

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 28, 1917.

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THE WAR SITUATION

Looking back over the weeks and months that have passed since last winter and remembering how often there seemed to be encouragement for the hope that the war would end this year, it must be confessed that the reality is quite different from the expectation. It was expected there would be a great spring and summer drive by the Allies on the western front, forcing the enemy to yield up much territory. While some progress has been made, a look at the map is still very disappointing. The German grip on Belgium and a large slice of France is still very far from being broken, and there is nothing to indicate real weakness at the Russian front. It was also expected that the Russians would come back strong in the spring and summer, regain the territory lost last year, and gain much more. They did make a good beginning, but then came revolution and chaos, and the worst outlook of all today is for the Russian front. It had also been hoped that the spring or early summer would witness a powerful Allied drive on the Macedonian front, but nothing of the kind occurred, nor have the Italians been able to gain any important advantage in Mesopotamia and the Caucasus. The collapse of the Russian offensive has given the Turks a long breathing space. The German submarine warfare has taken and still takes a heavy toll in Allied and neutral shipping. The air-raids have been more formidable this year than last.

Of course when we look at the other side we see that nowhere except on the Russian front has the enemy gained a decided advantage, and we remember that the United States and Greece have joined the Allies. We see, too, that the object of cutting off supplies for the British and French, and that its ravages are offset by an immense ship-building programme. It is obvious also that the man-power of Germany and Austria has been greatly lessened. There is growing discontent in both countries, and their people are undoubtedly suffering increasing want and hardship, while their armies are no longer able to make a great sustained offensive such as marked the earlier stages of the war. And yet, when we have reviewed all the factors in the situation which are favorable to the Allies, and come back again to the map, the ugly fact sticks out that the enemy still holds, and holds obstinately and successfully, a very large area of ground on three sides, from which he must be driven before there can be any assurance of such a peace as would "make the world safe for democracy." This is a fact the Canadian people should keep ever to the front in the controversy now in progress in this country.

CONSERVING INFANT LIFE

A recent publication dealing with maternity and child welfare in the city of Birmingham, England, is not only interesting because it illustrates the changed attitude of society toward infant welfare, but because it proves that by proper care a notable reduction in the rate of infant mortality can be secured. Just as it has been found that where free clinics and dispensaries are provided there is a reduction in the death rate from tuberculosis, so it has been proved in Birmingham that the establishment of infant welfare centres lowers the infant death rate. In these centres the mothers are given instruction which they gladly receive, and the infants are regularly examined and the course of treatment prescribed. Not only is there a preservation of infant life, but the children are given the advantage of intelligent care and oversight during the first five years of their lives.

The poorer and more ignorant are the classes from which the mothers come, the more important it is that this care and supervision should be given. Birmingham is a large manufacturing city, and there is a good deal of poorly paid unskilled labor, and while a good deal has been done in the last twenty years there is still room for much improvement in housing and general conditions for people of this class. There has been, therefore, a larger relative death rate, and a greater need for just the kind of work done in the infant welfare centres. Of the results of this work and of gradually improving housing, sanitary and social conditions, the publication under review says:

"During the five years, 1901-5, the mean infant mortality rate was 157 per 1,000 births. Prior to this time it had been even higher. During the next five years it dropped to 131 per 1,000 births; for the five years ending 1915 it was 126, and last year the rate was 118. The decline has been regular."

The first essential in organizing the welfare work was a notification of births, and this was provided for in an act passed in 1908, and it works so well that in the poorer areas very little more than 3 per cent. of the cases are not reported. The next step was to have the city mapped out into districts, in each

of which an infant welfare centre was established; and at the present time such centres are available for about three-quarters of the whole population, the remaining quarter being either for the better class areas or small scattered units; and even these are not wholly neglected. The plan is to take a long lease of a house in the centre of a particular area, and make the necessary alterations to provide a waiting room, a weighing room, one or more consultation rooms, a room for cookery demonstrations, and others. There are trained workers, and medical assistance. For infants and children up to five years of age the centre is open twice a week, and more medical aid will be available to it from four or five days per week. For mothers themselves the centre is open once or twice a week, and the report says that the work of advising mothers as to their own health is growing very rapidly. Cutting out and sewing is taught, and simple cookery lessons are provided for expectant and nursing mothers a penny each. In the case of nursing mothers the effect of such feeding upon the babies is said to be frequently remarkable. There are also, connected with each centre, voluntary health visitors who go to the homes and supplement the instructions given at the institution.

