

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1918

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THE WAR.

The fighting continues to favor the Allies on the main western front and there is special significance in the re-baptism of the Serbian army which has been gaining success in Macedonia. We may confidently look for more favorable news from there. Capture of an enemy naval base at Khabarovsk by Japanese land forces also is an item of interest in the news of the day.

Matters in Russia are brightening. Bolshevism has apparently run its course and the exposure of the duplicity of Trotsky and Lenin, when the Russian people come to realize it, should give the finishing touch to the rule of German agents in the troubled nation. More aid, however, must be given to the Czech-Slovaks by the Allies in munitions and other supplies. It is worthy of note, in this connection, that the Japanese government has accorded official recognition to the Czech-Slovak forces as an Allied and belligerent army fighting against Germany and Austria-Hungary. A declaration of war upon Germany by the Siberian government at Omsk, which is a fortified town in Asiatic Russia, means further trouble for the enemy.

LOCAL PUBLIC UTILITIES.

The suggestion of the chairman of the commission which is investigating local public utility rates that some measure of civic control over the operations of the New Brunswick Power Company is desirable raises several interesting questions. It reminds the public here that present conditions are intolerable. Citizens, who provide all of the company's revenue, and in whose streets its cars, wires and gas mains are operated, have today not the slightest control over the nature or quality of the services rendered, and merely enjoy an indefinite right of protest as to the prices charged. It becomes necessary to determine what is the standing of any stock issued by the company in excess of its actual requirements, and this in turn necessitates a review of the company's business methods and a revelation of its actual condition and the causes to which its condition is due. The company has legislative authority to issue more securities, but the recent lesson makes it clear that no public utility company should be permitted to create new securities except under careful supervision which would guard the public against undue charges. Broadly speaking, the public has a right to know what it costs the company to provide the services which it sells to this community, whether that cost is reasonable, and furthermore, what under proper management, would be the fair profit upon the company's operations.

It would be most unwise to assume because a temporary increase in rates had been granted that the city will be confronted with periodically mounting charges and that it must go on paying indefinitely without any control over the company's activities. The principal questions at issue have not yet been completely investigated, and it should be understood that the city will press every phase of its case vigorously until the whole matter has been cleared up. St. John's experience in connection with public utilities should be a warning to the province at large and to the legislature. Companies applying in future at Fredericton for authority to increase their capitalization should be compelled to give early notice of their intentions in order that all interested may take steps to submit their proposals to the most rigid scrutiny. Clearly an early and drastic revision of New Brunswick's public utilities legislation is in order, for the Power Company is not the only organization whose activities should be brought thoroughly within public control.

THE ANSWER.

Unconditional rejection is the answer of the United States government to the enemy peace feeler. Here are the words of Secretary of State Lansing:

"I am authorized by the president to state that the following will be the reply of this government to the Austro-Hungarian note proposing an unofficial conference of belligerents: The government of the United States feels that there is only one reply which it can make to the suggestion of the imperial Austro-Hungarian government. It has repeatedly and with entire candor stated the terms upon which the United States would consider peace and can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

And that will be the answer of all the Allies. The war must go on till Germany is soundly beaten and acknowledges it.

IN THE GRIP OF THE DRUG HABIT.

How widespread has become the wrongful use of drugs in the United States is set forth in a despatch from Washington detailing facts revealed by investigation. The center is at work in the army ranks as well as in civilian life. To some extent it is believed that German agents are responsible for American soldiers securing harmful drugs. The despatch referred to says that

habitual use of morphine, cocaine, heroin, and preparations containing other narcotic drugs has increased rapidly in the United States within the last two years, and a drastic anti-narcotic law must be enacted at this session of Congress to check the wholesale spread of the habit. These are the conclusions made public by a special Treasury investigating committee, together with a partial report on the number of drug addicts actually under physicians' treatment.

The investigations of the committee, which is headed by Representative Rainey in Illinois, showed that thousands of drafted men have been dismissed from military camps after it was found that they were drug addicts, and that this number included many who systematically developed the habit after being drafted, in order to insure their dismissal. This condition is one reason given for the urgency of immediate remedial legislation.

