

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1918

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THE WAR SITUATION.

The assassination in hospital of two members of the former Kerensky government will create a more bitter spirit in Russia, and the eagerness of the Bolsheviks to bring the guilty to justice shows clearly their fear of the effect of the crime upon public opinion. The constituent assembly has been dissolved, but those members who oppose the Bolshevik talk of summoning it at some other place than Petrograd. There are so many factions in Russia that anything may happen, although there is still no indication of peace with the Central Powers. Trotsky and Lenin are not in love with German aims and methods, and could not very well reconcile with their professed democratic principles an agreement that would leave any section of the Russian people subject to the iron rule of German autocracy. Meanwhile affairs in Austria are apparently going from bad to worse, although some observers suggest that there may be a certain amount of stage-play in the developments reported, and that it is designed for effect upon the Russians. It seems more probable, however, that the conditions have become so bad, in relation to food supply and internal affairs generally that the Socialists are gaining confidence and pressing more vigorously for action that will bring the war to an end.

THE IRISH PROBLEM

The Irish question excites renewed interest. Sir Edward Carson has resigned his seat in the cabinet, in order to be free himself to pursue whatever course seems to him desirable, and also to leave the cabinet free to act without being embarrassed by having the Ulster Unionists leader at the council board. Premier Lloyd George agrees there is wisdom in the course Sir Edward Carson has pursued, and pays him a warm tribute for his services as a member of the war cabinet. The London Daily News hears that President Wilson has urged upon the government the desirability of an Irish settlement, and the Dublin correspondent of the London Times believes the coming report of the Irish convention will go a long way toward a satisfactory solution of the whole problem. The reports coming from London during the last week have not been so hopeful, and there is evidently much anxiety over the possible outcome of the negotiations. The Sinn Féiners have been very active, and have even gone to such extremes as to alienate the sympathy and call forth sharp reproaches from the pillars of the church. So far as can be ascertained with the evidence at hand there is still a sharp line of cleavage between Ulster and the south, and if the convention is able to suggest a working agreement it will have accomplished a very great task. The resignation of Sir Edward Carson, however, suggests that there may be a less hopeful turn of affairs.

CANADA AND MAN POWER.

Those who express fear that to send more men from Canada to the front would greatly interfere with production and carrying on the essential industries of the country should make a few comparisons. In the United Kingdom more than thirteen per cent of the population has been drafted. Another table shows as follows:

	Population	Enlistment	Per cent
Canada	7,206,548	425,000	5.89
Australia	4,455,000	350,000	7.86
New Zealand	1,052,627	90,000	8.55
South Africa	1,116,806	85,000	4.92

Commenting on this the Ottawa Journal-Press says:

"It will seem that we in Canada have nothing to boast of in the way of doing more than our share, nor any excuse in the way of not being able to afford more troops because of the need of men at home. Canada has more men left at home proportionately than any other country of the empire, except Ireland and South Africa. However, the excuse at least exists that our two million French-Canadians have contributed but a few thousand soldiers, so that the rest of Canada has made no mean showing. And we are not done yet."

But it is not true that Canada has 425,000 men in khaki. An Ottawa despatch puts the number at 364,644. It says:

"At the conference of labor representatives with the government, Hon. N. W. Rowell, president of the privy council, gave the latest figures on enlistments in Canada to show that there had not been the same call on the man-power of the Dominion as on that of Great Britain or Australia. Up to December 31 last, he said, there had been sent overseas 344,422 men of all ranks in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and there were 20,222 of all ranks in Canada on the same date, making a total of 364,644."

Canada is still able, therefore, to provide a considerable army for the front before she equals the percentage of Australia, or New Zealand, while her percentage of men in khaki is much less than half that of the United Kingdom.

SECTIONAL APPEALS.

Referring to the attitude of the French-Canadians in Ontario toward the Ontario government, in view of the coming Ontario elections, La Presse of Montreal publishes an Ottawa letter in which this extraordinary paragraph appears: "A group placed in the position of the French-Canadians of Ontario cannot afford to be in opposition to the government of the day. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the lesson of the last few years will serve to cure the mistakes of the past, and that we will not repeat at the coming election the mistakes which cost us so dearly."

This is a declaration that the French citizens have nothing in common with the rest of Ontario, except what they can get out of a government by supporting it through thick and thin; whether it is a good or a bad government so long as it gives them what they want. It is sectionalism of this sort that breeds trouble. The writer of the correspondence in La Presse is a mischief maker, and probably represents a very small section of the French speaking citizens of Ontario, for in the last provincial elections most of them voted against the government and have continued to oppose it.

The attack made by the Northcliffe papers on the British war office and high command, and Col. Repington's charge that the politicians have been permitted to pursue methods which would wreck the military and naval services have created a sensation. Col. Repington has left the London Times and joined the staff of the Morning Post. The Daily News asserts that there is nothing in the charges made by the Times and Mail. Lord Northcliffe is the stormy petrel of British journalism and politics, and a bitter controversy is assured. Mr. Bonar Law has made short work of one of the charges made by the Daily Mail.

