

The Courier's

Mail Bag

HOLDFAST, Sask.,
Sept. 1918.

The Courier:

Wheat cutting in this district has been finished about September 3rd, and the farmers are now busily engaged with threshing. In this district, as is known, nearly all land is held by German-Canadians. Many farmers own up to 10 quarter sections of land and practically every farmer around here is well off. Our colony has therefore a great future before them; it no doubt will be one of the greatest colonies in Saskatchewan as times come. The crop this year is an average one as far as quantity is concerned, the quality however is No. 1. Oats will give a good crop, the stools are at places a little short. If we take it as a whole, the farmers can be well satisfied, as quality and the good prices the grain will command are bound to make up for the shortage in quantity. On September 5th there was a flying circus at Holdfast, which gave a few performances. After threshing it is stated work shall commence to erect the new church, of which I have reported in my last letter. The threshing season should be of a short duration as practically every farmer around here owns his own threshing machine. The cutting of the grain took also only a few days as the farmers went to work by using three or four binders on a single farm. Gabriel Froehlich used even five binders. The farmers have not time to get sick these days, and in fact one will find in our district hardly anyone on the sick-list.

Mrs. Albert Ehmann, wife of our former Hotel-Proprietor has become mother of twins. We wish to extend to the parents our hearty congratulations. Mr. Carl Ehmann has about completed his new residence. The building is a very handsome one and will cost about \$8,000 to \$9,000; there are 15 rooms in the building, it has water-electric light and a hot-water-heating system. A 75 feet deep water-tank has been built in the cellar, also several machineries in connection with the water system and the electric light plant.

C. Wöhrens

GRAYSON, Sask.,
September 1918.

The Editor, "The Courier":

I have noticed with surprise that it has been decided to discontinue printing "Der Courier" in the German language. As much as I regret not to be able to read our former valued paper in my mother-tongue again, I think the decision which has been taken, was only taken after careful consideration, and I shall therefore not drop out as a reader but trust in the good judgement of the Editor of "Der Courier" has always used in serving the best interests of his fellow countrymen. Very probably many of the readers of the former paper "Der Courier" are not in a position to read English but no

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doubt their children are able to read English, and as most of them speak German, it will not be too difficult for them to translate the news which will from now on appear in "The Courier", which is the name, I understand, of the new paper appearing in the English language.

In our district every farmer is busily engaged cutting wheat. Frost has not done as much harm as was expected, and all indications are, that the farmer will get a fair average crop. I shall send in a more complete report when threshing is fairly well under way.

Yours truly
Caspar Schramm.LAKE SASKATOON,
August 31st, 1918.

"The Courier":

Enclosed you will find \$2.00 being the subscription price for "The Courier" for another year. We have a lot of work with the grain that has been frozen. I judge that I have lost about 250 to 300 acres with wheat making in all a financial loss of about \$10,000 to \$12,000. The wheat on about 100 acres seems to be untouched and in a few days we shall start cutting same. The frozen wheat will make good feed; whether we can sell it is a question I cannot answer as yet. Early oats has also been touched by frost, but is still fairly good, and if we don't get any further frost before maturity, oats will give a fairly good crop. On Friday and Saturday last we had a heavy rain, but this morning the thermometer was below Zero again. However during the day it braced up nicely, the sun was shining bright and all signs point towards better weather. May God give that we are spared from any further frost, otherwise we will lose everything and our district will receive a serious set-back. I have to make you a compliment on your paper and must say that at our house we all like it very well.

Yours truly
A. T. Trelle.BROUCE, B. C.,
Sept. 7th, 1918.

"The Courier":

I beg to thank you for the prompt delivery of your paper. Enclosed you will find \$2.00 to cover subscription for another year. I have read so often about the dry weather in other parts of the country this year, but let it be said, that we also had to suffer on account of the dry spells. The hay-crop is very poor and the potato-crop does not look too promising either.

Yours truly
Julius Henke.ELECT NEW PRESIDENT
OF CHINESE REPUBLIC.

PEKING. — Hsu Shih Chang, former vice-president of the privy council, has been elected president of the Chinese republic by a large majority.

Hsu Shih Chang became prominent during the latter days of the Chinese monarchy. He was one of the leading statesmen who conducted negotiations preliminary to the settlement of the relations between Japan, Russia and China, as the result of the Russo-Japanese war.

