

THE COURIER

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Monday, Jan. 7th, 1918.

THE SITUATION

The speech of Lloyd George at present constitutes the great item of interest in connection with the war. It has received the commendation of the Labor men, to whom it was addressed, and the French papers laud the deliverance in eulogistic terms. Without any doubt it will be received with equal enthusiasm in all other quarters, and it should do much to help steady matters in Russia. The Teutons have broken off their peace negotiations with the latter country, and the request to Stockholm is given as the reason. No one will believe that it is the true one. The course taken has undoubtedly resulted from the fact that the Muscovites did not prove as pliable as expected. Meanwhile, Germany has gained much of value by reason of the suspension of hostilities on the Eastern front.

There has been quite a lot of activity in the Western area, but nothing of major importance. The enemy made quite a heavy attack on the British lines near Bullecourt, and succeeded in taking an advanced British position. They were repulsed with heavy losses at other points on the line, and the lost ground was afterwards retaken. On the French front, there have also been a number of clashes, without gains for the Teutons. Washington considers that the food conditions of the Allies, Great Britain included, are more serious than supposed, and the U. S. authorities are redoubling their efforts to help. Canada also should realize the necessities of the case as never before.

Italy has taken drastic steps to secure more men, and all those from eighteen to forty-four, previously exempted for defects, will again be sent for examination. It is hoped to thus add six hundred thousand to the colors. The rumored revolt of 25,000 German soldiers is most important if true.

QUEBEC ONCE MORE

As a war measure, the Dominion Government announced a couple of days ago that future borrowings of money in Canada by issues of bonds must be subject to Government approval. As the Ottawa Journal-Press points out the measure is a sensible one, and no likelihood of hardship under it exists to anybody, for the Government would assuredly not interfere with any reasonable borrowing. But Quebec kicks. The Quebec premier, won't have it. He says that the Dominion Government has no business to make such a move. He declares that Quebec will defy the order. This is only the usual story. After Quebec had fallen down fast in the matter of giving valentines to the Canadian army, somebody down there raised a cry in excuse that recruiting had not been handled well in that province. This bosh was seized on and promulgated by some newspapers and speakers in the English-speaking provinces which were ready to use any sort of mud wherewith to pelt the Borden Government. It was poor stuff. If the French-Canadians are Canadians, what more should they ask than that Canadians should be content to be Canadians rather than racialists?

What wrong did it do to French-Canadians if recruiting officers in the province were simply Canadians, and not all French-Canadians? The cry (raised a year or two after it became notorious that Quebec had failed in volunteering) that recruiting had not been handled with special regard to French-Canadian susceptibilities, was a poor after thought to excuse the contemptible frame of mind which racialism had long promoted in the province; and that this was so was illustrated by everything in connection with the war, other than recruiting. Quebec fell down not merely in recruiting but in everything—in the Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross, the war loans, the Belgian and other relief funds—and in some of them before anybody raised the whimper, or thought of it, that in Quebec "recruiting was mismanaged."

And now a further illustration is afforded of the Quebec spirit by the declaration of the premier of that province that a wise war measure of the Dominion Government will be defied by Quebec, for no

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reason except a jealous claim of autonomy which no other province thinks it necessary or desirable to raise.

THE MOMENTOUS SPEECH OF LLOYD GEORGE.

In all history it has fallen to the lot of very few men indeed to make a more momentous speech than that which the Premier of Great Britain delivered on Saturday. It was a most appropriate incident also that it should have been addressed to delegates—three hundred in number—of British Trade Unions, for the industrial clauses of the Old Land in men and output have done their part in a most magnificent way.

Lloyd George rose to the occasion as he always does. His deliverance was made to the world on behalf of the allies and he made it abundantly clear that he spoke with the full approval of all of them and had consulted with representatives of all classes in Great Britain and also those of the overseas Dominions. His remarks throughout were characterized by a fitting recognition of the deep solemnity of the occasion and he did not once resort to the invective of which he is such a master—the occasion was too pregnant with serious import for anything but an earnest presentation of the issues and the determination of John Bull and his associates. He first demonstrated that there must be the most just of causes to warrant the continuance "even for a day of this unspeakable agony of nations" and then proceeded in unrivalled fashion to demonstrate the justice of the allied cause. He made it equally clear that the destruction of Germany and her associates was not desired, but simply the affirmation of the fact that Prussian aggrandizement at the expense and enslavement of other peoples could not and would not be tolerated. The principles he defined were the complete restoration of Belgium, reparation for devastated towns and cities, the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France, an independent Poland, neutralization of the Dardanelles, separate national conditions for Armenia, Arabia, Palestine, Mesopotamia, and Syria, the inhabitants of African colonies to be placed under an administration acceptable to themselves, recognition of the rights of small countries equally with those of great and the creation of an international organization to limit armaments and diminish the probability of war.

The Teutons will thus once more be made to realize that they cannot successfully sidestep the consequences of their vandal attempt to disrupt the world for their own purposes and that there will be no let-up in the struggle until the cause of right and justice and human liberty has been completely and thoroughly vindicated.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

As far as the four candidates for the chair with the coat of arms are concerned, it is a case of Mayor or may not.

Lloyd George has served up a nice little dose for the Hohenzollern outfit to swallow.

An esteemed contemporary hears an article, "Quebec Again." Well, is it?

