

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1918

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THE WAR SITUATION.

After one of the bitterest days of fighting since the great drive began, the British lines in Flanders last night were as firm as a rock, and the enemy had sustained very heavy losses. The Allied line everywhere is strongly held. The village of Loore, west of Kemmel, the scene of much heavy fighting between the French and Germans, and held by each in turn, is once more in the hands of the former. During last night the British advanced their line on the front before Amiens. On the Belgian front also the enemy was repulsed. One of today's cables says:

"The Germans have been heavily repulsed all along the northern battle-front. The night passed in comparative quiet."

Today's news brings a great sense of relief. For the moment the enemy has been checked, and while renewed and continued attacks may be expected there will be a more confident feeling in regard to the safety of the Channel ports.

IN OTTAWA ALSO.

It is now the turn of the city of Ottawa to fight a grasping gas company. The story is thus told by the Journal-Press:

"The Ottawa Gas Company is asking parliament to give it authority to increase its capital to five million dollars, from \$2,000,000. No good argument for this is apparent. The company in 1913 was authorized by parliament to increase its capital stock to two millions from \$500,000. Since that time, under the stress of war, the population of Ottawa has remained almost stationary, nor has the area served by the gas company increased. Besides its present authorized stock issue of \$2,000,000, the Ottawa Gas Company has \$150,000 of bonds out, and it holds parliamentary authority to issue \$850,000 more. If the new application to increase its stock to \$5,000,000 is granted by parliament, the company will have an authorized capitalization of six millions. Compare this with the case in say Toronto. The Toronto Gas Company, serving a population of half a million people, has a total capitalization of \$4,462,000. The Ottawa company asks a capitalization of \$5,000,000 to serve 120,000 people!"

The Journal-Press asks some pertinent questions as follows:

"What has the company done with the proceeds from the million and a half of additional stock issued since 1913? The claim is made that half of it was used to pay debt. What about the balance? And why was there debt? The company had been paying good dividends. If it was losing money and accumulating debt, why was it paying good dividends? It has been paying good dividends since, yet claims to have accumulated more debt. How long is this sort of thing to go on, handsome dividends paid while debt accumulates, and the company keeps reappearing before parliament to be allowed to issue more stock while the constituency it serves remains practically the same?"

Dealing with the whole question of increased capitalization of a public utility the Journal-Press further says:

"Now, the point of this thing is firstly, that every dollar of capitalization allowed to any public service corporation becomes sooner or later an excuse for sticking high rates on the public, on the plea that the shareholders ought to get a fair dividend, and so every dollar of capitalization tolerated except with the clearest need is a public wrong; and secondly, that inasmuch as sooner or later all these local public-service corporations are certain to be bought or expropriated by the municipalities concerned, every dollar of unnecessary capitalization is certain to be paid for by the public through the nose. For if such companies get money or stock which they do not absolutely need to carry on their business, the leading spirits in the companies are sure to juggle it into their own pockets without letting it give full value to the public. The city of Ottawa has therefore powerful reasons for opposing the present extraordinary proposition put forward by the Ottawa Gas Company, of a vast increase of capital stock without a shadow of excuse existing for it except possibly that the company wants to keep on paying dividends out of borrowed money."

Mayor Fisher of Ottawa describes the gas company's move as a stock-jobbing operation. It seems that in Ottawa as in St. John there are those who would exploit a public utility to get dividends on watered stock.

This week is devoted to the Soldiers of the Soil movement. Boys are signing up to work on the farms. They should be encouraged to do so. The experience will do them a world of good, even if the work is unusual and more exacting than any they have hitherto experienced; and their labors will aid very materially in swelling the food supply so sorely needed. Encourage the boys to do their part for Canada and the Empire. The consciousness that they are serving their country will be helpful to their growth as good citizens.

THE BIG BROTHERS.

It was a fine thing to see the large number of men, members of the Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus and other citizens at lunch at Bond's last evening, each with a soldier's boy to whom he is a Big Brother. The spirit of fraternity prevailed, and there was an enjoyable programme. Fitting tributes were paid to the men overseas, and to the boys who can say with pride that they are the sons of men who proved true to their country in their country's hour of need. Protestant and Catholic were there, as was eminently fitting, and the example set by these Big Brothers is worthy of being followed by very many more men. A wide acceptance of the Big Brother idea would relieve the police court of a good deal of unpleasant business, and the boys are worth it. To gain a boy's confidence and make him feel there is someone outside his family circle interested in having him do his best is to get a response that is at once helpful and inspiring to the man himself. Let us have more Big Brothers, and the problems of better school training, better playgrounds and a greater incentive to boys to do their best will be brought much nearer solution. Last night's getting together was in the nature of an experiment. It will not be the last, and each successive meeting should be more and more interesting and fraternal.

Mr. E. A. Schofield told the Big Brothers last evening that New Brunswick will perhaps be the first province to feel keenly the food shortage next year. Let us get the fact fixed in our minds that the shortage is coming. Then we will save more food and help to produce more. Because of past and present abundance we have been far too skeptical, indifferent and careless. The war will be brought home to us much more pointedly before another year passes. Let us be ready to meet the situation.

Hon. N. W. Rowell told the farmers of Ontario yesterday that important as food-production is today it is not as important as man-power. The government, he added, would do its full duty in prosecuting the war. What answer can the farmers make other than that they will cheerfully back up the government? Their duty is as plain as that of Mr. Rowell and his colleagues. The needed men must be found.

New Brunswick is asked to contribute \$100,000 to the Red Triangle Fund for Y. M. C. A. work overseas. The people will respond cheerfully, for they know the great value of the work. Every returned soldier testifies to the splendid service rendered. To give to the fund is to make the lives of the men in England and at the front more cheerful under all circumstances. It is a universal obligation.

