

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1915

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 9, 1915.

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## THE WAR NEWS.

The censor is not as important a personage in England as he is in Canada. The London press has become very outspoken in its criticism of the conduct of the Balkan affair by the foreign office. The London Globe and Morning Post are especially bitter, and single out Sir Edward Grey for special attack. If these attacks are purely political it is very unfortunate, but even more unfortunate if there is any foundation for them.

One fact stands out clearly enough. It is that German diplomacy has scored a victory in the Balkans and that the situation there is very grave. Bulgaria has joined Germany. Greece will not join the Allies. Rumania has not declared herself. This situation is of importance chiefly because of its effect upon Turkey and upon the fortunes of war at the Dardanelles. Even Italy has not declared her intentions in the matter of the Dardanelles. That England regards the situation as one full of dangerous possibilities is evident from the tone of the British press.

Nor has the situation improved in the west. The anticipated great drive has not taken place. The French and British are chiefly engaged in repelling vigorous German counter attacks, and there is no indication that they are able to follow up immediately the recent success. In the east the deadlock continues. The Russian armies are still unbeaten, but the weather conditions are growing worse, and no important change is anticipated for some time.

The Germans have begun their attack upon Serbia, and have crossed its frontier at some points. The Allies are landing 70,000 troops at Saloniki and will lend their assistance to the Serbians; but have also to reckon with Bulgaria. The whole situation today gives stronger emphasis to Kitchener's call for more men and munitions.

## NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

The Times has already taken occasion to compliment the Eastern Recruiting Committee on its success in forming a district or neighborhood organization, and last night's meeting in the Boys' Club Hall was another illustration of that success. Whether many recruits were secured or not, the crowd of men was there, and they could not listen to the brief but striking speeches made without having the sense of personal responsibility pressed home to each of them. The "old guard" was out in force, and it made one reminiscent of old times at City Hall and in political campaigns to see John C. Ferguson, John Connor, H. J. Williams, M. E. Agar, Thomas Kitcham, John McKelvey, George A. Kimball, James Collins, H. C. Page, Geo. H. Waterbury and other supporters of general chairman H. H. McLellan gathered together to lend their influence to the recruiting movement in that section of the city. These neighborhood organizations should prove of great value, now and in the future, in community work.

## SIR SAM AND RECRUITS.

The statement of Sir Sam Hughes that no difficulty is being encountered in meeting all present requirements for recruits must be read in the light of his other announcement that a military council is to be held in Ottawa to consider the recruiting question, and also in the light of his previous alleged assertion that he could get a million men if he wanted them. Sir Sam is somewhat given to exaggerated statements. Recruiting is not satisfactory, and we may as well face the fact. It is no satisfactory in England that there is talk of conscription. Kitchener says he is not getting men fast enough, and he must have them. In Canada the proportion of recruits to population is very small compared with that in England. Canada must do better, and Sir Sam should not put a damper on the efforts of men who in every part of the country are giving time and effort to the task of keeping up the recruiting movement. It was only a few weeks ago that an appeal was made to the business men of St. John to give their assistance because there were practically no recruits at all coming forward. If Sir Sam is satisfied, or if he thinks he can do it alone, why does he not invite the various recruiting committees to go about their business? He is getting on the nerves of the people who want Canada to do her full duty in this great crisis in our history.

## TREATING MEN AS MEN.

Warden Thomas Mott Osborne, of Sing Sing, tells in the American Review of Reviews for October the story of prison reform in that institution, where the old barbaric theory of prison government has given place to a measure of autonomy within the limits of the law. He says:—

"Ninety years ago the Auburn system, so-called, stood for enlightened and liberal treatment of the prisoners, as against the Philadelphia system of solitary confinement. It was practically the same system which now obtains generally throughout the country. But a new Auburn system has made its appearance, and it is believed, will be ultimately recognized as far superior to any of the so-called 'honour' systems which have

prevailed in different institutions. There have, of course, been advances in many states in the direction of kindness to the prisoners, a reduction of brutality and severity, and an increased number of prisoners trusted on their honor as individuals. The self-governing system now in use at Auburn and Sing Sing not only goes a step beyond the honor system, but is totally different in kind—for it trusts not the individual, but the entire prison community. The individual is made responsible not to the warden or to some autocrat, more or less benevolent, but to the whole body of his fellow prisoners.

"What we have done at Sing Sing is to lay the foundation for all good prison work by getting a right spirit of co-operation among the prisoners. This has been accomplished by allowing the prisoners to form themselves into a Mutual Welfare League. To the league all the privileges have been given, and the league, as an organization, becomes responsible for the good conduct of its members. Each violation of discipline or good conduct becomes an offense against the league, punishable by its duly constituted officers. Thus we bring to the aid of the prison authorities the public opinion of the prisoners, the loyalty of a man to his friends—to the 'gang'—which is characteristic of prisoners. My firm belief is that under such a prison system the men will become desirous and capable of leading an honest and useful life. My personal observations of the working of the Mutual Welfare League at Auburn and Sing Sing have made me realize more firmly than ever before these doctrines:—

(1) The prisoners are men—real men—your brethren and mine.