Regina Leader: One of the pressing duties to which Union Government must early devote its attention is the finding of an adequate supply of farm labor. The Leader believes that every ex-farmer now living in cities and towns and engaged in other occupations should be drafted

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Women's 3-4 Length Sweater Coats, with cap to match, plain knit with brush wool collar and cuffs; also band of brush wool around bottom; colors, white, coral and copen; \$15.00 Very special

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back to the land. This may involve a sacrifice, but what is it compared to the sacrifice involved in being drafted into the army? If Canada approves of the latter, it certainly approves of the former.

ANOTHER PAGE

Continued from page one permission to adopt it themselves. Plans for the care of the blind include instruction to begin as soon as possible after the wound has been received, experience in other services having shown that quick treatment and instruction are most valuable. Personal instruction will be continued by the army until the blind reach the United States.

READING TO COME

Continued from page one ing to the understanding in official circles deal mainly with financial and general business matters and he will be relieved of the ordinary ambassadorial functions of handling numerous minor diplomatic negotiations which constitute a large part of the embassy's work. Col. E. D. Swinton, assistant secretary of the war cabinet and one of the originators of the British tank, will accompany the lord chief justice as an attaché. The appointment of Earl Reading as the ambassador is primarily for

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

war purposes, it is said, and probably means that Viscount Reading will not return to the United States as head of the permanent British mission. Lord Northcliffe will continue the active direction in England of the American missions which have just been established in Creve House a spacious old fashioned mansion in the heart of Mayfair. Lord Crewe has loaned the house to the government for the duration of the war.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Combination of the three separate functions which have been exercised by as many different agencies, diplomatic, financial and war supplies, is the purpose of the appointment of Earl Reading as British Ambassador in Washington to succeed Sir Cecil Spring-Rice as the station in undisturbed by Government officials here. Some confusion has followed the independent operations of the Northcliffe war mission; the technical military and naval attaches bureau and the diplomatic bureaus of the embassy proper. It has been found difficult for these separate commissions and agencies to react their business with the State Department, the War and Navy Departments and the Treasury Department here without overlapping and confusion.

When Foreign Minister Balfour was in the United States the subject of the re-organization of the business methods of the embassy here was discussed and plans were formed along the lines of those about to be executed now for the relief of Sir Cecil Spring-Rice at his own request by an official specially trained in law, business and finance. It was felt that the purely diplomatic business of the embassy could be safely entrusted to the experienced hands of Colville Barclay, the present counselor, that General MacLachlan and Gammage Gaunt could properly continue to handle

military and naval matters, especially, and that the finances and business problems could best be handled by the head of the embassy, who at the same time should be responsible for the work of all three branches and have the final voice in the decision of any questions that might arise.

BOOSTING BOOZE.

Manufacturers of two and a half per cent. substitutes for beers, have announced that owing to the conditions in the hop and malt markets, and owing to the increase in other materials used in the manufacture of the beverage, an increase in prices had been found necessary. According to a Brewing association representative the new prices becoming effective to-day follows: Lager Beer, per barrel, \$9 net cash, an increase of about a dollar a barrel; ale increased 35 cents per barrel; beer and ale will sell per case at: Quarts, \$1.90 net cash; pints, \$1.40. This is an increase of twenty cents per 24 bottles. Some of the hotelkeepers are in a quandary as to what to do. One hotelman said it would either mean ten cents per glass for "near" beer and ale, or a smaller glass, if fifty cents remains the price.

PROSPECTS GOOD.

Brantford reports to Bradstreet's that retailers both city and country have now been able to measure up

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the Christmas and New Year's trade, and in a great majority of cases there is satisfaction as to the results. There has been the usual falling-off, but the prospect is considered to be quite good.

BRITISH CASUALTIES.

For the virtually doubling of the British casualties for the week ended over the previous week, when the total was 9,851, the sharp fighting just before New Year's Day in the vicinity of Welsh ridge, in Cambrai front south of Marcinov, may

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have been largely responsible. It is possible also that belated reports on casualties in the Palestine, Italian and other war theatres may have gone to swell the total considerably.

LOCAL

LIBRARY BOARD. The final meeting of the Library Board will be held in the Public Library on Tuesday night. Routine business will be transacted and the members will constitute the program.

NOON DAY CLUB. The first meeting of the Noon Day Club for the year 1918 was held on Tuesday night. The Y. M. C. A. this afternoon had a good attendance, programme has been of balance of the season.

SUNDAY SERVICE. Yesterday afternoon the noon song service at the Y. M. C. A. was given by Honorable George Wedlake.

RESIDE IN HAMILTON. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Merly of Brantford, recently moved to Hamilton on a house on the corner of Charlton and St. George streets.

RETURNED MEN. Four special trains, returned invalided men on furlough, left St. Catharines on Monday to-day and last night for the various provinces. Many of them are coming to Ontario.

GAOL STATISTICS. The quarterly report of the Gaol for the quarter ended on December 31, 1917, shows that the average number of prisoners was 1,000. The average number of prisoners was 1,000. The average number of prisoners was 1,000.

NON-ASSESSABLE PROPERTY. Nearly four million dollars of property in the city of Brantford is non-assessable, according to a report of the City Assessor, A. G. Ludlow. This includes the property of the City of Brantford, the Brantford Electric Light and Power Company, and the Brantford Gas Company. The total value of this property is approximately \$3,775,000. The public assessable property in the city is valued at \$50,000, and the total assessable property is valued at \$3,825,000.



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