

# The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 5, 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.

## CONSTANTINOPLE'S FUTURE.

It is reported that the German officer commanding the Turkish troops in Europe has strongly advised Turkish authorities to make no effort to defend Constantinople after the Allied fleets have succeeded in forcing the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, but, instead, to desert that city and remove the capital of the Ottoman Empire to a city in Asia Minor. If the report is accurate it indicates several things of importance. First, that the German military expert is not impressed with the possibility of a successful defence of the Turkish capital and secondly that once it has capitulated, or has been battered into submission, Constantinople will never be restored to the followers of Mohammed. The next question which naturally forces recognition is "what will be the future of the chief Turkish city?"

Some circulation has been given the report that Russia will ask for Constantinople as the price of her services and that the other Allies will look upon the request with favor. Twenty, ten or even five years ago such a request would have brought Great Britain to her feet with a refusal but the nations in alliance with Great Britain have come more closely together as the result of their joint campaigning against Prussian militarism. The Russian menace, of which Kipling wrote, exists no longer. On the contrary, it is the opinion of statesmen and diplomats that a new and enlightened Russia will in future work hand in hand with Great Britain and France in the preservation of world peace and the development of industrial and commercial undertakings.

The present war has done much to give the ordinary Briton a new conception of his Muscovite friend, and what opposition might have existed in the past against Russia obtaining access to the Mediterranean, it is expected, will have died out when the conflict ceases. There can also be no doubt that if Russia's desire to obtain a warm water port is at all entertained by the other nations which will have the final word in the determination of peace conditions and territorial concessions, it will only be because there already is, or there will be, a distinct understanding as to the use to be made of Constantinople and the preservation of the Dardanelles as an open waterway free to the commerce bearers of the world.

That Russia could establish a strong military or naval base there and, in course of time, turn the advantage so gained against her present friends is not regarded seriously. On the contrary British and French newspapers, popularly believed to most closely reflect the opinion of those peoples, are already pointing out the advantages to be derived by the preservation of Constantinople as a world port under the administration of Russia but really controlled and operated in accordance with the wishes of all the present Allies. Such an arrangement would give a great impetus to the commercial and industrial development of the rich territory to which the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus hold the keys. It would mean an inestimable boon to Russian commerce and, in turn, a distinct gain to the world in that the Turk would be forever prevented from gaining foothold in Europe and the European territory now controlled by him would be developed in accordance with the ideas and ideals of humanity, civilization and progress.

## A CANADIAN COMMANDER.

It will be good news to Canadians who have enlisted for active service with the second Canadian contingent to know that the force will be under the general command of Major General Samuel Benfield Steele. While the command of the second contingent will be the biggest task Major General Steele has undertaken, yet if his past record can be taken as a criterion by which to judge his future achievements, he will emerge from the present struggle with added laurels.

The Montreal Gazette summarizes General Steele's military career as follows:

General Steele was educated in Orillia and Toronto, and as far back as 1886 he was in the 35th Battalion Simcoe Foresters. Four years later

he saw service in the Red River expedition and in 1871 joined the Canadian Permanent Artillery. In 1873 young Steele joined the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, and it was in this capable and courageous body of men, who have rendered invaluable service to the Dominion in keeping order in the solitary places, that he first achieved fame. In five years' time it was Inspector Steele, and in 1885 the Inspector had advanced to the office of superintendent. That was a stirring period in Canada, for the Northwest Rebellion was under way and the country was stirred from coast to coast. Colonel Steele had command of the mounted force that was sent in pursuit of Big Bear's band and the Wood Cree Indians and acquitted himself creditably. Later on there was important work for the Mounted Police in connection with the great gold rush to the Yukon, and they performed that work satisfactorily. Colonel Steele was in command of the posts at the White and Chilkoot Passes in 1898, and had charge of the customs, with magisterial powers. As a member of the Council of the Yukon Territory he rendered excellent service. When Lord Strathcona patriotically established and equipped the mounted regiment that became known as the Strathcona Horse, for service in the South African War, Colonel Steele was chosen as its commander and subsequent events proved that the choice was about the best that could have been made. In the war Colonel Steele was promoted to the command of the Northern Transvaal division of the South African cavalry. On his return to Canada he continued his military duties, and since 1908 has been commanding military district No. 10. He is the possessor of several war medals and has on various occasions been personally thanked by personages high in civil as well as in military life for duties well done. Now as Major-General Steele he is to take charge of a Canadian contingent in Europe. He has not been found wanting as a leader of men in troublous times in Canada and in the larger field of South Africa. As a commander of soldiers in the greatest of all wars he should be equal to the task set for him. For he has had wide experience.

