of indemnity. The programme will not permit the peace treaties hitherto concluded to be a hindrance to the conclusion of a general peace."

This appears to be all he said in reference to terms, but the Berlin Tageblatt says Alsace-Lorraine would be made an autonomous state, and to this France will never agree. It is something, however, to have the German Chancellor assent to the independence and territorial integrity of Belgium, even if he does not yet assent to her indemnity.

The real significance of the Chancellor's speech is that it foreshadows a larger measure of democratic control in Germany itself. The Junkers have been temporarily thrown into the discard.

THE NEW HEALTH ACT.

The simple announcement last week from Fredericton that the new health act had been proclaimed was really the most significant that has been made in this province in relation to its internal affairs for a very long period.

The greatest asset of New Brunswick is not its forests or farms, or fisheries or mines or factories, but its citizens. The new act is designed to give a more healthy and vigorous citizenship, and therefore its value and importance cannot be overrated. Hon. Dr. Roberts, the father of the new law, has been steadily at work preparing for the working out of the details of the act. The Bureau of Health has been constituted, the province has been formed into health subdivisions, with district medical officers, and a convention of health officials from all parts of the province is to be held in this city for a thorough discussion of the new regulations. There is to be a thorough organization. Every part of the province is to have its inspectors, and the whole system is to be linked up closely with the central bureau. There is to be universal sanitary inspection, medical inspection of schools, accurate gathering of vital statistics, and a co-operation that will deal quickly and effectively with every epidemic. There is also to be a child welfare branch of the work which will be of enormous value.

Of course all this cannot be accomplished in a day or a year. It rests with the people to give their hearty sympathy and co-operation. The public health is too important a matter to be disregarded by any citizen. It may fairly be assumed that every teacher, every minister, every welfare organization, will take part in a health propaganda that will ensure the most hearty sympathy with the Bureau of Health in its great work.

The formation of the Bureau is timely. It is taking prompt steps to deal with the threatened epidemic of Spanish influenza, from which the province has thus far been largely free, but which may yet break out and claim its victims here as in other provinces and the United States.

THE VICTORY LOAN.

The German peace proposals should stimulate interest in the Victory Loan. Germany is nearly beaten. Her peace talk is an acknowledgment of her military necessity. Now is the time to drive the bolt home. We approach the hour of supreme decision. Is Germany to get away with some of her loot and in a position to plan another war for world domination, or is democracy to be triumphant? Canada's answer will still be that she is in this war "to the last dollar and the last man" for final and complete victory. Now is the time to redouble our efforts. The Victory Loan should be over-subscribed. Not a German peace by negotiation but an Allied victory by force of arms will save the world. The conditions have not changed. We are still dealing with a tiger-nation seeking to gather itself for a fresh spring at the throat of the world—a nation whose pledged word is but a "scrap of paper," and whose soldiers and sailors have stained the pages of history with the blackest crimes of all time. This is what must be remembered when we ask to subscribe to the new Victory Loan.

Hon. Mr. Ballantyne favors harbor commission for St. John and a national pilotage system. He says the government is prepared to give contracts for steel ships to a company in St. John on the same basis as has been done in Halifax. He believes the St. John dry dock will have profitable work for years after its completion. If there is to be a harbor commission he urges that it be composed of our best business men. He would be glad to see New Brunswick yards building wooden ships under naval treaty. His very frank and clear statement relative to the government and the port of St. John was heard with intense interest, and the atmosphere is distinctly clearer as a result of his visit. It is up to the citizens to keep things moving in order that desired results may be achieved.

The epidemic of Spanish influenza grows worse in Toronto. Montreal is also suffering severely. There are 400 cases in St. John, Quebec, military barracks, and 840 in Montreal military hospitals. More than a thousand cases have been reported in the two military centres. The New Brunswick Bureau of Health does well to urge prompt organization for safety throughout this province.

The fuel controller has decided to scruple with the gasoline problem. That is the best way to get satisfactory results. But there ought to be some way of getting after the persistent joy-riders who have no regard for public interest or anything except their own selfish indulgence.

