

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1918

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## THE WAR SITUATION.

While it is frankly admitted that the crisis is not yet passed, the news from the battlefield is much more satisfactory. The British and French are now holding their own, and the British yesterday were winning back and holding some of the lost ground. It is declared that the road to Paris and the roads to Amiens are well protected and that at points where the German pressure is now greatest reserves are coming up to hold them in check. A cable from French headquarters asserts that the German attempt to get between the French and British forces and defeat them in turn has failed, and is likely to continue to fail. The war correspondents generally take a more hopeful view of the general situation. While neither side has yet struck a decisive blow, the German effort is slackening and the Allied reserves are coming up rapidly. "The spirit of optimism," says a London cable, "was higher along the front today."

The London Daily Mail estimates the German losses at 800,000. One correspondent thinks the figures may even be as high as 400,000. That the slaughter was terrible is shown by the statement that some German divisions lost half their number. The German plan was to rush the troops forward regardless of loss, continuing to throw in fresh reserves to fill the gaps, hoping by sheer persistence and weight of numbers to finish what the terrific artillery fire had begun. There was no wavering, however, in the Allied lines, which fought doggedly and retired slowly, exacting the utmost toll as they went. The time for the great counter-offensive is at hand.

## THE HIGHWAYS.

The province of Saskatchewan, like New Brunswick, is launching out upon a progressive highway policy. At the recent meeting of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Hon. S. J. Latta, minister of highways, made an announcement which is thus reported in Canadian Finance:

"Mr. Latta said that the province would be divided into eight districts, each under a superintendent, and all under the superintendency of the department of highways of the provincial government, which will provide practical road building engineers. The department in future will concern itself with the construction of main highways, and the municipalities with branch roads which will be feeders to the main roads. The object of the main roads would be to get grain to country elevator points and not to be the connecting links between towns. An educational propaganda was being planned, Mr. Latta said, and a survey of every road in the province would be made. Letters were being sent to each municipality with a map and certain instructions."

It is gratifying to know that the excellent measure introduced in the legislature at Fredericton by Hon. Mr. Veniot has met with general approval. The division into trunk roads and branch roads, with road engineers and a patrol system, will in a comparatively few years result in a very marked improvement, long overdue, in the highways of this province.

## LET US ALL JOIN.

The decision of the Rotary Club to form a War Gardens Association is in line with effort in a number of other cities, the object being to embrace within the scope of the organization and its work every man, woman and child willing to do something this year to increase production and so help to win the war.

With the certainty that food conditions in the world at large will be worse next year than now, and knowing that even today French soldiers and soldiers in England have had their rations reduced, it is imperative that every effort be made to produce substitute foods, so that wheat, beef and bacon may be released for export to England and the war zone.

Every owner of a vacant lot, who does not intend to cultivate it, should offer its use to the War Gardens Association. Whether the crop be large or small, every vegetable raised increases the food supply by that much, and the effort made to ensure its growth will be more than justified. We cannot all fight, but we can use the spade and hoe and watering can, and with skilled gardeners ready to give advice there should be no difficulty in planting such seed as will grow and in bringing it to maturity. Let us have a War Gardens Association numbering thousands of both sexes. Let every citizen talk about it, boost it, and show faith by works.

It is announced that officials of the American department of the interior and the department of agriculture, who in conjunction with educators are planning to enroll 5,000,000 children in the public, parochial and private schools of the country in the "United States Garden Army," for raising vegetables, small fruits and eggs, plan to make it a permanent feature of the national life, and not a mere war measure.

## FOR OUR HERO SONS.

The appeal of the Soldiers' Comforts Association could not come at a more opportune time. The hearts of all the people go out today to the men who are facing a hurricane of death in the most gigantic battle of all history. We can do but little for them. Many of them will be killed or maimed, and all of them worn to the very edge of exhaustion. It is our battle they are fighting and any comforts we can send them are but trifles compared with what they are doing for us. For that reason the response to the combined appeal of the Soldiers' Comforts Association and the Commercial Travelers' Association on Saturday should be generous and universal. Every citizen should desire to add a contribution to the fund, which is used by an organization through whose agency the parcels sent are certain to reach the fighting men.

## HARBOR COMMISSION.

Two things are essential in any plan for harbor commission. One is that the city be fully reimbursed for expenditures it has made to develop a natural port, and for the harbor property taken over by the commission, which would include all the wharves and facilities. The other is that there be some guarantee that St. John is provided with whatever further wharf facilities and railway connections as will ensure its full share of the ocean-borne trade of Canada. It has been charged that government railway influences in the not remote past have tended toward depriving this port of business which legitimately belongs to the port with the short rail haul. The city has spent money lavishly to develop a national port and now it is up to the government.

## WHAT THE FARMERS THINK.

Greatly to the annoyance of the St. John Standard the Farmers' and Dairy-men's Association recently adopted the following resolutions:—"Resolved: That this association wishes to extend to the department of agriculture their hearty appreciation of its work on behalf of the people of New Brunswick; also to express our faith in Mr. Reek as secretary for agriculture, feeling that he has already proven himself to be the right man in the right place, and

"Further resolved: That we as farmers of New Brunswick pledge ourselves to co-operate with the department and to assist them in every possible way in carrying out their important work."

