

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 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.

CANADA'S LOST OPPORTUNITY.

Hon. Thomas McKenzie, High Commissioner of New Zealand, in the course of a tribute to Commander Halsey of the battle cruiser New Zealand, which took such signal part in the naval battle of Sunday last, expressed it as his opinion that "the fact that the battle cruiser which was the gift of New Zealand to the Mother Country has been twice prominent in naval engagements gives some idea of how great an opportunity Canada lost two years ago when the Borden naval policy was rejected by the Canadian Senate."

The most biased of Grit newspapers in Canada will hardly accuse the High Commissioner of New Zealand of attempting to make political capital for the Borden Government, or intimate that he has an interest in gun trusts, or ammunition or armor plate factories and, consequently, that his disappointment at the rejection of the Borden policy of emergency aid to Britain springs from regret that British yards were not awarded the contract for the construction of the Canadian dreadnoughts. On the contrary he probably gave expression to the opinion which is in the mind of most broad minded Canadians, irrespective of political affiliations. To reject the Borden proposal was a serious mistake, a mistake which injured Canada and the Empire in the eyes of the world.

To trace the history of the New Zealand back to its beginnings, we find that splendid battle cruiser is in the service of the British Empire today as a direct result of the German scare of 1909. Liberals claim the scare was baseless, but will they today repeat the statement? It has been definitely established that Germany for years had been straining every effort to produce a navy strong enough to cope with the British navy. It was the knowledge of that fact which originally led the British Admiralty to intimate to Canada that assistance in foiling the German design would be very welcome.

The awakening of Great Britain to the real purpose of Germany, for all practical purposes, can be dated back to 1909. In that year Liberal cabinet ministers in Great Britain told Parliament that the German navy was increasing so rapidly that the situation in 1912 would be serious if some steps were not taken. In reply to this Liberal orators and Liberal newspapers in Canada today will say that the British navy was sufficiently strong in 1912 and for that reason there was no occasion for the scare. They fail to mention, however, that as the result of the German scare the British Government, in 1909, ordered four battle ships it had not ordinarily intended to order, and that it was the presence of these ships which made the navy sufficiently strong in 1912.

In the spring of 1913 the strength of the navy in dreadnoughts was 25, including the New Zealand and the Australian battleship, and of those vessels six owed their existence to the "baseless scare" of 1909; these were the Conqueror, the Monarch and the Thunderer, battleships mounting ten 13.5 inch guns each; the Princess Royal, a battle cruiser mounting eight 13.5 inch guns and which participated in Sunday's fight, and the New Zealand and the Australia, battle cruisers contributed by the antipodean dominions, each mounting eight 12 inch guns.

The Laurier government was in power in Canada in 1909 and received the same report from the British authorities as was given to Australia and New Zealand but they took no action. They joined with the sister nations in passing loyal resolutions in 1909—Sir Wilfrid's government put great faith in resolutions—but they did nothing to implement them or to make them effective. Meanwhile Australia and New Zealand were busy having their vessels built, not at home as Laurier contended for, but in the best British yards where the skill of British workmen could make of them the splendid fighting machines they are today. While New Zealand and Australia worked, the Grit government at Ottawa slept and passed out of existence in 1911 without having rendered any effective aid to the defence of the Empire.

In October, 1911, the Borden Government took office and at once set about the work of liquidating Canada's debt. They went to headquarters for advice and they received it but when Sir Robert Borden placed before the Parliament of this country a practical plan he was met by the bitterest opposition from Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the men behind the Grit leader. Finally,

after a debate, prolonged to a degree where it became a national disgrace, during which the Grits brought to bear all the artifices at their command, the proposal passed the representative branch of the Canadian Parliament and was sent to the Senate. There the non-representative Grit-appointed majority ruthlessly strangled it and the result is that Canada's debt is still unpaid.

Hon. Thomas McKenzie has spoken with truth. Canada missed a glorious opportunity by the rejection of the Borden naval proposal. There was a New Zealand in the naval battle of Sunday; there would have been a Canada by her side if Laurier and his partisan Senators had not blocked the way.

NOT A BLOODLESS VICTORY.

The announcement from the Admiralty that the British battle cruiser Lion and another British vessel suffered damage in the fighting on Sunday throws interesting light upon the peculiarities of the system of making public the events of this campaign. As late as yesterday afternoon it was officially announced that there had been no British losses except those given out with the first story of the fighting, and that statement emphatically declared that British vessels had not been damaged at all. The German report of the same day stated that a battle cruiser had been badly damaged, and this was speedily denied from London. Now it turns out that the Lion really did suffer injuries and that her casualty list is considerably larger than was at first reported.