The big potato crop in Canada this year should be a guarantee of reasonable prices, even if the farmers do feed a good deal of their crop. It should also help materially the work of substitution to release wheat for export.

It may be taken for granted that President Wilson's reply to the German government, asking for an armistice and a peace conference will not be long delayed or ambiguous in its terms.

St. John women and girls with an hour to spare should go to the Natural History rooms and help to prepare sphagnum moss dressings for the Red Cross. The need is urgent.

British, French, American and Canadian press comment on the German peace proposals shows the inflexible determination of the Allies to achieve a peace based on victory.

We are more interested in what they are doing on the western front than in what they are saying in Berlin, and the news is most satisfactory.

The Kaiser would doubtless say that it is "with God's gracious help" his retreating armies are looting and burning as they go. Nice people they are to talk about peace.

The most satisfactory comment on the German peace talk is the report of the continued advance of the Allies on the western front.

The Germans are reported to be getting ready to abandon the Belgian coast. It is too hot for them.

Burning villages mark the German retreat. A peculiarly Hun preliminary to peace.

The province is naturally interested in the course to be pursued by Hon. William Currie in view of the Ffrel report.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ST. QUENTIN

Key to Trunk Line Between France, Belgium and Northern Germany
—Is History

Regarding the surviving sector of the Hindenburg line as extending from Cambrai to Anisy—a distance of fifty miles by the line itself—and St. Quentin, which fell yesterday, appears to be about in the middle.

In March, 1917, when the Germans began their retreat to the line and had given up Bapaume and Peronne, the British hastened their passage beyond the latter and almost succeeded in investing St. Quentin, but were hampered by the slower advance of the French on their right wing. From April almost to the end of September, while the British were advancing their lines in Flanders, both British and French, in the middle ground, were striving to reduce St. Quentin.

Here was the dividing line between the British Fifth Army and the French Sixth. It remained so down to the beginning of the month in which the Germans launched their great offensive, when the Fifth took over twelve miles from the Sixth, placing the former before La Fere.

Their experience in defending St. Quentin had taught the Germans the weakness of the junction, where different languages, tactics, and strategy commingled, so that in preparation for the event of March 21 they concentrated here, just as they did before Cambrai, a strategic inheritance unwillingly left them by Sir Douglas Haig in the first week of last December.

In the preceding September—just a year ago—the British Fifth and the French Sixth, working forward, respectively, from the northwest and the southwest, had in a series of small drives enveloped St. Quentin on three sides. There they remained when thrown back on March 21—thrown in such a way that the British Fifth Army lost control of the line. A gap of eight miles was made between the Fifth and the Third Army on the north ultimately took the line from the hands of the French. A gap of thirty-three miles between it and the French Sixth was made on the south, steadily held by three divisions until filled with seven more by General Fayolle. Then the real lesson of the dual-army investment of St. Quentin was made to be learned until the siege had been raised and the besiegers driven into the open behind their entrenched position.

Thereupon St. Quentin resumed as rapidly as possible the functions which it had obtained prior to the German retreat of March, 1917. Even a smaller scale map will reveal some of these functions. It will be seen that five branches of railway radiate from St. Quentin. The chief of these is the great trunk line between France, Belgium and Northern Germany, once splendidly laid and elaborately equipped, capable of carrying the heaviest and fastest traffic. Other lines give the best communications to be found between the northern and southern sections of the Hindenburg line, unless a considerable detour is made to the rear. As a junction of the trunk line between France, Belgium and Northern Germany, St. Quentin is equally important, and—in either peace or war—is a natural depot for the collection and distribution of material.

But its present capture by the Allies has an influence extending far beyond the mechanism of the campaign. St. Quentin is one of the most important largest, wealthiest, the most influential to industry of all the French towns on the German side of the Hindenburg line. Others have strategic importance or ancient fame or artistic value, but St. Quentin, with a civilian population of 20,000, surpassed them all at the outbreak of the war on account of the textile factories and iron industry—the latter greatly augmented since the German occupation.

