

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1914.

THE WAR SITUATION

Yesterday's despatches from the war zone seem to indicate that the allies are meeting with a fair measure of success in their campaign on the western battlefield, despite the steady advance of Germans into the northern coast towns of France and Belgium. The Germans have probably reached Ostend by this time and it is expected, in the face of comparatively little opposition, but if the newspaper correspondents have correctly gauged the situation, there may be a different story to tell before they succeed in occupying the French coast towns.

It has been stated that the allies are preparing for a stiff fight in northern France, and a cable from London to the Toronto World intimates that fresh troops, consisting in part of Indians and Canadians, may receive their baptism of fire in that vicinity. If the Canadians are used in the fighting near the French coast, so soon after their arrival in England, it may be regarded as a fairly accurate indication that the composition of the contingent from the Dominion has met with favor in the eyes of the British authorities for Lord Kitchener, and those under his direction, would not send our men into battle if it was not considered they were fit for the task before them.

A British military expert expresses the opinion that the retirement of British and Belgian troops in the direction of Ostend, and from Ostend south, was not due to the superiority of the Germans, but undertaken rather with the idea of giving battle to the enemy on ground of their own choosing. It is the view of that writer that the main battle between the Germans and allies is now likely to come in the region between Lille and Courtrai, and the south of Ostend, and that the forces now in the vicinity of Ostend are likely to retreat to that territory. Further south, the Germans have been repulsed, and it is reported at one point, outflanked by the French.

In a way the situation on the eastern frontier is not dissimilar to that in France. What was at first reported by the Germans and Austrians as a decisive defeat inflicted upon the Russian forces, now turns out to have partaken more of the nature of a strategic retreat, undertaken for the purpose of drawing the German forces to suitable ground for battle. This is the version of the action coming from Petrograd, and while those who remember the Japanese war may recall that the Russian General, Kurapatkin, was wont to explain his continued retreats before the Japanese on the ground that he was "luring them on," it is felt that, in the present case, the Russian accounting of the situation is the correct one.

During the past few days the Germans and Austrians operating in the east have been forced to face another foe almost as terrible as the Czar's legions. General Winter has about decided that it is time for him to take a hand in the campaign, and reports tell that already the German troops have suffered severely from the cold. In a winter operation the Russians should have all the advantage. Nurtured and living in a climate more severe by many degrees than anything the Germans have to experience, the Russian soldier from the steppes of Siberia can fight comfortably when his thinner-blooded opponent is perishing with the cold. If, as claimed, Germany has in anticipation an advance into Russian territory, it must soon be undertaken if it is not to prove almost as disastrous as Napoleon's experience in Moscow.

The opinions expressed in London yesterday were to the effect that Portugal and Turkey must soon participate in the hostilities. Portugal, Britain's ally by treaty, has ordered a partial mobilization of her troops for today, and although Italy already has gone that far and yet has managed to remain out of the conflict, it is felt that Portugal is ready at once to come to the aid of the allies, as there is a strong sentiment among the Portuguese people in favor of such a stand.

In Turkey's case participation in the struggle is likely to be forced upon her at any time, although it is and has been the opinion that she has along intended to come in as an ally of Germany as soon as she felt such a step could most advantageously be taken. During the past few days, however, the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, ostensibly purchased from Germany, but still officered and manned by Germans, have been cruising in the Black Sea, near where Russian war vessels have been stationed. Almost any incident might precipitate action when the vessels meet, and it seems to be the opinion at London and Paris that such a moment cannot be delayed much longer. With the entry of Turkey, it is almost

certain that Roumania and Greece would come to the allies, so the assistance the Ottoman troops could render to Germany would probably be more than offset. Generally the situation has improved during the past forty-eight hours, and it now appears that the next few days should bring tidings of important and satisfactory developments.

AN EXCELLENT PLAN.

There will be general approval of the action of the City Council in voting the sum of \$30,000 with which to carry on civil public works during the winter season and thus maintain employment for the men who secure their living in that department of the civil service. That it was necessary to create an overdraft for the expenditure may not commend itself to all, but it is believed the end will justify the means. If it can be found that the work can be as well done during the winter months as later, and that its performance will put the city that much further ahead on the improvements which, under ordinary circumstances, would be undertaken next year, there can be little complaint on the ground that the expenditure is needless, while it will achieve the object of saving employment for more than 100 men, whose earnings at best are not more than sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of living. If these men were laid off during the coming winter season, there might be distress among them or their families and in making what provision it can to avoid that possibility the City Council is acting in the course of wisdom.

It has been contended that one of the most important necessities of the present situation is to keep "business as usual" wherever possible. Manufacturers and men in commercial life recognize the importance of this and it is no more than logical and business-like that the city should endeavor to follow suit. Commissioner Wigmore has established in the water and sewerage department that certain lines of work can be carried out practically as cheaply in winter as in summer. What can be done in the water and sewerage department is not impossible for the department of public works, so it will likely be found in the long run that the city authorities have lost no money by their action, but, on the contrary, have accomplished a small measure of good.

