

THE COURIER

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Tuesday, December 15, 1914

THE SITUATION.

Satisfactory news from the front has come from a somewhat unexpected quarter. The Servians from the first have been fighting splendidly, it is true, but they were regarded as the altogether outmatched by Austria, the estimated war strength of the two nations when hostilities broke out standing at \$10,000 to 195,000. In the earlier stages this preponderance told heavily, but the Servians rallied from the first shock in a notable way, and it is now reported that they have retaken Belgrade. This is their capital, and a well-fortified city, which fell at a comparatively early stage in the first onrush. The official Austrian report admits that the advance of their troops has not only been stopped, but also that "extended retirements" have been rendered necessary. The truth of the matter is, that all of the Allies are not only fighting stubbornly and courageously, but that in addition they are fortified by the knowledge of a righteous cause on behalf of civilization—a feeling first so splendidly exemplified by little Belgium, and still maintained by her.

On the Belgian front the Allies continue to make slight progress, and in Poland the onrush of the Germans towards Warsaw has met with a severe check.

To sink an old Turkish ironclad, built forty years ago, of an out-of-date and patched-up type, would not under ordinary circumstances be considered much of a war incident, but the circumstances were not ordinary. She was in the Dardanelles, guarded by five rows of mines across the channel, but British submarine B-11 dived under and successfully accomplished the torpedo act, returning to safety without receiving one hit from forts or torpedo boats. The incident demonstrates that British submarines are just as efficient as the German ditto even when only the slightest and most desperate opportunity offers.

In Alsace and Lorraine the French forces continue to do excellently, and an unconfirmed rumor is that Norway, Sweden and Denmark may join the Allies. It would certainly seem the part of wisdom for them to do so. Italy at time of writing is still awaiting her answer from Turkey for an explanation of the violation of an Italian consulate in Arabia.

It is stated that a conference has been called by the German Government-General of the invaded Belgium provinces to decide on necessary measures to collect a war levy of 350,000,000 francs from that already outrageously despoiled and butchered country. Just how the sum is to be secured has yet to be decided, but it is safe to assert that no good will be too cruel or too vicious for the exemplars of "Kultur" to employ.

A BIT OF HISTORY.

These days have recalled an incident in the career of the Kaiser, in which he showed himself not only to be an unmitigated autocrat, but also to be utterly lacking in filial devotion. It is generally well known that his mother was the eldest child of the late Queen Victoria. She was born on Nov. 21st, 1840, and married to Frederick, the Crown Prince of Prussia, afterwards Emperor of Germany, on January 25th, 1858. At the time of the alliance she was therefore in the eighteenth year of her age, and the present Emperor was born on Jan. 27th of the following year, so that he is now in the fifty-sixth year of his age. He was a sickly infant, and at one time it was thought to be impossible to successfully raise him. He at a very early age manifested an imperial temper, and in his teens commenced to resent his mother's influence.

Bismarck did the same thing, but he was a man of infinite resource and tact and could be suavely diplomatic should the occasion require. Prior to the death of his father, the then-Crown Prince had spies about her and in the bedchamber of the invalid, and he learned that Emperor Frederick had for some years kept a journal. He feared that his father had chronicled some disparaging criticism of himself, and upon his demise at once demanded the diary from his mother. The latter had secretly sent the document to England, and she denied ignorance as to its whereabouts. William was furious. He gave his mother to understand that he was the master, and told her that she would remain under close arrest

until she had obeyed him. This, let it be remembered, was while she had only been a widow for a few hours, and the remains of her spouse were still lying in state. When Bismarck arrived a little later he found the palace surrounded by squadrons of cavalry, and on enquiry his young master told him the reason. The Iron Chancellor met the situation diplomatically, and when the exasperated tyrant had been given a chance to cool off he suggested that openly extreme measures were unwise. That he thought the best plan was to cut off her allowance until the journal was produced; that forced arrest she would brave out, but, he exclaimed, "Who can resist money?"

