

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Russian problem is by no means solved yet. The complications grow greater and greater every day.

We are now told that there is really no shortage in sugar, but that transportation difficulties prevents its distribution in America. Canada consumes annually some 350,000 tons, of which about a twentieth is produced from home-grown beets.

A liberal collection was taken at the Baptist church here last Sunday to help relieve the starving millions of Armenians. The Russians are now leaving Armenia and the Turks are returning there, possibly to murder the rest of them.

The Canadians are still more than holding their own against the German forces which they encounter, and General Haig again congratulates the Canucks on their glorious achievements. Our boys never seem to go out on a raid without returning with much booty.

The United States evidently are making every preparation to get their troops across the ocean. One firm is said to have a contract to build as many torpedo boats within the next fifteen months as there are now in all the navies of the world to-day. And it is these torpedo boats that convoy troopships, and are the terror of submarines.

The great German offensive on the Western Front, of which we have heard so much, has not yet been launched. It may come, of course, and doubtless will cause much loss, but we are assured that the Allies, while realizing the seriousness of the situation, are fully prepared to meet it. And we have every confidence in their ability to do so.

To-morrow is the anniversary of Washington's Birthday, and is one of the two days to be observed in the United States as a national holiday and flag flying, both on land and sea. The other day is the "Glorious Fourth." On these two days Government ships are dressed with all their flags—national service and signal.

The first contingent of drafted men has safely arrived in England, and will relieve forces there to take their places in the fighting line in France. This makes it possible to allow some seven hundred married Canadians, who have been on duty continuously for nearly three years, to come home and enjoy a three months' furlough with their families and friends. We hope to see special arrangements made that a furlough will also be granted the single men of the first contingent. They surely deserve it as much as the married men.

Lenine and Trotsky, the "works" of the Bolshevik party, were formerly paid agents of Germany to arouse the Socialists against the Russian government, and did it so successfully that now Germany is fearing their anarchistic, socialistic movement may spread uncomfortably near Berlin, which would be a benefit to the world at large. One of the first things these fantastic revolutionists did was to bring about a mutiny in the Russian army, encouraging the soldiers to kill the officers, with the result that it was no longer a fighting force. The Germans took advantage of this to insist upon such outrageous peace terms that the anarchists refused to be parties to them, but Germany soon proved to them how helpless they had made themselves, by sending a few regiments toward Petrograd, with the result that the revolutionists have had to accept a German made peace, which will put new life for a time into the long-suffering German people.

That the United States is fully aroused to the importance of this war may be seen from the following excerpts, taken from Monday's papers, and emanating from very different sources. The executive council of

the American Federation of Labor at the close of a seven-day session in Washington, issued a declaration fully endorsing the war aims of the President, and recognizing the war against Prussianism as a working-man's war. It read in part as follows:

"We are face to face with a world crisis. We are in a world struggle which will determine for the immediate future whether principles of democratic freedom or principles of force shall dominate. The decision will determine not only the destiny of nations but of every community and of every individual. No life will be untouched. Either the principles of free democracy or of Prussian militaristic autocracy will prevail. There can be no compromise. So there can be no neutrality among nations or individuals."

Rev. Charles A. Eaton, a former Toronto pastor, who has preached in Aylmer, and who gave up the pastorate of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, New York, which has the wealthiest congregation in that city—that he might assist the government, spoke as follows, in addressing 500 foremen, superintendents and leaders in the Submarine Boat Company plant, at Port Newark, N. J., on Saturday last:

"When I stand before the judgment seat of the Almighty I want to be able to look God in the face and tell Him that I hit the Germans at least one good wallop before I shuffled off. I was born in a shipyard," he said. "One of the first smells I got in this world that I can remember was hot tar and oakum. You can't tell me anything about shipbuilding that I don't know—and you can't tell me anything about ship builders. Do you men know that you hold in your hands the destiny of this country? Well, you do, and don't let anyone tell you any different. In these plants here in Port Newark you're handling 800,000 tons of shipping, enough to win this war with. What have we got to worry about the Germans for if you men stick to your job six days a week the way the men do over in the trenches? German. I say to hell with the Germans. You fellows are doing a work here as important as the work of the men in the trenches and you've got to realize it. You are going to get a lot of spies here. They'll creep in. If you ever come across a man with a bomb don't say to him: 'Come outside, brother, and let us pray.' Don't slap him on the wrist. Truss him up, take him out on the meadows, place his damned bomb on his chest and then stand off a few feet and watch him get down to hell, where he belongs with the Kaiser. Treat a German propagandist the same way. Hammer his face off. You have ropes here and steel girders. Use them."

