

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A German submarine torpedoed the British steamship Marina on Saturday morning without warning, and made no effort whatever to save the survivors. Six Americans at least are said to have lost their lives. President Wilson is doubtless very busy with his election campaign, but it looks as though he must take a little time off and write another note to Germany.

St. Thomas is a pretty good neighbor to have after all in an emergency. When it was learned in that city that Aylmer was suffering from a disastrous fire, which threatened to get beyond control, there was no hesitancy in sending down at record speed a big fire truck. Chief Henderson and five men to our assistance. The gracious act will not soon be forgotten.

Since the Temperance Act has come into force many hotel properties which the bar alone saved from bankruptcy apparently have been transformed into useful institutions. It now begins to look as though the county jail is likely to go upon the rocks for want of patronage. Economy has ever been the watchword at this institution, and it has enjoyed an enviable reputation for providing meals at less expense than even the most thrifty and economical housewife, but withal no customers can be found.

Betting on the election which takes place next Tuesday in the United States is now even money on the candidates. At the beginning of the year it was two to one on Hughes, and the first of October it was ten to eight. We still think Hughes must win, as no president other than Wilson ever brought the honor of the United States so low as it is at present, and though the slogan "he kept us out of war" may be popular with many, we do not believe that the nation has lost its soul entirely. The soaring price of paper has left us no money for betting, so no matter who wins, we will not lose.

Last month Mr. W. A. Fraser, the well-known author, suggested that a Maltese Silver Cross be presented by the Government to the mothers who have lost sons in this war, and we are heartily in accord with the following endorsement of the suggestion made by the Toronto Globe: "The sacrifice made by the wife, the sister, or the children is very great, but the sorrow of the mother is a thing sacred and apart. About twelve thousand mothers have lost sons serving with the Canadian forces. Of these about half reside in Canada. This is no ordinary campaign. In other wars women have done well; but in this, the greatest of all human convulsions, women have done their part magnificently. Sentiment is a quality which no nation can afford to despise. To do honor to the mothers of Canada's heroes is to do honor to our country. They counted the utter price as they sent their boys overseas, and felt the pangs of a thousand deaths as they waited and prayed. Let Canada pay this simple tribute to Spartan motherhood as it bravely bears its cross of suffering, and, with such splendid faith and resignation, lays its great sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom." "For you, you, too, to battle go, Not with the marching drums and cheers, But in the watch of solitude And through the boundless night of fears."

The second appeal for the British Red Cross Fund comes to the loyal citizens of Aylmer, and you will likely be called upon for your contribution by canvassers to-day. There is no likelihood of any being turned away empty-handed for such a cause. The money goes to alleviate the sufferings of the boys who are fighting your battle and mine, and there is nothing we know of that touches humanity like the suffering of a fellow man. Since the last call was

made for this fund a year ago, many of our own brave fellows have filled heroes graves, many others, yes, thousands of them, are in hospitals from wounds received in fighting for our honor and our freedom. How gloriously they have fought, and how worthy every man of them has proven is now a matter of history. They are doing the fighting, and it is our bounden duty and privilege to do the giving. Last year Aylmer did well, the subscriptions amounting to \$2260.00, an average of more than a dollar for every man, woman and child. The amount should be greater this year. Give largely, give cheerfully, and give until it hurts. That is the only opportunity we have to take our small part with our brave boys in the hospitals behind the lines. Those who heard the masterly address of Lieut.-Colonel Brown at the hall last Sunday, know the great need, and also how well every dollar is expended. Keep your change and give your dollars to-day.

