

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1914.

THE WAR SITUATION.

The past twenty-four hours have witnessed little or no change in the situation in the war zone, except for the fact that the Russians are continuing their advance in the face of all opposition. One statement is to the effect that the Muscovite force is confident of being in a position to commence an actual attack upon Berlin in three weeks. At present, the nearest advance is some 150 miles from that city, while another column is making progress into Austria. The German forces are reported to be retreating upon their fortresses, but if it is the Russian plan of campaign to make a direct attack upon the capital of the German Empire, it is to be supposed that they will pursue a course somewhat similar to that of the Germans in marching through Belgium, and seek to avoid the more strongly fortified positions. It is natural to expect that, in its movement, the Russian army will meet obstacles in crossing rivers and in field entrenchments, but the same sort of resistance was encountered in 1914 in Prussia, and it was necessary for the advancing line to put three German army corps to rout. Still, it did not materially interfere with the progress toward the German capital.

On the Franco-German frontier, the allied troops appear to have met with some success and a statement communicated to the British war office by Sir John French is said to picture a resolute view of the conflict and the chance of victory. There is yet no definite report of the result of the general engagement, although the Germans are said to have taken Longwy and to have occupied towns in Northern France. The day, however, has not brought the Kaiser's army materially nearer to their goal and as every day the Germans are kept in check means added pressure from the Russian movement on the other side of the war zone the situation does not present additional cause for alarm.

The general operation between the German forces and the allies may well be expected to occupy several days before it can be productive of much definite result. By that time, unless something entirely unforeseen happens, the allied forces should be greatly strengthened, while the Russians, in all likelihood, will be sufficiently near to the German capital to give the German government cause for much greater concern.

It is interesting to note that Germany has issued her last call for men, and that now practically every man in the Fatherland under the age of 57 years is with the colors. This, in itself, shows that the allied forces have been making progress. Great Britain has sent but a very small proportion of her regular army into the field. The French troops are not all engaged, while of Russia's countless millions only the first line is participating in the advance. It is stated that the Russians have eight million men under arms. Less than one-third of that number are taking part in the forward movement. The fact that Germany realizes her position to be so serious that it is necessary to call the last man out in defence of the country, is not the least significant of the arguments for eventual success of the campaign of Great Britain and her associates.

THE GOVERNMENT AND FOOD PRICES.

In deciding that the Government shall enforce into the cost of food stuffs in Canada, and thus endeavor to curb the unwarranted increases which, in some cases, have been put into effect since the outbreak of war, Premier Borden has acted in the interests of the Canadian people. There have been cases where the price of food staples has been advanced without justification and, according to the Mail and Empire, the Government contends that tea is one of the articles which should not have been subject to a higher price. In framing the new war tariff the Government particularly refrained from increasing the tax on tea because it was so largely used by the poorer classes and yet in spite of the consideration shown at that time, tea has been increased ten cents per pound. On this point the Mail and Empire says: "For this increase the Government contends there are no just grounds, and the assumption is that it was based on a desire to take advantage of the war situation irrespective of any change in the wholesale cost of the product. Such an increase would involve an enormous profit to those interests controlling the tea supply of Canada. It is probable that this and similar increases in other lines of food will be investigated by the Government, and a remedy sharply applied."

On Monday afternoon Premier Borden issued an official memorandum embodying the views of his Government on the question of dealers advancing prices of foods where there was little

or no warrant for so doing. The memorandum said:

"While the action of the majority of dealers throughout the country during the present crisis has been characterized by a sense of fairness and justice, nevertheless several complaints have reached the Government that arbitrary and burdensome increases in the cost of certain necessities of life have been made in some localities without any sufficient or substantial cause or reason. Under these circumstances it is desirable to have it generally known and understood that under the wide powers which have been conferred upon it by Parliament, the Government has the right to investigate and to deal promptly with any case or cases of unjustifiable increase or any oppressive combination or tendency on the part of dealers."

"Under the grave conditions which confront us by reason of the outbreak of the war, any course which would be oppressive or unfair toward the laboring and artisan classes and generally those possessed of small fixed incomes, is most strongly to be condemned, and will demand the exercise by the Government of all the powers at its command."