It is hardly reasonable to suppose that Admiral Sir David Beatty, in his report to the Admiralty, suppressed the fact that his ship had been hit and damaged, so whatever news was held back must have been by order of the authorities. Just why this should be is not readily apparent. Already during this war, complaints have been made that information withheld from the British and Canadian newspapers finds its way into the columns of publications printed on the other side of the international boundary line. American papers as early as Monday night, were able to announce that the British vessels in Sunday's fighting did not escape unscathed. It is not easy to understand why this information was not given to the British and Canadian press and thus kept from the people most directly interested.

According to information the Germans, today, are due to conduct offensive operations in both the eastern and western war areas, in hope of achieving a victory as a birthday greeting for the Kaiser. Already in Northern France and Flanders Germans in force have made vicious attacks upon the French and British troops which, according to the official reports of the Allies, have been repulsed with heavy loss. German reports claim partial success in this offensive but the news from Berlin is not at all reliable. Today's developments will be awaited with much interest as it is expected whatever the Germans can do will be done.

The case of the "Americanized" steamer Dacia seems to be attracting much more attention than it warrants. If the Dacia sails in defiance of the British Admiralty's warning she will simply be seized by a British cruiser. The remuneration of the owners of her cargo or other persons concerned will be a matter for a Prize Court and it will likely end there. That it may lead to open rupture between two great friendly nations, each of which cherishes more than ordinary regard for the other is a possibility too remote to bother with.

Aside from the thousands of New Brunswickers who support the Clarke government because they are confident it is best fitted to administer the business of this province honestly and progressively, the leader of that government numbers hundreds of personal friends who have been attracted to him by his many high qualities of heart and mind. All will join in expression of regret at his illness and the hope that he may be speedily restored to his wonted health.

After all the fighting ability of the British navy is not measured entirely in terms of ships and guns. We read that when the German squadron on Sunday morning sighted the British ships they "turned and fled." Admiral Craddock in the Good Hope and the Monmouth faced greater odds in the South Seas but did it unflinchingly.

The Germans, however, lack the British heart.

Yesterday the German artillery managed to shell a hospital in Northern France. Now if the Zeppelins can get an orphan asylum, or an old ladies' home today the Kaiser may have a happy birthday after all.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

A short time ago, at a large English provincial post office, a newspaper correspondent was asked to act as an interpreter between a French-speaking Belgian and the postal officials. Wondering somewhat at the necessity to appeal for outside assistance, he made inquiries and found that although there were about 3,000 persons employed in this establishment, fifty of them with salaries ranging from £260 to £650 a year, not one of them could either speak or write French. This is a significant illustration of insularity.

Reviewing the work of the Allied naval squadrons upon the Belgian coast, the naval correspondent of the London Times writes: "It would appear that two battleships, three monitors, a cruiser, several gunboats and sloops and a flotilla of destroyers have been engaged. The French have also assisted with a flotilla which has included a torpedo submarine and some destroyers. Although continually harried by the enemy's submarines and aeroplanes, and by siege guns and howitzers, the ships' losses have been comparatively small. The shore batteries appear to have scored some hits, but no ship has been placed out of action. Owing to the preventive measures taken, and to the skilful handling of the vessels, the submarines have not had any success. Their attacks have been most daring and continuous, but in a measure, owing to the shoal water in which the vessels were operating, and to the existence of the mine field, where at times the ships ran for shelter, they have failed."

Reviewing the food market at the end of 1914, the London Times says: "If prices have gone up, they have not gone up to the extent that was expected; and increased prices are due not so much to a falling off of overseas supplies as to enhanced cost of transport. Sugar from Germany is the only article of common consumption the importation of which has been stopped, and the Government, as is well known, has bought over £15,000,000 worth from other sources for the benefit of the community. It may be said that the more luxurious foods that they cost less now than before the war. Games, fowls, and ducks are cheaper. Grapes are cheaper. Dried fruits cost no more. There has been no change in the case of so primary an article of food as milk. As for bread, there is in the country at the present time sufficient wheat and flour to supply the population for four months. A rise in the price of bread is taking place, it is true, but this is due to the increased cost of transport. The greatest increase shown is in the prices of tea, fish and eggs."

A report from the British Ambassador in Petrograd says: "The Municipal Council of Petrograd has restricted the sale of beer and wine to fortnightly first-class hotels and restaurants, and it is rumored that this number is shortly to be reduced to twenty. Light red and white wine (16 per cent. straight) and champagne may be sold by wine merchants daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Saturdays and the eve of festivals, when the hours are from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The sale of any drink is prohibited after 11 p.m., at which hour all hotels and restaurants, without exception, must close. The sale of all spirits is absolutely forbidden. The illegal sale of beer, porter, wine and spirits is punishable by a fine not exceeding 3,000 roubles (£300), or three months' imprisonment, closure of the restaurant or saloon, and perpetual disqualification to hold a license. All liquors in hotels and restaurants must be consumed on the premises, and may be taken away only to customers having supplied only to a violation of this regulation is fine or imprisonment not exceeding 3,000 roubles (£300) or three months."

