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DAILY EDITION

Tuesday, October 12, 1915.

THE WAR

The Austro-German invasion of Serbia has begun in grim earnest, and the city of Belgrade is adding another adventurous page to its history. With a huge percentage of its population in the grip of typhus for months past, Serbia has admittedly been pretty much disgusted with the whole business, but the arrival of strong French and British forces must have put new heart into the soldiers of King Peter, and Von Mackenzen and his men, recently thrashed by the Russians, will have their work cut out for them in the new venture.

With Bulgaria threatening to attack the railroad between Nish and Salonika, things will be decidedly warm in the Balkan States during the next few weeks, and Greece is going to have great difficulty in keeping out of it. In permitting the Allied troops to pass through to the Serbian frontier, she has already committed herself to the support of the Allies and no protestations of neutrality will avail with the Kaiser when he comes to reckon with his esteemed relative. Probably King Constantine is convinced that Berlin will never be in a position to do any reckoning, but if that is so, he would be much safer to come out boldly and declare himself at war with Turkey at least.

In bringing men from the eastern front to attack Serbia, Germany must have weakened her lines in that region to a considerable extent, and, if the figures of Hilaire Belloc are dependable, and they are usually very near the mark, the German and Austrian supply of recruits is getting low and the standard is away below what it was six months ago, so that the struggle around Belgrade

is almost certain to give the Russians an opportunity to begin an active offensive again.

On the western front, the Allies are battering away at the German lines, preparatory to another big infantry advance. High explosives and all other lines of munitions are coming along in increasing quantities and everything points to a continued strenuous attack on the Hun positions. A continual stream of reinforcements will be required there, and it seems impossible that, even with the assistance of Bulgaria, Germany and Austria can keep up continual fighting on so many different and widely separated fronts for an almost unlimited period.

FLAG OPERATIONS

(Continued From Page One.)

hands of old people and the little children. Manifestly it was a time for flags. If an American city had been celebrating a double triumph like that—victory in Europe and a visit from the First Commoner—it would have been ablaze with flags. The landscape would have been completely covered with stars and stripes. But Toronto the loyal, Toronto the Conservative, with the premier of its heart in its very midst, did not hang out one extra flag. I take that back. One down-town saloon ran up the flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze, but doubts were expressed as to what it had to celebrate, now that the license commission has got busy.

Why was Toronto so timid, so meticulously thrifty in the use of flags on that glorious day? Or rather why doesn't Canada exult in a greater degree to show its colors, for Toronto is only one case in point? One would suppose that flags are something they don't keep at the department

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stores, so few and far between are they. And yet they were plentiful enough in September, 1911, when they were used at every Conservative campaign meeting to give an artistic verisimilitude, as Pooh Bah would say to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative. Perhaps you remember, gentle reader, how their custom was to blossom at the psychological moment, carrying the intelligent voter off his feet and causing him to forget the statistics presented by the other side. They had the flag in all sizes then, from cupola size down to button hole ribbons, and it cannot be denied that the flag did excellent work for those who were handling it at that time.

Just here the question arises where are all those flags now, also the men who organized the flag enthusiasm. The answer is that there are plenty of flags in Canada yet, and that the flag-organizers of that day are in power now at Ottawa, but that there's nothing doing in the way of concerted effort. Somehow or other nobody is taking hold of the flag and waving it, as it could be waved if they had the heart to do it.

A possible explanation is that they may have the heart, but not the nerve to do it. Having waved the flag for a petty partisan purpose in 1911, they naturally feel a little shy about tackling a lofty motive like the present. Besides the people remember these things and no doubt cherish resentment against those who used the sacred emblem of our nationhood for anything less than the noblest ends. At all events it doesn't do to recall the facts of four years ago by too much ostentation now. A cynic has suggested that

another reason why the people have had no official encouragement from the government in the use of flags is that the government doesn't feel like celebrating victories in Europe when it has nothing to celebrate in Canada—except defeats and reverses at the polls, as in Manitoba, and Prince Edward Island, and—not yet, but soon—in British Columbia.

However, this is a digression. The point is that a movement is afoot to induce Major General Sir Sam Hughes to stay at home more in Ottawa and take charge of the flag operations. What the people lack is not the spirit but direction. The Major General is just the man for the job. He is a thorough democrat and only accepted the knighthood because it was an honor to democracy. For himself he didn't give a hoot. He's like that, is Sir Sam, always sacrificing his personal feelings for the public good. He believes in the flag and the flag believes in him and when Sir Sam has the matter in his hands the people will feel that he isn't overdoing it. Besides, Sir Sam is a technician. (Continued from Page Three)

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