This method was successfully followed, but the happening is in order at this juncture as a true indication of the real nature of this splendid exemplar of German Kultur.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The first Monday in January the electors of Brantford are wont to meet in appointed places and move and second that Mr. Blank is a fit and proper person to represent Blank ward in the City Council. This year the usual performance will be gone through with, and the prospect of acclamations all around is becoming small by degrees and beautifully less.—Expositor.

As a matter of fact, up to the present time there has been very little talk of municipal contests anywhere—the war and its attendant consequences have counteracted that.

In more than one community it has been decided to let councils next January get there by acclamation.

The method at such a period has a good deal to recommend it.

In Brantford the unwritten rule has been that the Mayor should receive his second term without contest. Only those familiar with the duties and the responsibilities of the post realize how great and continuous they are, or the amount of time necessary to be taken from private interests if civic matters are to be efficiently looked after.

The turmoil of a second fight is not warranted when such duties are so ably performed as they have been by Mayor Spence. With reference to the aldermen of this year, it may also be successfully claimed that they have done excellent service.

SILENCE AND COBWEBS

When you have had a glimpse of a live factory running full-handed every day, fancy what it is like to have a walk over a factory that's closed because of not enough orders coming in to keep it running. The engine is rusty; the boilers moaning with cold wind; the rats running over the coal; the machines cobwebbed and the piles of unsold goods dusty and silent. Weeks ago the whistle blew for the last time, until the business picks up again. The manager posted the notice to quit. The time clock was punched by the last man out. The books were balanced and closed. The cover went over the typewriter and the caretaker swept out the place, lighted his pipe and hunched away home. Somebody tried to ring up on the telephone; no answer. Grass grew over the railway siding, and the empty box car might as well be idle there as anywhere else. The men that used to work in the factory hang about the streets, smoking, waiting for odd jobs; women pinching at home; store bills unpaid; rent in arrears; business gone to the dogs; the town sad and miserable and for the present without hope, just because for some time to come it is out of work. And this is the picture of silence and cobwebs and blue ruin which the dollars of Canadians thoughtlessly spent for imported goods, has made possible, but which the dollars of Canadians selfishly spent for goods made in Canada can completely undo.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

Just about now Austria commences to wish that she hadn't.

That Christmas shopping; not many more days now in which it can be done.

It is the troops and the ships of Allah which are now getting slammed in the struggle. No wonder the Kaiser is getting dubious with regard to his alleged partners.

That German fleet is still clinging to the Kiel Canal with the tenacity of an affrighted child. The successful passing of a British submarine under five rows of mines will not be calculated to brace up the nerves of that outfit to any very noticeable extent.

Lt.-Col. Wood of Quebec, speaking before the Canadian Club in Toronto yesterday, made this neat reference to a certain firebrand in Quebec: "After alluding to the patriotism of the French-Canadians in the past, the speaker declared they had at present their demagogue, who was showing that the way to be a French-Canadian patriot was to be a British parasite. "And that means he is making a degraded and degrading appeal to a really fine, noble race, and the crime he is committing—I must not mention names—the crime he is committing I will define in a single word—

Bourassassination.

(Loud laughter and applause.) Reports from Berlin are to the effect that the people have been kept in ignorance of the absolute state of affairs at the front, and that they are happily pursuing their way in the sublime belief that all is going well with the arms of the Kaiser. Even the wounded cannot enlighten them, as the units who make up the far-flung battle-line have no knowledge of general results. The fact that the authorities have not dared to let them know the truth is most significant, and the final awakening will be terrific.

In an address at Montreal, Finance Minister White exclaimed, "What a marvel is Britain, to-day financing the war out of her savings and with a margin left over for investment." It may also be recalled that during the Napoleonic wars John Bull was able to largely finance other powers in the final overthrow of the European terror. The speaker stated that Canada would have to borrow \$100,000,000 per annum during the period of hostilities. He showed that the export trade of the Dominion had greatly improved, and that future prospects could not be regarded as otherwise than excellent.

