

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1917

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 18, 1917.

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THE WAR NEWS

Quite unexpectedly the war news last night assumed a less cheerful tone. We are told that the reply of the Central Powers to the Pope's peace note will not advance the cause of peace, but is decidedly warlike. Washington is said to infer that there will be another year of war, with more furious fighting than any that has yet occurred. Germany is described as piling up munitions on a colossal scale, in preparation for the operations of next spring and summer.

As a matter of fact, we do not need to await the German reply to the Pope to be assured that Germany will not make peace at the present time or in the near future on any such terms as the Allies would accept. The enemy still holds too much territory in France, Belgium, Russia and Serbia to be willing to accept defeat in the terms the Allies would dictate. The war, therefore must go on until this territory has been cleared by the Allied armies, or enough of it to make plain to Germany the utter hopelessness of her cause.

The Russian situation was last night reported to have greatly improved. Not only had a considerable measure of discipline been restored in the armies, but some ground had been regained from the enemy. Gen. Alexieff had been appointed to supreme command of the armies and would effect a complete reorganization. The government appeared to be gaining a better command of the whole situation, and it looked as if the worst was over. In that event the Russian armies would keep large forces of the enemy busy on the eastern front, and this is greatly to be desired. There was still ground for hope that Russia might be able to do what it is believed will be the final struggle next spring and summer. But today an entirely different story comes from Washington, to the effect that the worst radical element in Russia has almost gained the ascendancy, and is out with a platform which would not only make a separate peace with Germany, but provide that country with war materials, food and other supplies. It is very hard to believe that this story is well-founded. There are undoubtedly strong radical elements in Russian cities, but the great mass of the people will not accept them as leaders. The new democracy has not gone stark mad, and most observers will still believe that it will not link itself up in any way with the Central Powers.

There are rumors once more of a projected British and French drive on the western front, but that is pure speculation. Gen. Cadorna says the Italians are nearing victory over the Austrians, but the latter are still fighting with great obstinacy and apparently no lack of men or munitions. An Allied success on some front must come soon or the winter will find the opposing armies in a dead-lock not likely to be broken before next summer.

PRUSSIANISM IN CANADA

The Montreal Financial Times is not a party paper. What it says, therefore, concerning the new franchise act is not the utterance of a partisan journal. In the first place, the Financial Times remarks that it is not difficult to imagine what Canadians would say if news were received of such an election act being passed in Germany, Austria or Hungary. "We should at once declare that the German or Austrian government was obviously unable to rely upon the support of its own people in the prosecution of its war policy, and was resorting to the most extravagant means for the suppression of peace opinion." And, our contemporary adds: "Inasmuch as news of the Canadian proposals will doubtless eventually percolate into Germany, we need have no difficulty in imagining what the Germans will say about us."

Discussing the purely partisan nature of the new law, the Financial Times says: "We who know Canada better than the Germans are of course perfectly well aware that the object of the war-time election act is not to prevent the return of a Liberal government, which is an entirely different thing. We are equally aware that the existing government is very cleverly playing upon the sentiment of the people in order to justify a piece of nation-wide jerry-mandering which if it could be viewed in cold blood would shock every citizen of the Dominion."

Remembering that even if we "shrug our shoulders and say to ourselves that while this is a pretty bad case it is one at any rate which cannot be repeated after the war, and that no great harm can be done by continuing the Conservative party in power for the remainder of the war, even if a complete poll of all Canadians on an equal suffrage would show that it no longer had the confidence of the country," the Financial Times proceeds with the following keen dissection and condemnation of the new law, which degrades only the severest condemnation of the Canadian people:

"But this act, view it how you will, deals a blow at the sanctity of the Canadian suffrage which it will be slow

to recover from. We invited the Doukhobors and Mennonites to come to Canada, knowing their views on military service and being at the time not at all out of sympathy with them; and we undertook to make them full members of this commonwealth. And now, for the purposes of the most momentous election in the history of the Dominion, we revoke their citizenship, cancel their rights, kick them into the political gutter. And mind this, it is we who have changed our views, not they. Nor is this all, or the worst. We are giving to every man who has joined the forces the right to vote down, with the assistance of his womanfolk, the families of two, three, four or more men who for whatever reason have not served under the colors in the present war and whose womanfolk are therefore not admitted to the suffrage. The only reasons that can be invoked for this course are pure sentimentality—the praiseworthy desire to give rewards to those who have sacrificed, a desire which should be fulfilled whenever reasonably possible, but not at the cost of all the essential principles of justice and citizenship.