When the constitutional government was established he became vice-prime minister and at one time was thought to be in line for the post of premier. In June, 1917, he was named dictator by a rebel conference at Tien Tsin, when Hsu Antung relinquished the role of emperor in the summer of 1917. Hsu was appointed his guardian. It was later suggested that he might replace President Feng, and last month he was nominated for the presidency by the generals of the northern Chinese army.

No Call for Class Three.

OTTAWA. — Reports that class 3 under the Military Service act is to be called out are generally discredited here. The question, Canadian Press Limited is informed, has not even been discussed. Any further calls under the act depend on the war situation and the supply of reinforcements.

WHAT CANADA HAS DONE
TO HELP TO FEED THE AR-
MIES AND THE CIVILIAN
POPULATION OF OUR
ALLIES.

Baron Rhondha's last message to Canada before his death: "Dominion Day is a fitting occasion to express, on behalf of all those responsible for food administration in the United Kingdom, gratitude to Canadian men, women and youths for the way in which they have decreased their consumption of essential foods and increased production."

Net exports from Canada of beef have been increased by nearly 75,000,000 pounds per annum, an increase of 6,795 per cent. over the average net exports for 1910-1914. Net exports of pork have been increased by 125,000,000 pounds per annum, an increase of 571 per cent. over a five year pre-war average.

Before the war, Canada was importing butter at the rate of 7,000,000 pounds annually. This country is now producing enough butter to meet domestic requirements and, in addition, is exporting at the rate of more than 4,000,000 pounds per annum.

It is estimated that Canada exported at least 25 to 30 per cent. more wheat during the last twelve months than could have been exported had it not been for the efforts for conservation and organization of this country's food resources.

By standardization of flour and lengthening of the extraction in milling, a saving of 20,000 barrels of flour per month is being effected.

Conservation measures and voluntary saving in the homes have reduced Canadian consumption of flour from 800,000 to 600,000 barrels per month, as compared with pre-war consumption. This means a saving at the rate of 2,400,000 barrels per year, or, counting the saving by lengthened extraction of milling, of 2,640,000 barrels per year. This is equivalent to a saving of nearly 12,000,000 bushels of wheat.

Conservation efforts in Canada are releasing meat enough to provide the ration for, it is estimated, at least 500,000 soldiers.

Canada is now saving sugar at the rate of more than 100,000 tons annually, as compared with consumption a year ago. Very large quantities of edible fats are also being released, out of normal consumption, for export.

Nearly 800 cars of foodstuffs have been saved from total or partial loss through spoiling.

An amazing reduction in waste is shown by reports to the Canada Food Board from municipal officials in all parts of the Dominion. Profiteering has been greatly diminished and excessive profit taking is being stopped. For example, flour sold at \$14.50 per barrel in the spring of 1915, whereas the farmer had received only \$6.93 for the wheat used therein. In the spring of 1918 the price of flour had been kept down to \$11 per barrel, while the farmer had received \$8.32 for the wheat used therein.

DEVASTATION UNEQUAL-
LED IN RECENT FIGHT.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Sept. 11. — The destruction of towns and villages within the zone of the recent operations has been so complete as to offer little basis for comparisons. South of the Somme and between the Aisne and the Oise, the work of demolition has been uniformly thorough. Settlements, big and small, have been reduced to ghostly ruins, the fragments of walls assuming most fantastic shapes, the roofs of many houses, bereft of tiles and slates, look like skeletons of huge beasts, whose backs have been broken.

Noyon Still Standing.

Noyon offers the only contrast to the devastation that is characteristic of other towns. Montdidier was razed to the ground. Noyon was almost as completely ruined, but is still erect. The walls of most of its houses still support only partially collapsed roofs. From a distance they appear to require only repair, but close inspection shows that the Germans made good their boast that they would destroy the town in its entirety.

No Section Spared.

When the French troops first entered the city it was three-fourths intact at least. Shelling with gas and high explosives fol-

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lowed at once. The shells were distributed so evenly and impartially that not a quarter was slighted and not a house left untouched. What could not be done by shells in the brief time left to the German artillery, was accomplished by mines.

At several places the mines not only blew great gaps in the streets, but caved in the house fronts on both sides. At one spot, an explosion uprooted a tree, which took down the corner of a house in its fall.

HARDEST FIGHT OF CAM-
PAIGN WAS AT COUCY.

