

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N.B., NOVEMBER 12, 1914

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MORE RECRUITS NEEDED

It may be hoped that the movement to organize a Home Guard of citizens of forty-five or more years of age will have a stimulating effect upon younger men, so that there may be much more active recruiting not only for foreign service, but for home defence. It is quite useless to assert that we are getting on bravely while the militia is not recruited up to war strength, and while there are yet to be recruited about three-fourths of the men required for the New Brunswick battalion for foreign service. A little plain speaking is necessary, and the sooner the campaign of public speaking is commenced the better. We ought also to see much more of men in uniform marching about the city, as a constant reminder to all the people that this country is in a state of war, and that it is the duty of all Canadians to take a lively interest in the work of recruiting, until Canada is properly represented at the front and has at home a militia recruited up to war strength. When this has been accomplished, we will be in a better position to talk, and will more fully deserve the nice things that are being said in the Old Country about the loyalty and devotion of Canadians. Lord Kitchener says he must have more men. His appeal ought to be as forceful in Canada as in England.

THE WAR NEWS

A German submarine has been able to get so close to the English coast that it was able to sink the little British gunboat Niger in the Downs, between the mouth of the Thames and Dover. The sinking of the vessel and the rescue of her crew took place right under the eyes of people upon the shore. Naturally the incident gives rise to fear of much greater damage by German submarines in the Straits of Dover. Apparently no one saw the slightest traces of the craft which sank the Niger, and the Niger was the only vessel attacked, although it is said that nearly a hundred vessels were at anchor in the Downs at the time.

There was also some cause for anxiety in the news which came last night from Belgium. The Germans have succeeded in capturing the town of Dixmude, which is on the road to Dunkirk, one of the French Channel ports which are the goal of the operations of the German armies. Very obstinate fighting has been in progress in the country between Dixmude and Ypres, and until yesterday the enemy had failed in all their attacks. Whether the capture of Dixmude is to be followed by further successes on their part is a question which naturally arouses anxiety, and today's news will therefore be scanned with very eager interest. The French official statement last night said that the Germans were being held, and had been repulsed every time they attempted to advance beyond Dixmude. The attack in force by the Germans was anticipated by the despatches of the last day or two, which expressed the view that they were preparing for one more desperate effort to break through the allied lines. Evidently they have brought up all available reinforcements, and whether they gain their point and reach the Channel coast in France, or whether they are defeated, the result may fairly be regarded as the beginning of a new phase of the war. Should they win through to the coast the conditions would be completely changed, and on the other hand they could hardly endure a decisive defeat near Dixmude and Ypres without falling back a considerable distance toward their own borders.

From Russia the news continues to be very satisfactory. It is claimed that the German defeat in East Prussia was more serious than had been stated in the official report, and that the Russian advance in Poland has lately been at the rate of fourteen miles per day; while in Galicia the Austrians continue to fall back before the Russian advance. There is good reason to believe that, while the Russian armies may be held in check here and there along the extended battle front, they will not again be forced to retreat, but will continue their movement with accelerating force toward Vienna and Berlin.

UNITED BRITAIN

Three notable speeches were made in the British parliament yesterday. "The Empire is on trial," said Premier Asquith, who also expressed the view that the war would not last as long as some people had originally predicted. The prime minister dwelt, however, upon the importance of making prompt and full provision to replace all losses in the field, to add reinforcements and conduct the war to a successful issue.

Mr. Bonar Law said that the opposition would give the government its undivided support in prosecuting the war, and said that the allies now stand in a better position than at the outbreak of the war, because Germany had failed on both fronts to gain the victory she had hoped to gain before the full resources of the allies were available. The opposition leader also expressed the view that as soon as Germany realized that she must be beaten there would be pressure of economic forces in that country which would have a marked effect in bringing the war to a close.

Viscount Bryce in the House of Lords made a speech that is more significant

because he has always been a pronounced advocate of peace. He pointed out that the course pursued by Britain is justified by public opinion in the United States, which, judging the whole matter on moral grounds, condemns the course pursued by Germany. Viscount Bryce declared there could be no talk of peace at present, nor until there had been a complete triumph of the British ideal, which is that of peaceful communities dwelling tranquilly under the protection of treaties, over the ideal of a military state resolved to dominate all the neighboring countries.

There has been nothing more inspiring in the long annals of Britain than this spectacle of men of all shades of opinion sinking their differences and uniting as one man to prosecute a war which was not undertaken as a mere act of aggression, nor through a desire for territorial gain, but in order that the principle of international good faith, and of the protection of the rights of smaller communities, might be guaranteed for all time.

THE CITY'S HEALTH.

The report of the board of health shows that the new hospital for advanced cases of tuberculosis will not be prepared any too soon, and that even after it has been prepared and contains patients there will still be need for vigilance to prevent the spread of the disease. There are far too many deaths from tuberculosis in this city and province. With a sanatorium at River Glade and the hospital for advanced cases in St. John there should within the next five years be a considerable change in this city.

A very striking feature of the report is that showing the large number of deaths of infants during the year. The all too heavy. Much more attention must be paid to sanitary measures, to the cleaning up of premises, the removal of the breeding places of flies, and the spread of information concerning hygiene in its relation to the care of infants. Every citizen is interested in the health of the community, and therefore everyone has a personal interest in making this a healthier city in which to live. The annual report of the board of health is a document which ought to be carefully read and pondered over by the people, and the rather sad impression it makes upon the mind ought to be deep and strong enough to make every reader a staunch friend of every measure for the promotion and preservation of the public health.

Major-General Hughes, although in Ottawa, did not attend the cabinet meeting yesterday or the day before. The fact is the subject of comment.

The cables continue to bring stories of atrocities committed by German soldiers on Belgian women and children. This is one of the fruits of German "kultur."

If the Petrograd report that an Austrian general has withdrawn his army and refused to co-operate any longer with the German generals in Galicia is true it is one of the most significant items of today's news.

It is evident from the discussion in the British parliament yesterday that more than Kitchener's million men are to be recruited. Will New Brunswick be able to furnish that battalion for the second Canadian contingent?

Arrangements have been made for a great patriotic meeting in the Imperial Theatre next Tuesday evening. A similar meeting is to be held in Sussex tonight. Such meetings should be held all over the province, and doubtless leading men in the different cities and towns will heartily co-operate with the committee having the matter in charge.

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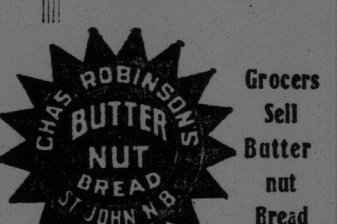
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