EDWIN McCausland

Old and Highly Esteemed Resident Meets with Fatal Accident.

All Aylmer was shocked to learn on Thursday last that Mr. Edwin McCausland, one of our oldest and most highly esteemed citizens, had met with instant death at the Grand Trunk depot, about 1.50 on that day the cruel car wheels having caught his body about the middle, and mangled it terribly. No one happened to see how it happened, but from all that can be learned the victim slipped on the ice, and fell beneath the wheels.

The circumstances are as follows: Mr. McCausland had eaten his mid-day meal, and went out to clear the snow and ice from the sidewalk. It was not sufficiently thawed, so he told the family he would leave it for a time and go to the station to enquire about a shipment of cheese which had gone astray. On arriving

at the station he found the agent busy with the out-going express matter for the 1 o'clock train, so he walked up and down the platform, conversing with several people. While the train was standing in the yard, the engineer noticed deceased alongside the engine, looking at it, and as the train pulled out the unfortunate man must have lost his footing and fell beneath the wheels, meeting death instantly.

The late Mr. McCausland, notwithstanding that he was in 81st year, was hale and hearty, and possessed all his faculties to a remarkable extent. He was a dealer in cheese and always transacted his business without assistance. He had only the day previously completed a lease for his store occupied by Mr. Enoch Mills. As previously stated he was one of Aylmer's oldest and most highly esteemed citizens. It is more than a half century ago that he first conducted a mercantile business in Aylmer. After several years retirement, he engaged in the pork packing and insurance business with the late J. B. Ogilvie. Mr. McCausland thoroughly enjoyed clean sport, and throughout the summer season might be found daily on the bowling green, being an enthusiastic adept at the game, and being a member of the rink which carried off the trophy at one of the London tournaments last summer. In the winter months, he was a daily attendant at the Stanley Club, his favorite game being checkers, at which he rarely got the worst of it. He was the soul of honor, and for many, many years has been a consistent member of St. Paul's Methodist church here, never missing a Sunday or week night service.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters, Miss Violet, at home, and Miss Edith, a graduate nurse, also one brother, Wesley McCausland, of Regina, Sask., to whom the sympathy of the community goes out in their sad and sudden bereavement.

The funeral took place from his late residence on Saturday to the Aylmer cemetery.

On learning of the accident, Coroner Dr. ... considered it advisable to hold an inquest, which was done, and on Monday, the jury, composed of J. W. Hutchinson, (foreman) W. C. Bingham, C. A. White, A. J. Anderson, O. McKenney, H. Little, and H. L. Stratton, after hearing the evidence returned a verdict to the effect that Mr. McCausland's death was accidental, he being run over by G. T. R. train No. 65 at Aylmer station. No carelessness was attributed to the train crew.

THE HONORED LIFE OF MRS. J. H. BACKHOUSE

The Port Rowan News of recent date published the following obituary of the mother of Dr. Annie Backus of Aylmer: Mrs. J. H. Backhouse died on the 7th inst. at her residence on Henry street, after an illness of about ten days. She was 89 years old. The funeral was conducted on Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Backhouse was a daughter of the late Cornelius Dedrick one of the seven charter members of the Port Rowan Baptist church, and a grand-daughter of the late Lucas Dedrick, the second settler in Walsingham, who came from Pennsylvania in 1782, and the first man to grow wheat in the county of Norfolk. She was eighty-nine years old last August and was the senior member of the Port Rowan Baptist church, both on account of her actual age, and the number of years of her membership.

In her youth she married the late John H. Backhouse, Esq., and went to live at the old homestead at the mill, where she resided for sixty-five years before coming to Port Rowan. Mr. Backhouse died in 1912 and soon after his death she came to her new home in Port Rowan to spend her remaining days with her daughter. She is survived by her three children, Dr. Annie Backus, wife of Albert H. Backus, K. C. of Aylmer, and Mrs. Minnie Swayze, wife of Dr. Swayze of California.

