

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1918

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ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 19, 1918.

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THE WAR SITUATION

Today's reports tell of further gains by the Allies on the western front. Though the advance is not great, it is of material advantage and shows that the Germans are in no shape to attempt to regain the initiative. Very significant is the subdued tone of the German press, which is evidently stunned by the success of the Allies. German prisoners have also changed their tune, and are agreed that Germany cannot win, though they still profess to believe that she cannot be completely defeated.

The announcement that food conditions for the Allies have vastly improved is good news, and is another proof that the submarine campaign cannot starve Britain and France, however much damage it may do at intervals.

The news from Japan is unpleasant, but internal trouble may be averted. In Russia the power of the Bolsheviks is steadily waning, and the German press is opposed to German intervention in their behalf. In Siberia there appears to be need of prompt aid from the Allies, which will doubtless be sent. The war situation on the whole grows more favorable from day to day.

WAR AND THE SCHOOLS.

In urging that the schools of the United States be kept as nearly as possible at their normal efficiency, President Wilson says this is a matter of the very greatest importance, affecting both strength in war and national welfare and efficiency when the war is over. He says further: "So long as the war continues there will be constant need of very large numbers of men and women of the highest and most thorough training for war service in many lines. After the war there will be urgent need not only for trained leadership in all lines of industrial, commercial, social and civil life, but for a very high average of intelligence and preparation on the part of all the people."

Speaking in North Toronto this week, Hon. Dr. Cuddy, Ontario minister of education, made a strong plea of similar import. A report of his speech says:—"The day of victory at the front would bring the great problems of reconstruction home to the people, and in reconstruction education would play a great part. The Germans were now beginning to see that their system of education, giving efficiency, could not stand against the British system of education, that laid emphasis on character and not on efficiency alone. Whether or not Canada would be a better country after the war depended on whether Canada had learned the lessons of the war. He believed that she had begun to learn these lessons, and that such personality would be of more value than property, and the development of the individual would be considered the greatest industry in the land."

In connection with the work of the schools it may be noted that in a number of American States the age for compulsory attendance at school has been raised to fifteen, and in some to sixteen years. In England continuation schools are provided and every boy or girl who has left school before sixteen years of age, must spend at least eight hours a week in school for forty weeks out of each year until eighteen years old. Massachusetts is considering similar legislation, and its commissioner of education says:—"Such attendance for eight hours would make it possible for the school to administer not only to vocational education, but also to civic education, health education and education for the worthy use of leisure, all of which are as important as vocational education."

The years between fourteen and eighteen are of vital importance in determining the future of boys and girls. These who leave school and go to work before they attain the age of fourteen should not only be given the opportunity but should be compelled to attend continuation schools. One is amazed at the number of persons whose education is so scanty that they miss very much that is efficient and less able to respond to the appeals of progressive citizenship. Their world is pitifully small because they lack the training that unlocks the treasure house of knowledge. It is well, therefore, to urge that there be no neglect of educational effort, but that it be broadened and made to perform a still greater task in fitting boys and girls not only to be wage earners but healthy citizens in a healthy and enlightened state.

The question of vocational training comes up whenever there is a discussion of this kind. Dr. Merchant, government inspector, after an inspection of the big technical school in Toronto, said that so bewildering was the present industrial situation that many students needed guidance in deciding what they shall do, and there should be some provision for boys and girls leaving the public schools. He had therefore recommended:—"That the Board of Education take into consideration the advisability of organizing a department of vocational guidance, (1) to make available information regarding vocations and for acquiring the necessary qualifications for such vocations; (2) to organize personal vocational counselling, both for those in school and

for those already at work, in order to enable those concerned to plan intelligently for their vocational and educational progress."

The choice of a vocational course is a real difficulty. The average boy is not quite sure of himself, and hence the need of careful enquiry and wise guidance. Nothing is more certain, however, than that vocational training makes truancy in schools a negligible quantity. It gives the boy or girl something to do that really interests them and makes them better students in all subjects.

IT DOES NOT PAY.

The Toronto Star quotes the following as a favorite saying of the Kaiser before this war began:—"Manufacturing pays 5 per cent; international trade, 15 per cent, but war pays 1,000 per cent."

Remarking that the Kaiser based his conclusion on previous German wars, which brought rich booty from Austria, Denmark and France, and that it was easy to convince the people that a bigger war would yield bigger profits, the Star says:—"It isn't going to pay this time. That is one thing that the world means to make sure of—that this war does not pay Prussia and Germany, that it has not been good business, but bad, disastrous business, and a class of undertaking never again to be thought of as a measure of profit and advantage. The Prussian big business method has got to be discredited in Prussia. It is not enough, therefore, for the Huns to get out of France and vacate and restore Belgium. They cannot be allowed to 'unuse war pay' at the expense of Russia. They have got to come out of this war knowing that war doesn't pay, but is the worst kind of bad business ever attempted. Talk is of no use in this matter. They have got to be shown that war is a thing out of which emerge very bad losers. Then they will settle down to a new way of thinking."