After four months of the war France still remains uncrushed, and even little Belgium is still hanging on. How different from the rapid German success in 1870. The formal declaration of war did not take place until July 15th, 1870, and peace was signed on February 26th, 1871, when the French were forced to accept humiliating terms. In reality the French Emperor surrendered his sword on September 1st, and Paris was completely invested by September 19th. In other words, both incidents occurred in far less time than the Kaiser and his war lords have now occupied, only to find themselves very badly up against it.

The total of casualties to British officers, as officially reported up to November 30th, reads: Killed 996 Missing 582 Wounded 1,918 Total 3,496

The men in the ranks have fought none the less bravely, but the percentage of casualties with reference to them is much less. For one reason, officers have to expose themselves much more frequently, and for another, sharpshooters are especially detailed to pick them out. For the most part they consist of a class often sneered at in times of peace, but never during times of war in all the record of British arms.

Notes On the War

By An Unmilitary Critic

WHEN THERE'S A STORM ON THE NORTH SEA.

"Heavy Gales n the North Sea," is a familiar heading in the papers these days. We shiver when we think of the navy. And yet do you know the old poem by William Pitt? I wish I had it, but it went something like this:

One night there was a hurricane, The sea was mountains rolling, When Billy Buntine turned his quid, And said to Billy Bowling: "A strong nor'wester's blowing Bill; Hark! don't you hear it roar now? Lard help 'em, how I pities them Unhappy folks on shore now. "Foolhardy chaps who live in towns, What dangers they are all in, And now lie quaking in their beds, For fear the roof will fall in. Poor creatures! How they envy us And wishes, I've a notion For our good luck in such a storm To be upon the ocean! "And as for them who're out all day On business from their houses, And late at night are coming home, To cheer their babes and spouses, While you and I, Bill, on the deck Are comfortably lying, My eyes! what tides and chimney pots About their heads are flying! "And every often have we heard How men are killed and undone By overturns of carriages, By thieves and fires in London. We know the risks all landmen run From noblemen to tailors; Then, Bill, let us thank Providence That ground and I are sailors now. Some of the German Landsturm are escaping to Holland rather than fight. If they were only allowed to stay as far in the rear as the Crown Prince creeps they wouldn't mind warfare a bit. "The Kaiser's Navy should send an illuminated address of thanks to the man who first thought of the Kiel Canal. In bombarding Rheims the Germans should be careful not to hit any champagne. If a case of wine was destroyed the flags in Berlin would probably fly half-mast. If Herr Krupp is taking German bonds in payment for his guns he may yet be one of the steady customers of the soup kitchens. Turkey has still failed to reply to Italy's note regarding the violation of the neutrality of the latter's Consulate in Arabia.

GERMAN AUXILIARY CRUISER CAPTURED

TOKIO, Dec. 14.—It is reported here that the German armed merchantman Oxford has been captured by the British in the Indian Ocean, and that the German converted cruiser Cormorant has entered the harbor of Guam in the Ladronne archipelago.

Must Get Out of Port To-day

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The German converted cruiser, Cormorant, which arrived in the harbor of Guam, an American possession in Ladronne Archipelago, has been given 24 hours from 10 a.m. yesterday in which to leave the port or intern for the war. She was short of coal, provisions and water.

Large quantities of hay, turnips and grain are being daily shipped from this station.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children In Use For Over 30 Years Always bears the Signature of Dr. H. H. Mitchell

Arch. Hialoh of Grey township, ex-M.P.P. was nominated for the House of Commons by North Huron Liberals in convention at Wingham. Seventy-five foreigners were arrested at the House of Industry, Toronto, and charged with vagrancy.

Most of them had money secreted in their clothes and were seeking free meals. Fireman Stanley Austin was fatally scalded and Engineer Nelson Fulcher seriously injured when a runaway car collided with the engine of an Algoma Central train at Franz.

Biliousness is Cured by HOOD'S PILLS 25c.

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High Class Furniture will always be found at CLIFFORD'S BIG FURNITURE HOUSE. We carry classy Furniture in all the latest fashions and styles, and all shades of finish. Our prices are lower than any other furniture dealer in the city. Drop in and be convinced. Obliging salespeople to serve you.

