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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 3, 1915.

THE BRITISH OFFENSIVE.

As a result of the British victory at Neuve Chapelle some of the military experts are revising their former opinion that a great army on the defensive can resist indefinitely without suffering very heavy losses.

The prevalent impression that when the Allies undertake the offensive on a large scale the enemy may be able to offer a resistance that will not be completely disposed of.

The military correspondent believes that a general German offensive movement in the West has been postponed from time to time in the hope that affairs in the East would result in a decision in the Germans' favor.

The situation demands that we should send every available man to Sir John French, and not seek about for alternate plans for the employment of our new armies, which are yet untried.

The officers and sailors of the German submarine who shelled an unarmored liner, killed women and children, and leered at them while they were struggling in the water, would not have been guilty of that savagery unless they believed such methods would be upheld and applauded in Berlin.

There would be little interest in the betting in London on the duration of the war were it not for the fact that some of those who are betting are risking large sums of money and therefore it may be assumed that they have given both time and intelligence to an examination of the facts bearing upon the question.

Apparently these German methods may be traced to two causes. One is a foolish belief that it is possible to terrify the people of the United Kingdom.

Commissioner Chandler, in reply to certain charges filed by Mr. E. S. Carter, Liberal organizer, has sent a letter to Mr. Carter which we publish today, in which Mr. Chandler says that he does not feel that the matters referred to are within his jurisdiction.

have that suspicion communicated so that persons who may have knowledge may be summoned to appear. We will not be bound by the strict rules of evidence but the commissioner has authority to use any methods he may deem to be in the public interests.

Assuming that the government was in earnest, Mr. Carter asked for an investigation as to payments alleged to have been made to Berry by holders of Crown timber licenses for his own use, concerning alleged shipments of lumber to Berry, and concerning the alleged payment by a Miramichi lumber company for the privilege of exporting roused pulpwood contrary to the law forbidding its exportation.

The government and Mr. Chandler together constitute the whole machinery of investigation. It is not necessary to ask whether the government is limiting Mr. Chandler's activities, or whether, without such official limitation, he himself declines to proceed along the lines desired.

There remains the case of Berry and the Dalhousie Lumber Company, in addition to certain charges preferred by Mr. Yononit. In the first case the inquiry has been postponed once because Berry, who had been subpoenaed, deliberately absented himself from court.

The one thing made clear by Commissioner Chandler's letter is that Premier Clarke and Hon. Mr. Baxter were merely playing to the gallery when they attempted to create the impression that the government was throwing the door of the inquiry wide open.

TEMPERANCE IN WAR TIME. The Archbishop of Canterbury, has sent to the London Times a letter written by the Archbishop with respect to abstinence from drink in time of war.

The Archbishop's letter, which was written at Lambeth Palace on March 16, and is as follows: "Dear Sir Edward Clarke,—I have to thank you for your very kind communication relating to your recent letter in The Times. You are aware that in October last I made public appeal throughout England, not to the clergy only but to the people generally, that we should be total abstainers during the continuance of the war.

Not do they dwell on the ominous increase in the interest charges. The financing of Messrs. Flemings, Berry, and Teal they do not mention. The financing of the Valley railway might fairly demand the attention of the Provincial Secretary and an admiring press, but Dr. Landry and the "proud" newspapers who speak for him and his associates do not tell the people how the money raised on the credit of the province to build a railway (which is not yet built) was disposed of.

GERMAN BARBARISM. The officers and sailors of the German submarine who shelled an unarmored liner, killed women and children, and leered at them while they were struggling in the water, would not have been guilty of that savagery unless they believed such methods would be upheld and applauded in Berlin.

BETTING ON THE WAR'S END. There would be little interest in the betting in London on the duration of the war were it not for the fact that some of those who are betting are risking large sums of money and therefore it may be assumed that they have given both time and intelligence to an examination of the facts bearing upon the question.

That the war will end Before May 1, 1915—8 to 1 against. Before June 1, 1915—2 to 1 against. Before September 1, 1915—Even.

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to face Germany with a butcher's bill so huge that she will at last refuse to see it increased. He estimates the German casualties up to date at a million and a quarter, and expresses the view that this is scarcely half what they will have to be before the end—before Germany gives it up.

PAYING THE PRICE.

When the history of this war comes to be written the valor of the British regiments which were rushed to the front at once and upon whom fell the brunt of the heaviest fighting against odds will make up one of the most thrilling chapters. The citizenship has been too strict to enable the correspondents to tell the British Empire of the magnificent devotion of the British Expeditionary Force during those first few weeks, and of the price which they paid in holding back forces five or six times their own number at Ypres and during the retreat from Mons.

