

THE COURIER

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Wednesday, December 23, 1914

THE SITUATION.

The most acceptable definition of the word siege, is a long continued attempt to gain possession, and this applies most aptly to the all round situation with reference to the existing war. There have been no single and brilliant victories in the open—such for instance as at Waterloo—when the one victory settled the renewed aspirations of Napoleon, or at Sedan, in the Franco-German war of 1870, when the French suffered a big defeat which practically settled the whole business. Now it is trench and counter-trench along vast fronts with a gain of a few yards looked upon as important.

One of the most celebrated of all sieges was that of Sebastopol, in the Crimean war. It lasted from October 9th, 1854, to Sept. 8th, 1855. The British loss during those entire hostilities was 24,000. The French 16,500 and the Russians 500,000. A large number of these, however, died of disease and privation. Such figures are a mere bagatelle compared with what has already occurred during existing hostilities, and in the matter of duration there must yet be some months.

In Poland, the crisis still continues, but the Russians are in tremendous and daily-gathering force, and should be able to still withstand the furious German onslaughts. In Belgium and the North of France, the news may still be considered as reassuring from the standpoint of the Allies.

At a meeting of the French Chamber of Deputies held yesterday, there was a notable and enthusiastic scene, many of the members appearing in uniform as they had come from the firing line to be present. The Premier, during the course of a ringing speech, made these declarations, well worth repeating, of the determined and unflinching attitude of his country.

"Against barbarity and despotism; against the system of provocations and methodical menaces which Germany called peace; against the system of murder and pillage which Germany called war; against the insolent hegemony of a military caste which loosed the scourge, France the emancipator, France, the vengeful, at the side of her allies arose and advanced to the fray.

"That is the stake. It is greater than our lives. Let us continue, then, to have but one united soul, and to-morrow, in the peace of victory, we shall recall with pride the days of tragedy, for they will have made of us more valorous and better men."

He was applauded to the echo in the Chamber, and said applause will be repeated throughout civilized countries.

At the same time as these utterances, Grand Admiral Von Tirpitz, the German Minister of Marine, was starting in an interview, that in revenge for the bottling up of the Kaiser's fleet, his nation might declare a submarine war on all of the merchant ships of the allies. This would be about on a par with the attacking of defenceless British coast towns, and the killing of women and children.

Dr. Creelman, President of the Ontario Agricultural College, who has just returned from a tour of the Orient, reports the feeling there to be thoroughly and enthusiastically on behalf of the allies. In Japan, everything is for the British, and in Hong Kong they have turned out every German, "bag and baggage."

CABINET CHANGES.

The changes in the Ontario Cabinet were largely anticipated.

Hon. Mr. Foy who has been an acceptable Attorney-General since the accession of the Whitney regime has for some time suffered from indifferent health, and he relinquishes the arduous duties of that post at his own request. He will still, however, be a Minister without portfolio, and his valuable advice will still be available. The best of good wishes will be his for many years of public usefulness.

It was expected that he would be succeeded by Hon. Mr. Hanna, but the latter still prefers to keep his post of Provincial Secretary. He knows and likes the duties which he has performed with marked success, especially with regard to his now world-famous prison reform scheme, a successful project which has challenged the attention, and the inspection of more than one other country.

Hon. Mr. Lucas, who becomes At-

torney-General, is a man of proved ability and Measrs. Ferguson and McGarry, who now enter the cabinet are men of most promising material—hard workers and good fighters.

Premier Hearst, who in addition to that office has also been Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, becomes relieved of the latter portfolio, and properly so. The dual position was too much for any one man to carry. The post of Prime Minister in itself involves duties and responsibilities which constitute a heavy load.

Speaking generally it may be safely affirmed that the ministry will continue the same progressive and clean policy established to such a gratifying extent under the late Sir James Whitney and what more could any province desire.