There are at the present time fourteen of these centres in Birmingham, eight of them entirely run by the municipality, and six by voluntary associations which receive a municipal grant equal to two-thirds of their expenditure, on condition that they provide trained workers, a paid doctor, and accommodation for the centre work. The centres have the co-operation of a Maternity Hospital, in which the municipality provides twenty beds for special cases, and valuable provision is also made for the cost to the municipality. In connection with all this infant welfare work this year will be about £11,000. The centres cost about 2500 each, but the report says it is expected this cost will be doubled "when the attempt is made to secure that every child up to five years of age passes through the centre and is looked after." It is found that all mothers are almost equally anxious to do what is right for their babies, and that if there is any resistance it is in nearly all cases the fault of the staff, a fact that emphasizes the importance of having on the staff women especially fitted to gain the confidence of mothers and give them good advice in their difficulties.

The fact that calls for special emphasis in connection with this story of what is being done in Birmingham is the responsibility for infant welfare which is accepted by the municipality. The work is not left to volunteers or to private charity. There is recognition by the state of the value of children to the state, and of its responsibility for their upbringing. This responsibility has long been recognized in regard to education, and since the period of child-life prior to school age has so vital an influence upon the physical and mental condition of the child when it comes to that age, there is the same obligation to see that proper care is given, and especially to reduce to the utmost the infant mortality rate.

Canadian cities should take a leaf out of the book of Birmingham. In St. John, for example, the infant death rate is too high, and the housing and sanitary conditions under which many families with small children live need to be improved, and there is need of a centre or centres where mothers could receive just such attention, instruction as is provided free in Birmingham. It is rightly a municipal problem, and the money spent yields a more valuable return than much of the civic expenditure to which the people offer no objection whatever. More and more attention must be given to the conservation of child-life.

The Automobile Association asks "why New Brunswick should not slightly increase the automobile fees and give the motor car owner something for his money." That is an admirable public spirit. It will encourage the government to do its very best to improve the roads. What is really needed is the hearty co-operation of all who use the roads.

The Allied powers after Thursday's conference in Paris announced that they are in unanimous agreement, and that the war will be waged until their ends have been attained.

and strength are the great essentials in that country in the present crisis. The national council in Moscow may have a powerful influence in restoring order.

A French-Canadian boy of fourteen has been killed in France. Who is responsible for permitting that child to go overseas?

Premier Kerensky is proving himself the strongest leader Russia has produced since the war began, and boldness

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589 Casgrain St., Montreal, April 20th, 1915.

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LIGHTER VEIN

Where Yeast Was Needed More.

The fat old lady struggled valiantly to mount the high step of the waiting omnibus. "Come along, ma!" urged the conductor. "They ought to 'a' given you more yeast when yer was a gal; then you'd be able to rise better."

"Yes, young man," retorted the old dame, as at last she hoisted herself triumphantly up, "and if they'd given you a bit more yeast you'd be better bred."

A group of Northerners at a hotel in Louisville were poking fun at the partiality of Southerners for the titles of "Colonel," "Major," and "Judge."

"What is Colonel 'Inchbottom'?" asked one of the group, and there immediately followed a discussion. Finally a colored attendant was drawn in.

"Well, gents," said the negro, "dere's lots of ways to answer dat question. I knowed folks what was born kunnels—it jest run in de blood for generations. An' I see knowed folks what was jest appointed to be kunnels. An' yit others what was made kunnels by bein' kind to niggers. Poh instance, any man dat gives a dollar is a kunnel to me becuse a dollar is de time for swappin' horses."