WHERE DOES IT STAND? Hon. Dr. Landry in his budget speech gave the province very little light upon the Valley Railway and the prospects for building from Gagetown to St. John and from Centreville to Grand Falls.

It was not the policy of the government that contracts should be given to middlemen or brokers. Although early in the war there might have been some exceptions to the rule, yet later that principle had been strictly adhered to.

General Hughes gave the details of the force of 50,000 men which Canada had in arms in Europe, or are preparing. He explained that some of the supplies purchased out of the first appropriation of \$2,000,000 would probably last over into the coming fiscal year's accounts.

As to the St. John connection, Mr. Gould has made no secret of the fact that he does not favor crossing the St. John and the Kennebecasis, and he has solicited support for the plan of continuing down the western bank of the river and making a connection with the C. P. R. at Welsford or at Westfield.

Mr. Oliver expressed the opinion that if the men now under arms in Canada had been enlisted in August last the dominion would have had a better response to the call and would have had a larger force at the front.

Mr. Graham drew attention to the fact that while the Liberals were not protesting against any temporary operation of the road by the government, they believed that both legally and ethically the government could not under present conditions call upon the G. T. P. to take over the whole road and fulfill the company's part of the agreement for operation before the government had fulfilled its part in regard to completing construction according to original plans.

Mr. Graham remarked that in discussing C. P. R. affairs in other provinces he was always endeavoring to make the people realize that the railway is a good bit of government property.

NOTE AND COMMENT. The amount spent on drink annually by the United States, according to Secretary of State Bryan, is \$2,000,000,000 or four times the cost of the Panama Canal.

Mr. Carter's statement that he does not feel that the matters referred to are within his jurisdiction, is a clear indication of his attitude towards the charges against him.

of view of the temperance advocate, and especially of the advocate of total abstinence, the saving of the money spent for liquor would be the least of the benefits. There would be the saving from much physical, mental and moral misery, as well as from the waste of earnings, and there would be a gain in productive efficiency which would add largely to the general well-being.

Other voices included \$19,000 to provide for payments of the full seasonal indemnity of members of the house of commons who have been unable to attend either through illness or because they are on active service.

PARLIAMENT.

\$2,000,000 for Pensions in the Supplementaries—More Than a Million for Construction of I. C. R. Branch Lines.

Ottawa, March 29—War matters and railway estimates engaged the Commons when Hon. Mr. Hasen had concluded his naval estimates today.

Major-General Sam Hughes estimated a total expenditure, during the coming financial year, of \$95,475,000, made up as follows: Pay 100,000 troops, at \$3.25 per day each, for a total of \$32,500,000; rations for 50,000 troops, \$7,400,000; transport, rail and ocean going and returning, \$15,225,000; rifles, bayonets and scabbards, \$6,000,000; uniforms, \$3,100,000; stores and equipment, \$15,000,000; thirteen, eighteen and sixty-pound guns and accessories, 76 per cent of value, \$3,750,000; 125,000 remounts, \$2,000,000.

Mr. MacLennan argued that in the case of 50,000 men which Canada had in arms in Europe, or are preparing. He explained that some of the supplies purchased out of the first appropriation of \$2,000,000 would probably last over into the coming fiscal year's accounts.

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parliament has so far been asked to vote for the coming year to a little more than \$19,000,000, or within \$5,000,000 of the total amount asked for last year under government charges and supplementary estimates chargeable to the revenue.

Premier Clarke and Attorney-General Baxter will no doubt make their position clear on the question of St. John taxation. Can they look the consequences of the Potts scheme in the face and then call to kill the measure? It is probably the most obvious piece of class legislation ever proposed at Fredericton.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

POLITICS AND THE I. C. R.

Sir,—In the report of the proceedings of the House of Commons, Hon. Mr. Cochrane, Minister of Railways, is made to say that he had endeavored to manage the Intercolonial railway in a business way and in the interest of the people, but had tried to keep politics out of it, feeling that the introduction of politics would not be in the interest of the employees or of the public.

There are comparatively few new votes for public buildings, the total being about \$180,000, while for harbors and rivers the total is about \$600,000.

Mr. Cochrane made the assertion that he has traveled over the Intercolonial more than any other minister ever did. Surely he must be joking; he cannot mean that. He ought not to make such rash statements in the hearing of intelligent men.

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