

THE COURIER

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THE SITUATION

There is a lull on the war fronts and any clashes reported during the past few hours have been of a more or less minor nature. Even in Roumania there would seem to be more or less of a marking time.

President Wilson has issued another ultimatum with reference to the war. He may mean well but he doesn't act like it. In short, his efforts are of just about the same calibre as the mess he has made with regard to Mexico.

As the Courier predicted, the result of the bye-election contest in N. W. Toronto has served to put the quietus on the alliance between the Rowellites and those anxious to "get at" Hearst because of his abolition of the bars.

The combination worked in Perth and also in S. W. Toronto, when Hartley Dewar was the victor, but the stampeede is at an end. The people have awakened to the true significance of the alliance, and that has proved sufficient for them.

As for Rowell, whatever prestige he possessed, has been seriously damaged. He has shown himself ready to reap political advantage by any and every kind of means.

Right in the midst of the most stupendous war the world has ever seen, while he is bearing all the brunt of the navy part of it, taking a large and increasing share in land operations, speeding up in the building of ships and munition supplies, and helping to finance his allies and the Overseas Dominions, John Bull still finds time to do a record trade.

Marvellous as it may seem he exported during the year 1916, manufactured and other products to the total value of \$2,460,000,000, a total only once exceeded in the whole course of the country's commercial history, to wit, in 1913 when export values reached \$2,500,000,000.

In the great staple industry of cotton, and although less was imported into Britain than in 1915, the exports of manufactured goods in 1916 increased by over 12 per cent. That British producers are fully alive to the opportunities provided by the absence of German competition is shown by the attention given to the markets of Central and South America and of India, which has always been of the greatest importance to the Lancashire mills.

more plants to the making of munitions. Britain exported last year iron and steel products to an extent more than 20 per cent greater than the previous year. The total value of Britain's exports and imports together was \$7,070,000,000, a record very close to the total of the United States.

BRINGING IT HOME In the course of a recent editorial on what it considered should be the attitude of the Opposition during the present session of Parliament, the Toronto Globe made the amazing statement:

"During the war, the Opposition in the Canadian Parliament has scrupulously refrained from any action that might tend to embarrass or impede the Government in the vigorous prosecution of the war."

The Ottawa Journal-Press, in reply, points out that when the bilingual issue over the Ontario school agitation was dragged by the heels into the Dominion House, the self-same Globe remarked:—"The men who interfere from outside the Government and Legislature of Ontario may be ignorant or may be sinister, but whether Nationalist or Orangist, whether French-blooded or British-blooded, they are enemies of both sides and the deadliest enemies of both the nation and the Empire."

On whom did this sinister charge rest? The Winnipeg Free Press, the leading Liberal organ out West, gave the reply at the time as follows:—"The responsibility for this unfortunate projection of an acute racial issue into the discussion of the Federal Parliament rests chiefly, we are bound to say, upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The outcome may be calamitous to the Dominion."

"Those who forced this resolution to a vote in the House of Commons are not entitled to credit, because their action had not the effect of throwing the whole Dominion into an immediate political convulsion. The Laurier resolution was moved as an amendment to some committee on supplies. If it had carried the Dominion to-day would be in the midst of a general election on a racial and religious issue which would have paralyzed our national energies and eliminated us to all intents and purposes from the future active prosecution of our share of the great war. Canada was placed in dire jeopardy in order that a spirit of racial fanaticism should be gratified or in the hope that some political advantage might be gained."

Laurier was the man back of this whole movement, just as in the bye-election in Dorchester, Quebec, he is back of Cannon, who is calling Hon. Mr. Seivigny "traitor," because he has not stuck to a previous claim that Canada should keep out of Britain's wars. This promise of Sir Wilfrid is also trying to make the habitants believe that the National Service cards are a prelude to conscription, and that the Borden government is trying to deliver them "hand and foot to England."

The Liberal leader showed his hand over the school question to an extent which drove the Liberals from the West, under the leadership of Hon. Mr. Oliver, into the lobby against him. Now the mask has become still further removed in connection with the plan of the Dorchester election contest.

More than ever the people of this Dominion are commencing to realize what a fatal mistake it would be to return Laurier to power with a Quebec backing.

