

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH is issued every Wednesday and Saturday by THE TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING COMPANY, SAINT JOHN, a company incorporated by Act of the Legislature of New Brunswick.

E. W. McCREADY, President and Manager. Subscription Rates—Sent by mail to any address in Canada at One Dollar a year. Sent by mail to any address in the United States at Two Dollars a year.

Advertising Rates—Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper, each insertion, \$1.00 per line.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 23, 1915

WAR COMMENT.

As the Germans are continually trying to deceive the Allies as to what they are going to do next, and as the Allies are equally intent upon concealing their own intentions, much of the speculation as to whether the Germans are about to launch a new offensive is naturally hazy.

This latter view, on the face of it, is at least as probable as the other. It is not thought now that the Germans can make an attack in the West with any advantage in point of numbers or in the matter of guns and shells.

Therefore as the Germans have spent a great deal of time and a tremendous amount of work in fortifying their western lines, it is argued that they would be unlikely, at this season, to abandon their fortified positions and attempt to rush the Allies off their feet.

The Germans are credited with having a wonderful supply of information as to what is going on behind the Allies' lines, and if they know so much they must know that the French and British have been steadily concentrating fresh forces on that front and constantly and rapidly increasing their reserve of guns and shells.

Therefore one school of military critics is of opinion that the Germans would not choose this time for a new advance in the West. One of these observers presents the case in this fashion: "A survey of the military and political situation in Europe makes it very plain that it is on the eastern and southern front that the enemy would be concentrating troops if he had any option in the matter.

A half million more men in the east would bring Rumania on his side, give him possession of Riga and Dvinsk, or enable him without Rumanian aid to smash back the southern end of the Russian battle-line, and occupy Bessarabia and the Black Sea coast over to Odessa.

As has been said, speculation as to what either side is going to do next week is necessarily speculation only; but from the arguments presented it appears scarcely likely that the German army is going to come out of its trenches just now and attack the British and French armies in the open.

THE COST.

Conservative financial comment has frequently called attention to the fact that Germany's method of raising money has been unsound because it is based upon the supposition that the defeated Allies will have to pay the German debt.

The financial editor of the New York Evening Post points out that twenty-four per cent of the present annual British war bill will be met from taxes, and that the interest on the tremendous new debt will be more than paid by tax collections.

ing, even then, to provoke and win this war. The German treasury is still collecting this tax, and the probability is that the government did not dare to try any new experiments.

As for the scheme of forcing the Allies to pay the cost of the war, this authority says: "Very few people of experience or judgment regard as anything but a preposterous or a dream the Imperial finance minister's idea of a war indemnity of \$10,000,000,000 or upwards imposed by a victorious Germany on her enemies.

This financial authority says that the recent rumors about peace called forth in banking circles the comment that there must be something in Germany's own economic situation to make her anxious for an early peace while she was at the flood tide of her military success.

Such plain talk is characteristic of the British culture. It is a sort of negative bravado; the bravado of a fixed purpose. It is needed in England to warn the civilian sluggard that he must do his part. It is needed to stir and sting him to cooperative action.

In the most pessimistic expressions of Lloyd George or any other patriot and prophet of war there is not the faintest sign of weakening in the national resolution to see the thing through at any cost of time or life or treasure.

Indeed, it is likewise characteristic of the race that the blacker the military situation may seem, and the gloomier the utterances of responsible statesmen or soldiers, the further from the British heart is the thought of quitting.

"Nor is this the courage of the forlorn hope. Whatever has happened or may happen in the operations on land, so long as Great Britain's navy masters the seas she is invincible; a fact equally well understood at London and at Berlin.

That is the truth of the matter. And, in fact, the speech of Mr. Lloyd George was by no means all gloom. It is to be remembered that he said that while at this moment of that "the superficial facts of the campaign seem against us, the facts that really, in the long run, matter, are on our side," a statement which the Prime Minister heartily endorsed.

The conference of Liberal leaders at Ottawa at the invitation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has already been the subject of some misrepresentation. Its object was broadly national, not partisan.

"The object," to quote the official announcement, "was not to adopt policies designed for immediate party advantage, but rather to lay down, as clearly as possible, the principles which should guide Liberalism in dealing with such vital questions as national finance, agricultural settlement and development, immigration, transportation, social legislation, fiscal problems, technical education and the like."

And the first principle laid down at the conference and unanimously adopted there was that, so far as the prosecution of the war is concerned, there shall be no deviation from the attitude assumed by the Liberal party at the outbreak of the war, namely, that party interests should be made subservient to the interest of the Empire and of the cause for which the Empire is fighting.