"We are far from being convinced that this gerrymander will work to the absolute advantage of the Conservative party. We are not sure that the vote of a soldier's wife is more certain to be a Conservative vote than that of the wife of somebody else; and we are very far from sure that the vote of a soldier's wife is more certain to be a wise and discriminating vote than that of the wife of anybody else, especially if that somebody is one whose absence from the colors is due to age, physical disability, or an extreme burden of family responsibilities conscientiously carried. But the whole principle of picking and choosing among the electors of a country to find who shall be permitted to name the country's rulers is hopelessly wrong. It is a tampering with the fundamentals of democracy; and we had always hoped that Canada was destined to be an ideal example of that democracy for the advancement of which the present war is theoretically being carried on."

There are many people not members of the Trades and Labor Congress who believe that conscription of wealth is long overdue in Canada, but it will never be conscripted by the Borden government, which is controlled by influences that are bitterly opposed to any interference with war-profits.

The same J. C. Watters who was so fiercely denounced by the Halifax Herald and the St. John Standard quite recently was highly honored by Sir Robert Borden in Ottawa yesterday. The medicine may not be palatable, but the Herald and Standard must take it. There is an election coming.

If drivers of automobiles discover that there is a limit to what the public will stand, they will have themselves to blame. The owners who believe in obeying laws and regulations should be as keen as anybody else to punish those who do not.

The St. John Standard has discovered that closure has great merits and ought to be applied more generally. The burglar, it may be observed, finds that a gag properly adjusted is very useful in his business.

Why should coal be \$9 in Toronto and \$18 in St. John? A government that will permit this sort of thing when war prices must be paid for everything the poor man buys, is not fit to be trusted any longer with the control of public affairs.

We have been clearing out road houses, and making roads out of St. John safe, at intervals for very many years. Why not keep the roads safe all the time? Why go to sleep on the job?

One of today's rumors is that Germany is willing to give up Belgium as one of her concessions to a peace agreement. She will give up much more than Belgium, or this war has been in vain.

To fine certain classes of wrong-doers no punishment at all. The money comes to them from other people and they go on doing wrong, always knowing there is more money to be had.

Recruits of all kinds in Canada in June, July and August were 4,868 less than the total casualties for the same three months.

DISASTROUS JOY RIDE

An automobile, driven by Frank Kennedy of Halifax, while racing the incoming train from Sydney to Halifax, crashed into a team coming in the opposite direction and rolled down an eighteen-foot embankment. The driver of the team, Mr. McGrath, was seriously injured, while Mr. Kennedy and the other two men in the car escaped uninjured, but other occupants, two girls, were seriously injured. Both, however, will recover.

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LIGHTER VEIN

Two's a Crowd

An old colored man charged with stealing chickens was arraigned in court and was incriminating himself when the judge said:

"You ought to have a lawyer. Where's your lawyer?"

"Ah, ah! got no lawyer, judge," said the old man.

"Very well, then," said his honor, "I'll assign a lawyer to defend you."

"Oh, no, suh; no suh! Please don't do dat," the darky begged.

"Why not?" asked the judge. "It won't cost you anything. Why don't you want a lawyer?"

"Well, judge, Ah'll tell you, suh," said the old man, waving his tattered old hat confidentially. "Hit's dis way. Ah want han enjoy dem chickens mahself!"

—Chicago News.

For a Broken Heart

If—I understand you have been attending an ambulance class. Can you tell me what is the best thing to do for a broken heart?

She—Oh, yes. Bind up the broken portion with a gold band, bathe in orange-blossom water and apply plenty of raw rice. Guaranteed to be well in a month.

Premonitions of a Child

Basil—Mother, I think Satan must be about.

Mother—Why, dear?

Basil—Isn't it Satan that makes very good people feel bad?

Mother—Yes, dear.

Basil—Well, I feel as if I didn't want to go and wash my face.

Seeking New Fields

"Introduce me to your tailor, will you, old man?"