AN APT ILLUSTRATION. Mr. Beck is a leading United States lawyer, who was recently asked to give his opinion of the legal status of Germany and the other nations in connection with the present war. That is, he was requested to analyze the various documents which had passed between the contending powers, together with signed covenants, and to present his judgment on the merits of the case as if he was the presiding judge in a court of law.

His finding, which was couched in most tolerant and fair-minded terms, was, on the documentary evidence, overwhelmingly against the Kaiser and his war lords, and was quoted with approval, by all the leading U. S. papers.

The same gentleman has now issued a book on "The equities of the War," which is couched in the same equitable strain, and is most admirable in tone. Here is one sample extract in which he cojently brings home an illustration of the crime which has been perpetrated against Belgium:

"Let us suppose that the armies of the Kaiser had made the progress which they so confidently anticipated, and had not simply captured Paris, but also had invaded England, and that in an attempt to crush the British Empire, the German General Staff planned an invasion of Canada. Let us further suppose that Germany thereupon served upon the United States such an arrogant demand as made upon Belgium, requiring the United States to permit it to land an army in New York with the accompanying assurance that neither its territory nor independence would be injured, and that Germany would generously reimburse us for any damage.

"Let us further suppose—and it is not a very fanciful supposition—that the United States would reply to the German demand that under no circumstances should a German force be landed in New York or its territory be used as a base of hostile operations against Canada. To carry out the analogy in all its details, let us then suppose that the German fleet should land an army in the city of New York, arrest its mayor, and check the first attempt of its outraged inhabitants to defend its city by demolishing the Cathedral, the Metropolitan Art Gallery, the City Hall, and other structures, and shooting down remorselessly large numbers of citizens because a few non-combatants had not accepted the invasion with due humility."

Well put. There is, and can be, no defence for the awful atrocities perpetrated upon King Albert and his loyal subjects whose only alleged crime was to oppose ruthless and murderous invaders.

BOARD OF EDUCATION. The Kingston Whig seems to have attained the idea that the people of Brantford, with reference to a Board of Education, instead of two boards are "approaching the experiment with some degree of anxiety."

Anxiety about what? The citizens wanted the change, and they are going to have it. There is no trepidation whatever in the matter, nor should there be. Speaking of conditions in that city, our Kingston contemporary says:—"Kingston has had a Board of Education for many years, and it can unhesitatingly endorse the change. There never was any justification for two boards managing the affairs of our educational institutions. The public schools lead up to the secondary schools and there should not be, at any time, a difference of opinion with regard to the manner in which they should be directed.

The amalgamation does away with the possibility of friction between the governing bodies. The high school trustees remain. They are appointed by the council, six in number, two retiring each year, but so far as the work of the joint board is concerned there is no distinction, and the standing committees, having to do with high school as well as public school questions, co-operate with the utmost harmony.

A smaller board would do better. It would concentrate the business, and that, after all, is the great consideration. If the change is ever made it must be with the consent and motion of the people in a popular referendum, and the surprise is that the interest in educational matters is so light. In one ward a year ago a school election went by default twice because the electors were not sufficiently concerned to see that a member of the board, and a good one, was re-elected."

Meanwhile, as far as Brantford is concerned, it will make a success of its board without any doubt.

MORE POWER FOR WOMEN

One of the slogans of the age is—"More Power for Women." We hear it in Canada. Our women have banded themselves in a hundred ways to help the cause of society and humanity. In so doing they have stamped the feminine trade-mark of approval on many useful movements that no mere man or body of men could have carried into effect in a hundred years.

Like it or not as we please, feminism, the right of the woman to her own life, a voice in affairs, or her part in public, and private matters that concern her chief business in life, is one of the outstanding features of the times.

And just at the present time, women of Canada have it in their power to demonstrate their fitness for a part in our public and national life by working together with the men. Women are more concerned in the "Made in Canada" movement than any other class. The purchasing of any community is almost entirely in their hands. It is woman's business—she spends nearly 90 per cent of the family income—and if she grasps the importance, the vital importance to her and her family, of applying the "Made in Canada" principle, its success is assured as well as happiness and prosperity throughout all Canada.