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and John C. Backhouse, of the Mill, and a granddaughter and two grandsons, children of J. C. Backhouse. One sister, Mrs. Jerusha Smith, also survives, and numerous nephews and nieces here and scattered over the wide world.

Mrs. Backhouse held a high social position and for seventy years and more has been admired for her grace and charm by a wide circle of friends. During all that time she has been a leader in her own community and a familiar favorite in the best circles of Norfolk.

She took an interest in everything in education, in farming, in politics and in religion, and was always intelligent, tolerant, hopeful and kind. Everybody knew her, everybody loved her. She will be greatly missed, not alone by the few who are left of her own generation, but also by the vigorous men and women and even the children of our own time.

AYLMER FLYING OFFICER MENTIONED IN REPORT OF SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT TO TORONTO STAR

Special Cable to the Star from "Windermere"

London, Eng., Feb. 15—Visiting Mount Vernon Hospital at Hampstead Heights, overlooking London, I found the following Ontario flying officers there: Flight Sub-Lieut. Stratton, R.N.A.S.; Aylmer; Lieut. Christie, R.F.C.; Martintown; Lieut. R. W. Jackson, R.F.C.; Hilderton, and Lieut. R. A. McLean, R.N.A.S., Highgate.

One of these officers described the attractiveness of flying for young Canadians and he said he had been working ten months as an observer, which is mainly artillery work and photography. Two or three hours a day was supposed to be an air man's work. Most men found that enough. Flying officers, he said, need no more courage than infantry officers. Flying becomes a matter of routine, but after a time the nerves begin to feel the strain. That was why flying men were given a fortnight's leave every three months. WINDERMERE

KINGSMILL

The Kingsmill Sunday School held their annual election of officers on Sunday. The following were installed Superintendent, Mr. A. Charlton; assistant, Mr. A. Carter; secretary-treasurer, Mr. M. Potts; asst. Norman Derrough; organist, Gladys Charlton; asst. Viola Potts; Cradle Roll supt., Gladys Charlton; Missionary and Temperance Supt., Lorne

Grandy; Bible Class Teacher, Mrs. J. Winter; the T. O. F. class, Mr. C. Dance; Sunbeam class, Mrs. C. Dance, Live Wire class, Miss Lulu Brooks; Primer class, Miss Mary Parkes.

A splendid programme was put on by the Kingsmill Literary Society under the captainship of Jack Condon on Friday last. The debate for the evening was "Resolved That Asiatic Immigration Should be Prohibited," and the affirmative won by a small margin. The debate for the coming week is "Resolved that

Manufacturers do More to Raise the High Cost of Living than the Farmers."

Mrs. S. Parkes is spending a few days in Cornelle. Born to Mr. and Mrs. M. Potts, on February 14th, a daughter.

A man can be humble without advertising the fact.

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Clever little Scotch Dancer who will assist the G. W. V. A. concert, town Hall, Thursday, evening February 28th.



MISS A. M. who will appear in concert to be given at the Opera House on 28th. Seats on s

THE DOUBI

The following Jack M. Patten, Y., and the ins being a photo of of Port Bar bath in his coun saw a picture ju glanced at it place;

for knew, that passed away. A martyr's glory face.

Oh! just a handso a boy.

Intent upon life' with tears for joy

—A boyish love for blame.

Just one of us wit dreams

A will for work, play.

A pleasant and i seems"

I thought—but t and now it's "kill the

Oh! honor him, soul.

He played man's played it fair;

He won the at highest goal.

eye, other men h his true;

Great souls have ice before

Let render unto h No man, not one more.

his hero-soul no praise.

Not only woman vere.

A higher sanction rays

On him, who, Ie right more, de

Oh, you who moan of trouble.

We cannot know how grim;

We only know the He gave his life—ed gave him.

ADDITIONAL

Mrs. Stratton an Toronto on busi sts of The Big St

Born to Rev. and low of Glencoe, at London, on Feb. 28th.

is a former pastor of the Methu

Sergt. Harry Sik from England on t Saturday night and

short time with his fore reporting at

hospital. Sergt. Sit from the effects of s shrapnel wounds, i spent many month

in France and on several occasions

interesting letters from published in the E been for many week in England.

ANITA S

Robt. W. Chambers