

The Evening Times and Star

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THE WAR NEWS

When several days pass without news of important gains by the Allies on any front we become impressed by the fact that the enemy still possesses immense resisting power, and it is well that we should keep this fact constantly before us. Now and then one hears the thoughtless remark that the war will soon be over and that recruits now enlisting will never see the front. Such an assumption is not only not based on reasonable evidence but it is very harmful in its effect. The hope of the Allies is in their guns and men. The supply of men must be continuous; and the war-organization of the Allied countries, including Canada, must be such that there will be perfect assurance of a constant and fully adequate supply of munitions and equipment of every sort for a long time to come. This is the burden of every message from those in high authority and in a position to know the situation as it presents itself to the Allies on every front.

Progress is being made on all fronts, but at heavy cost. It is useless to attempt to conceal the fact that the cost is heavy and the energy powerful. We must face the facts, and go on with the work of keeping up the supply of men and equipment. There is no other way of securing peace on terms that will prevent a recurrence of the war.

The latest news of the recent fight shows, as did later reports of the great North Sea battle, that the British did much better and the Germans probably much worse than at first reported. On the various fronts, east, west and south, last night's cables recorded no material change, although the Allies made some slight gains or otherwise strengthened their positions. Today's cables show that the Allies on the western front have at last a great superiority over the Germans, and the reports from German correspondents show how terribly the British fire tells upon their soldiers, who are now even worse off than the British were in the earlier period when they were compelled to hold the lines against greatly superior numbers of the enemy, who also had a very great advantage in guns and munitions. And now the enemy cannot bring up the reinforcements needed to change the relative situation. The Allies have the upper hand.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Referring to those opposition candidates who have been members of the legislature in former years, and whom it describes as "the old gang," the Standard says: "They have no interest but self-interest, and their sole idea of reform is to ineptly try to place themselves in a position where they can control the public coffers for their own benefit. These gentlemen have already had it intimated to them that the people do not want them in power at Fredericton. The intimation will be repeated with brutal frankness when the electors are given opportunity to compare their qualifications and character with that of the men now in the legislature as supporters of the present government."

AUSTRALIA GETS AFTER GERMANS

(Mail and Empire) Final and complete success is assured the Australian government's attempt to de-Germanize Australian metal industry. The contract placed by the British government for 100,000 tons of zinc concentrates and 45,000 tons of spelter annually for the balance of the war, and ten years after, provides the necessary British market. The quantity of the zinc products to be taken by Britain is about one-half of the output, and the balance is for the home market or for Allied nations such as France. The importance of the consolidation of the all-British control of Australia's metal and refining industries is obvious. It is the first big step in the new imperial policy of conserving the natural resources and output of the British Empire for preferential use within the Empire. Australia was willing several years ago to terminate German control of the Australian metal industry, but British metal markets were combined by the Hilsch-Beer Southwestern combination, and no relief could be obtained. The war changed all that. The Frankfort trust's contracts, which tied up Australia's metal output, were voided by the Commonwealth parliament. The establishing of an Australian refining industry was assured with the formation, under government auspices, of the five million dollar Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australia. This company is introducing into Australia the wet concentration and flotation process in use at the Anaconda properties in the United States, and has a contract with the Tasmanian Government Hydro-Electric system for 80,000 horse-power. By an agreement with the Australian government the Zinc Producers' Association, consisting of all companies mining or refining zinc, is bound to devote 60 per cent of the 450,000 tons of ore and concentrates produced annually to the use of Great Britain, and 40 per cent to local treatment, electrolytic or otherwise. Any surplus may be sold to Allied countries. The new British contract provides a safe, profitable market for the larger part of the output, and its successful placing, for which Premier Hughes went to Britain recently, is sure to cause much satisfaction among the patriotic Australians. Australia is proceeding to the development of copper refining and manufacture, by the same process of associating companies in a combination supported by the government. State control and support of the industries are clearly defined. Copper is not an important metal, so far as Australian output is concerned, but what there is produced is contracted for by the British Munitions Department.