(2) If you treat them like beasts it will be hard for them to keep from degenerating into beasts. If you treat them like men you can help them to rise.

(3) If you trust them they will show themselves worthy of trust.

(4) If you place responsibility upon them they will rise to it."

Warden Osborne is undoubtedly right in regard to the majority of men, or at least enough of them to make it worth while to adopt the plan now carried out at Sing Sing. If hardened criminals are to be dealt with, what excuse can there be for failing to provide an industrial farm for minor delinquents, so that they may be removed from the jail and given an opportunity to earn their living and reform themselves at the same time? The modern jail is an anachronism that should be removed from every self-respecting community.

Sir Rodmond Roblin and three of his colleagues in the late Manitoba government have been committed to the charge of conspiracy to defraud the province. They do things better in Manitoba than in New Brunswick.

If Sir Robert Borden believed there was an emergency why did he not go to the country with his nasal programme, and why did he dismantle the Rainbow and Niobe? Do his journalistic apologists think the people of Canada are blind?

The Prison Labor Problem

It is recognized now clearly that in all our prison systems men should learn to labor. But it is not so clearly recognized that when you force men to labor that they learn to love work by being forced to do it. You are gratifying against all the grooves of human nature when you take them voluntarily to choose labor rather than idleness, in order to that you must give them liberty to remain idle if they so choose.

The present problems are, first to find enough work for the men to do, for the prison industries have been so badly managed in the past that it is hard to make headway; and second, the constant shifting of the prison population, which makes good factory work difficult. Many experienced workers are drafted off to other prisons; others come to the end of their terms. Another difficulty is the lack of incentive. The state pays a cent and a half a day whether the man is a good worker, or a poor one, or lazy one—or, in fact, whether he works at all. There is absolutely no inducement for a man to do good work. Slave labor is notoriously inefficient.

Another of the problems of prison labor is that the kind of work done by the men is for the most part unattractive, because they have no expectation of doing the same kind of work when they leave prison. The majority of the men at Sing Sing, for instance, make shoes, brooms, mats, or underwear.

The immediate necessity at Sing Sing is the purchase of a large tract of land, and the erection of a modern kind of institution. When the prison is removed to its large tract of land, I hope that farming may be made the basis of labor, so as to provide as largely as possible for the support of the inmates. The prison indeed ought as far as possible to represent a real community. I should have the state pay a full wage; and I believe that if the state would allow the prisoners to aid in the support of their families the prisoners would do so much better work that the prisoners would be in a very large measure, self-sustaining. It should never be lost sight of that it is the duty of the state to make the prison a school where men can be trained for citizenship, and that includes the learning of some industrial pursuit, so that a man may be able to live by honest work.—From "The New Meth-

## LIGHTER VEIN

Allen Aynesworth, an actor, has a pretty wit. It is said that Mr. Aynesworth met at the rehearsal of a new piece a youth who was giving himself many airs on the strength of his first engagement in London. "These rehearsals are a beauty," the young man was good enough to observe, "but, thank goodness, I know my words."

"Both of them?" asked Aynesworth.

"Nothing at all except so far as I can help in settling this dispute."

"There ain't no dispute," growled the belligerent.

"No dispute? But my dear friend—"

"I tell you there ain't no dispute. She thinks she ain't going to get my week's wages, and I know she ain't. So where's any dispute?"

The minister was dining with the Fullers, and he was denouncing the new styles of dancing. Turning to the daughter of the house he asked sternly: "Do you, yourself, Miss Fuller, think the girls who dance these dances are right?"

"They must be," was the answer, "because I notice the girls who don't dance them are always left."

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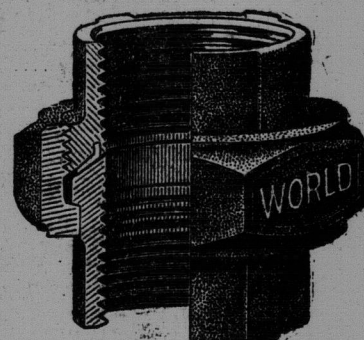
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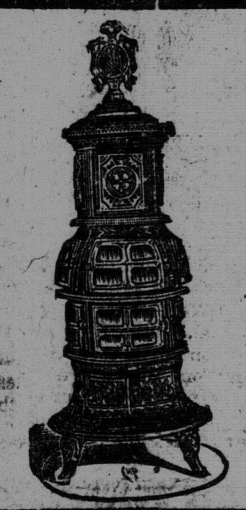
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German demand that the treaty of peace should make Austria the

The Balkan called final attention to the real importance of the battle going on at the Dardanelles, Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania annexed, Rumania bound to the Central Powers by the gift of Russian Bessarabia, Bulgaria and Greece, both with Teutonic parties supreme at their courts, would sink to the state of mere protectorates. Turkey was already an ally, with her military department in German control and her future hopeless unless Germany could save her from Russia and the Mediterranean powers.

A treaty of peace perpetuating this situation would