The Liberal party was not called to consider the extension of the term of Parliament, or measures preparatory to the next election contest, or any change in the leadership of the party. It was called to consider questions having to do with the future of the country and to develop and give expression to progressive Liberal thought in connection with many grave problems with which this country will have to deal from this time forward.

whole situation, can help to fire the spirit of the city, of the province, of the whole country, in this crisis.

It must be obvious that no one body of men should be left to do this great work alone. They can provide some inspiration and some leadership, but real success can only come from a universal conviction that every community must provide more men, and quickly.

LLOYD GEORGE'S WARNING. Portions of the last speech of the Minister of Munitions were gloomy in tone, and designedly so.

The words, of course, refer to the general situation, rather than to any recent events on the fighting fronts. The last three days, including Christmas, were without events of uncommon importance.

"You cannot haggle with an earthquake," said Mr. Lloyd George to the labor union leaders of Glasgow on Christmas morning, in the course of a remarkable appeal to labor to put its shoulder to the wheel.

While his words were addressed to union labor in its most radical centre, the speech is of wide utility, bringing home as it does to people of all classes the truth that the fight demands all the strength that the people of the Empire—all of them—can put into it.

THE CHANDLER REPORT. The Chandler report, which was made public by the local government on Wednesday, is published in full by The Telegraph.

"The Standard is almost disposed to claim that the Royal Commissioner's report is a tribute to the virtues of the Clarke administration. Readers of The Telegraph will be able to see for themselves what Mr. Chandler says of several members of the Legislature and of various public officials.

MEANTIME THE DOCUMENT IS BEING PRESENTED AS A WHOLE AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS PROVINCE SHOULD GET IT CAREFULLY.

WORDS IN EARSEON. Lord Roberts died at the battlefront early in the war, and the memory of his services and of his devotion to duty continue to be an inspiration to the Empire.

Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton, the London publishers, have been raising funds for disabled soldiers and sailors by publishing a calendar in aid of the Lord Roberts Memorial Fund which is devoted to the support of the men of the army and navy who have been disabled during the war.

THE STATEMENT BY MR. BONAR LAW, Secretary of State for the Colonies, that he looked for no specially good news for some months to come, and that we may have bad news long before we have good news, was made at a dinner on St. Andrews Day.

From King George's Christmas message to the army and navy: "Officers and men of the navy and of the army: Another year is drawing to a close as it began in toil, bloodshed and suffering, but I rejoice to know that the year to which you are striving draws near in sight.

shines out more brightly as the war goes on. Steadfastly the nation receives good news and bad. In the face of either it will strive steadily on until victory comes.

WAR COMMENT. In his Christmas message to the fleet and the army His Majesty King George speaks of another year drawing to a close in toil, bloodshed and suffering.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES during October showed a gain of \$183,000,000 over the corresponding month of 1914.

Walter Runciman has sounded a note of warning to the commercial interests of the Empire. Germany, he says, must never again be permitted to obtain the high commercial position she enjoyed before the war.

Mr. Bonar Law, in this speech, referred once more to the great service rendered the Empire by the men of the overseas Dominions. He spoke with marked warmth of what had been done by the Australians and New Zealanders.

Mr. Carvell's visit to Ottawa, and his representations to the acting premier, Sir George E. Foster, the farmers of Carleton and Victoria counties will be at least \$80,000 richer.

NOTE AND COMMENT. Ill-luck appears to be following the Ford peace party.

USING GERMAN SHIPS. The Italian government has issued an order to its officials to seize thirty-six German steamers which have been detained in Italian ports from the beginning of the war.

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sonally—and it is true—I felt more hopeful than I have been for some months. I have been asked by many friends, 'What do you know that I do not know that justifies that view?'

Touching on the recent announcements in Great Britain with respect to recruiting the New York Globe points out that any quick change in the tide of war now that the British ranks are rapidly filling up ought not to be expected.

These are great considerations, but there is something more. The silent presence of the Navy is exercising a week by week a good deal of influence. It could not tell completely so long as the whole population of Germany believed that victory was in their grasp.

He did not, he proceeded, wish to be by any means too optimistic. Neutral countries, perhaps, thought that our enemies were winning, but they were wrong. This was a horrible war, not merely because of the sacrifice of the flower of life of Europe, but because of the insane folly which was at the bottom of it.

