BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY SEVENTH YEAR | THE COURIER, BRANTFORD, CANADA, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16th, 1918 | TWO CENTS

ALLIES TAKE MENIN ; CROSS LYS

Comines Also Falls; Patrols Are Near Courtrai

Allies Continue Progress in Flanders Battle

GERMAN OCCUPATION OF BRUSSELS WILL END WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK

Admission Made By a High German Functionary---Teutons Are In Flight Before Advance of British, French and Belgian Forces In Flanders Battle Area.

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, Oct. 16.—A high German functionary in Belgium declared on October that German occupation of Brussels would end, at the latest, within fifteen days, according to reliable information received in London, says the correspondent of the 'Echo de Paris.

All the civilian population along the Belgium coast has been moved back out of the country and British aviators are said to be reporting fires over a vast area.

MENIN FALLS.

With the Allied Armies in Belgium, Oct. 15. (By the Associated Press)—Menin has fallen. Allied troops are a mile east of Roulers and advanced patrols are, according to the latest reports, within a mile of Courtrai. The Lys river seems to have been crossed between Vomines, which has been captured, and Karneton.

Reports indicate that another crossing of the Lys has been effected at Wervicq, although this has not been confirmed at this hour.

South of the zone where the mudspattered Allied troops are fighting their way forward through the rain and the mist and over sticky ground, the enemy has begun a withdrawal. His troops are being moved backward from Pont-a-Vennin and Berclau and from the Hollegham front. Here British patrols have reached the outskirts of the town of Nourichin.

NO IMPROVEMENT IN 'FLU SITUATION

Number of Cases in City Probably Higher Than Present Estimates

"No better to-day," was the verdict of Dr. Pearson, late Medical Health Officer, with regard to the influenza situation at noon. The doctor would not say that matters were worse, "that would be almost impossible," he stated. It is difficult to estimate the number of cases in the city, but he believed that three thousand would be a conservative figure. As there are often several cases in one family, it is impossible to arrive at any accurate estimate. A number of deaths from influenza occurred last night and this morning, the rate of mortality being about the same as during the week-end.

The resignation of Dr. Pearson from the post of M.H.O is being considered by the City Council and the Board of Health at a special meeting this afternoon.

At the Emergency Hospital.

Matters are going along well at the Emergency Hospital, although more help is still needed. Since the opening there have been 65 cases admitted and four deaths. A dormitory has been fitted up in the officers' quarters at the Armories nearby for the nurses.

At the Shelter.

Thirteen out of the fifteen inmates of the Children's Shelter are now ill with the influenza. Fortunately all the cases are of a mild nature, and no uneasiness is felt as to the outcome.

At the Hospital.

Those able to be on duty at the hospital are still over-taxed. Twenty of the nurses are now down with the complaint and Miss Ness, a graduate nurse, who had volunteered to help, was seized with the complaint this morning. The list of sick include the two head nurses.

None Serious.

There are no serious cases of in-

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COAL DELIVERIES NECESSARILY SLOW

The city authorities, especially those who have been placed in charge of the city's coal supply are finding the epidemic a source of much worry for them as it plays havoc both ways.

First in the matter of emergent calls for coal where members of a family are ill, and there is no fuel in the home.

In the second place, because of the fact that so much illness causes a delay in deliveries because men cannot be found to man the delivery trucks and motors.

The work, however, is being carried out with all the vigor and speed possible, the authorities realizing thoroughly the imperative needs at this time.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Oct. 16— Fair weather prevails generally except in Manitoba where rain is falling this morning.

Forecasts

Moderate variable winds today and on Thursday, not much change in temperature.

CROCODILE TEARS FROM ERZBERGER

German Minister Regrets Sinking of Mail Steamer Leinster

THE HAND OF FATE !

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Oct. 16.—A despatch to Daily Mail from the Hague quotes Matthis Eraberger, minister without portfolio in the German government, as expressing regret over the sinking of the Irish mail steamer Leinster, but declaring that it was the hand of fate, for which Germany coud not be held responsible.

"The occurrence is exceptionally regrettable", Erzberger is quoted as saying. "I learned with deep sympathy of the disaster which has overtaken so many women and children. My attitude on such occurrences is well known. In 1915 I expressed regret over the many victims of the Lusitania. My regret is increased in this sad case to genuine pain. The hand of fate for which we cannot be made responsible, has governed here."

POLITICAL STRIKE.

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Oct. 16.—A general political strike has been called in Moravia and Bohemia, and great demonstrations in favor of an independent rtate have taken place at Prague, according to a Zurich despatch. All theatres and places of public meetings have been closed. Deputies are said to have declared in speeches that the final phase of a Czech revolution is begun.

BELGIANS ADVANCING.

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Oct. 16.—The Belgian army under King Albert, is advancing rapidly along the Cortemarck-Thourout road. The fall of the Belgian town of Thourout, whose capture was prematurely announced unofficially yesterday, is expected almost immediately.