A FIGHT TO A FINISH.

Germany, according to a Rome despatch, is willing to put five million men in the field rather than yield to Britain and her allies. But the War Lord of Berlin is not alone in his determination to see this thing through to the finish. In a recent issue of the London Times, probably the most influential newspaper in the British Empire, if not in the world, the decision of Great Britain is set forth as follows:

"A German paper asked scornfully a few days ago, after some little episode which filled the Prussians with a momentary joy, whether we still talked of a 20 years' war? Yes, of 20 years, and of longer if need be, for never shall we disarm, not even if all our allies are stricken to the ground, so long as one Prussian bandit remains in the Low Countries, and so long as on the trigger of the 'pistol presented at England's head' is a base Prussian finger with a base mind behind it. We have fought with tyrants before, and we have fought them with nearly all Europe arrayed against us, even though our population and resources were immeasurably less than they are today. Our united Empire of 400,000,000 people, and our valiant allies 200,000,000 more, are going to see this war through, and the longer it lasts the better for us, for the stronger shall we become and the weaker daily will grow the knees of the Prussian bandit. This year a million men—we have them already; next year two millions, in 1916 three millions, and so on till our enemy accepts our terms. We are not such fools as to patch up a peace which will reproduce in aggravated form the armaments of the recent past, and may enable Prussia to act on some future day under conditions more favorable to her arms. Never were any countries so indissolubly united as are England, France, Russia, and Belgium in this leading idea—that it must be placed out of Germany's power to do us harm."

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN SERIOUS CONDITION.

Rome via Paris, Oct. 14.—After a slight improvement the condition of Marquis Di San Giuliano, minister of foreign affairs, has again grown grave, with marked weakness of the heart. The minister remains unconscious, however, and understands perfectly the seriousness of his condition. Although Premier Salandra has taken charge of the foreign office, this has not been officially announced. He will deal with international questions, having previously reached an agreement with Marquis Di San Giuliano regarding the Italian policy.

Der German Gas Bag.

Look out, stand back, der time has come.
 Ven I must rise and shrike
 Mit Gott's aid, and my mailed fist
 Der peoples I don't like.

Old Johnny Bull and Nicholas
 Und France, dey vos a choke
 I blow mein breath, "Pout," Ein.
 Zied, Zied, Zied.
 Day crunt goes up mit shmoke.

For Gott und man, I do command
 Dey strike vere I direct
 Und ven I cry "Rause mit dem all"
 Vot else could you expect?

Mit marchal strut und Tin Pot hat
 Of less girls use der shrike
 Und ven I pass der looking glass
 I almost die mit fright.

Mit courage fine, I chop der hands
 Of less girls use der shrike
 So dey can never hold a gun
 Or blay mit leedle toys.

I murder wounded on der field
 As dere dey helpless lay
 For don't you see, dey can't shrike
 Und safe, I gets away.

Mit Zeppelins und submarines
 I plant to aven der shrike
 Dose oder nations been asleep
 Dey can have none of dese.

Meln Navy securs mit might und main
 Der North Sea every day,
 But cannot fustice der ships
 Dey always run away.

Und leedle Belgium, did dey tink
 Dey ven I had der chance
 I'd stop at treaties dot would close
 Der open door to France?

Dot "scrap of paper" vas a phut
 Gott guards der German host
 Und so I need not keep mein word
 As oder nations boast.

Und so I say, "Look out, stand back."
 For ven I runs amuck
 "Ach Himmel" vut vil save dem den?
 Not even British pluck.

I crush dem all, I change der map
 Of Europe mit a blow,
 Und while Gott reigns in Paradise
 I rule mankind below.

EPILOGUE

Thou fool, who prates of right divine,
 Gott's wrath thou shoudst deserve
 For why thy carnage has been stoped
 Thy cup shall be despair.

Deep shalt thou drink and deeper yet,
 E'en dregs of black remorse,
 Thrice cursed, blood-soaked vampire,
 Humanity abhors.

Thy shod, fish-glass shall turn to fear,
 Thy brain shall be a craven heart,
 And when thy downfall surely comes
 Britain shall bear her part.

Making Armies.

"The nation's task now is to make armies," writes Professor Spencer Wilkinson, in a recent issue of the London Morning Post. "Anyone who has read the accounts of the fighting at Mons and at Cambrai," he continues, "will see that only first-rate soldiers will be able to stand in that kind of 'dreadful'." He accordingly proceeds to discuss the training needed by the Territorials, as follows:—"Living together in complete units at full strength, the Territorial troops must be gradually gaining that quality of cohesion which makes an army. Daily marches will harden them for the field. Their officers are keen and intelligent and many of them have studied war. What they are now acquiring is the confidence which comes from practice. But there is one other thing which is indispensable to give officers and men the spiritual quality which will enable them to emulate the achievements of the army now in France. That is the power to shoot straight. It is everything."