The necessary measures already have been embodied in the new Revenue bill, providing for registration of manufacturers and dealers in proprietary medicines containing compounds of narcotic drugs as well as the pure drug. The measure also would tax these preparations, provide means of keeping track of great quantities dispensed annually, and stop the loopholes through which thousands of violators are said to escape under the Harrison anti-narcotic act.

Hundreds of agents of the Internal Revenue Bureau, acting for the investigating committee, have reported detailed information concerning consumption of morphine, cocaine, heroin, or medicines containing similar alkaloids, and on these reports is based the estimate that at least 1,500,000 persons in the United States are drug addicts, of whom 1,000,000 are known as such in their communities, and the balance secret drug users. Full reports are expected to show 200,000 known users within the former draft ages of 21 and 31 in New York alone.

Some army officers have been found to be habitual users of morphine, and to have purchased supplies to take to France with them.

More St. John homes are plunged in grief by receipt of news of gallant soldier sons who have given their lives on the field of battle. It is the price of victory and, though it requires a stout heart to meet the shock of such news from the front, those bereaved have the consolation of knowing that their heroes died in a great cause and have passed on as heroes.

From the western front comes news of the spreading of the surrender spirit among the German soldiers. The morale of the enemy is declining as the Allied blows are sent home.

The local Knights of Columbus report a good start in their drive for army huts. The cause is most worthy and the appeal a broad one. The objective should be reached.

In her stress on the western front Germany is bringing in Bulgarian troops. Her day of boasted supremacy has passed.

The British are closing in upon St. Quentin. Its capture will be a great blow to the Kaiser.

Austria admits that Germany knew all about the new peace feeler. The admission was unnecessary.

The Germans are making greater efforts in air fighting but they have lost the advantage in that phase of war work.

Anxious nations are relieved by the more cheering news coming from the sick room of Britain's premier.

FOR UNITY OF EFFORT BETWEEN CHURCHES

Toronto, Sept. 17.—Unity of effort between the Christian churches of Canada, more especially between the Presbyterian and Anglican communions, was urged before the general synod of the Church of England in Canada, in session here yesterday by a deputation representing the former denomination, who conveyed a message of greeting to the Anglican clergy, and by Right Rev. A. J. Doull, bishop of Kootenay, and Venerable Paterson-Smythe, Montreal, who replied on behalf of the synod.

Hamilton Cassels, representing the laymen of the Presbyterian church, appealed for the unity of the two churches under one head, and, in replying, the Bishop of Kootenay hoped that a way would be found to unite the best features of Episcopacy and Presbyterianism. The two churches, he said, should let bygones be bygones and, as Christian brethren, see what could be done "to bring about dawn of that blessed day when Christian people can be of one accord in one place." He was followed by Archdeacon Paterson-Smythe, who hoped that the relations existing between the two denominations would extend beyond more friendly courtesies.

Women of Wyoming will bake a large cake to be sent to General Pershing for Christmas.

POISONING WELLS IN THEIR RETREAT

Diabolical Orders of The German General Staff

To Wipe Out Whole District—Dashing French Advance Balks Plot of 108th Battalion Officers

Paris, Sept. 17.—If proof was ever wanting of the diabolical methods practiced by our enemies in destroying villages and towns by mines, poisoning rivers and falls and generally making life impossible for returning refugees, it is surely found in a document which has just fallen into the hands of a French divisional headquarters.

This document concerns the 108th Battalion of German infantry and bears the date of September 5, 1918. The first part deals with the systematic destruction of all barracks, hospitals, and dugouts abandoned in retreating, further on it orders the 27th and 90th German regiments to destroy the villages of Villeneuve, Autmont, Lequenal and others.

Then it deals with poisoning wells. "All wells should be poisoned. Care should be taken that the bombs do not explode too soon," says the order.

So that every one might, no doubt, be held responsible, the document ends: "It is the duty of everyone to participate in the destruction of wells."

At Merthourt is a well which the Germans had prepared to poison, but the dashing French advance balked them who plotted this act of treachery. Around the top of the well is a small brick wall above which is a sign in German, "Do not drink this water."