A Great Business.
The remarkable growth and expansion of the "SALADA" business, as explained on page 3 in this issue, is well worthy of our readers' attention, bearing the strongest testimony to the fact that there is quality and value, well advertised, is sure to get a lasting and substantial public recognition. The sales of this well known tea represent 25 per cent. of the annual imports of all tea into Canada.

ALL PUGILISTS ARE AFRAID OF TIN EARS.

It may not generally be known, but the pugilist of prominence is more afraid of getting hurt in training camps than in the ring. Many a notable champion has fallen through because a champion's hand has been hurt on the hard head of the lowly sparring partner. Therefore a pugilist whose services are valuable, and who begins training for an important bout, usually prepares himself for emergencies. The first essential is a pair of gloves weighing eight ounces, so that the impact of heavy blows will not be apt to injure the precious manueles of the wearer. These gloves are usually padded heavily on the wrist, thus minimizing the danger that follows a swinging blow.

Next to the hands, the ears are most liable to injury, and Gilbert Gallant, the heavy-hitting New England lightweight, guards against injury to his auricular appendages when training for a bout. Gallant has had manufactured for his ears a padded headgear, similar to that worn by a football player, and he is perfectly willing to wear it. He is perfectly willing to wear it. He is perfectly willing to wear it.

It does not follow that a poor defensive fighter is alone in the possession of an enlarged ear. Griffo, the greatest defensive boxer in the history of the game, had an elaborate specimen of this Queensberry growth, which was imparted to him by his fellow countryman, Dan Creedon. Jimmy Clabby and Jack Britton, both masterly defensive boxers, have luxuriant cauliflower ears, and George Dixon, once a great boxer, also had one on exhibition.

However, in the days of Griffo and Dixon training armor was practically unknown, while modern boxers have all the facilities for protection that

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

We was eating supper today and ma sed. Now Benny, for hevvin sakes be careful of this clean tabl klawth and dont spill anything awn it, I dont see w you awlways half to spill things.

I dont, awlways, I sed. Wich I dont, awlways, and pop sed. Verry well, let this be the ixsephn that proves the rule.

Wich he hadent hardly sed it wen I misled a pece of puttato wich I was trying to get awn my fork, and it went ovr the side of the plate and left a big mark awn the tabl klawth awn akkont of the gravy awn it, and I quick put it back with my fingrs and moved my plate ovr the mark so nobody cood see it; the mark beeing awn the side of my plate nearest to ma.

O, I thawt. And jest then anuthr pece of puttato went ovr the side of my plate awn the side nearest to pop, leaving anuthr big mark, and I put it back and moved my plate ovr so pop coodent see the mark.

O, I thawt, now ma can see the mark awn the uthr side if she looks. Wich then she startid to look and I quick alid the plate ovr the first mark.

G, now pop can see the mark awn his side, I thawt. And I thawt he was startid to look ovr, so I quick alid the plate ovr awn his side agen, and I keppt aliding it ovr the different marks depending awn weathr pop or ma startid to look ovr, and awt a wile pop sed. For the luv of the ancient discus throwrs, Benny, wat are you doing, eeting yure suppr or playing quots, now suppose you move that plate back ware it be-lawngs, peepil dont juggle thare suppr that way in the best families; good nite, look at that stane, now youve got a doubl ressin for moving yure plate back, its a site.

For lands sakes, sed ma.

Im threo, I sed. And I quick got up, saying Iksue me, and went out of the dining room leeving my plate ovr the gravy stane nearest to ma.

The football warriors boast of.

The only difference is that the boxer discards his armor when he enters the ring for contest.

Gilbert Gallant, by the way, is one lightweight division, as Leach Cross, who was twice beaten by the New Englander, can testify. Gallant's fall lies in lack of condition, which has enabled a number of clever boxers to outpoint him.

If he ever gets a match with Ritchie or Welch and enters the ring in condition to go a distance, he will be quite apt to surprise the lookers as well as his opponent. A heavy two-handed puncher, combative to the limit and with defensive skill enough to duck and sidestep dangerous wallops, Gallant looks like a very promising contender for the title.

He is a Canadian by birth, and in the early days of his career as a boxer scored 16 knockouts in a row.

RED CROSS OFFICERS IN FRANCE DON'T KNOW HIM

Toronto, Jan. 26.—Owing to statements made by Dr. Brown-Landone, regarding the conditions of hospitals in northern France, and in reply to a

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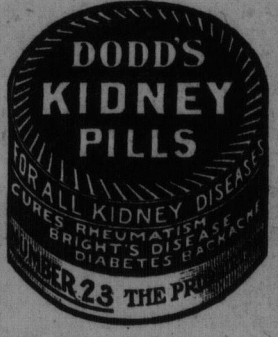
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