Moreover, the town is, or was, of considerable artistic importance and in any event its historical significance still survives. Climbing the hill from the station by the Somme, the ante-bellum traveler came to an open space fronting the Hotel de Ville, a superb Gothic structure, containing the best that is simple and ornate in that style of architecture.

Yet the Hotel de Ville was not the finest structure in the town. Away to the right stands the church—or its ruins—which gives the town its name, in a crypt of which reposed the dust of the martyr Curus Quintinus, who was killed in the third century by the Roman prefect. What the Germans have left of these two edifices—the City Hall and Church of St. Quentin—is not yet known. Their Hunnish spirit may have been attracted elsewhere.

Leading from the station across the river and the canal is a street entering an avenue called the Boulevard de Huil October, of bitter German memory. The 8th of October, 1870, was the day on which the defense of the town was crowned with success. Then just before the surrender of Paris St. Quentin saw other fighting, when Faidherbe's army of 100,000 men, with the aid of the town against the Bavarian von Goeben, the honor of whose name is now preserved in a German battle cruiser, Faidherbe fought him here to a standstill until the general armistice came ten days later.

Still a more ancient battle was commemorated by a movement in front of the Hotel de Ville. It was in 1677, when the Spanish king, Philip II, was the

husband of the English Queen Mary, that a French army clashed with a Spanish host besieging the town. The battle was fought with the French under the famous Coligny, but the Spanish won with English aid. It was on St. Lawrence's Day, and Philip, out of gratitude for the victory, raised the grim pile, known as the Escorial, to the honor of the saint.

St. Quentin has another link with English history. It was part of the dowry of Mary Queen of Scots when she married Francis II, and she drew a revenue from the town until his death.

Turned into miniature Paris.

During their occupation the Germans turned St. Quentin into a miniature Paris and tried hard to imagine that they were at the French capital. Both cities have a Champs Elysees, and in St. Quentin the Germans, in order to enhance the illusion, renamed the Faubourg St. Jean the Faubourg St. Germain, and the Faubourg d'Elle, across the Somme, the Latin Quarter. The theatres, restaurants and hotels did a thriving business during the three winters of occupation, and with the military invaders, commercial invaders made the town the gayest and most thriving in the occupied territory.

BIG GRAIN CROP ON ISLAND

Fox Ranch With 350 Acres in Which Halifax People Are Interested

(Halifax Recorder.)

Halifax people who visited Charlottetown during the exhibition found much of interest about the city and its environs. The streets were quite lively with the crowds and the brightly lighted stores, together with the show. In rear of the market block, there was a regular midway, where the crowds could try the wheels of fortune, and on another block the Williams show presented their amusements with pleasure to all who patronized them, and there was no complaint and no rioting such as in Halifax. Many visitors to the island took the opportunity to drive in autos to see the country, with its many rich farms, one of the most interesting of which is the Experimental farm, which has a magnificent situation, which was selected by Prof. Saunders. Automobiles have become very popular in the island, and now there are about 700 there. Not only the men but some of the ladies are expert handlers of the machines. Quite a number of people from the mainland took their autos over in the boats with them, including several from Halifax.

Like other places, the island has been suffering from rainy weather in respect to the crops, but it is hoped that with a few days' fine weather the grain crops will be gathered in. There was never a better grain crop on the island than this year, particularly the wheat, with oats fully 10 per cent more than ever before. The hay crop is about the average, but the potato crop is less than usual. The exact production cannot, of course, yet be determined, but it is thought the crop will yield about 75 per cent of the average.

One of the most entertaining sights in P. E. Island is a visit to the fox farms. The largest ranch is the Fox Producers, in which Halifax people are interested. The beautiful farm is 150 acres, with splendid buildings, grain fields, cultivated lands and orchards, while the ranch with its beautiful grove of trees, surrounded by wire fences, occupies ten acres. There are 350 foxes now at the ranch, and 133 of them are young pups. They are magnificent specimens, with their beautiful fur, and should demand the very highest prices in the market. The animals are showing their fur earlier than usual this season, which is generally taken as a sign of an early winter.