A reported change in the Austrian command on the Italian front is believed by Italy to mean a defensive rather than an offensive attitude of the enemy hereafter on that front. If so, the situation there will be greatly relieved, and the fear of an enemy descent upon the Venetian plains will not be so pressing upon the Allied forces.

The decision of Halifax Liberals not to oppose the election of the union government candidates, Maclean and Martin, appears to be a wise one under all the circumstances. Halifax is in no mood for a bitter political campaign, and the union government has yet its record to make.

The average cost of a family budget of staple foods was \$12.14 in December as compared with \$12.10 for the previous month, \$10.10 for December 1916 and \$7.95 for December 1914. To the man whose wages have not materially increased the difference between 1914 and 1918 prices spells hardship.

They have street railway troubles in Hull. The Ottawa Journal-Press prints a serious complaint and adds: "There have been many complaints, however, of the unsatisfactory nature of the service, which ought to have been remedied long ago. The city commissioner should take up the matter with the company."

It is said by men from the west that a very critical labor situation is one of the big problems which the western farmers and grain growers have now confronting them, and that this year the labor situation will be a great deal more critical than it was during last year's harvest time. Forewarned is forearmed.

The government has recognized the business capacity of Mr. Stanley E. Eskin by making him a member of the commission to Washington to report on war effort for the information of Canada's war cabinet.

The circulation secretly in Berlin of pamphlets of a revolutionary character prove that the growing protest against the war is not confined to Austria.

The Red Cross drive for \$20,000 should meet with universal sympathy. Thursday is the day.

FOR UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN HERE AND IN STATES

New York, Jan. 22.—An organization to bring about a union of Jewish women in the United States and Canada, "who are essentially loyal to traditional Judaism" was formed here yesterday. It will be affiliated with the United Synagogue of America. Its activities will include the religious training of young people, establishment of kosher restaurants in college communities and cultural development of Jewish women.

Invidious Comparison. An old North Carolina lady had 112 descendants to visit her on her birthday. But there are ladies who might celebrate a birthday and have only a flock of parrots and a herd of growling poodles to congratulate them.—Houston Post.

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Mr. Osborne Blais, Business Manager of the "Dartmouth Patriot," Dartmouth, N.S., writes: "It gives me much pleasure to recommend Zam-Buk as an absolutely sure cure for chapped hands. For five years I suffered with this affliction, and could find no cure until I used Zam-Buk."

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PEACE OVER EARTH AGAIN.

Rejoice, O world of troubled men! For peace is coming back again! Peace to the trenches running red, Peace to the hosts of the fleeing dead, Peace to the fields where hatred raves, Peace to the trodden battle-graves.

"Twill be the Peace the Master left To hush the world of peace bereft— The peace proclaimed in lyric cries That night the angels broke the skies. Again the shell-torn hills will be All green with barley to the knee; And little children sport and run In love once more with earth and sun. Again in rent and ruined trees Young leaves will sound like silver seas; And birds now stunned by the red up roar Will build in happy boughs once more; And to the black uncouthed graves The grass will run in silken waves; And a great hush will softly fall On tortured plains and mountain wall. Now wild with cries of battling hosts, And curses of the fleeing ghosts.

And men will wonder over it— This red upflaming of the Pit; And they will gather as friends and say, "Come, let us try the Master's way. Ages we tried the way of swords, And earth is weary of hostile hordes. Comrades, read out His words again. They are the only hope for men! Love and not hate must come to birth, Christ and not Cain must rule the earth."

—Edwin Markham.

MORNING WAR SITUATION.

The Austrian ministry has resigned and Count Von Tögenberg, minister of the interior, has been asked to form a new cabinet. Strikes are increasing rapidly, 300,000 men going out last Thursday. The situation is becoming extremely serious for the authorities.

Sir Edward Carson, minister without portfolio in the war cabinet, has resigned in order to be free for action when the report of the Irish convention is submitted.

Three large steamers, one of the U.S. registry, were sunk by a submarine off the Spanish coast.

Viscount Broom, commander of the monitor Regan, which was sunk in the engagement with the Turkish navy, is among those saved.

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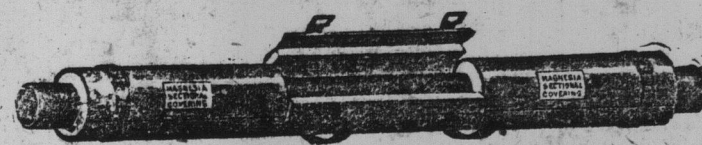
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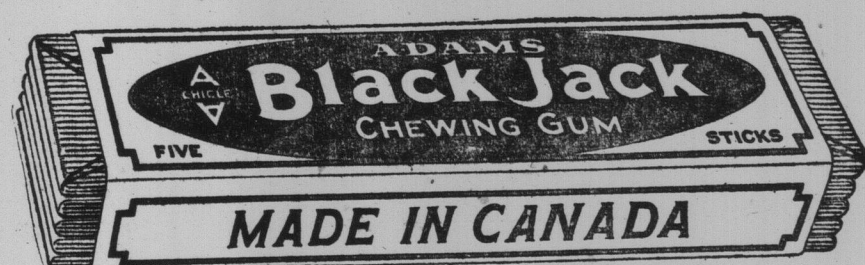
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