A cross-shaped shell was blown up. The mine not to be taken. A cross-shaped shell was blown up. The mine not to be taken. A cross-shaped shell was blown up. The mine not to be taken.

TOLD OF WORK OF GREENFELL MISSION

How along the barren and rugged coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland and across their storm swept waters the Grenfell medical missionaries carry help and comfort to the solitary peoples of those regions was told last night at the Tabernacle church by Dr. Hinson West, who had himself experienced both the hardships and the joys of such a life. The meeting was one of the regular Monday evening meetings of the Young People's Society of the church, and there was the usual devotional programme following which Dr. West gave his most interesting address and was thanked by the pastor, Rev. A. L. Tedford. Rev. F. E. Boothroyd, who was present, also spoke of his own experience in Newfoundland and thoroughly endorsed all that Dr. West had said. At the close of the evening a very pleasant social hour was enjoyed and refreshments were served.

The devotional part of the evening programme included prayers by the pastor and Bruce Addison, sacred solo by John MacEachern, Scripture reading by Mrs. R. D. Colgan and a sacred song by Mrs. Colgan and Peter Murray. The social hour and the serving of refreshments prolonged the evening most pleasantly.

THE BILIOUS HABIT

Some people have bilious spells about every so often until they get to be a habit. The liver is at fault. Get the liver right by using Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and the bile will not collect in the blood until it poisons you. There is no one organ in the human body which has so great a control of health as the liver. Hence the far-reaching effect of this treatment.

Line Your Own Stove!

Foley's Prepared Fire Clay Ready to use. Sold in bulk by T. McAvity & Sons, or at the Pottery.

More Army Huts Over There!

GET INTO THE BIG DRIVE WITH THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Huts for All Classes and Creeds

H.E.P.I. ST. JOHN. SEPT. 15th to 23rd

INDIGESTION AND CONSTIPATION

Quickly Relieved by "Fruit-a-lives"

Bochon, P. Q. "I suffered for many years with terrible indigestion and constipation. A neighbor advised me to try 'Fruit-a-lives'. I did so and to the surprise of my doctor, I began to improve and he advised me to go on with 'Fruit-a-lives'."

"I consider that I owe my life to 'Fruit-a-lives' and I want to say to those who suffer from indigestion, constipation or headache—try 'Fruit-a-lives' and you will get well."

CORBET GAUDREAU, 20c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-lives Limited, Ottawa.

LIVELY DEBATES AT THE LABOR CONGRESS

Quebec, Q., Sept. 16.—The Trades and Labor Congress initiated the business sessions of its convention here in Quebec last afternoon by four spirited debates on questions upon which the delegates were clearly divided. The first was a motion to pass on to the resolution committee a recommendation that the military service act should be repealed. The congress refused by a large majority to let the resolution committee consider the matter. The second was the application of a number of Russian workers in Toronto to allow their delegates to be heard on the floor of the convention. The request was refused because the Russians were not members of the trade unions. The third was the recommendation that a message of greetings be sent from the congress to the Canadian Army. This was opposed because it had not come up as a recommendation of the resolution committee, but was submitted to the convention by P. Draper, secretary, at the request of Senator Robertson, and finally carried with the time and day of electing officers which the elections are regarded.

Fourteen Brooklyn saloons in the military zone were closed by order of the War Department.

"Bear" In Mind CERVA

The World's Best Beverage Banishes thirst. Puts vigor into digestion. Non-intoxicating. A remarkable soft drink with the good taste of hops. Absolutely pure.

At grocers', druggists', in fact, all places where good drinks are sold.