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the chances are that the Kaiser and his able Chancellors will not recognize it, for they will be in jail, and liberty held from a barred window is never clearly distinguishable. Heaven speed the day!

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the lesser price, can receive the difference by pressing your claims. This arrangement in no way disposes of an investigation into the scandals of last year. My object this year was not to obtain a scandal, but secure you a fair price for your product.

I learned while in Ottawa all the facts regarding last year's business, and find that Smith made not less than \$8 on every ton of hay purchased from you for war contracts, during the past season, and had I not interfered he would have made at least \$5 on each ton during the present year.

Wishing you a merry Christmas, a happy New Year, and a speedy delivery from the clutches of such patriotic gentlemen as have, from the public standpoint, been handling your lumber, potatoes and hay, during the past four or five years, believe me,

It's rather odd when you think of it. "What is your home like?" "Oh, my wife merely asked me where I'd been."

It's a poor rule that won't work both ways. "Well, try telling a mother that she looks so like her daughter that you can't tell them apart. And then try it on the daughter."

Not a Success. "Did you every try the plan of thinking twice before you speak?"

Editor—Ah! A wave of patriotism. I suppose? "Foreman Compositor—Well, that's the way to put it, but the way would rather be shot than more of your copy!—Passing Shill."

Smart Child. Little two-day-old Clarie was being given her monthly meal. Through some mistake the bottle had been filled with gasoline instead of milk.

She Explains. Mabel—You and Harold seem inseparable. Gertrude—We are together a good deal. You see, Mabel, I take a peculiar interest in him.

To the Living From the Dead. (J. P. A. W., in the Spectator.) We who were once such men as you are, brothers,

Excuse me, sir, but I think you have forgotten something," said the waiter to a guest who was about to leave without giving him the usual tip. "Of course I have," exclaimed the gentleman. "I had almost forgotten that my wife impressed upon me the necessity for strict economy in these war times, and I was about to give you a tip. Thank you for reminding me."

Further Commission Respect Farm Set ter Council Kent Cou larity Dep

Following is the record of the Ruisseau Caribou bridge, Little Boutouche bridge, Aubarre Ruisseau bridge, the Gloucester City Settlement Board. He is

RUISSEAU CARIBOU Parish of Shippegan, (N. B.) The charge made in this matter is that 3,000 lumber for which one P. Boudreau was not delivered by him to Caribou bridge.

This amount of \$42 was No. 41815, dated Jan. 9, 1915, of repairing the bridge at Shippegan was \$12,000 according to the statement of the foreman in work, delivered at this bridge in repairing the bridge. It appears that the P. Boudreau under some made by him with Martin one of the representatives of Gloucester, shipped spruce logs of value to the county of Gloucester billed to Martin Robichaud.

In October, 1913, one T. Chaud, who was foreman, Stead, district engineer of the Public Works Department of Canada, acting in place of Mr. Stead, Pierre F. Boudreau about long timber and eighty-spruce logs of value to the as stated above, and the connection with the building of the bridge.

Unsatisfactory Witness. Dociethe Chaisson, the of the work, was a most witness, and it was almost any definite information as to the work done on the Dociethe Chaisson does have kept any particular record with his work on the little or no notation, and he called together all the witnesses to keep matters straight with his work.

The timber purchased for the Shippegan Ferry Boudreau was valued at two dollars and twenty large and small, and at the time should have been thirty dollars for the fee he is said to have applied for his work. He actually took two dollars for this timber himself could throw light upon this transaction as some timber cut and shinned by Martin F. Robichaud, and he seems to have paid for the timber from him by Mr. Stead a total of fourteen pieces of timber left at Shippegan, but or not so used he could own knowledge.

Everything in connection with this bridge and unsatisfactory. I found Dociethe Chaisson unwilling to explain clearly in connection with this judgment he is a man on the position of foreman, seem able to keep his accounts straight or to give information as to what he has virtually taken upon superintendence of the work at the Caribou bridge, and in connection with this or by the structural Valentine Robichaud.

Dociethe Chaisson claiming evidence that he had with him a copy of the Caribou bridge. He left everything to Mr. M. Chaud even to the fixing paid for labor and material. I am not at all satisfied with a lot of four or five never went into the construction of Caribou bridge owing to difficulty of getting any detail from Dociethe Chaisson. There were some in connection with this being the issuing of a check the name of Antime Chaisson. It appears that Antime not really entitled to a check according to the amount of \$52.50 was individuals, Antime Chaisson to \$26, Joseph D. of Dociethe Chaisson, and two other persons. This check was actually four persons mentioned.