Recently the paper manufacturers in Canada sent out an intimation to publishers that prices were to be advanced to as much as a hundred per cent. Publishers could see no just reason for such a tremendous increase, and resolved to take the case to the Minister of Finance. This was done and Sir Thomas White recommended a conference between the papermakers and the publishers. This conference terminated at Ottawa last week, and resulted in no satisfaction being given to the already much-worried newspaper men. The trouble seems to be that by a recent enactment of the United States Congress, paper is allowed to be sent to that country free of duty, and the producers are determined to ignore the local market and ship their products to the other side of the line, where paper is very scarce, and higher prices are obtainable. The publishers here, in their own interest and also that of their customers, are now asking for an investigation by the department of finance, and we do not see how the request can well be refused. The situation is of interest to every reader of a newspaper, and that means practically every citizen of Canada. Unless relief is obtained, prices will simply have to be raised or publishers will have to go out of business. One thing is certain, the manufacturers fully intend to further raise their prices, but one hundred per cent. is altogether out of reason. The public will doubtless recognize the efforts that are being made to keep down the price of newspapers. Many have already recognized the wisdom of establishing a higher subscription rate, but the Aylmer publishers will make no change until they are absolutely obliged to do so. It is not in paper alone that they find their expenses increasing, but all materials used, wages, etc., have taken such an advance that the advertising and job work prices will simply have to be increased. There is no article that goes into the home to-day that can be compared to the newspaper in cheapness. Since the above was written a representative from one of the largest mills in Canada has called upon the Express soliciting an order. From him we find that prices are still soaring. For pulp board which we not long ago bought for \$37.00 a ton, we are now called upon for \$75.00 a ton, and practically every sample shown of other lines has advanced at least fifty per cent., many lines one hundred per cent. The way of the publisher is hard.

Friday's daily papers announced that two Canadians had been awarded the Victoria Cross, the most coveted of military decorations in Great Britain, and perhaps of the world, because of the extraordinary bravery and exploit it commemorates, and the limited number issued. Instituted by Royal Warrant on the 29th January, 1856, for "conspicuous bravery or devotion before the enemy," it was first awarded to the heroes who fought so valiantly for three years (1853-1856) to prevent Russia reaching her present goal, Constantinople. So carefully is the award considered, that only 520 have been

issued in the fifty-eight years preceding this war. Both naval and land forces were eligible for it, and now the flying men receive it, too. The emblem is a bronze Maltese Cross, upon which the royal arms are engraved over the words "For Valour," suspended in the case of the navy by a blue ribbon, and for the army a red one. The color of ribbon for the flying men might well be sky blue. It carries with it a pension of \$50 a year. In this war it was won twice by one member of the "Anzacs," (Australian, New Zealand Army Corps) who we believe is the only man who has ever been so awarded. He will not receive a second medal, but will have an additional clasp on his ribbon to signify it, and an increase of \$25 in the pension. At a later date we will give the particulars of the exploits which won him this great distinction. A tribute in London Punch is the greatest thing in newspaperdom, and that weekly published some verses last year, extolling the Anzac as "the bravest thing that God had ever made, quoting these words from a British officer who had commanded them at Gallipoli. The Canadians honored last week were Private Leo Clarke, formerly a chef in an Edmonton hotel, and later a farmer near there. He was detailed with his section of bombers to clear the continuation of a newly captured trench and to cover construction of a block. After most of his party had become casualties he was building a block when about twenty of the enemy, with two officers, counter-attacked. He boldly advanced against them, and emptied his revolver into them, and afterwards two enemy rifles which he picked up in the trench. One of the German officers then attacked him with a bayonet, wounding him in the leg, but he shot him dead. The enemy then ran away, pursued by Acting Corporal Clarke, who shot four more, and captured a fifth. Later he was ordered to the dressing station, but returned next day to duty. The other was Private John Shipman Kerr, and was given for most conspicuous bravery. During a bombing attack he was acting as bayonet man and knowing that bombs were running short he ran along the parapet under a heavy fire until he was in close contact with the enemy, when he opened fire on them at point blank range, and inflicted heavy loss. The enemy thinking they were surrounded, surrendered. Sixty-two prisoners were taken and 250 yards of the enemy trench captured. Before carrying out this very plucky action one of Private Kerr's fingers had been blown off by a bomb. Later with two other men he escorted back the prisoners under fire, and then returned to report himself for duty before having his wound dressed. The first "Canadian" honored with this distinction bore the suggestive Canadian name of Michael O'Leary. Through circumstances over which he had no control he was born in a little thatched cottage near the famous village of Tipperary, instead of in a sod-covered homestead in Saskatchewan. In his youth he had heard his father and neighbors continually grumbling because they considered themselves oppressed by England, but, while they might like to substitute the harp of Ireland for the three crosses in the Union Jack, they would not accept the three bars of Germany's flag. The attractions of Tipperary were not sufficient to prevent Mike emigrating to the Canadian North-west while still in his teens, and he had spent four years there, part of the time with the N. W. mounted police, than which there is no finer police patrol anywhere, and when Germany introduced her frightfulness on the unoffending people of Belgium, his Irish courage and chivalry prevented him remaining a bystander, and he promptly enlisted for overseas with the first contingent. Later, when his platoon was asked to take a German machine gun, he was so keen for the frolic that he outran his fellows in the charge, shooting several of the gun crew on his way, and when his companions caught up with him he was standing on the trench parapet with his bayonet close to the remainder of the gun crew, who had

SWEATER COATS

MANUFACTURERS of knit goods report that they are being forced to turn down orders for Sweater Coats, the scarcity of wool is a serious question, and nothing in sight that will warrant the price of wool coming down, and the retailer that placed his order early is the one that will be served first. We are one of the lucky ones, and our order is being filled just as fast as the manufacturers can get them out. There are only a few more lines that are not yet in and our stock of Sweater Coats now is much better than we expected under the present conditions.