The Standard has already expressed the opinion that the consumers in many cases are to blame for the fact that dealers increase prices of their goods. The price is generally regulated by the demand, and when people unwisely permit themselves to become panicky to the degree where they buy goods in quantities much larger than their needs, the dealer can hardly be blamed if he attempts to obtain for himself all the profit possible. There is no likelihood of a shortage in the great majority of articles of daily consumption in Canada, consequently there can be little excuse for price increases. In deciding to investigate the why and wherefore of these increases the Government once more shows that it is thoroughly alive to the interests of all the people.

HOME DEFENCE

It is hardly to the credit of the young men of this city that officers who are attempting to recruit the 62nd regiment to the necessary war standard for home defence should experience such difficulty in obtaining recruits. Possibly the prospect of attending drills and the militia routine does not appeal to the patriotic sentiment as deeply as the call for active service on the Empire's war front, but the duty of home defence and military training is one which should not be neglected. It will be admitted at once that many of the young men of St. John are so situated that they cannot readily sacrifice their business interests to the call of militia duty, but there must be others in numbers more than sufficient to fill all vacancies not only in the regiment in question, but in other local militia units, who have ample time aside from working hours in which to fit themselves for active service if called upon.

On Saturday evening last, a detachment of young men from the 62nd regiment stepped bravely through the streets to the strains of martial music and the accompanying plaudits of the citizens. They were bound for the Canadian mobilization camp where they will become part of a militia brigade which will take the field to uphold the best traditions of the Dominion of Canada. Another detachment, from departmental corps, preceded them, and the artillery contingent will leave tonight. The great majority of these men have had preliminary training. Some were war veterans with experience in the regular army, but a greater number were militia men who, in times of peace, had faithfully trained in preparation for the day when their services might be required.

Their departure has sadly depleted the militia units left behind. In every company are vacancies which must be filled before the local forces are as strong as before the call to arms. Young men who, through business or other ties, are unable to join their comrades in arms in the fighting line should, at least, find opportunity to enlist for home defence. In such service it is not at present necessary to sever one's business connections, or give up one's employment. The hours required for military training are usually spent for recreation or amusement. It should not be too much to sacrifice at least some of the amusement in order to take advantage of the instruction which will turn a raw recruit into a soldier of reasonable proficiency. The opportunity now presented should not be ignored.

The sentiment expressed by Premier Asquith in the British House of Commons, yesterday, will find hearty accord all over the world. While the European war, to date, has furnished many instances of bravery and heroism, the outstanding feature is, and must be, the wonderful showing made

by the Belgians against forces of much numerical superiority. In future, the story of the Belgian defence of Liege and Namur will rank side by side with the deeds of the Spartans, the Swiss Cantons and the people of the Netherlands. Great Britain has every reason to be proud of her alliance with Belgium.

NEW YORK DEPRESSED AT FOREIGN NEWS

Report of more German successes reflected in advance in Exchange—Synagogue to buy Germans slips.

New York, Aug. 27.—Foreign advice exercised a depressing influence at its financial centre today. Reported further success of the German arms found reflection in another advance in exchange, cables from London being quoted at 506 1/2, an increase of one per cent. over yesterday. Very few bills were offered, but local banks were in close touch with their London and Paris correspondents, endeavoring to increase the supply and affect a resultant decline in rates.

Despite denials in high quarters, it is believed that a syndicate of bankers is in process of organization for the purchase of some of the German ships now lying in this and other American ports. The success of this project depends, it is said, largely on the outcome of representations now being exchanged between this city and London.

Taking some of the day's reports at their face value, it appears that the war is stimulating various branches of domestic trade. Apart from the demand from South America, despatches from Chicago, the south, and other points suggest a growing inquiry for manufactured products, including steel and iron, with large orders for oil and cut lumber. More than 100,000 barrels of oil were shipped recently from Texas and Louisiana ports.

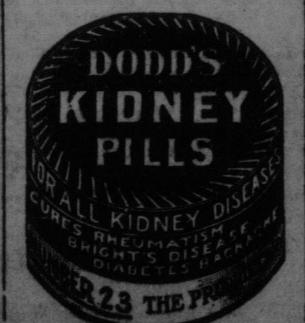
Another gain of cash by local banks for the current week is indicated by the movement to date. Payments by these institutions to the sub-treasury are more than offset by receipts from the interior. Quoted rates for money were unchanged, with a minimum of dealings.

