

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 18, 1916.

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WHY?

Why does Lieut. Gov. Wood retain as one of his advisers a gentleman who is not a member of the legislature, and therefore not responsible to the people? Have we abandoned the principles of responsible government?

BORDEN AND SIR SAM

Sir Robert Borden has at last been compelled to take some action in response to Conservative criticism of Sir Sam Hughes. He has created a parliamentary secretary of the militia department and given the office to Mr. F. B. McCurdy, M. P. of Halifax. Mr. McCurdy will be acting minister of militia during Sir Sam's absence, and a vigorous effort will doubtless be made to keep him absent as much as possible. He is now off to the United States and England, and Mr. McCurdy has taken the desk in the department. The Meredith-Duff Commission has not yet reported, but Sir Sam is said to be confident that it will not reflect upon him, and so he is off on his travels. If he does no better than before, and no better than he did the other day in London, Ontario, he might as well stay at home, but his colleagues will breathe easier when he is gone. Perhaps he is going over to explain to the Canadian soldiers why he armed them with the Ross rifle, which is now discarded. Meanwhile Mr. McCurdy is acting minister and ready if necessary to become Sir Sam's successor. It is an interesting situation.

The Toronto Telegram, Conservative, returns to the North Perth by-election to make these observations: "The London Free Press has tried to make Sir Sam Hughes, K.C.B., a vote-maker for Borden and a vote-maker for Hearst. Sir Robert Borden has made Sir Sam Hughes a vote-maker for Laurier. The London Free Press has only to continue that game and Sir Robert Borden has only to permit Sir Sam Hughes, K.C.B., to be the issue of the next federal campaign and the Borden government will not carry 40 seats in a province that gave the Borden opposition 78 seats in 1911. The London Free Press was afraid to do its duty as a public newspaper and report the speech delivered by Sir Sam Hughes, K.C.B., to the officers assembled in the London camp. Let the London Free Press publish a verbatim report of its idol's speech, and abide the consequences of an enlarged public acquaintance with the sufferings endured by the helpless victims of eloquence from the minister of militia. The London Free Press campaign of misrepresentation on behalf of Sir Sam Hughes has so glorified the Borden government that the critics of Sir Sam Hughes, K.C.B., are the enemies of Sir Robert Borden. The weakness of Sir Robert Borden is his own government's worst enemy, and eulogists of Sir Sam Hughes are Sir Wilfrid Laurier's best friends."

The Kingston Standard, unlike the St. John Standard, also finds a lesson in the North Perth election. It wants a reorganization of the Ontario cabinet, but it also applies the lash to Sir Robert Borden as follows: "If the Ottawa government, too, were to listen to some of its candid friends, instead of bending the ear so willingly to the sycophants and toadies who use governments only in the end to misuse them, the Ottawa administration also would be in a stronger position than it is today. There is no Conservative but must admit that the Ottawa government also needs strengthening, and at the moment is rather weaker than stronger than it was some months ago in the public esteem. The whitened sepulchres in the party will, of course, shudder at this treasonable declaration, but it is the cold truth nevertheless."

Is the St. John Standard one of the "whitened sepulchres?"

THE WAR NEWS

The German general staff has found it necessary to issue an appeal to the German people to remain confident in the face of the news from all fronts, which is very far from being such news as would cause a feeling of elation. The Allies are charged with issuing false reports of successes gained in the hope that these will undermine German confidence. The fact is, of course, that the general staff dare not tell the German people the truth, and is trying to persuade them that all goes well when the very opposite is the case.

We must not overlook the other fact, however, that British public men and newspapers warn us against any undue elation over recent successes; and against the delusion that complete victory is in sight. Germany is still strong, and her power of defence has not yet been fully tested. The Allies will be able to break down all resistance in time, but the time may yet be long.

It is another hopeful sign of the times that a powerful party in Hungary is stirring up an agitation against continuance of the war. There is a similar party in Austria. Its activity will do much to take the heart out of the fighting men of the Dual Monarchy, who

have lately met so many defeats at the hands of the Russians.

The news from the British front is of a most cheering nature. Further gains have been made and counter attacks repulsed. British success on the Somme spells German failure at Verdun. It is not conceivable, in face of the smashing British and French attacks along the whole line that the Germans can now concentrate men and guns enough at any point to achieve more than a temporary and very costly success.

Russia claims to have taken 17,000 prisoners in the last two days in Volhynia, and has broken down the enemy's resistance. The Russian advance continues. The Italians continue to hold the ascendancy in the Trentino region, despite the desperate efforts of the Austrians to regain lost ground.

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

The Chatham World describes the opposition ticket in Westmorland county as "a strong ticket," and adds: "Northumberland needs no organization to ensure its election of an opposition delegation."