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The Christmas Store

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TOY-LAND

Such delight and amusement caused by young and old in this special Christmas department puts everyone in the joyous mood. Toys there are in abundance for children of all ages, but the wonder is there for the boy, and it's "MECCANO." COME IN AND SEE THIS WONDERFUL TOY.

With every purchase of Meccano you get an entry form to the \$1000 competition

USEFUL GIFTS FROM THE READY-TO-WEAR

A large and very handsome range of beautiful Silk Kimonos are shown on the second floor for Christmas. A more suitable gift for a young lady would indeed be difficult to find. Not only is it always acceptable, but very useful. SPECIAL

\$4.95

Christmas Waists

New Christmas Waists are just to hand, and some very beautiful and serviceable waists are shown in the range. There are silks, satins, nets and crepe-de-chines in a variety of colorings and designs that makes the selection easy. SPECIAL

\$5.00 up

Underskirts

The variety and extensive range of Underskirts is too large to deal on any particular skirt, but a very handsome satin skirt is shown at \$1.39, and then again you get a large range in the better quality. PRICES

\$1.50 to \$10

Of Special Interest

In order that business may not be stunted in our millinery department we have decided to reduce our entire stock of BEAUTIFULLY TRIMMED MILLINERY to

HALF PRICE

Now this special offer is liable to be withdrawn without notice, so we advise you taking advantage NOW.

Christmas Handkerchiefs

Ladies' fine quality "Pure Linen" hem-stitched Initial Handkerchiefs. 25c

Gents' extra fine "Pure Linen" hem-stitched and Initial Handkerchiefs. Special at 25c

Ladies' fine embroidered corner and lace edge Handkerchiefs, half dozen in a box. Price \$1.50, \$1, 90c

Ladies' fine embroidered lace edge Handkerchiefs. Special 5 for 50c

Ladies' fine lace edge linen and lawn Handkerchiefs. At 60, 50, 35, 25c

See our Large Handkerchief Booth in the centre of the store.

THAT VELVET BARGAIN

40-inch, beautiful chiffon finish, English Costume Velvet, guaranteed quality. There are still a few stockings left. Remember, this is our regular \$3.00 Velvet. SPECIAL SALE PRICE

\$1.98

Gloves

Ladies' Fine French Kid Gloves, with plain or fancy stitched backs.

\$1.75, \$1.50, \$1.25, \$1

Silk Hose

AN IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT Ladies' pure silk, heavy quality stockings, spliced heel and toe, double garter top. Special at \$1.50

Brass Jardiniers

A beautiful, heavy, hammered brass "JARDINIER," well lacquered and will not tarnish, stands on three ball legs. A BIG BARGAIN.

While They Last \$1.19

\$1.98

Ogilvie, Lochhead & Co.

LOCAL

POWER OFF.

Great inconvenience was caused the users of Western Counties Electric Power which was totally cut for a few hours early this morning.

ICE ON GRAND.

The Grand is covered by a thin and rough sheet of ice over its face at the Lorne Bridge. It was a skating thickness for a long time.

SPRING SITTINGS

The Spring jury court opened on Tuesday, March 30 before Honorable the Chief Justice of the Exchequer. Non-jury sittings commence on Tuesday, May 18th. Presiding justice has not yet been pointed.

MAIL AS USUAL.

A letter to hand from an Aust shows that the mail to that country from England and also from Canada has never been interfered with during the course of the war, in spite of the fact that the Pacific Ocean was hunting ground of a German submarine.

CREDITORS' MEET.

A meeting of the creditors of the Gem Theatre took place yesterday at the office of W. A. Hollinrake when J. C. Spence was appointed signee. The financial statement presented and showed that the assets were practically nil. W. Hendrie and A. M. Harley were appointed inspectors for the creditors.

THE 'X' XMAS TREE.

The Dormitory men of the Y. C. A. are to have a Christmas tree which will be decorated for the benefit of a number of poor little kiddies. Roomers have agreed to club together for a tree which will stand in Fellowship Hall, where a number of children will be invited to celebrate Christmas Eve. The scheme has been well supported.

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can purchase genuine bargain —IN—

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What's nicer a nice set of Fox, Wolf, and Fitch.

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