The prospects for such a result grow brighter every day. Whether the Kaiser looks east or west he cannot fail to see that the tide is running strongly against him, and that the dream of German exploitation of the rest of the world is being shattered day by day.

The deepest sympathy of the entire city goes out to the relatives of the two ladies who met so tragic a death near New Glasgow on Saturday. Following so quickly after the accident which caused the death of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. H. Fenety of Fredericton, the news that Mrs. (Dr.) F. F. C. Bonnell and Mrs. Warren Ogilvie, so well known in St. John social circles, had met a similar fate, caused profound and universal sorrow.

A Canadian Press despatch sent by Reuter's gives details of further brutalities on the part of the Huns—outrages against British prisoners and wounded men. A private of the Royal Highlanders tells about a stream of liquid fire being poured upon wounded men. The day of retribution draws near and it is a fearful account that the Germans must pay.

The crime committed at Gerow's Wharf on the river on Saturday was one of the worst that has ever stained the records of New Brunswick. There would have been few to protest if the men who seized the criminal had followed their first inclination and wreaked vengeance on the spot.

Elipsing their former brilliant work in the war, the Canadian troops on the western front are daily winning new honors and their praise is being sounded all along the line. That is a particularly heartening account that comes to Ottawa and is published in this issue of the Times.

General Foch is giving the distressed enemy little time for recuperation. The French troops made a smashing drive this morning and the British yesterday swept the enemy from the village of Outterstein and from a ridge adjoining.

Reports of frost suggest the passing of summer, such as it has been. And the menace of the coal shortage grows.

That is a cheery statement which H. C. Hoover, American food administrator, makes in London.

The week opens with good news from the western battlefield.

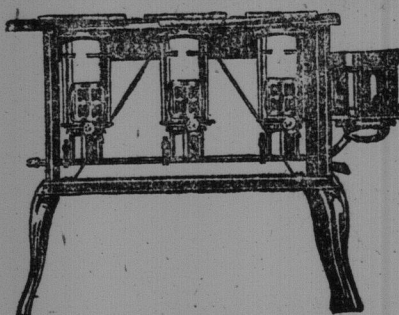
Anybody who recommends training disabled soldiers for this or that industry is thinking of the welfare of the industry, not of the welfare of the disabled soldier. The aim of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment is to keep in mind first, last and all the time the welfare of the individual man who has had his efficiency impaired by reason of his self-sacrificing service to the country.—W. E. Segsworth.

Because he has learned the "religion of the trenches," which requires absolute self-sacrifice and subjection of individual interests to the common welfare, the disabled soldier will bring new inspiration into civilian life.—The National Summary (U. S.), June, 1918.

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Too Literal.

In the last two weeks twelve men and four girls have been arrested in Joffeville for fighting, and The Journal fears a misconception has been placed on the work-or-fight order.—Kansas City Star.

Hard Up.

Abdul-Hamid attempted suicide several times. Think of a sultan of Turkey falling so low that he has no one to kill but himself.—Columbia State.

Easy.

"Pa, what is an income tax?" "Anything we buy at the present prices, my son."

Adaptable.

"Is this medicine to be used only for local application?" "Dear me, no; you can use it anywhere you happen to be."

First Shipping Board.

"We got this boat together in remarkably short time," remarked Noah jubilantly, as he stood off and surveyed the ark.

"Yes," replied Japheth. "All we had to do was to go ahead and build her of wood. There hasn't been any steel construction to stop and argue about."

To face death at command, recklessly, is the final glorious act of the civilian become a soldier. To face life courageously under any handicapping disability is the obligation imposed upon the soldier returning to civil life.—The Vocational Summary (U. S.), June, 1918.

School Girls' Nerves

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HIT HARD IN MAN-POWER

On Contrary, Allies Stand Massive and Unweakened—Preponderance of Artillery Now is Marked

British Headquarters in France, Aug. 18.—(Reuter's).—The actual progress made by the Allies during the last week was comparatively small but eminently satisfactory. We are now at a period when reaction, but thus far the enemy efforts at recovery have been minor and unsuccessful. There are no indications that he is prepared to do more than maintain a defensive attitude along the recent battlefield.

The wastage in man-power this year is restricting necessary General Ludendorff's strategic scope. A large proportion of his available reserves have gone into the melting pot, while our front stands massive and unweakened by the brilliant victory won by the fourth army without taxing our reserves.

Fine weather and good ground have enabled the necessary artillery adjustments to be pushed on without check, although the same conditions equally favored the enemy. Our preponderance of batteries is so great that we can usually smother any visible attempt at infantry concentration.

May we not interpret the movements

of withdrawal in Artois and Flanders as direct results of our successes of the last month? The enemy admits he is going back to husband his man-power alike by taking up positions he hopes will be less expensive of tenure and by shortening his front, releasing line men for reserves. He has lost the initiative and apparently is at present combating every German available in a desperate effort to buttress the rising tide.

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"The danger of privation is not passed," he declared. He said the peo- ple of North America were now able to take over the great bulk of food supplies required and it will therefore be possible to curtail the total length of the voyage necessary to bring these supplies to the European Allies, thus effecting a considerable saving in ton- nage.