THE PRICE OF MILK

Ottawa is up in arms over a proposal to increase the price of milk to nine cents. There is talk of a municipal dairy, and also of an investigation under the combines act, which says: "Combine means any contract, agreement, arrangement or combination which has, or is designed to have, the effect of increasing or fixing the price or rental of any article of trade or commerce, or of restricting competition in, or to the detriment of consumers," etc. The Journal and Citizen are both demanding an investigation under the act. The Citizen goes further, and wants the government to enquire into more than the milk question. It says: "In Canada, the price of food products is steadily ascending, but there has been no move on the part of the government to check this tendency which threatens

to cause widespread distress in the very near future. Is it not time that a strong protest was filed against the ineptitude of the administration in this way, regarding all politics? It surely is time that the responsible authorities woke up to the situation and enacted some measure of public protection." The Journal, as quoted in the Times yesterday, shows from experiments at the experimental farm that milk can be produced at a fraction over one cent per quart. Why then should the consumer pay ten, or even nine cents? The Times yesterday told how a New Brunswick farmer paid for ten cows in a year, made a liberal allowance for all charges, and at the end of the year had the cows and also \$487 to the good. If the price of milk goes to ten cents in St. John there should be an enquiry here, as well as at Ottawa. If milk cannot be produced and sold for less than ten cents the people of course must pay it. But they should be shown the figures to prove the necessity.

The opposition convention in Carleton county will be held on Aug. 30, at Hartland. When is that flour shed for the government railway to be erected? What excuse is there for delay?

It would pay the city of St. John to engage a school nurse, to be constantly on the watch to prevent the spread of disease and vermin in the schools. The gallant Serbians are again in fighting trim, and with such powerful aid from their allies they will be able to give a good account of themselves. Whether the Deutschland got safely back to a German port or not is of little consequence. The things Germany must needs cannot be carried by submarine. Whoever is to command the next battalion from New Brunswick should know it now. It takes time and preparation to get a good staff and to be ready for a recruiting campaign. And the work grows more difficult. The British armies have again and again proved their superiority over the Germans, and are rendering service of the greatest value. The French armies have also accomplished remarkable successes, and this feature of the war has grown in importance from month to month.

The government press is apparently very much worried over the poor type of candidates chosen by the opposition. The Fredericton Gleaner wants the opposition to start all over again and try to do better. The purpose of this said wall is of course to divert public attention from the fact that when the government was asked to produce a minister of public works who would command public confidence it handed out Mr. Benjamin Franklin Smith.

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Caller—I would like to secure a place in your moving picture company. Manager—You are an actor? Caller—Yes. Manager—Had any experience acting without audiences? Caller—Acting without audiences is what brought me here.

The late Gilman Marston of New Hampshire was arguing a complicated case and looked up authorities back to Julius Caesar. At the end of an hour and a half, in the most intricate part of his plea, he was pained to see what looked like inattention. It was as he had feared. The judge was unable to appreciate the nice points of his argument. "Your honor," he said, "I beg your pardon, but do you follow me?" "I have no fear," answered the judge, shifting wearily about in his chair, "but I'll say frankly that if I thought I could find my way back I'd quit right here."

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BRITISH BATTLE PICTURES. Picture postcards from official photographs of battle scenes in the great British offensive will in a few weeks be within reach of all throughout the Empire. The British Official Bureau announces that for "the exclusive right of making and selling, in the United Kingdom, postcards from photographs taken by official photographers on the Western Front and issued by the Press Bureau, the tender of the Associated Newspapers Limited (the London Daily Mail) has been accepted. The terms offered by the successful tenderer are half the net profits of the undertaking, with the minimum payment of 25,000." The money will be devoted to military charities. The Daily Mail and the Overseas Daily Mail are taking steps to place the postcards on sale throughout the whole Empire. The War Office has given unlimited facilities to the photographers in the fighting since the first of July, and their pictures, taken amid the smoke and roar of battle, are a unique record of the great advance. The pictures will be reproduced in silver-print style (imitation photograph), in photogravure and in colors. They are to be made up in packets of eight postcards, for sale at 5s. a packet. Announcements may be looked for as to the arrangements for sale in the dominions, but inquiries may be addressed to the War Picture Department, Daily Mail Office, Carmelite House, London, England. When bath taps have been neglected and verdigris appears clean them with an old tooth brush dipped in liquid ammonia. This will not injure the metal. A Rockefeller expedition is to seek the source of yellow fever in South America.

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