FRENCH ARMY HEADQUARTERS,
Sept. 10. — Reuter's correspondent cables:

The hardest fighting French troops during the past week have been the men of General Mangin's army among the woods and hills before the Hindenburg line. The Germans have unquestionably decided to make a prepared stand in the region of Quincy Bassompierre and St. Mard. At Concy la Ville the canal is 18 yards wide and seven feet deep and the enemy, with scores of machine guns, had lined the east bank to the water's edge. The French engineers actually bridged the canal under showers of grenades and a murderous point-blank machine gun fire, after which the engineers were the first to get across and come to grips with the machine gunners. Across the water lay woods in which the Germans installed machine guns behind every tree. The oldest veterans are emphatic that the fighting here and the volume of fire surpassed everything in the whole campaign.

Fought to the Death.

The enemy machine gunners literally fought to their death. A single Gascon division advancing foot by foot not more than a hundred yards, engaged five German divisions. On the sixth day with the help of the artillery, the French won through to the Hindenburg positions, freeing Coucy-le-Chateau, which today looks like a stone on the quarry.

PRINCE FERDINAND OF
HOHENSOLOMS DEAD.

BASEL, Switzerland. — The death of Prince Ferdinand of Solms-Hohensolms is announced by the German newspapers. He was killed on the battlefield, while in command of an infantry battalion.

Prince Ferdinand was born at Weimar, the capital of the Grand Duchy of Saxon-Weimar-Eisenach in 1886. He was cousin of Prince Charles, head of the reigning house of Solms-Hohensolms.

THREE DEFENCE SYSTEMS
BEHIND HINDENBURG LINE.

PARIS, Sept. 12 (Havas Agency). — There are three German lines of defence behind the Hindenburg line, the first closely paralleling it, and the others providing for retreats along the fronts, according to an outline of the German defence system printed by the Matin today.

The first line in the rear of the Hindenburg position, according to the newspaper, starts from the south of Lille and parallels the Hindenburg line at an average of from three to six miles. The second comprises a line running from Lille to Metz, the intermediary points on which, the newspaper does not indicate. This line would be about 180 miles in length.

Finally, the newspaper adds, there is a fourth retreat line, on which the Germans are now vigorously working. It runs from Valenciennes, twenty miles west of Douai; in a southeasterly direction to Givet, on the Meuse, at the Belgian border. The front thus indicated, extends for about sixty miles.

FRESH GERMAN RE-
INFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN

FRANCE, Sept. 11. — Although little strips of ground have been gained here and there along the battle lines, that zigzag their way across Artois and Picardy, the British troops generally were stationary today. A heavy rain whipped along by a chilly wind has covered the battlefield with a coating of mud. This in a country badly torn up by shells, of itself would necessarily result in a slower movement, even if it were not necessary for the advance troops to consolidate their positions.

In actions of manoeuvre, such as the British, as well as the French to the south, are engaged in, pauses of this kind are inevitable.

German Reserves Appear.

Meanwhile fresh German divisions have made their appearance in this region, so it may be expected that the resistance will become stiffer. As a matter of fact not a great deal of ground remains to be captured before the Germans will be pushed back completely to the Hindenburg line. Generally speaking, the British armies are now about five miles away from the centre of the German's much boasted defence system.

Artillery Never Quits.

The Germans are having a most uncomfortable time, for the British

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guns, in addition to laying their shells on the Germans between the British infantry positions and the Hindenburg line, are vigorously hammering the enemy's rear. The British artillery firing on the forward enemy areas has created great havoc.

Where the British troops have advanced they have, at many times, come upon patches of ground where torn bodies of men, broken machine guns, dented helmets, equipment, cartridge cases and clips are all mixed up together as though they had passed through some gigantic mangle.

This is the toll the British artillery takes when the foe leaves his machine gunners in pockets for rearguard actions.

The enemy has by no means even started to recover from the shocks he has received. Day after day, since the British offensive began and it is considered more than likely new divisions have been thrown in through the desire to stiffen the German morale, quite as much as to stiffen the line for a time.

Activity at Gouvaucourt.

The principal activity today was

in the area around Gouvaucourt. The high ground overlooking Gouvaucourt and the wood of the same name to the northwest, were captured. The British guns from this section are able to direct an enfilading fire on the enemy positions to the south.

Past records show that the enemy will not get out except when he is pushed out. Thus he takes every opportunity available to destroy what he has not time to save.

Some newly captured German documents disclose that the enemy is not quite satisfied with himself or with his defences, and his line is literally honeycombed with deep dugouts.

Closing Safety Holes.

An order issued by a German general of division, apparently acting under orders from the higher command, expressly forbids the troops to occupy dugouts which descend lower than eight steps underground. The general appears to have been very much worried on the subject and goes into great detail in ordering such dugouts closed up, or otherwise made useless for the troops.

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