BRANTFORD CASUALTY LIST HEAVY

Several Local Heroes To-day Reported to Have Given Lives

OTHERS ARE WOUNDED

Pte. Ernest Baden Powell Davies was killed in action Sept. 30, according to word received to-day by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Davies, 19 Brighton Row. Pte. Davies went overseas with the 215th Battalion and won the Military Medal some months ago. He was of Welsh birth.

Pte. C. H. Dewar

Word was received to-day by John Dewar, 58 Dundas St., that his son, Pte. Charles Henry Dewar, formerly of the 125th Battalion, had been killed in action.

Pte. James Sumby

Pte. James Sumby died on Oct. 10, his wife, Mrs. Sumby, 74 Emily street, was notified to-day. He was reported dangerously ill last week.

Pte. Wm. Denny

Pte. William Denny was killed in action on Sept. 27, according to official notification sent to-day to his father, Robert Denny, 83 Ontario St.

Pte. Fred R. Brooks

Word has been received by Geo. W. Brooks, 85 Brighton Row, of the death in action on Oct. 2, of his son, Pte. Fred R. Brooks, a member of the 125th.

Pte. Herbert Whittman

Word that her brother, Pte. Herbert Whittman had been killed in action, was received to-day by Mrs. George Shoemaker, 21 Park avenue. Mrs. Shoemaker has two other brothers at the front, both of whom have been wounded.

Pte. W. J. Jones

Pte. William John Jones has been missing since Sept. 30, according to word received this afternoon by his sister, Mrs. W. H. Lane, 353 Dalhousie street.

Sergt. Sheasby

Mrs. Margaret Sheasby, 137 Charlotte street, has received word that her husband, Sergt. G. W. Sheasby, a sergeant in the 58th Battalion, was admitted to the 22nd general hospital, Camiers, on Sept. 30th with gunshot wounds. Sergt Sheasby left Brantford with the 125th Battalion. Before enlisting he was employed at the Wm. Paterson & Son Co.

Sig. J .C. Mathias

Word has just been received by Mr. E. B. Rowe, of 213 Chatham street, of the death in action of his nephew, Sig. J. C. Mathias. Pte. Mathias, who had lived in Brantford for some time, was an employe of the Brandon Shoe Co., and was prominent in sporting circles, being a member of the S. O. E. football club, and connected with other sports. At the beginning of the war he at once returned to England in order to enlist with a brother who lived there. He had been through the campaign almost from the outset, having been once before wounded. He made many warm friends in this city, who will grieve to hear of his death.

Pte. H. Cahill

Word has been received in the city of the death in action on Sept. 3, of Pte. Herbert Cahill, 154 Pearl street. The young man was formerly employed by J. M. Tulloch. He went overseas with the 215th Battalion, but in England became attached to the 125th. He leaves three brothers, John Joseph in the city, Reg, in Niagara Falls, and William

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BULGARIAN DEFECTION HITS TURKS

Government Sought to Obtain Honorable Peace Says Sultan

SPEECH FROM THRONE

By Courier Leased Wire.

Basil, Switzerland, Oct.16,—at the opening of the Turkish parliament the sultan in his speech from the throne recalled the difficult situation in which Turkey has been placed by the defection of Bulgaria, according to a Constantinople despatch received here. The government, he said, in common with its allies, had sought to give the people an honorable peace, but he had taken necessary steps for the defense of the country.

The sultan hoped the war would have a happy ending and invoked the aid of Allah to preserve Turkey from ruin and internecine strife.

The chamber elected Halil Bey, former foreign minister, president; Riza Pasha was chosen president of the senate.

COUNCIL ORDERED INVESTIGATION INTO COST OF LIVING IN BRANTFORD

Prosecution to Follow Where Excessive Prices Are Charged--Hot Session of City Fathers Over Fuel Matters; Mayor and Mr. J. H. Spence in Fiery Passage At Arms.

His Worship Mayor MacBride was on deck with all his guns loaded for a broadside, at last night's session of the city council, and he fired not only one volley, but salvo after salvo of shrapnel and canister high explosive shells and long distance bombs, during the three hours that the board remained in session. It was the first time in over a month that His Worship had occupied the mayoral chair, and apparently his absence from the city must have been devoted to the gathering of ammunition for use against those he regarded as his critics. And it was used with a bang last night. Fuel matters occupied the attention of the council for practically the entire session, and the debate couldn't have been hotter had subterranean fires, smouldering for weeks beneath the civic coal pile on the Waterous property on Queen St., broken into sudden flame and lent their warmth to the occasion. In the early stages of the meeting, the mayor made a lengthy reply to the officials of the Patriotic Fund who appeared before the council two weeks ago.