"The weapon with which the infantry soldier destroys his enemy is the rifle, and the rifle is the key to the success of the army. The rifle is merely a machine for directing them. Give a recruit a rifle and he will be afraid of it. When he fires it he will be afraid of the bullets seem to go everywhere except to the particular point at which he thought he was aiming. He may hope that one of his bullets may hit an enemy, but in his heart he is sure that it will not. But let the recruit be quietly taught to handle the rifle, and he will find that the rifle is not merely to teach the man to hit, but to give him the knowledge that he can do it and the confidence that comes of that knowledge."

"The second stage consists in practice against the kind of targets which are met in the battlefield, small objects that appear and disappear. Only constant practice will give the necessary skill. Yet only in proportion as that skill is really acquired can the man be expected to rely upon himself. All this is a matter of individual training. It is the education in which each man must conquer for himself, of course under proper guidance and instruction, the mastery of which stage a group of men, each of whom has made himself a good shot, must be placed under a leader for the attack by bullets upon a group of targets. This must be extended, must advance towards the target as they would in battle, and halt from time to time to fire. In these conditions they will be disciplined by the fact that every shot must be a bullet fired. This collective practice must aim at something more than mere steadiness; it must convince the soldier of the use of the rifle. A description of two exercises will illustrate what is meant. Suppose a squad of ten men with ten rounds apiece advancing from a distance of a thousand yards against a row of ten targets representing men lying down a few yards apart, and let each target be such that when hit it will fall down and disappear, the targets being numbered from one to ten. It is assumed that the men's previous training has been such that each of them may be expected to hit his target with at least one of his ten bullets. In the first practice each man will aim every time at the target corresponding to his own number. When the ten rounds have been fired all ten targets should be down, but they will fall irregularly. In the second practice all the ten men will fire at the one target named by the leader, beginning with number one. In this case the targets will go down in orderly succession, one at each round. The men will then be asked to consider the frame of mind of the enemy represented by the targets, which kind of practice would be most likely to make an enemy's squad of ten men go away. They will say to themselves that any ten soldiers lying down and exposed to fire will expect some of their number to be hit. So long as the hits are irregular each of them will try to his luck and keep his place, hoping that his own turn will not come. But if they fall in regular order, beginning from a flank, by the time the first five are down the sixth, unless he is an absolute hero, will be off. In this way the men of the Territorial force will acquire the nature of the effect on the enemy's spirit of a fire which is directed and controlled. A perfectly disciplined battalion would be one which was accustomed to advance for a thousand yards in extended order, firing bullets at targets. "All that is required to make the Territorial force a first-rate army is daily practice with bullets against targets, beginning with individual practice until that has produced its full result, and then going on to field firing by squads, by platoons, and by companies. The only requisites are plenty of ammunition and plenty of ground. Ten rounds a day per man for thirty days fired attentively would put the infantry of the Territorial force at least on a level with the infantry of any continental army. A second ten rounds a day for a second month would make them the best shooting troops in the world."

London, Oct. 14.—The organization of the Queen Mary's Needle Work Guild in Canada is the object of a trip being taken by Miss Catherine W. Merritt, of St. Catherine's, Ontario, who, accompanied by Misses Denison, Welles and Hodges, sails by the Furness liner Dibley for St. John's, N.B. From the Ancient Colony they will proceed to Halifax, Montreal and Toronto. The main object of the Canadian branches of the Guild will be to supply the Canadian military hospital at Shorncliffe. Any surplus will be distributed generally to the men at the front. Miss Merritt, who is a keen imperialist and a practical organizer, has had the honor of receiving her commission for this task direct from the Queen, who authorizes her to extend Her Majesty's patronage to the Canadian branch. She carries with her one thousand badges of the Guild, the gift of Lord Northcliffe, and the proceeds of their sale will go to the funds of the Guild. The provisional committee for the Canadian work, which has been formed here, includes Mrs. G. H. Perley, Lady Strathcona, Lady Olear and Mrs. Armour. Miss Merritt and her companions were in Germany when the war broke out, and escaped by way of Switzerland and Paris, being in the latter city when the bombs were first dropped by German aviators.

TO ORGANIZE GUILDS THROUGHOUT CANADA

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MACAULAY

IN THE COUNTRY

THAT INJUNCT

The dispute between the Canada Railway and the Valley Railway the obstruction of the trerieton will now be brought to settle. An inition has been granted straining the Quebec arConstruction Company, L. structing the plaintiffs trerieton. Hearing was to place this morning before Grimmer on motion to injunction, but was adjourned tomorrow morning at 1 F. R. Taylor, K. C., appe plaintiff, M. G. Teed, K. defendants, and R. B. Ha I. C. R.

COUNTY COURT

In the suit of the Ro Canada vs. Stephen B. Forbes gave judgment awarding the plaintiff a \$125, the amount claimed est and costs. This suit against the defendant as a promissory note made Troop & Company. The up was that the makers had secured the endorsement a former note of \$150, but it for that purpose. It contended that all the not Troop & Company upon

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