The ploughing and digging of the war gardens has already begun. Have you secured a garden plot? The War Gardens Association will provide fertilizer and tested seed at cost to its members to as large an extent as possible, and the superintendent will advise as to soils and seeds and methods of cultivation.

All men and women in Canada between sixteen and sixty are to be registered as soon as possible. This is preliminary to a more complete mobilization of the man-power and woman-power of the country for war work, and it should have been done early in the war.

British supremacy in air-fighting is much more marked than it was a year ago. Three and a half times as many German machines were brought down in April as were destroyed in the corresponding month last year.

The gains made by the Germans on the western front are of no real value unless they are followed by such further advance as will open the road to Paris or the Channel ports.

The Canada Food Board is tightening the strings. That is necessary, and every citizen should co-operate to save food and produce more food. It is a vital necessity, and we must all realize the fact.

Rev. F. S. Dowling is congratulated on the large addition to his congregation as a result of the union of Calvin with St. Andrew's church, consummated last evening.

The Standard devotes the whole of its editorial space today to local party politics. Its grief over the defeat and exposure of the profliggers is inconsolable.

The rigid rules of the food board relating to candy, sweet cakes and other food luxuries are another reminder of the seriousness of the food situation.

More flour seems to have been used in the principal cities of Canada in February than in January. This is food control headed the wrong way.

When Germany doesn't care how many German lives it wastes, why should we be so solicitous of the lives of the German spies over here?—Detroit Free Press.



The Rosedale
With all the snap and ginger that young fellows demand. See our range of styles for young men.
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GOOD ROADS NOTICE

The New Brunswick Automobile Association request their members and all other automobile owners to refrain from driving their cars outside the city and town limits until the frost is out of the ground.
80440-4-27-30-7.

SOLDIERS' PENSIONS.

(Toronto Star.)

Mr. Knight, representing the G. W. V. A., put forward a sound argument in regard to pensions when giving evidence before the committee at Ottawa. He urged that when a man had been medically accepted in Canada and in England and had been sent to the front, it should not be permissible for doctors in Canada, after his return here, to set up the contention that before entering the country's service he had some disease which made him unfit and which reduces the amount of pension to which he is entitled. If the country accepts a man as physically fit and sends him to a fit man's job at the front, surely that ought to settle the question on the day his pension comes to be considered.

Why Blame the Good for the Bad?

BECAUSE thin, skin milk will not nourish a baby; has nothing to do with milk fresh from a registered cow.
BECAUSE some coffee develops a bitter tang—and is not satisfactory—has nothing to do with

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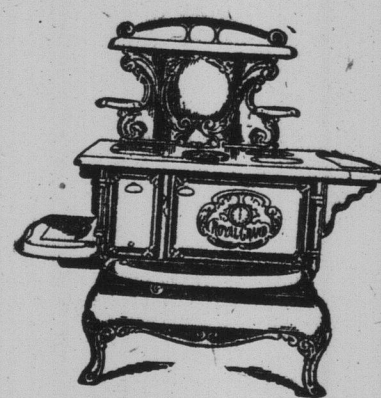


is catching and we do not want Mother Nature to outdo us in dressing up. Get started early with this spring's overhauling—and get your supplies from us. We have everything you need for painting, beautifying and preserving your property.

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Where Does The Household Expense Go?

Nearly all the household expense goes through the kitchen. The largest items are fuel and food. It is easier to waste a penny in the kitchen than anywhere else.

The truth is that owners of the ROYAL GRAND RANGE pay for the range from its savings in two or three years and keep on saving for many years.

The Proof of the Range is in the Working.

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CHINA IS FIGHTING.

Military Counselor to President Says 40,000 Men Being Sent to France.

An Atlantic Port, April 29—Captain Ting Chia Chen, military counselor to the president of China, and also to the Chinese minister of war, arrived here today on a French steamship. He said that China now is sending troops to France to fight for the Allies.

Captain Ting, who is a graduate of West Point, United States military academy, for some time has been in Europe as a military observer in the war theatre for his government.

"China is preparing to do her part in making the world safe for democracy," he said. "It is true that China has troops on the way to the battlefield and it is the calculation of the Peking government to have no fewer than 40,000 fighting men with the French by early summer. I have just left France and there remained behind me ten other Chinese officers whose duty it will be to select training camps in France for Chinese troops."

The captain added that there is a spirit among the Chinese people that good of mankind and the advance of civilization must be suppressed, for the civilization.



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"The food crisis is grave and urgent beyond possibility of exaggeration."—Sir Robert Borden

Every City Man's Share is 4 Acres of Land in Crop

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How are you going to fulfil this obligation—an obligation resulting from the great emergency besetting those who are bearing the brunt of the fighting and the suffering?

Men are needed on farms in this Province. Write to your Provincial Department of Agriculture for additional information.

Actual Farm Work is the Greater Service

But, if you can do nothing more, you can help to feed your own family

The War Garden is a War Duty

Every pound of food produced by city people is gain—because grown by labor which otherwise would not be employed in food production

It leaves the farmer free to grow more grain.

It frees the market gardener's help for farm work.

It saves transportation.

It provides the household with an abundant supply of fresh vegetables.

It helps to reduce the high cost of living.

Above all—it means more food.

There is a sufficient supply of vegetable garden seeds, and all the tools you really need are a spade, a hoe and a rake.

Write to your Provincial Department of Agriculture for pamphlets on gardening

CANADA FOOD BOARD
OTTAWA

(In Co-operation with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture).