## HAS BULGARIA PLUNGED?

Until additional information is received as to the scope of the Bulgarian attack on Serbian posts on the frontier, it is impossible to forecast what may follow the clash. Despatches, official and semi-official, indicate that the Bulgarian attack was unprovoked and unexpected, although Serbia, being in a state of war, naturally had her frontiers well guarded and was thus in a position to make a creditable defence and, according to some of the advices, to beat off the attackers suffering only light casualties and the loss of ten guns.

It is not yet known whether the attack represented a hostile intention on the part of the Bulgarian government, or was merely the result of misdirected energy on the part of irregulars for which the government at Sofia will plead it is not responsible, and which irregulars it will probably promise to punish. If it should develop that the attack was either planned or sanctioned by the authorities the incident should cause Greece to speedily decide to take a hand in the war. Doubt as to the attitude of Bulgaria has had more than a little to do with keeping Greece out of the struggle, and if the most recent news from Serbia can be taken as indicating the intention of the Bulgars to throw themselves on the side of Germany, Austria and Turkey, it should not take Greece long to line up in opposition. And with Greece opposed to Bulgaria the Allies would gain rather than lose.

The Telegraph and Times, organs of Mr. Pugsley, print the names of 1,222 ratepayers who signed the petition asking the provincial government to authorize the holding of a plebiscite in this city on the question of changing the form of civic administration. The Telegraph and Times are strongly pro-commission and, in the present instance, carry their support to that system to a point where they

deem it wise to ridicule the citizens who have asked for an opportunity to get an expression of public opinion as to the wisdom of a change. It is probable that a fair proportion of the signers of the petition are men who, in the past, have supported Mr. Pugsley and the other candidates of the Liberal party. After they have been publicly ridiculed by the organs of that party they should know how to act when asked to vote for Liberal candidates in future.

The new milk regulations to be enforced by the Board of Health mark a pronounced step in the direction of securing greater cleanliness and an improved product in the supply of milk. This is certainly a movement to be heartily commended for the safeguarding of quality in the milk sold in St. John is one of the most important duties of the Board of Health. In preparing the regulations Dr. Melvin, city health officer, received valued assistance from Dr. T. Fred Johnson and both gentlemen have reason to be pleased with the success which has attended their efforts.

The increased harbor revenues reported last week by Commissioner Russell afford an indication that the interests of the city are well guarded in respect to harbor revenues and also serve to illustrate that, despite the war, the business of the port is not standing still.

German soldiers in Poland are reported to have stolen the overcoats from dead Russians. Probably they required the coats only as temporary protection against cold weather for if the signs are read aright the Kaiser's soldiers will find it warm enough before long.

## A GOOD STORY OF THE EMDEN

How captain of German raider induced British subjects to clean his ship

To the long list of authentic narratives, legends, and traditions which the Emden and her Bayard-like Captain left behind in the Indian Ocean is now added one brought to the Evening News of Sydney, Australia, by Capt. G. Beckett of the British steamer Clan Graham, which reached Australia on Jan. 20, direct from Mauritius, where the Captain heard the story.

The episode happened at the outlying little island of Diego Garcia some weeks before Nov. 9, when the Emden was destroyed by the armored cruiser Sydney at Cocos Islands. In certain respects it is similar to the story of how a United States cruiser captured the island of Guam in the Spanish-American war; but Capt. von Muller sailed away without undeceiving his hosts. The story as told in the Evening News runs as follows: The Emden visited the island of Diego Garcia, which is a dependency of Mauritius. It is not very big, and has no wireless or other telegraphic communication with the outside world and there is only a casual steamer service. As a result of this, war was declared without the knowledge of the inhabitants, and months passed by without the news being heard at Diego Garcia. Capt. von Muller of the Emden, seems to have reckoned on this, and to have turned his knowledge to account.