It is increasingly evident that the Clarke government is steadily losing favor with even those who were formerly its supporters. One of the most encouraging features of the situation is the number of former supporters who are now outspoken in opposition. All they ask is that the opposition nominate reputable men of ability and their votes will be given to these men.

The Standard has assailed Hon. Frank Sweeney. That gentleman took part in the recent Westmorland by-election, but confined his efforts to the parish of Moncton. In that parish a large government majority was converted into a majority of 192 for Dr. Smith. The people who know Mr. Sweeney best evidently have confidence in him, and now that he is himself a candidate his election is assured.

Hon. P. G. Mahoney was defeated on May 30. This is the 18th of July. During the intervening period, though not a member of the legislature, and though he represents nobody, and is responsible to nobody, he has remained at the head of the chief spending department, awarding contracts and performing administrative duties. How much longer will Lieut. Gov. Wood, who would not like to have his term as lieutenant governor marred by an open and unrebuked violation of the principles of responsible government, continue to tolerate the existing state of affairs?

The young man who wants to go overseas without delay has a chance to join units that will soon be away. Any recruiting officer can tell him about it.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Recruiting was better last week. There is, however, great room for improvement. The federal government could do much to stimulate recruiting all over the country. Why has it failed to do its full share ever since the war began?

The naval department will no doubt appeal to a number of young men who were not attracted by the infantry or other land forces. The patrol motor boat service is seeking non-coms and mechanics. They must of course be skilled men.

The British Sailors' Relief Fund should appeal to all Canadians. The men of the navy have kept the seas clear for Canada's safety and for Canada's commerce. The families of naval men who have died in the war should have practical help as well as sympathy.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

It is to be regretted that further trouble over the Irish question appears to be brewing in London. There was a very general hope that a satisfactory arrangement had been made, but last night's cables said that the passage of the new bill will meet with vigorous opposition. There are die-hards on both sides, and compromise is difficult.

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Willie came to his mother with an expression of anxiety on his face. "Ma," he asked, "if a poor, hungry little boy was to come to the back door and ask for something to eat, would you give him that piece of pie that was left over from dinner?"

"Yes, Willie, of course I would," said the mother.

Willie's face cleared.

"All right," he said, "just wait a minute till I run round to the back door."

SUPPOSING

during your vacation, you, or one of your family, meet with an accident! You are taken away from a doctor or a drug store! What are you going to do? Don't you think it would be wise to be prepared for such an emergency by taking with you a few boxes of Zambuk?

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Baseball Anatomy

The former big league baseball manager, who had been named because the team finished last as usual, was taking a civil service examination in order to secure a political job. He was amazed at the list of fool questions on the examination paper. He didn't know the distance from the earth to the moon, so he passed that one up. And he could not describe a syzygy, so he called that test a loser. But the third question interested him. It said:

"Name the largest bone in the human frame."

And with a grin of confidence the former manager wrote this answer: "The head."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Explicit Statement

"When I don't want a man's attentions and he asks me where I live, I say in the suburbs."

"Yes, and see the summer girl hang round out of her hammock?"—Kansas City Journal.

The Burglar's Call

Burglar (just acquitted, to his lawyer)—I will drop in soon and see you. Lawyer—Very good; but in the day time please.—London Answers.

In Summer

"See the spider spinning its web?" "Yes, and see the summer girl hang round out of her hammock?"—Kansas City Journal.

Looks Not Everything

Mr. Goodrich—Your sister looks good enough to eat. Small Brother—So does her cooking, but gee whizz!

A Hint

"My sympathy is enlisted in this movement against the country cousin," "Yes, and so am I."—Baltimore American.

Look here, waiter. What's the idea of printing this bill of fare in French? I can't understand a word of it.

"Well, you see, boss, if we was to print some of them things in English nobody would want to eat 'em."

Different Basis

"I'd like to ask you to stay for dinner," he told his country cousin, "but I don't know how things will be."

"That's all right. We frequently get put back in the country."

"Pot luck is all well enough, but we get our dinner out of a fireless cooker."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

How Huns Got New British Aeroplane

Airmen Left England and Flew Into German Hands; Some One Had Blundered

(London Daily Mail)

The story of a blunder which made the Germans a present of a brand-new aeroplane of the latest type was revealed in the House of Lords on June 27. "The incident," said Lord Montagu, "is a serious one, and I hope the House will receive an assurance that steps will be taken as far as possible to prevent any such incident occurring again. On the morning of May 31 an aeroplane, fitted with an engine of 250-h. p., left Farnborough Aerodrome for France. It flew across the Channel, passed over our lines

and the German lines, and descended unhurt with its pilot and observer in the German aerodrome at Lille. There is a possibility of a mistake being made in distinguishing between St. Omer and Lille, for pilots are very often guided by two canals which are to a certain extent similar, but in this case the question of a mistake in the two canals, because I am sorry to tell your lordships, the pilot who flew this machine had never flown to France before and had no knowledge whatever of the geography of France.

