

THE ATHENS REPORTER

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AUSTIN G. L. TRIBUTE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Many subscriptions to the Reporter are due now. They are payable in advance. Renew before you forget it.

Village merchants have been warned against selling goods on Sunday. The law strictly forbids this practice; but laxity in this regard has caused complaint. In Ontario, everything is "closed down tight" on Sunday, and those who would preserve their financial surplus keep well within the law. The public should not ask any merchant to open up his store on Sunday to accommodate them. In so doing, they are thoughtlessly placing him in a predicament, the consequences of which are rather serious.

If you read the Reporter, why not subscribe? Don't run to your neighbor and ask if they "are through with the paper yet". A home paper can exist only by the patronage of all the people in so limited a field. Be fair.

A doctor in Toronto says that by using less food and chewing it better Canadians could save \$400,000,000 a year. In other words, there is much money to be saved by chewing your food more and "chewing less about the cost of it."

When the Fire Bell Rings

The village council this year may possibly buy a chemical fire engine. A short time ago, the Reporter pointed out the inadequacy of the fire apparatus and recommended the use of fire extinguishers. While it is easy to call attention to such things, it is an entirely different matter to give a practicable remedy. Chemicals will extinguish small fires. Most fires have small beginnings, and the chemical engine must be immediately on the scene if it is to be of any great service.

This would necessitate a volunteer fire brigade—men who could at the first alarm get out the engine without waiting orders from everyone in general and no one in particular. A crowd can do nothing quickly; a few can. The "old invincible" with its back-breaking pump handles, is capable of good service if the tanks contain water. In times of drought, the chemical engine in the hands of a few quick-moving, trained men might be worth its weight in gold. The brigade would of course consist of married men, as single men could not be expected to organize in the face of recruiting campaigns.

Our Big Blind Neighbor

Mr. Wilson and the Germans are still ridiculously earnest in their peaceful endeavors. Mr. Wilson is keeping bad company, which is unfortunate; for the Germans are a peculiarly contaminating people. They know it; but he does not. At present, few people believe that the president of United States is pro-German; for he is quite transparent. He is not an inscrutable man.

It was to be expected that he would do something after he was assured of his election, and the Germans were willing to lend their aid for the benefit of humanity. The peace proposals of the Huns and subsequent ardor of Mr. Wilson in asking for data regarding the "aims" of the allies have placed our neighbors in a most unhappy position. Every detail aggravates the recollection of the outraged neutrality of Belgium; for the United States was a sponsor, and as such should not ask the allies why they are fighting. Peace must come as a result of our great sacrifices, not because the enemy is "winded". When the United States appreciates the fact that the Allies have fought for it since the beginning of the war, then a miracle will have been performed.

To Those Who Have Erred

Suppose you are working a large farm, making good money, and are at peace with the world. You know the Empire is at war, and that those in authority are striving to use its resources to obtain a victory that will mean the preservation of your country, its honor, and its ideals. You are prosperous and quite contented.

Then, the National Service campaign breaks in upon your consciousness. You are sent a card on which are a number of questions. How old are you? Are you in good health? Have you the use of your arms, your legs, your eyes? And you stretch your hard muscles, and draw a long, complacent breath. Are you willing? "Ha, what's this?" Suspicion sends the red blood around your inner bones. "What! shall I leave my hundreds of acres, my stock, my barns, and do something someone else wants me to do? No, No! I haven't the use of my arms—I'll feel them—I haven't the use of my legs, and my eyesight is bad!" And so you write.

The cards are read at Ottawa. Your card is among them. "What a hopeless cripple this poor fellow is; they remark," and see the number of people he supports? Later, they find you are working a large farm, and subsequent enquiry reveals the fact that you are an extremely healthy specimen of manhood. When the country cried to you in its need for organization, you gave it the lie. Are you not sorry? You did not realize the seriousness of it all. The thought that your arm worked to its utmost capacity might be of greater service than your presence behind a machine gun, did not enter your head. A little shyness, a little resentful, you made a mistake.

War

Kemptville is in the throes of a social civil war. A correspondent to the Advance made some uncompromising remarks about those who were responsible for the holding of a public dance. He used the terms, "car us a!" and "jigging revel," condemning the waste of time and money, the extravagance in dress, the presence of young men in dress suits who should be in khaki and at the front. The Winchester Press remarks that it stirred up a hornet's nest, all right, all right, and that there is war in Kemptville in which the pen is taking the place of the sword.

An anonymous individual with a meddlesome turn of mind tried to embroil Athens in the same kind of war by using the Reporter as an instrument. But the Reporter is a pacifist—sometimes.