Women are by instinct more conservative than men, and slower to adopt any radical change in method or practice until convinced that they should do so. Once convinced, however, they are more consistent, practical and enthusiastic than men could ever be.

Women will quickly grasp the "Made in Canada" idea, however. In the first place, no one is asked to buy a Made in Canada article unless it is equal or better value. With no duty to pay, Made in Canada articles are almost universally better in value and cheaper in price. Secondly, by buying Made in Canada the woman is protecting her own family or fellow countrymen from unemployment and promoting the prosperity of her own family and home. Thirdly, the movement is profoundly one of common sense, patriotism and enlightened selfishness.

It depends on the Women.

NOTES AND COMMENT. There has been quite a slump in verandah parties just lately.

Quite a few married men aren't hanging up their socks for fear of the presents falling through.

The Kaiser, although still unwell, is again at the front. The next six transits for him will be due in a few months.

A Toronto policeman has had a verdict returned against him of \$300 for alleged breach of promise. The engagement presents were not enumerated, but probably included bracelets, while she gave him batonnières.

Still another member of the Upper House, at Ottawa, has been called home, in the person of Senator Kirchoffer, who passed away suddenly last night. He was appointed by the Laurier Government in 1901.

They have been digging up a record lot of fossils in the Red River canyon of Alberta. They include eight perfect skeletons of Dinosaurs. Dino was a very large sized and ugly reptile of a few dozen feet in length. The only known contemporary still surviving, is the Brantford City Hall.

SEVEREST FIGHTING

(Continued from Page 1) Aix-la-Chapelle toward northern France. This activity may be the forerunner of a renewed German offensive in the western arena under the eyes of Emperor William or it may be simply intended to offset the reinforcements Great Britain has been throwing lately into the French field of hostilities. As the situation appears to stand to-day, the allies in France and Belgium continue more on the offensive than the defensive, and every day shows slight gains to their credit. It is believed that notwithstanding the failure of the plan for an armist-

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children In Use For Over 30 Years Always bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Watson*

ment of these gifts is another argument for the probable suspension of hostilities, wherever this is possible.

The London newspapers have decided unanimously not to publish on Christmas Day, and the official press bureau will suspend its activities from the afternoon of December 24, until the evening of December 25. Thousands of tons of Christmas presents have been sent to all the fronts. The distribution and enjoy-

ment of these gifts is another argument for the probable suspension of hostilities, wherever this is possible.

It is learned on good authority that the London Stock Exchange will open on January 4.

Hood's Sarsaparilla is not a cure-all. It is the best blood medicine on the market. It has stood the test of forty years and is used all over the world. Get it and begin treatment today. It will surely help you. Sold by all druggists.

GERMAN NAVAL AVIATOR DROPS BOMBS ON DOVER.

BERLIN, Dec. 23 (wireless via Sayville)—It is officially announced that Lieut. Pronozynski, a German naval aviator, has flown over Dover, Eng., and dropped bombs. He reconnoitred the position of the British fleet.

Sunderland, England, the populace have destroyed the German shops. The police made no arrests.

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THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT PREVAILS

EVERY section is sparkling with the spirit of the holiday season. People from all parts of the city, from nearby towns and villages throng the store early and late making their selections from the largest stocks of Christmas goods shown in the city. Wisest people are shopping in the mornings—they know the advantage.

Furs! His Majesty King Winter is here, and here to stay for a little while. Consequently Furs will be featured among the gifts on the Xmas tree. We have cut the prices away down. Very handsome Moleoney Set. Reduced to \$39.50. Fine Curl Persian Lamb Muff and Stole. Reduced to \$45.00. Genuine Ermine Cravats, very handsome. \$18.00 to \$35.00. Very handsome genuine English Mole, large stole and large Pillow Muff. Reduced to \$69.50.