Not only was the resolutions carried, but they were carried unanimously.

"Every boy and girl who really sees what the home garden may mean," writes President Wilson to Secretary Lane, "will, I am sure, enter into the purpose with high spirits, because I am sure they would all like to feel that they are in fact fighting in France by joining the home garden army." Commenting on this, the Christian Science Monitor says: "There may have been some mistakes made in home gardening last year, but this is no reason why adults, any more than children, should let a square foot of soil go to waste this year. The food problem is likely to be even more acute in 1918 than it was in 1917, and there should be neither idle lands nor idle hands, wherever it is possible to add to the foodstuff supply. Boys and girls should be encouraged in garden work. It is one way in which they can be of immense assistance in the war. It is, also, in which they can be saved from idling and helped toward useful manhood and womanhood."

St. John people will be interested to learn that at a recent meeting of representative business men in Winnipeg recently a resolution was carried to the effect that a committee be appointed to organize the citizens of Winnipeg and vicinity for the purpose of registering the necessary amount of labor required to assist the farmers of western Canada in preparing for and securing the largest possible acreage this spring, this campaign to be followed by the early organization of available labor for the harvest."

Addressing the agricultural committee of the Alberta legislature recently, the Hon. Duncan Marshall, provincial minister of agriculture, said that provincial labor registration bureaus will be established in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and probably Medicine Hat and Red Deer, also at other points if needed. A campaign will be arranged to take all high school boys of 'teen age and place them on the farms when they are willing to go.

Premier Lloyd George calls upon the United States to hurry reinforcements to France. What would Canadians feel today if they were not in a position to get the needed reinforcements for the Canadian divisions at the front?

A fortnight's "Baby Congress" has opened in Hoboken, to promulgate child hygiene.

## ABRAHAM.

I will sing a song of heroes,  
Crowned with manhood's diadem,  
Men that lift us when we love them  
Into nobler life with them.

Men whose prophet-voice of warning  
Stirs the dull, and spurs the slow,  
Till the big heart of the people  
Beats with hopeful overflow.

I will sing the song of Truth,  
Abraham in tented state,  
With his sheep and goats and asses,  
Bearing high behests from fate;

Journeying from beyond Euphrates,  
Where cool Orin's bubbling well  
Lured the Greek and lured the Roman  
By its verdurous fringe to dwell.

When he left the flaming idols,  
Sun by day and moon by night,  
To believe in something deeper  
Than the shows that brush the sight.

And he traveled from Damascus  
Southward where the torrent tide  
Of the sons of Ammon mingles  
With the Jordan's swelling pride.

To the pleasant land of Shechem,  
To the flowers and fragrant ground,  
Twixt Mount Ebal and Gerizim,  
Where the bubbling wells abound.

To the stony slopes of Bethel,  
And to Hebron's greening glade,  
Where the grapes with vigour fruitage  
Drop beneath the leafy shade.

And he pitched his tent in Mamre,  
Neath an oak tree tall and broad,  
And with plous care an altar  
But there to the one true God.

And he lived long years a witness  
To a pure, high-thoughted creed,  
That in ripeness of the ages  
Grew to serve our mortal need.

Not a priest and not a churchman,  
From all proud pretensions free,  
Shepherd-chief and shepherd-warrior,  
Human-faced like you and me.

Common sire, whom Jew and Christian,  
Turk and Arab, name and praise;  
Common as the sun that shines  
On East and West with brothered rays.

—John Stuart Blackie.

## LIGHTER VEIN.

"John, I wish you'd get a new hat. You've worn that one for two seasons."

"No, my dear, for two reasons—you and the kid."

Too Good.  
With fear and trembling he approached the doctor. "I know there's something wrong with my heart, doctor."

—John Stuart Blackie.

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had a feeling that I'm not going to live very long."

"Nonsense! Give up smoking."

"Never smoked in my life, doctor."

"Well, stop drinking."

"I am a total abstainer from alcoholic drink."

"Well, try going to bed earlier; get more sleep."

"I'm always in bed by 9 o'clock."

"Oh, well, all I can say is, my dear sir, that I think you had better let nature take its course. You're altogether too good for this world."

MOTHER STILL CLASPING HER BABY.

(English Paper.)

Eight people were killed by a bomb which fell on a house in a district in the southwestern outskirts of London. The household comprised Mrs. Kerley, the wife of a soldier, her four girls, and a boy, whose ages ranged from eleven years to four months, her niece, and an aged widow who lived with her. The mother had apparently taken refuge with Bentley, forty, and Frederick William Finch, forty-three.

being found huddled up together under a mass of bricks. The mother was still clasping her baby. The niece, aged eighteen, and the lodger, aged seventy, were found a short distance away. The husband, Sergeant-Major Kerley, who was in the Mons retreat and has since been wounded, is now stationed at a home depot. He visited his home on Monday, staying the night and leaving on Tuesday morning.

In the same district a bomb fell just inside a factory gate, killing George Bentley, forty, and Frederick William Finch, forty-three.

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