One morning the Garcians, who, though British subjects, are of French descent, awoke to find a warship in their bay. At once a great commotion commenced on shore, as the visit of a vessel of any description was always a red-letter day. The German flag was flying at the vessel's masthead, and presently the name Emden could be distinguished. Soon a boat put out from the cruiser, and Capt. von Muller himself went ashore to pay his respects. Then there commenced a series of entertainments and junketings, and the officers and men of the Emden were royally feted. The islanders meant to show the world what they could do in the way of hospitality, hoping, perhaps, that other vessels might then be induced to call.

But the Garcians wanted news. The wily Germans had reckoned on this, and strung off tales of things that were happening abroad. They never mentioned the war, however. On the second day Capt. von Muller had an important announcement to make. He stated that he was so flattered by his reception that he intended to give the islanders a chance to earn some money. His ship wanted cleaning badly, and at the present moment, he said, he was on his way home to Kiel to have her docked.

"Now," he said, "what is to prevent us from cleaning the Emden here and cleaning her bottom. I am sure I can rely on your assistance, and you will be amply recompensed for the trouble."

Thus it came about that while the exploits of the Emden were being echoed around the world, and Englishmen everywhere were grasping at the daring of the Captain, a little British colony of its own free will was engaged in rejuvenating the offending

## Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

Pop, can I have a sent for sumthing, I sed to pop aftr suppr yestid day.

The laborer is worthy of his hire, as the miser sed wen he handed his wife 3 sents for laying the carpets, sed pop, heer, take this dollr bill and run around and get me a half a dollrs werth of segars and keep a sent out of the change.

Wich I went errout to the segar stoar and did, and wen I cald back I handid pop the segars and he sed, Now give me my change minus the sent.

G, pop, I cant, I sed.  
Wat, wat do you meen, you cant, sed pop.  
Sumthing happened to the sent, I sed.

Wat, if I mite be so bold as to ask, sed pop.  
I put it in my pants pockit, and the pants pockit had a hole in it, and I didnt find out the sent wasent there till I got awl the hoam, I sed.

Well dont expect me to give you anuthir wun, because if I did, wat wood pervent you frum putting that wun in the saim pockit, sed pop, as the old Persian law has it, He who puts a sent in a holey pockit must suffer accordingly even unto the 4th generation.

But I wuntid to get sumthing with the sent, I sed.  
Sertenly you did, but you must bare yure loss filosofically, sed pop, my child, remember that muny is theroot of awl evil and the handywork of the devil, remember that he who steels yure purse steals trash, but if you evir catch enybody with a hann awn yure good naim, slam him wun in the slats and bawl for the poleece, and now give me the rest of my change.

G, pop, I cant, I sed.  
And you cant you, prey, sed pop.  
Because it was awl with the sent in the pockit with the hole in it, I sed.

Ding it and slam bust it, sed pop, yung man, follo me.  
Wich I did. Proving its eazy enuff to bare sumbody elses loss filosofically, but not yure own.

vessel. All the time there were warships scouring the seas round about for the same vessel and thinking that owing to her dirty bottom, she could not run fast.

The Emden was run ashore on a sandy beach, and willing hands set to work scraping off the barnacles. Every night there was a concert, and the time passed very pleasantly. Finally the ship was deemed to be sufficiently clean, and once more she took the water. It was no wonder that the German officers were in high spirits, and the islanders were handsomely rewarded.

There was a solitary motorboat belonging to the Garcians, but it had long been out of order. Capt. von Muller heard of this, and at once sent his engineers ashore to see what was the matter. In the end a boat load of German sailors towed the motorboat out alongside the Emden, and the engineers fixed her up.

The people were delighted, but the good works of the German skipper had not yet come to an end. He announced that he would carry a mail, and all the people of the island were consequently soon busy writing letters. At the end of a week, when the cruiser sailed, several husky mailbags were put aboard, and these were faithfully delivered by the Captain. It is probable that they were handed over to one of the intercepted steamers, but at any rate the writers have no cause to complain that their dispatches went astray in the post. The Captain was not taking any big risks however, and he refused to carry any official communications.

The departure of the Emden was a glorious day, flags were flying everywhere; and as the echoes of the cruise

er's farewell guns died away there arose cheer after cheer from the unsuspecting people gathered on the shore. Finally the palm-covered isle was dropped astern, the blank cartidges in the guns were replaced with shell, and the Emden sailed away to deliver her mail.



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