A Indiana man was traveling down the Ohio on a steamer with a mare and two-year-old colt when by a sudden career of the boat all three were flung into the water. The Hoosier, as he rose puffing and blowing above water, caught hold of the tail of the colt, not having a doubt but that the natural instinct of the animal would carry him safely ashore.

The old mare made a dash for land, but the freighter hull swam lustily down the current with its owner still hanging fast.

"Let go of the colt and 'a' swim!" shouted one of the men.

"Booh!" exclaimed the Hoosier, spouting the water from his mouth; "it's mighty fine telling me to let go of the colt, but to a man who can't swim—his ain't exactly the time for swappin' horses."

CONTRACTS FOR SHIPS LET IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Imperial Munitions Board has announced the letting of twenty-seven contracts for ships in British Columbia. These ships are of standard design, 250 feet long, 44 feet 6 inches beam, and 25 feet draft, having a dead weight capacity of 2,800 tons.

The contracts call for delivery within fifteen months.

Five ships are awarded to the Foundation Company of Montreal, Quebec.

Four ships to the Cameron-Gasco Shipyard Company, Limited, Victoria.

Six ships to the Western Canada Shipyard, Ltd., False Creek, Vancouver.

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"THIS MAN HO VER"

Something About American Food Controller

Some of the Amazing Things Done by Him Rehearsed—An Appeal to the President to Give Real Power to the Giants Around Him

(From the Manufacturers Record)

"Who is this man Hoover?" was a question recently asked by Senator Reed in regard to Herbert Hoover, the food commissioner.

The very asking of the question indicated a lack of knowledge on the part of the questioner of the greatest piece of humanitarian work in the world's history. Those who have read the story of what has been done in Belgium to keep millions of people alive have known the miracles worked by Herbert Hoover, and those who do not know the story of the aggregate 25,000 men. He was back in California in 1901 after the Boxer Rebellion. In a few months he returned to China as engineering adviser to the Chinese government, coming back to California in 1909. In 1909 he went to China as engineering adviser to the Chinese government, coming back to California in 1909. In 1909 he went to China as engineering adviser to the Chinese government, coming back to California in 1909.

Herbert Hoover was the genius who handled the matter, and his amazing success there was responsible for the invitation in the part of the administration at Washington to return to the United States and act as a volunteer for food conservation during the war.

Mr. Hoover was born in Iowa in 1874 of Quaker parents. At thirteen years of age, his parents being dead, he became self-supporting. He went to Stanford University in 1891, graduated in 1895 as a mining engineer, and was employed professionally in New Mexico, Colorado, California and Oregon until 1897, when he went to Australia in the management of metallurgical and mining works. He returned to California in 1899. In 1900 he went to China as engineering adviser to the Chinese government, coming back to California in 1909. In 1909 he went to China as engineering adviser to the Chinese government, coming back to California in 1909.

His Work Before the War

He was employed in the administration of and in advisory capacity to operations, including railways, metallurgical works, mining, iron and steel, shipbuilding, land, electrical enterprises, in California, Colorado, Alaska, Mexico, India, Russia and China, until the outbreak of the European war in 1914. At that time the concerns with which he was identified were employing 125,000 men.

Mr. Hoover went to London just before the present war, and upon the outbreak of hostilities became engaged in the organization of efforts to return stranded Americans to their country. In October, 1914, he organized the commission for relief in Belgium, which has come to be known throughout the world as the C.R.B. With the exception of two brief trips to the United States in 1915 and 1917, he remained in Europe until invited back to the United States a few months ago by the president.

Magnitude of Work in Belgium

Under his administration the commission for relief in Belgium, between October, 1914, and April, 1917, handled the importation of upwards of 100,000,000 bushels of wheat, rice, beans, peas and other foodstuffs, together with many thousands of tons of meat products. This commission operated its own fleet of some 200 ships, and in addition thereto acquired and distributed cereals and other staples in the occupied territory, delivered between 30,000,000 and 40,000,000 bushels of other cereals and large quantities of meats. This commission organized and distributed rations for 10,000,000 people, and in this employed upwards of 125,000. The total overhead expenses of the commission up to April of this year were only three-eighths of one per cent. The aggregate amount of money expended through the organization on imported foodstuffs up to June 1 of this year has been about \$300,000,000 and in the purchase of native food supplies approximately \$200,000,000 additional.