PRINCESS 'PAT'S' REGIMENT TO SAIL TOMORROW

Special to The Standard.
 Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 27.—The Princess Patricia's regiment has been busy today packing and preparing to leave tomorrow afternoon for Montreal to sail on the Megantic. There has been no drill or rifle practice today. The men had been given a short Ross rifle but objections were made and it was changed for the long Ross rifle and Captain Fitzgerald and twenty-five N. C. O's and men of the 4th Company left for Montreal tonight as an advance guard to look after the baggage.

PARTY OF CANADIANS WHO WENT TO LOURDES REACH LONDON

London, Aug. 27, (Gazette Cable).—The fears recently entertained with regard to the party of Canadians who attended the Lourdes Eucharistic Congress have been dissipated by the safe arrival of the party, in two sections, both travelling overland from Italy. One party has sailed for Canada and the second will sail shortly. After visiting Lourdes the party visited Rome and other Italian cities. They had the honor of a special audience with the late Pope on August 7th. According to their information, it was the last audience given by Pius X. The Holy Father then appeared to be in failing health, but conversed about Canada and gave his blessing. No inconvenience was suffered on the trip although some difficulty occurred with regard to paper money individually, but the party had enough money to go round. Their memories of the congress were pleasant. The procession was very imposing, with 180 bishops and 5,000 priests in line.



SURE KAISER WILL SOON ASK FOR PEACE

(Special despatch to the New York Herald via Commercial Cable Co.)
 London, Aug. 28.—A prominent diplomatist of the highest official standing in a neutral government, who happens to be in Europe observing the developments, predicts that the Kaiser will make the first overtures for peace in two months. He said:

"It is clearly evident that the Russian advance will make the Germans' position untenable in the long run. It is equally evident that the Kaiser cannot afford to permit the Fatherland to be crushed in the final stage of the struggle, as final defeat, even after early military achievements, would mean the probable loss of his imperial crown and serious internal trouble in Germany. Diplomats who at first took the view that this would be a fight to the finish are now taking the view that the Kaiser will endeavor to end the struggle with a grand flourish of trumpets, even though Germany gets no fruits of victory."

CHARTERS.

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THE 106TH SASKATOON FUSILIERS TO JOIN WITH THE KING'S OWN

Special to The Standard.
 Ottawa, Aug. 27.—In addition to the list of Canadian regiments whose alliance with various British regiments received the Royal approval a few months ago, approval has also been given for the alliance of the 106th Royal Grenadiers, of Toronto, and the 100th Winnipeg Grenadiers with the Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment and for the alliance of the 105th Saskatoon Fusiliers with the King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry).

TORONTO MAYORS CALLED TOGETHER TO DISCUSS UNEMPLOYED PROBLEM

Toronto, Aug. 27.—With a view to minimizing want through depression in the labor market, Mayor Hocken has sent invitations to all mayors and presidents of boards of trade in the province to meet in conference here Tuesday, to discuss thorough systematic organization for the solution of the unemployed problem.

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Foreign Service VOLUNTEERS

Authority having been granted to the 3rd Regiment C. G. A. to enlist fifty more men, most of whom must be drivers, an opportunity is given to cavalymen who wish to go to the front on the first contingent. Report either to Sergeant Weatherhead, at the armory, or to the Adjutant at Partridge Island. Pay will begin at once.

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SHIPPING NEWS

PORT OF ST. JOHN. Arrived Thursday, Aug. 27. Stmr Eslington, Stevenson, Parrs-boro, R. P. and W. F. Starr, coal and

DOMESTIC PORTS. Hawkesbury, Aug. 25.—Ard tern schrs Alvina Therault, for Barbadoes; J. N. Rabue, for New York; Lida B. Hirtle for New York; J. J. Flaherty (Am), Labrador; Mary E. Macdonald, for Charlottetown.

Sid Aug. 24, Columbus ship Santa Maria, in tow of stmr Atlantic, for