United States Bottling Corporation (Incorporated in U.S.A.) Sole Importers for Canada and Newfoundland

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Paint in the Fall

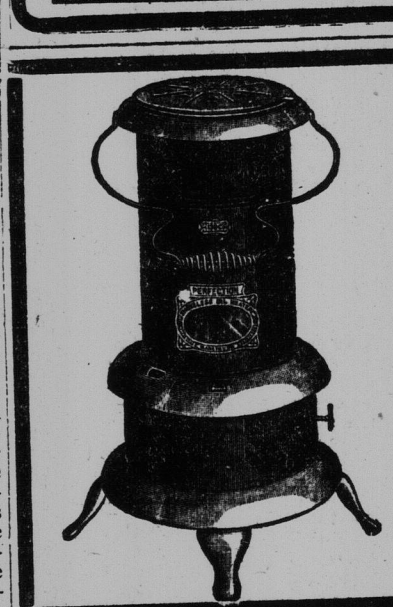


The Fall of the year is, by general consent, the most favorable time for painting the house. Owing to comparative dryness and the freedom from dust, on account of the stillness of the air, combined with the absence of small insects.

To insure satisfactory results use "Hand and Ring" Pure Prepared Paints

They cover a lot of surface, wear well, work easy under the brush—and cost no more than good paint ought to cost.

T. McAVITY & SONS, LTD.



OIL HEATERS

PERFECTION AND HOT BLAST

You will find this just the article where heat is required for a few hours only.

Steel Construction, Easy to Carry From Room to Room, So Simple a Child Can Operate and Re-wick Perfectly safe and free from odors, Smokeless.

Soft Cotton Wicks, suitable for these stoves, supplied at all times.

Emerson & Fisher Ltd.

COAL \$9.50 Per Ton

And Real Genuine BROAD COVE Coal Too

The recent fire in our coal sheds forced us to sacrifice most of our stock of BROAD COVE soft coal to steam plants. We managed, however, to save about 400 tons of good lump Screened Coal. This coal has been wet and smoked, but to all intents and purposes it should be as good as ever for household use. Whatever damage it sustained is more in looks than burning qualities.

This 400 tons must be moved at once to make room for repairs to our wharves and sheds.

The regular price of Broad Cove Screened Coal is \$13.50 per ton now-a-days. The price on this lot for immediate sale, \$9.50, dumped at your door.

Terms strictly Cash with Order, and all coal must be received "dumped." Time will not permit of the delay in delivery in bags.

BROAD COVE is the soft coal so free from soot that you can burn it in the range and small heating stove—not a "self-feeder"—without fear of soot trouble so common with other soft coals.

Consumers Coal Co., Limited.

331 CHARLOTTE STREET

will rapidly improve your complexion by arousing the liver and putting stomach and blood in good order.

Largest Sale of any Medicine in the World. Sold everywhere. In bottles, 25c.

Best Manitoba Government Standard Spring Wheat

is of uniform high-grade, and you can depend on it absolutely for every household purpose. It makes lovely creamy bread, delicious biscuits and pastry.

Direct From Mill to Home

Phone West 8

FOWLER MILLING CO., Limited

Washington, Sept. 16.—Twenty-six ships with deadweight tonnage of 147,620 tons were delivered to the Shipping Board by American yards during the first thirteen days of this month, the board announced today. During the same period twenty-nine steel and wooden ships of 160,370 deadweight tons were launched.

On Open Sea Five Days.

A Canadian Atlantic Port, Sept. 16.—After five days' exposure in an open boat sixteen of the crew, including the captain, of the Portuguese steamer Leixoes, arrived here today, reporting that their

steamer was torpedoed in the North Atlantic five days ago, since which time there have been very heavy winds and seas. It is feared that three other boats, with thirty-five men, the remainder of the crew, have been lost. The survivors who landed here suffered considerably during their five days at sea in the boats.

The Leixoes was a vessel of 3,245 tons gross register and was formerly the Hamburg-American steamer Cheruskia. She was requisitioned by the Portuguese government after having been self-interested at a Portuguese port at the

beginning of the war. She was built in 1890, at Newcastle, England.

Fishing Ship Missing.

A Canadian Atlantic Port, Sept. 16.—The Canadian fishing schooner, Otokio, 99 tons, which was expected to make port from the fishing banks about a week ago has not yet returned and he owners fear that she has been lost.

report that the masts of an abandoned sailing vessel have been sighted at point on the coast some distance from here is being investigated by the marine and fisheries department.