"Certainly. You like the way he makes my clothes?"

"It isn't that, but I've got to get acquainted with another tailor who will trust me for a suit."



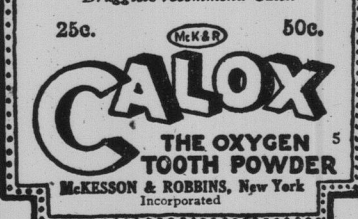
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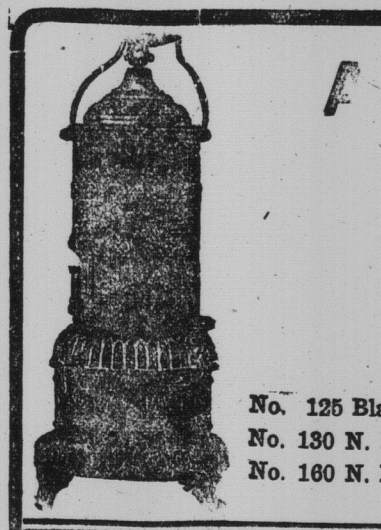
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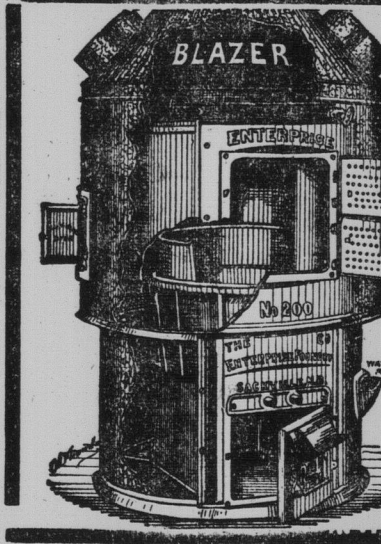
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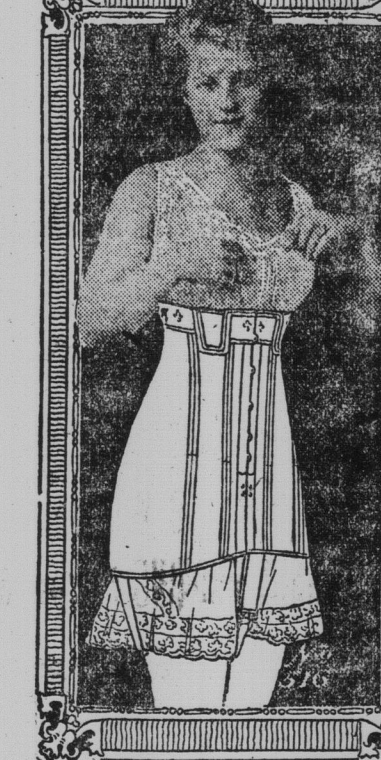
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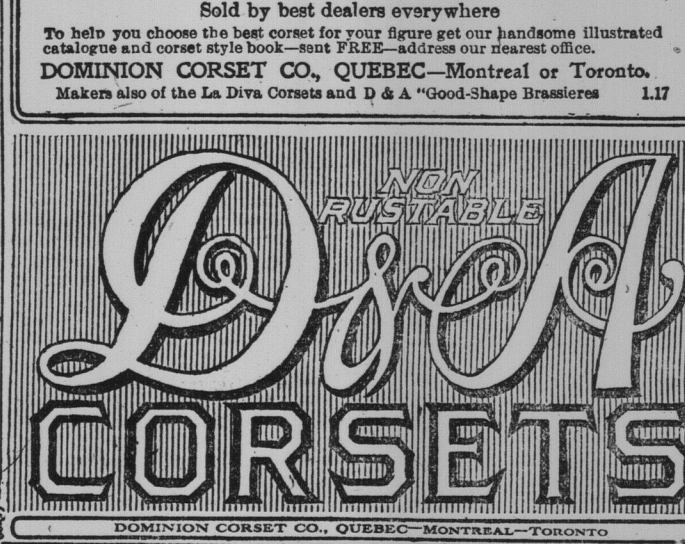
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GOOD ROAD WORK IS BEING DONE

District Engineer Speaks of Operations From Moncton to the Nova Scotia Border

Before the snow flies the main road from Moncton to the Nova Scotia border will be in a good passable condition. Probably seven or eight miles of it will be permanent road, and much more ready to be made permanent when the proper surface material has been added.