A Presbyterian clergyman (an importation from U.S.) has been compelled to resign his charge because of his views on the war, and his opinion of Canadian morality. He prayed that God would deal with Great Britain according to his views of how Great Britain should be dealt with, and that the Canadian people should be made righteous according to his (American) view of righteousness. The good Presbyterians of Calgary were aroused at the insult, and once the Presbyterians become aroused there is something doing. Winchester Press

The Passing of An Industry

One by one, newspapers are shutting out liquor advertising from their columns. This does not mean that some papers have sinned and are seeing the error of their ways. Every newspaper has a right to sell its advertising space to the brewer as well as to the baker or the candlestick-maker. Merchants sell goods to brewers, and in the newspaper business it is not goods but space that the brewer buys and uses. But the brewers have reached the point where their very existence depends on newspaper advertising, and they are flooding the newspapers with large display advertisements. The Ontario Temperance Act has proved to be a success, and the sentiment of the people is changing in regard to liquor. So the newspapers, feeling the pulse of the people, are declining liquor contracts and the money that goes with them. The next generation will ask "Pa, what was whiskey like?"

The meeting of the Presbyterian Guild Monday text will be of a lecture character. E says will be given by several young people.

Rev. D. W. MacLeod, B. A., Lyn, gave a fine address Monday evening at the Presbyterian Guild on "Enthusiasm."

REACHED THIRD LINE

Successful Daylight Raid by the British on Arras Front.

Sir Douglas Haig's Troops Wrecked Many German Dugouts and Returned to Their Own Trenches With Valuable Information, Secured in the Hostile Posts Taken by Daring Assaults.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Sir Douglas Haig's troops have carried out another successful daylight raid south-east of Arras. The British entered the German trenches over a wide front, and penetrated to the enemy's third line. Many dugouts were destroyed and extensive damage occasioned to the defences. A similar raid was attempted by the Germans south of Wytschaete, but the attackers were driven off in disorder. The British captured two hostile posts with their occupants.

Saturday's night report read: "North of Beaumont-Hamel we seized two hostile posts last night. A subsequent enemy counter-attack was beaten off and our new positions were consolidated. This afternoon we successfully raided the enemy's positions south-east of Arras under cover of a heavy bombardment. Our troops entered the enemy's trench system over a wide front and penetrated to his third line. Many dugouts were bombed and destroyed, and much damage was done to the enemy's defences."

"There has been increased artillery activity in the neighborhood of Hebutern. Elsewhere the usual artillery activity continued."

"In minor engagements, raids, and patrol actions since Christmas we have taken over 240 German prisoners."

"Thursday night and again yesterday, our aeroplanes bombed a number of places of military importance behind the enemy's lines and obtained good results. Much successful work was carried out during the day in co-operation with our artillery."

Sunday's statement said: "In the capture of the two hostile posts near Beaumont-Hamel, reported yesterday, fifty-six prisoners were taken. The enemy attacked these posts this morning after heavy artillery preparation, but the attack was completely repulsed."

"We operated a very successful raid this afternoon south of Armentieres. Nineteen German prisoners were taken."

"The enemy attempted to enter our trenches early this morning south-west of Wytschaete after a short, heavy bombardment. The attackers were repulsed in disorder, and with considerable losses. Another enemy attempt early this morning under cover of an intense bombardment against advanced posts on our front north of Ypres was driven off by our fire."

"There has been artillery activity at various points along our front, particularly south of Souchez, and in the neighborhood of La Bassée Canal, Armentieres and Ypres."

Famous Hunter Killed.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Captain Frederick Courtenay Selous, author and hunter, who accompanied Theodore Roosevelt on his hunting expedition in 1909, has been killed in action in East Africa.

Selous had world-wide fame as an African big game hunter, and explorer. He was born in London in 1851. At 20, he left for South Africa, and from 1872 to 1890 travelled continually all over Central South Africa, making a living by elephant hunting and the collection of specimens. He next guided a pioneer expedition into Mashonaland. In 1892 he returned from England to take part in the Matabele War. He had resided in Africa since, and volunteered for service with the Legion of Frontiersmen. He was the author of several books.

Weather Halts Operations.

PARIS, Jan. 8.—The following official report from the Macedonian front was given out Saturday: "Since December 30 there have been no important events on the front of the army of the east, bad weather having impeded operations at almost every point. Especially spirited artillery fighting continues in the regions of Gatevici, Lumnica, Monastir, Madyag, and in the Cerna area near Rapatch."

"Reports have been received of the checking of a Bulgarian attack on Leskovo and of a well-conceived action of British troops against Keupri, near the railroad between Seres and Demir-Hissar. The British fleet bombarded Akar, Vika, and Semuntolos, north of Orfani."