"That is what makes it a very serious incident. The pilot's name is Lieut. Littlewood, originally of the North Lincolnshire Regiment, and the observer was Lieut. Grant, who was gazetted as a flying officer in the R. F. C. nine days after he was in the hands of the enemy."

Proceeding, Lord Montagu read the following extracts from a letter from one who was at the aerodrome at Farnborough at the time the start to France was made:

Pilot's Protest

"The War Office sent down and asked for two F. E. pilots, the machines being F. E. in which the engines were placed to fly them over-seas. Owing to an error in the delivery of the message it was understood that the pilots were to fly ordinary F. E. machines, with the result that in one case an inexperienced pilot was sent. I saw the pilot, who complained that he was not an experienced F. E. pilot, also that he had never been over-seas and was not sure of the way."

"The authorities, who heard all this, took no notice of his complaints and told him to take the machine. Later a report came through that F. E. had crossed the lines at Arrancieres and disappeared in the direction of Lille. That evening a German wireless communication stated that the F. E. had landed intact south-west of Lille, the pilot having lost his way. (In the sarcastic terms of the com-

mon, said Lord Montagu, the Germans said the machine would be most useful.) Thus it will be seen that within three hours of its having been taken out of the factory our newest and latest machine was handed over intact to the Huns."

"I should think if you wrote and told about this he would have somebody's blood, as it is the second time our beauties at the War Office have lost a brand-new machine in the same way. When the V. E. machine was just out, the fourth or fifth we sent over to France was also sent over in charge of a chap who had only just got his wings (flying certificate), and who also didn't know the way, and he landed right on the Lille aerodrome and handed his machine to the Huns."

Concluding, Lord Montagu put three questions to the government:

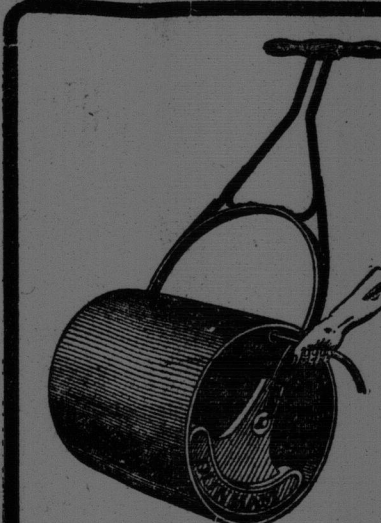
Who was responsible for sending this pilot, who was obviously an inexperienced man, with one of our most valuable and latest machines?

Is it a fact that other pilots inexperienced in the geography of the western front have been sent on similar missions?

Will the government take steps to ensure that such serious mistakes will not take place in the future?

Lord Curzon's Excuse

Lord Curzon, in reply, complained that no notice of these questions had been given him, and said Lord Montagu, who had asked for information concerning the incident, seemed already to be very well informed. "He really does know more about it than I do," protested Lord Curzon. "It is true that the aeroplane left England on June 1 and was not heard of again. The German wireless of



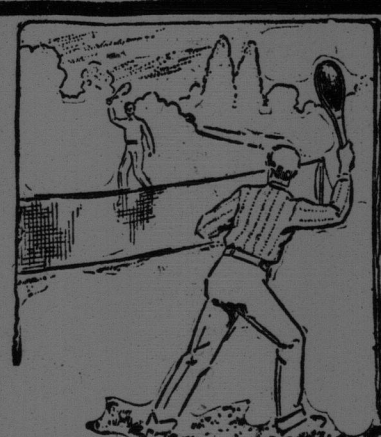
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June 2 stated that a British biplane had landed near Lille, but no date was mentioned. We know now, however, that it was the missing machine and that the pilot and his observer, from whom communications have been received, are prisoners in the hands of the Germans. The pilot, after crossing the Channel, appears to have lost his way and landed in the German lines.

"Such incidents have happened before and will happen again, but they are not confined to one side or the other, having happened to the Germans just as they have happened to us. He believed it to be true, as stated, that the pilot had not flown across the Channel before, but he doubted if it would be wise to lay down a hard-and-fast rule that no machine should be taken across the Channel, even by a competent flyer, unless he had had experience of the route. Experienced pilots would be doing better service at the front, probably."

Lord Montagu—There were two other pilots available on that particular morning, both very competent, and nobody has explained why this inexperienced man was chosen to fly the very latest machine we had. I think it is a very serious incident indeed, and that it should be taken serious notice of.

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