Kimonas As Gifts Are Very Acceptable A very large stock of beautiful Kimonas in Crepe, Wool, Delaine, Flannellette, Elderdown and Silk. Plain Crepe Kimonas, satin bound, Empire or loose style, all colors. Special \$1.50. A very dainty Kimona in plain crepe, with satin puffing. Special \$2.00. A beautiful stock of Silk Kimonas, dainty floral patterns. Special \$4.95. Wool Delaine Kimonas, in stripe and floral effects. \$3.95 to \$6.50. OTHER LINES AT SPECIAL PRICES Come and See the Lines We Are Showing

THIS STORE WILL REMAIN OPEN EVERY NIGHT UNTIL XMAS SHOP EARLY! Christmas Handkerchiefs Ladies' hemstitched and embroidered edge fancy Handkerchiefs, 12 1/2c each. 5 for 50c. Ladies' fancy and embroidered edge fine quality Handkerchiefs. 25c, 5 for \$1.00. Ladies' Pure Linen Hemstitched Embroidered Edge Handkerchiefs, Special at 15c. Ladies' Pure Linen Hemstitched Initial Handkerchiefs, all initials. 20c, 3 for 50c. Men's Pure Linen Initial Handkerchiefs, all initials. 25c AND 40c. Men's Plain Pure Linen Hemstitched Handkerchiefs. Special 20c. Boxes and folders of Christmas Handkerchiefs. 75c, \$1.00, and... \$2.25

"WHEN THEY WAKE" on Christmas Morn Will there be any toys or gifts to make the little ones glad—those who are too young to understand what strain the whole world is under? Make the little ones happy, and by seeing them happy 'twill bring happiness to you. BRING THE CHILDREN TO TOYLAND and come yourself and listen to their child-like talk. We care not what mood you are in, it will make you think of the days gone by, and your first thought will be for the little ones. All Our Dressed Dolls at Reduced Prices Ogilvie, Lothead & Co.

LOCAL EIGHTY ONE YEARS. Just 81 years ago to-day Baptist Church was organized in January the church intended anniversary services with D as the speaker. FURNISHING DINNER. In addition to other people being the patients at Brantford, Brant Chapter, I.O.O.F. undertakes to supply Christmas dinner to all who are confined in hospital. AT THE APOLLO. Manager Spencer, of Apollo certainly have a big house by the many inquiries about Christmas Tree on Thursday matinee. Santa Claus will be on hand away 500 presents to the city wide program of pictures will be sent. CLEAN UP STREETS. The heavy condition of streets with snow and the hundreds of unemployed suggest, many citizens seem that a vast amount of work might be done, both from view of safety and relief city would undertake to snow removed. CHURCH EXTENSIONS. St. Luke's Church is to be extended to some extensions and at a cost of \$1,700. The adobe built of red brick on the church, and the special citizens will be necessary to church authorities to build prescribed street lines. license in this regard is given. SOCIAL SERVICE LEAGUE. Present indications point early completion of the hamper, which are to be at the league's headquarters, Y. W. C. A. on Thursday, December 24th. All parties to receive one are requested to bring hand wagons with them as the best of conveying their home. CHRISTMAS TREE. The Ladies' Aid Society Mary's Church held the Christmas tree for the children parish, Santa Claus, in the Mr. M. J. O'Donohue, prove immensely popular with the by his generous distribution that goes to delight a child. The very Rev. Dean Br Mayor Spence were very their felicitous remarks while Master Elmer R. Hahn of HAMPERS READY. The Social Service League to all those who have been that the Christmas hamper delivered to them at the Y on Thursday morning the 9 to 12 o'clock. The hamper been arranged in alphabetical and will be handed out as possible by a goodly number. Hand sleighs will be assistance in transport. The and members of the League their best wishes to the through the war or other finding this Christmas one least prosperous in their life is the earnest desire of all dark clouds may soon pass-

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