These are some of the amazing things done by that wonderful organization, the Commission for the Relief of Belgium, organized by an American when he was forty years of age and carried through for three years in a way which amazed the world.

That Mr. Hoover was called back to this country by the administration to concentrate his energies and give the experience gained in Belgium to the development and the conservation of the food supply of this country is a matter for profound appreciation on the part of every American.

World-Visioned Men, Ready to Serve

In the great work of organizing the forces which make for our power to maintain ourselves and the Allies, and which give promise of success on the battlefield, the ablest business men of America are being called, and Hoover is a type of the kind of men whom President Wilson has been so wisely gathering around him; but that men of this stamp, world-visioned and world-embracing in their power to do things, should be hampered by petty politics of some of the petty demagogues whose

presence is a misfortune to congress is to be regretted.

Perchance, however, President Wilson may be able, with the aid of these really big men whom he is rallying around him, to bring together the mightiest strength the world has ever known for marshalling the action for war, despite the petty politicians who would have their own way, and their way would lead to ruin.

Fortunately, too, there are some big, broad statesmen in congress in contrast with the small-brained fellows. Now let President Wilson give real power to these mighty-brained men whom he has called to the nation's help that they may do things and not be merely clerks or advisers without real power.

POULTRY BREEDERS, ATTENTION!

(Experimental Farms Note)

At the present time when growing chicks are attaining an age of from one month to ten weeks, a disease (known as Coccidiosis) affecting the liver and bowels, is causing considerable losses. This disorder according to Dr. Wickware of the Experimental Farms is quite prevalent throughout Canada, and is probably responsible for many deaths at present attributed to white diarrhoea.

The disease is caused by a small egg-shaped germ which inhabits the first portion and blind pouches of the bowels, it produces inflammation of the bowels and liver, the blind pouches showing the most marked alteration.

The changes in the liver may vary from a filling up with a reddish granular looking mass of soft consistency to hard cores composed of living cells, blood, etc. The liver may show changes varying from a fairly normal appearance to large areas of a yellow color which when cut into show a cheese-like centre.

Symptoms—The chicks appear dull and isolate themselves from the remainder usually remaining in the hove or under the hen. The feathers become ruffled, wings droop; appetite is lost and occasionally the chicks will give utterance to a shrill cry, particularly when trying to pass material from the bowels. A white discharge is usually present although it may be rather red in color and the vent may become matted with the material discharged. These are the prominent symptoms in typical cases but chicks may also be badly affected and exhibit no outward appearance of disease until death suddenly takes place.

Treatment—Treatment consists in dissolving fifteen grains of powdered Catechu in a gallon of drinking water. This should be kept constantly in front of the chicks and should be changed every two days.

Prevention—Prevention consists in the isolation of all ailing chicks from the remainder of the flock and the thorough disinfection of all the quarters and runs, which may be accomplished by the application of a linewash solution made by adding two and one-half pounds of stone lime to a pail of water, to which is also added one-half a teaspoon of a good commercial disinfectant. This should be applied full strength with a spray pump, brush or old broom, to all parts of the quarters, brooder houses, etc. The feeding troughs should be cleaned daily by scalding with boiling water and special care taken to prevent the chicks from getting their feet either in the feeding utensils or drinking fountains as the disease is transmitted from bird to bird in this way.

The floor of the brooder houses should be covered with a coating composed of nine parts of sand and one part of air-slaked lime, and if the droppings are not removed daily, they should at least be removed with a fair amount of air-slaked lime to insure proper disinfection. If the runs are not too large, it is also advisable to cover them with a thin coating of the above-mentioned lime and either spade or plough them up.