NOTES AND COMMENTS Eighteen hundred majority will do very well, thank you.

Talk about your blizzards; the friends of the Liberal candidate in N. W. Toronto are still digging for him.

The Toronto Globe sustained such a wallop under the fifth rib, in connection with the Queen City contest, that it was too weak to make any editorial comment on the outcome.

Instead of giving McPherson a licking, Cane got his own jacket properly warmed.

General Verdict

Continued from page one. missed the psychological moment to bring peace for cultured humanity and eternal glory to the United States, but the president has lost all moral authority to make demands on the nations at war from the standpoint of morality, because of his un-neutral policy and his direct protection to munition and blood usury. He also is powerless from the standpoint of might in a military or political sense. We see Mr. Wilson to-day in a historical pose, and probably for the last time.

On Dollar Day you will win the merchants gratitude if you shop early and arrange to carry parcels.

The Schubert Choir meets again tonight and are doing good work for their concert on 22nd February.

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NEWS OF NORFOLK

Oddfellows Hold Installation Ceremonies at Simcoe

Change of address, News items or requests for insertion of names on subscription list, should be sent to Courier Agency, Box 314, Simcoe, or phone 356-3. The Courier is delivered for 25 cents a month, strictly in advance, or may be obtained at Jackson's Drug Store at 2 cents a copy.

(From our own Correspondent) Simcoe, Jan. 23.—Last week was Oddfellows' week in Simcoe. The Encampment, Subordinate and Rebekah lodges, each had installation ceremonies. This week started off with the churches prominent. There was an S. S. convention yesterday afternoon and evening at St. James', and last night St. Paul's congregation inaugurated in a call to a preacher. There was a joint meeting of the churches' conference held at St. James' last night, and a church wedding to-morrow.

Sunday school workers of Woodhouse, Port Dover and Simcoe had interesting sessions yesterday and elected the following officers: President, Frank Reid, Sec., Miss Clara Edwards, Supt. Elem. Div., Mrs. Lillian Darling, Simcoe; secondary division, Mrs. M. J. Sheppard, Woodhouse; adult classes, Mr. Murray, Pt. Dover; home department, Rev. R. Nicol, Simcoe; teacher training, Mrs. Norman Holden, Pt. Dover; missionary department, Miss Amy Turner, Port Dover; temperance, J. R. McClelland, Simcoe.

Mr. E. D. Otter, of Toronto, and Rev. E. R. Fitch of Waterford, were the chief speakers during the afternoon. "Adult Classes" and the "Standard of Efficiency" Tests were the topics in the evening. Rev. J. H. McLean spoke on "Necessary Equipment" and Rev. Otter on "Training Leaders."

St. Paul's Moderates. The congregation of St. Paul's after hearing fifteen candidates, and assembling for the third time to moderate, selected last night, after a ballot, Arnot S. Arton, M.A., of Chatham, Toronto; B. D. Knox, 14, S. T. M. Harvard '16. On graduating from Knox College, Mr. Arton took the travelling scholarship and spent eight months in the American school of Archaeology and Biblical study in Jerusalem, Palestine. He was lecturer in Semitic languages at Toronto University during the Academic year 1914-15, and spent last summer at Camp Borden on the Y. M. C. A. staff, seeking an overseas appointment, but was restrained for domestic reasons. He has preached a considerable number of the past ten years and occupied the pulpit here yesterday. Mr. Arton has not yet been ordained.

Looking back over the past weeks we can recall many expressions of citizens regarding the high standard of ability of the men who have been interned here. Rev. J. Robertson commented last night on the undesirable newspaper prominence given regarding the names of candidates and votes taken at previous meetings of the congregation and hoped that there would not be a repetition of the same.

The first regular meeting at which the case can be presented to the Presbytery is on March 6th, and Frank Reid, A. McKnight, and L. C. Gibson, were chosen to represent the session, managers and congregations at that meeting.

The county council begins deliberations to-day, the members for 1917 are: Former members: Harry Law-

rence, Charltonville; M. McDowell, Walsingham; Jos. Criddle, St. Walsingham; Elias Hyde, Townsend; James Welsh, Townsend; Theo. Cunningham, Windham; Jas. Macpherson, Delhi; Wm. Walker, Port Dover.