Boy's Sweater Coats
Maroon, Brown, Grey, Fawn and Slate with high convertible rack stitched shawl collars \$1.00 to \$2.75

Boy's Pull Overs
Red, Grey, Brown \$1.00 to \$1.25

Men's Sweater Coats
Plain Grey, V neck collar, good weight fine weave \$1.25 to \$3.50

Men's Special Heavy Weight
All shades, Ribbed design, rack stitched collar, a very comfortable garment for the coldest weather. \$2.00 to \$5.00

Men's Sweater Vests
Maroon and Gray, just the thing for inside wear. \$3.50 to \$4.50

Caps
Our Cap department is extra well stocked with Men's and Boy's Fall and Winter Caps. Colors and shapes to suit all.

Underwear
You will want some soon and we are prepared to supply your wants, fleecy-lined to the all wool garment.

COURTESY AND SERVICE IS WHAT WE AIM AT

The G. R. Christie Co. "RELIABLE OUTFITTERS"

promptly thrown up their hands at his request, and were proclaiming themselves Kamerads. When Mike's superior officer asked for his account of the adventure, to be forwarded with a recommendation for the Cross, his only report was, "Sure, I surrounded them." The last bird-man to get the award was Lieut. Robinson, 21 years of age, who went up 10,000 feet and brought to earth in flames the first Zeppelin landed on English soil, getting a substantial monetary reward from enthusiastic citizens, and the V. C. from the King. When he saw the Zeppelin descending in flames, he dropped to the earth quickly, but his exultation was such that he could not resist looping the loop several times on his way down.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

The many friends of Mrs. George Sawyer, of Lyons, will be sorry to learn, that while hanging a quilt on the line last Thursday, in some way she slipped and fell, breaking her hip. Although in a very critical condition Mrs. Sawyer is doing as well as can be expected.

From week to week questions political and otherwise, of the utmost importance to the farmer are coming to the front. These questions are in many instances permitted to pass without comment by some newspapers for political reasons. The old and reliable friend of the farmer, The Weekly Sun, does not allow any questions affecting the farmer or his family to pass without comment. You may not always agree with its opinion, but the Sun being free from party or political control gives its readers an unbiased opinion on all questions. These opinions are always worth reading, while the Sun's market reports have long been considered most reliable from the farmer's standpoint. Are you reading this exponent of your interests? If not, you are missing many good things each week. You will find the Sun instructive and profitable reading. -Adv.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Our old and esteemed friend, Mr. Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Christie have J. M. Cruickshank, of Blenheim, has received a most interesting letter been spending the past few days with from their son, Lieut. Ewart Christie, friends here, and he is never happier descriptive of his trip across the ocean. He met his brother, Private In fact whenever he gets the blues, A. R. Christie, at Sandling, England, and the boys had an interesting visit for the old town, and his troubles are together. Lieut. Christie talks of apover. We regret, however, to learn plying for a change from the Signal that Mrs. Cruickshank's health is Corps to the Engineers section, in now improving, and it is feared she is which event the brothers will try now a confirmed invalid.

"THE HOME FURNISHERS"

What does Your Home Need This Fall?

What about Rugs, Linoleums? Have You given any thought to Curtains? How about a new Comfy Chair for the Living Room? A Library Table? A new piece of Furniture for the Guest Room?

Now during House-Cleaning time you ought to make sure that these matters are taken care of. You ought to make sure that your house is home-like and comfortable.

Owing to the War Conditions

scarcity of Raw Material and Labor, prices on Carpets, Rugs Linoleums, have advanced very materially. Knowing the conditions would take place we bought very heavily before the higher prices took effect. This enables us to take care of your needs at prices very much lower than, of goods bought to-day—meaning a big saving for you.

Compare our prices with city catalogues

John Palmer & Son

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