The chicks should be kept away from all adult fowls and carcasses of dead birds immediately burned, as burying only serves to keep the infection going from year to year.

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Find Reflections

On Hon. Robert Rogers Not Justified

Ottawa, July 27.—The report of Sir Eschell McLeod and ex-Justice Teller, the royal commissioners, appointed on June 8th last to review the findings of Justice Galt, of Winnipeg, as to Hon. Robert Rogers connection with the alleged graft and campaign funds in the letting of contracts for the Manitoba Agricultural College, was presented to parliament today. The learned judges, after reviewing all the evidence, came to the conclusion that Justice Galt was quite unjustified in reflecting upon the honor or integrity of the Hon. Mr. Rogers, or the honesty of his dealings or transactions.

The commissioners deal mainly with the boosting of the contract awarded to the Carter Company for the power house of the new agricultural buildings, to \$8,700 on the authority of Mr. Rogers, in 1911 and the subsequent campaign contribution from Mr. Carter of \$7,500 and the alleged "fraudulent conspiracy" between Mr. Rogers and Thomas Kelly in connection with the purchase of the site of the agricultural buildings, to obtain money from the provincial treasury for the purpose of a campaign fund and for the personal benefit of Thomas Kelly and his firm.

The commissioners sum up their findings as follows:

(A) That the increase of the Carter Company's tender for power house by \$8,700 was recommended by Mr. Rogers, the architect, to the Hon. Mr. Rogers, before he (the Hon. Mr. Rogers) telephoned to Mr. Carter.

(B) That there was no connection whatever between such increase and the contribution of \$7,500 made by the Carter Company to the election fund.

(C) That during the time the Hon. Mr. Rogers was minister of public works for Manitoba, all the contracts that were let for the agricultural buildings were properly let.

(D) That the contracts themselves were carefully drawn and properly justified before the government.

(E) That the payments during the Hon. Mr. Rogers term of office were made only after they had been duly and honestly certified to by the proper officials of the department.

(F) That there was no conspiracy between the Hon. Mr. Rogers and Thomas Kelly or any other contractor or person. In conclusion the commissioners report:

(1) That pursuant to the said commission, your commissioners have reviewed and considered the whole of the evidence furnished us as taken by the said Mr. Justice Galt as such commissioners, and have reviewed and considered his said two reports, and all his findings on such evidence.

(2) That the commissioners further report that such evidence does not sustain or support the findings of the said Mr. Justice Galt, and that the whole of the evidence in such reports, insofar as they reflect upon or prejudicially affect the honor or integrity of the Hon. Robert Rogers, or the honesty of his dealings or transactions, are against the evidence.

On the contrary your commissioners consider that the reports of Mr. Justice Galt, insofar as they reflect upon the honor or integrity of the Hon. Mr. Rogers, or the honesty of his dealings or transactions, are against the evidence.

We're selling shoes at profit-strip prices these days.—Wizel's Cash Store, 248-247 Union street.

Few Supporters For Peace Proposals

London, July 27.—The smallness of the numbers in the house when division was taken last night on James Ramsay MacDonald's peace resolution is an indication of the little interest shown by parliament in any hope of a real peace movement at the present juncture, and the conviction was voiced in an important statement by Herbert H. Asquith, the former premier, that nothing was to be hoped from the present treaty of the German Reichstag and people.

Mr. MacDonald, as shown by the vote of 148 to 18, found very few supporters. George James Wardle, in behalf of the Labor party, declined to have anything to do with this specific resolution.

The speech of Andrew Bonar Law, the government leader in the house, dealt largely with the Russian crisis. He said that all the nations engaged were staggering under the blow, but that the resources of the Allies were sufficient to make it absolutely certain that their hearts failed them they must secure the results for which they entered the war.

The struggle had reached a point where it was a question of staying-power, and in this matter he had absolute confidence in the Allies. He was equally certain that if anything could delay peace it would be any sign of faltering.

If you'll watch our doors these days, you'll see many happy and satisfied faces going out with bundles of shoes. Wizel's Cash Store, 248-247 Union street.