New members—Arthur McEown, Charltonville; M. S. Williams, Houghton; Robt. Dick, Middleton; Horace Kellum, Windham; Gilbert McSloy, Woodhouse; John L. Buck, Pt. Rowan; O. Duncombe, Waterford; H. A. Carter, Simcoe; A. E. Slater, Simcoe.

This is the year for a reform Warden, and Jos. Coddard and Theo. Cunningham are both mentioned as in the field.

The outgoing council voted to carry out the reformatory program decided upon at the December session. Even in Simcoe the work proposed was not satisfactory. It is quite likely that a day or more of the session will be occupied in meetings of the County Patriotic Association, and officers from the 24th are expected over from Bramford as proposed on the 24th.

Another matter which is out of the ordinary routine will be the proposed union school section on the western border of the town. In fact, this is bound to be a feature of the session if any opposition to the proposal develops.

The Norfolk Poultry Association's show of fowl and pet stock, now in progress, was known yesterday to be a great success. Though the show is confined to the county, there were over three hundred and fifty entries on the books early yesterday morning and the quality of the birds shown is excellent.

Reception to Citizen Heroes on February 8th.

The committee of the town council appointed to make arrangements for a civic reception to returned soldiers have settled the date finally as February 8th. Luncheon will be prepared in the officers' mess room at the armories and the guests will arrive at six o'clock. The luncheon will be over at 8 o'clock at which hour the citizens of the town will have an opportunity to shake the hand of heroes of Neuve Chapelle, Hill 60 and Langemark; Festubert, Givency and St. Julien. The names of these heroes will be given at a later date. Mayor Williamson, who has for months been endeavoring to help returned soldiers properly recognized, is quite pleased with the progress being made. And, by the way, His Worship has improved sufficiently from his recent accident to leave his bed, but is still confined to his home.

I. O. O. E. Assists The Daughters of the Empire will assist in the civic function by providing an afternoon and evening entertainment of a social and conversational nature, to which the public is invited. The Chapter will request all attending to contribute at least 25 cents to the Red Cross and sock fund for the boys who are still on the long line across France.

Local artists have contributed to a series of original representations on canvas of all the allied nations. These will be a feature of the afternoon and evening decorations, and altogether the efforts of the ladies are already gratefully appreciated by the council, will delight the citizens and prove worthy of the term by which it is known—'Auxilium Bello.'

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LOCAL

GONE BACK Wireless Operator, Ernest of H.M.C.S. "Margaret" was on holidaying for over a week at St. Thomas and his home He formerly worked in P. R. office before signing the Navy.

DRAFTING JUDGES The board of selection, composed of Messrs. Sheriff Westbrook and Sanderson, J. P. Judge Wilkes, completed their drafting the jury panels yesterday the office of the Clerk of the Court.

AGAINST BERLIN The trouble in Kitchener, of changing of the name of the city is dealt with at some length in a petition sent to the city clerk, London council. It is addressed to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, and calls upon him to send the order of the new city name to Berlin, which will be forwarded to Berlin, will be forwarded to Kitchener. The local council requested to consider the matter if approving the spirit of the petition, is asked to take like action, submit similar recommendations to the persons concerned.

ST. ANDREW'S P. C. The Epworth League of the Methodist Church were the last evening of St. Andrew's when a programme of exceptional talent was given by the visiting singing of piano solo by Miss Davidson, solos by Mrs. F. Smith, Mr. H. Morris, piano duet by Mrs. Tullock and Sowden, and a Misses A. and C. Williams songs were given by Miss Ida G. and Miss M. Edmondson. An interesting talk on Harriett Stowe was given by Miss N. After refreshments were served League left for home by six.

TAX RATES A communication has been received by City Clerk H. P. Leonard the London city council petition passed by that body in recent session (addressed to Lieutenant-Governor of the province), and referring to the petition given to the council municipalities in connection with the view that as the revenue which the various boards, in the governing education, library etc., is largely derived from by the council, that that body be allowed to appoint representatives.

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