

THE COURIER

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TELEPHONES
 —Day—
 AUTOMATIC AND BELL
 —Night—
 Editorial 270
 Business 120
 Tuesday, March 28th, 1916.

The Situation.

The British forces undertook an offensive in the Ypres region and with excellent results. The official report announces that after exploding mines, the infantry charged at St. Eloi and took first and second line trenches of the Huns for some six hundred yards, besides inflicting severe losses upon the foe. The achievement, not of vital importance in itself, will be welcome as an illustration of the inherent strength of the British troops.

The German bombardment is still maintained with fierce intensity to the north of Verdun. The French guns, for their part, are devoting their attention to the region in which the German troops are reported to be assembling for another massed infantry attack.

Petrograd reports that on the western (Russian) front, two lines of Hun trenches were captured after heavy fighting.

The great war council of the Allies has opened in Paris, and seven powers are represented. The object is to achieve the massing and the continuity of purpose, both with regard to military operations and the further isolation of Germany in the matter of trade. The sessions will be in secret. The latter decision recalls an incident which has nothing whatever to do with this war, but may prove of interest, nevertheless. It happened in connection with the famous Berlin conference at which Lord Salisbury and D'Israeli were present for the Old Land, and on returning from which the last named used his celebrated phrase, "Peace with honor." The sessions were also to be held with closed doors. Among the horde of newspaper men who had assembled at Berlin to pick up what information they could, was M. de Blowitz, the world-famed Paris correspondent of the London Times. He was puzzling his mind as to what method he could adopt to get at the inner results of the conclave, when he was called upon by a man who refused to give his name, but who stated that he was in a position to give a daily summary of what transpired. The next thing was to devise some plan by which he could convey his notes to M. de Blowitz without observation for all the other scribes had a keen eye on the king of newspaper correspondents. Suddenly de Blowitz noticed that the head of his caller, was like his own large, and of about the same size. The problem was solved. Each secured a hat of like appearance, and it was arranged that de Blowitz should visit a certain small restaurant each day for a meal, and that the other should follow in due time, and hang up his headgear on a specified peg. De Blowitz, when he went out took that hat and the notes were in the lining. This secret of how he secured daily information for the Times, to the puzzled surprise and chagrin of all the rest of the newspaper men, did not leak out until long afterwards. It is not likely, however, that there will be any de Blowitz to tell the world what is transpiring at this sealed confab, the holding of which has called the story to mind.

Hamilton and Compulsory Service.

Those having charge of recruiting in Hamilton have for some time been in favor of compulsory service. Recruiting there, per-population, has fallen far short of what has been accomplished in Brantford and Brant County, and it is strongly felt that there should be some other way of getting at the slackers.

They held a meeting recently in the Ambitious City in this regard. Here is one characteristic speech, that of Rev. P. W. Philpott, who is thus reported:—

"At the beginning of this war he was bitterly opposed to conscription and compulsion, but as the days had gone by he found this was a business proposition—it was a man's war and those of our young men physically fit between the ages of twenty and forty years should be compelled to go to the defence of their country instead of framing excuses as to why they should not go.

"It was a shame that thousands of

young men should be shirking their responsibility, going to theatres and skating in the evenings and even attending churches in their civilian attire.

"I have a profound respect for the empty pews at my church, when I realize that those who occupied them are with the colors. Some people say as Christians they should not go out to fight the Germans, but I am beginning to think any eligible young man who is not going to the war is not a Christian. I feel if they and we have to preserve the honor of our country our young men should be compelled to go, and I am firmly convinced that no objection will be found to a modified conscription system," concluded the speaker.

As Courier readers are aware, this paper has from the first favored conscription, with the unmarried men called out first. It is not fair, and it is not equitable, for some families to be contributing one, two and even up to four and five of their men, while others do not furnish a single representative to help in this time of supreme trial. There are young men in this and all other communities to-day who ought to be in uniform, and yet never will be unless they are forced to do a plain and a patriotic duty.

Brantford and Hydro Electric.

The record of Brantford with regard to the Hydro-Electric system is not one of which citizens have any reason to feel proud.

In the first place this municipality at the behest of some men, who, apparently, had selfish ends in view, gave the scheme the cold shoulder, and, finally, the first by-law was defeated which sought to give this community the undoubted advantages of that service. The decision then was to tie this corporation up to the Western Counties monopoly. However, on the submission of the second by-law, which the Courier heartily supported, as it had the first one, and the Expositor strenuously opposed, common sense at last came to the rescue, and the measure was carried. Is there anyone possessed of a modicum of judgment who now regrets that action? There has been an all-round reduction in the rates both for heating and lighting, and the city proprietor of a municipally-owned system to the general advantage of everyone.

Under such circumstances everything of a Hydro-Electric nature looks good to most people, as it undoubtedly should, and surprise may

be expressed in some quarters that a majority of the City Council at a special session, should have passed a resolution favoring the Canadian Northern Railway people as against the Hydro Provincial Railway scheme.

There is in reality no cause for any such criticism, and the aldermen who voted as they did deserve the hearty commendation of the electors.

The Hydro Railway project ignores both Brantford and Brant County. The reason for this is not very apparent. It may be that Sir Adam Beck realizes that with the Brantford and Hamilton Electric line, and the Lake Erie and Northern ditto, this territory is abundantly served. What-territory is that is that this ever, the cause the fact is that this city and county are not included in the Hydro project. With regard to the Canadian Northern scheme we are most decidedly in the running with Brantford as a terminal point.

That is why even those heretofore, who most admire Beck's great enterprise in all its ramifications, feel that it would have been the height of folly and short-sightedness, to oppose a plan which gives us another highly important road, in order to favor one which doesn't contemplate giving us anything at all.

No Compensation For Licenses

There will be no compensation for licenses eliminated by the new Ontario Temperance Act. If there were any doubts upon that score they were dispelled yesterday when Mr. Mark Irish, member for North-East Toronto, withdrew his resolution calling for the appointment of a commission to investigate the whole subject of compensation and report to the Government. Dealing with the effect of the proposed prohibition measure, Mr. Irish in his address pointed out the injustice of taking away from men the results of years of effort without compensating them with British fairness.

Hon. Mr. Hearst voiced the attitude of the Government by declaring that the resolution was one that the House could not accept. Apart entirely from the principle involved, there were insurmountable difficulties in the way—the difficulty of determining upon any basis of compensation when prohibition as a permanent measure had yet to be voted upon by the people, and after that, of meeting the claims of all those who have been deprived of licenses in years past, should compensation be decided upon now.

Mr. Rowell supported the Prime Minister. He agreed that licensees would have to bear some loss, and that it was unfortunate that it should come when they would realize that they had been rendered not a disservice, but a service.

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 By order of the Board of Directors.
 W. G. HELLIKER, Manager.
 Brantford, March 21st, 1916.

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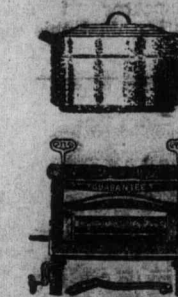
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