MISCHIEF MAKER RECEIVES REBUKE

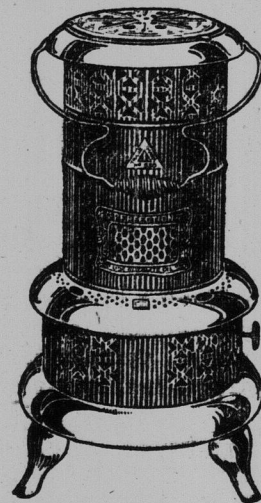
(Toronto Globe.)

French-Canadian leaders of opinion continue to protest vehemently against the insidious pro-Teuton propaganda in that province. The resolute French language papers, in particular, are taking strong ground against the sedition-mongers who are repeating mischievous after a period of comparative silence. La Patrie's recent denunciation of Le Nationaliste, the weekly edition of Bourassa's organ, Le Devoir, was noted in the Globe. Le Soleil of Quebec also arraigns La Croix of Montreal for a flagrant attack upon President Wilson and the United States, apparently inspired by pro-Austrian sentiment. The article, written by Mr. Babin, director and proprietor of La Croix, says the Austrian proposal offers "the bases of a satisfactory peace." The Vienna note, it adds, is drawn up in very conciliatory terms, which indicate that Austria-Hungary, in particular, "desires sincerely to terminate the war, even at the price of great sacrifices." In the reply of the United States, Mr. Babin sees "the cowardice of the Yankee who calculates especially on the profits he can snatch from the ruin of others."

To quote: "Mr. Wilson is afraid that the Central Empires of Europe may yield to the demands of the Allies and that the stream of gold that flows through the country of Uncle Sam may dry up."

"Behold the great man whom our neighbors extol to the skies, stripped of his artificial gestures!"

Le Soleil says that the time has come to denounce, with the utmost energy, the publication of such articles, in the name of the Province of Quebec we protest against such writings, which are plots on our civilization." Le Soleil, La Patrie, L'Evenement, and other influential French dailies are on guard, and will expose and denounce attempts to

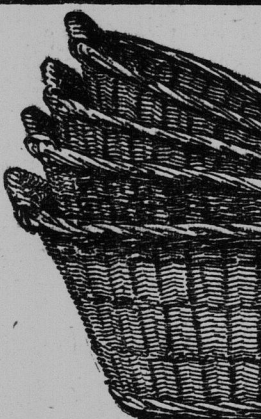


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renew the treacherous appeals with which the Nationalists flooded the province. The loyal forces of Quebec must have the active co-operation of the federal and provincial authorities. La

Croix, which is the special organ of the Ultramontanes, is also a case for the attention of the ecclesiastical leaders. This country cannot afford to permit the president and people of the United

States to be calumniated in the interest of Germany and Austria by Canadian newspapers. Justice to our neighbor and ally requires that this criminal Malice be stopped.

How About Your Danger Zone?

YOU'VE got it—every human being is born with it—your large intestine, or colon. It is a large tube—a reservoir or sewer—intended to collect waste matter and remove it from the body.

Plug it up with waste, neglect it, and you're sick on your feet. The waste matter stagnates, undergoes decay, fermentation and germ action. Dangerous poisons are produced, that can easily be absorbed and carried all over the body.

Allow constipation to become established, and you are liable to become definitely and miserably sick—and not on your feet either. You have broken Nature's laws.

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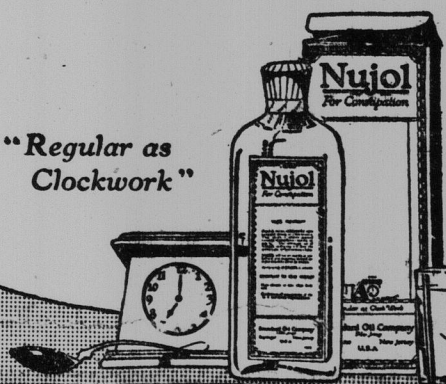
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