May Commander Potatoes.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The next article of food likely to be commandeered by Lord Devonport is potatoes. The scarcity is apparently due to the speculators rather than to an actual shortage in the supply, but a reliable authority informs me that some months hence there may be no potatoes for civilians. Appeals have been made to Canada, but the prices are so high that the Government here will not consider them. In fact, the wholesale price in Canada is higher than the retail price here.

At present the restaurants and private houses show no sign of the dearth of the tuber.

Japanese Steamers to Arm.

TOKIO, Jan. 8.—Owing to the activity of submarines, it is understood that the navy will arm Japanese merchantmen bound for the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea with six-inch guns. The arming of merchantmen will begin with the steamer Suwa Maru, which sails for London on January 20th. Steamships bound for the Atlantic Ocean by way of the Panama Canal, it is understood, also will carry guns.

Fire Engines and Their History

London, and in America the first insurance company was formed in Philadelphia in 1772, and Benjamin Franklin was the first director of the company. This company which was known as the Contribution Company, is still in business.

Fire marshalls, Mr. Donovan stated, were appointed in 1894, and the first chemical extinguisher was used in the United States in 1837. Fire escapes and fire drills are of a late date.

TORONTO'S FIRE BRIGADES

Speaking of the organization of a fire fighting force in the city of Toronto, Mr. Donovan said:

The first effort to form a fire brigade in Toronto, or rather in York, was not until after the war about 1818 when the military secured a fire engine of primitive make of British manufacture. It was worked with four men on each side at the brakes. The horse used in those days was made of leather. There was no such thing as rubber. This sort of equipment lasted off and on up to 1834-6.

About 1827 or '28 a small engine was brought up from the United States, and was located in the rear of the Police Station in Toronto. That was used by the inhabitants to extinguish fires. The water was supplied by cisterns with barrels on wagons who filled the barrels at the bay and drove up to the scene of the fire. This was a pretty slow method as by the time three or four trips had been made, the fire was either burnt out or had made too much headway to be extinguished in this manner.

The first effective effort made to form a first-class brigade was in 1834.

In 1820 there was a law passed in York that every household should have two leather buckets hung in conspicuous places in front of the house.

The fire alarm sounded by ringing the bell at St. James' church, now the cathedral.

In 1826, eight years before York became Toronto, the first fire department was organized. The first engine house in Toronto was on the west side of Church street near the old Kirk. It was divided into compartments. There were three engines and a hook and ladder company.

In 1833 the department was organized and made 50 strong, and they had the first two fire engines with 750 feet of hose.

In 1837 there was a further organization of the fire brigade, and two additional engines were ordered. The British American Fire Insurance Co. made a present of one to the city.

In 1838, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province sent a letter to the department complimenting them on the good work they had done in the fires in Toronto.

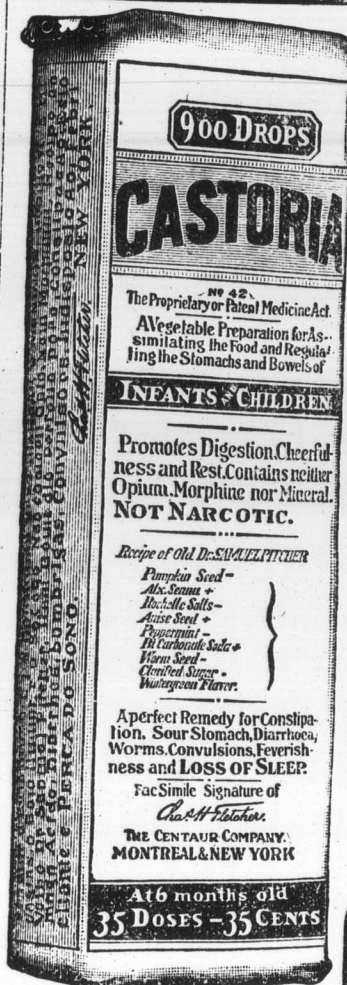
In 1874 the want of a paid fire brigade was brought up, and some years later it was organized with 50 officers at the cost of \$10,000 for the entire equipment.

In 1875 the first fire alarm telegraph department was organized.

In 1871 the old brigade was in part superseded by the importation from the States of the first steam engine, the Jas. Bonstead. Two or three of these steam engines were imported. Nowadays these engines are very rarely used as the water pressure is so good that it is unnecessary to use the engines.

No fire alarm is now sounded in Toronto by the engine house bells. The ones now used are silent, and are known only to the men in the engine house and those citizens who live near where the fire occurs.

Mr. Watkins and family have moved from Hard Island to Mrs. Albert Sheffield's house Main St. East.



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OCTOBER 7th, 1916.