His Worship had summoned the officials in question to appear before the council, and then the balloon ascension began. Starting with a mild debate, discussion waxed more and more heated until the mayor ordered the calling of a constable—who did not materialize—to eject Mr. J.H. Spence from the chamber. There was not one passage at arms between His Worship and Mr. Spence, but half a dozen. Ald. Chalcraft was another who came in for a portion of the mayor's wrath when he protested against the vehemence of the debate. Others got minor volleys at scattered intervals but His Worship's main offensive was against the officials of the Patriotic Fund in regard to the supplying of coal to the soldiers' wives. His Worship challenged statements made by the officials two weeks ago, to the effect that he had first offered to sell them coal in August. He decared that he had first made his proposals four months earlier, but that the Fund had not agreed to finance the project, as the city's cash business required.

The investigation of prices charged for necessities of life in this city was the chief outcome of the session. This was authorized after P. H. Walsh, local coal dealer, had made a charge of graft in the city's coal transactions. As a result of his charge, legal action will be taken by the city solicitor against him. An investigation was also asked into the alleged use of anthracite coal by the Hurley printing company contrary to provincial fuel regulations.

Mayor's Statement

Early in the meeting, the Mayor read the following statement:

On my return to the city on Saturday last, my attention was drawn to a report of your last council meeting when some discussion took place re. coal supplies for soldier's wives. The council, I believe, was asked to hear a delegation from the Kith and Kin societies. There will, of course, be some difference of opinion as to the whole object of the presentation to the council, but for my own part I am convinced that one of the objects sought to be obtained was the discrediting of the Mayor's efforts to supply this city with fuel. This conclusion is arrived at from the fact that throughout the whole discussion I am unable to find one word of direct acknowledgement of our success in placing this city in the position of being better supplied with coal than any city in Canada. Brantford is in the unique position of having a coal pile to quarrel over. No other city that I know of has any reserve supply whatever, and were it not for the efforts put forth in the early summer we would not require to discuss ways and means for its dispersement. I do not desire to enter into any controversy with the officers of the Patriotic Association as to the supply for soldier's wives, but under the circumstances I am obliged to produce for you certain documents and facts which will convince any reasonable person that it is through no fault of mine that our soldier's dependents were not supplied some time ago.

By a reference to the minute book of the Patriotic Association (herewith exhibited) you will find that on May 14th, Mrs. Gibbs is recorded as acknowledging that I had offered to deliver coal to the homes of our soldier's provided final arrangements were made through the Patriotic Fund and the necessary lists furnished to me.

The price quoted by the city at that time was $10.50 per ton, and our shipments were coming fairly regular. Several dealers were then quoting $10.00, and evidently it was desired that every opportunity be given to purchase from the dealers at the lower price. Proof of this policy is contained in a copy of a card sent out by the Patriotic Association under date of April 6th. It was not within my power (neither was it my desire) to dictate as to where our soldier's wives should buy their coal. The same question that Mrs. Gibbs asks now might just as easily have been asked then. The dealer's price then was $10.00, the city's price was $10.50. That, I believe, was the real reason that our proposal to supply coal was not entertained at the time. The price that the city has had to pay for coal is well known to every alderman on the board. As a matter of fact, that was precisely the complaint made by the factory men at that time. Further, it was the subject of some discussion right in this council chamber when we were putting in the city's supply. The city has always had to charge about 50c. more per ton. The price at the mine has since advanced and the railway rates have increased. Those are matters which might properly be referred to the government, as they are beyond the powers of this board. It is quite well known to most of our soldier's wives and mothers that I have made every possible effort to supply them with coal, and if my efforts have not resulted in giving satisfaction, then I regret it exceedingly. The records will show that I first suggested the city supplying the coal on April 3rd. The agreement with the Patriotic Association for the sold supply is herewith exhibited, it bears date of Aug. 22nd, 1918. The explanation of the whole matter is therein contained.

I was at all times ready and willing to enter into agreements and arrangements for the delivery of this coal, and on many occasions expressed a desire to be supplied with lists. Since then lists were formally supplied and arrangements entered into on Aug. 22nd, we have delivered some 280 tons, and we will most certainly complete our obligation. During the first eight months of this year I gave practically my whole time to civic business. As you are all well aware. I cannot afford to do this. It will therefore be necessary to appoint an official who shall be charged with arranging an equitable distribution, not only of our emergent supplies, but of all supplies reaching this city from this date.

J. H. Spence.

Ald. Hill asked to hear Mr. Spence on the question, expressing a desire to get to the bottom of the matter.

"On my last appearance here," Mr. Spence pointed out, "I strove to avoid any tendency to criticize. On Saturday last Mayor MacBride telephoned me and ordered me to appear before the Council. I am here to-night for a show down——"

"You will probably get it," interrupted the Mayor.

"I am speaking to the Council."

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THE GENERAL GERMAN RETREA T BETWEEN DOUAI AND THE ME USE.

The enemy is retreating on the whole front between the Meuse Ri ver and the Scarpe, and even farther north. It is probable the retreat will extend to the North Sea at an early date. His evacuation of the M assif of St. Gobain and the Chemin des Dames began Thursday and east of Rheims he now is fleeing towards Rethel and Attigny. Solesmes is reported captured; also Le Cateau, w hich inadvertently was marked Le Catelet on the map.

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