A. F. Belding, district engineer on the road from St. John to Nova Scotia, is in the city yesterday, arranging for the



WHY Does Your Head Ache?

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shipment of an orange-peel scoop to Memramcook, and gave the Times some information regarding the work. Four crews are at work.

The first crew began on July 2 at the Missaguish River five miles beyond Aulac. The bridge is on the boundary line between the two provinces. Here five miles of permanent road have been made. Three-quarters of a mile is over a marsh. There is a pit of natural cement gravel, which looks like pudding-stone, at Aulac, and when placed on the road it cements even harder than before. And it is originally so hard that it must be drilled and blasted and then broken with hammers before it is hauled on the road. The whole road for five miles was properly ditched, shaped, and crowned with this material, and the road is so good that a Sackville man, contrasting it with the road from the border to Amherst, declared that he intended to put a sign-board on the bridge pointing toward Aulac, and bearing the inscription: "This is New Brunswick." This road will be completed to Sackville by the end of October. Foreman Simeon Melanson has a crew of thirty-five men, with two 8-ton trucks, and there is no other road in the province than the portion he has finished. Unfortunately, at the last high tide, the farmers' dikes gave way, due, it is said, to the burrowing of muskrats, and the marsh and road were flooded for four days. It is up to the marsh commissioners to prevent this sort of thing.

Another crew of twenty-five men, under Foreman Archibald Towers, is at work from Sackville toward Dorchester. They have five teams and the gravel available is not as good. They are skirting and ditching and shaping the road, and it will eventually be crowned with surface gravel from the Aulac pit. Five teams are at work here. In places this road was not ten feet wide, which proves how badly repairs were needed. It is now being given a minimum width of fourteen feet. The crew is skirting the road to a width of sixty feet. Thus far about 4,000 feet has been skirting, and 8,000 feet ditched with wide, shallow ditches.

There is also a crew at Dorchester, under Foreman Burton Crossman. He has only ten men and two teams. They have just started, working toward Sackville, and have already placed three concrete culverts. Such culverts are being placed wherever necessary. This crew are also skirting and ditching, and making the road passable for the present and ready for the crowning surface which will make it permanent. Another crew will work from Dorchester toward Memramcook, touching up the road; but

this portion is, for the most part, in very good condition.

From Memramcook west Foreman Henry Dupuis, who was a foreman on the beginning of the Courtenay Bay breakwater, has twenty-seven men at work. He has a gravel pit at the eastern entrance to Fox Creek Woods which is exactly like that at Aulac. He will operate a donkey engine and orange-peel scoop, and has one truck and ten dump carts. He will skirt and ditch and make a permanent road, with concrete culverts.

In addition to these crews there are four trucks just starting on the road out of St. John, one at Pettitodias filling holes on the road from Amnagance to River Glade, and another on the Moncton-Shediac road. This road, near Moncton, was also flooded by the recent high tide, but is being put in good passable condition all the way to Shediac.

Mr. Belding, who spent Sunday at Public Landing, left last night for Sackville. He says the people are highly pleased with the character of the work that is being done between Moncton and the Nova Scotia border.

Misses Aileen Sweet and Miss Margaret Semple have handed Mayor Hayes \$15.60, the result of a bazaar in aid of the Soldiers' Comforts, held recently.

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PROVINCIAL REGISTRAR

Ottawa, Sept. 17.—Sir Robert Borden tabled in the house today the following lists of registrars appointed under the provisions of the military service act:

British Columbia—Robert S. Lennie, K.C., Vancouver.

New Brunswick—William A. Ewing, K.C., St. John.

Quebec—Eugene Godini, K.C., Montreal.

Saskatchewan—A. L. Haining, Saskatoon.

Manitoba—E. R. Chapman, Winnipeg.

Ontario—Glyn Osler, Toronto.

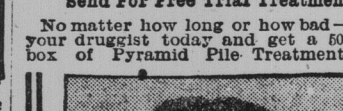
Alberta—John M. Carson, Calgary.

Prince Edward Island—William W. Stanley, Charlottetown.

The registrar for Nova Scotia has not yet been appointed.

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