

THE COURIER
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THE SITUATION
Recent developments in the East have certainly made the assigned task of the Allies much more difficult and should arouse everyone to a fuller realization of the gigantic task still ahead. Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law during a speech in the British House yesterday faced this fact when he said that what has happened in Russia had greatly improved the position of the enemy. There is all the more reason therefore for the peoples of the Allied countries to still further bend their determination in the matter of help and self-sacrifice. During the course of the same address Mr. Bonar Law gave some impressive figures as to what the struggle is costing in money, but there was no note of pessimism with regard to the continued meeting of such demands. Another statement made by him was that the Allied forces in Saloniki are now liable to an attack which it will be difficult to meet.

That was an unpleasant statement, which Baron Inchaup, the great shipping authority, made yesterday when he said from noon Saturday up until the time he was speaking not a sound had been heard in the shipping yards along the Clyde. Apparently there is some labor trouble of which the public have not been advised.

On the Western front raiding activities continue, but any fighting on a large scale is not expected until April.

Italy is reported to be in a desperate state because of the scarcity of grain and coal. The Allies are now giving aid in these respects.

Berlin claims the signing of a peace treaty with Finland, which includes trade and shipping agreements. It is stated that no territorial concessions will be asked.

News comes to-day of the first air raid over London when the moon was not in evidence. Reprisal raids still continue to be the only answer.

RUSSIAN DISTRICTS CEDED TO GERMAN CONTROL.
 Courland and Livonia and Esthonia are less known than Poland; they are, in fact, little known in Russia itself, in which they always formed a country apart, in spite of their proximity to the capital. This is due partly to the fact that the connection of the three provinces with Russia is comparatively of recent date, but chiefly to the peculiar and strange conditions under which they have lived hitherto. The three provinces once formed one State, Livonia, which had been founded by the Germans, but which in 1561 was broken up, part (now belonging to the Russian province of Vitebsk) being annexed to Poland, part (Livonia and Esthonia) being appropriated by Sweden, and part (Courland) being constituted as a duchy under the suzerainty of the King of Poland. The original population was, and still is, composed of Letts and Esthonians, races of Finno-Lithuanian origin, but the rulers were always aliens, beginning with the Huns and ending with the Russians.

It was the Germans, however, who ruled the Baltic countries the longest and impressed themselves upon their culture most permanently of all. They came there in the thirteenth century, first as colonists and then in the garb of "brothers of the sword," a religious order created ad hoc after the manner of the Teutonic Knights, as conquerors, followed by German merchants and artisans. All the chief cities—Riga, Reval, Dorpat—were founded by them, and Christianity was introduced by the usual methods of the time.

Esthonia has an area of 7,600 square miles, with an estimated population of some half a million; Livonia, the largest of the three provinces, has an area of 17,500 square miles, with a population of close upon 2,000,000; and Courland has an area of nearly 10,500 square miles, with a population of about 300,000. In regard to the character of the population, the Esths in Esthonia stand for 82, while the Germans stand for 5 per cent; in Livonia the Letts and Esths constitute each 40 and 50 per cent, of the population, while the number of Germans does not exceed 7 per cent; and in Courland Germans form about the same proportion, while 78 per cent, are Letts. The remainder of the population in the three provinces is made up of fragments of Finns, Russians, Jews, and Lithuanians. Owing to the policy

of exclusion practised by the German rulers, the bulk of the natives are engaged in agricultural and dairy farming, which constitute the chief industries of the provinces. The farmers are for the most part proprietors of very small parcels of land, the inadequacy of which compels them to do additional work for the German land-owner as hired laborer or rent some additional land from him on the metayer system.

SIR ADAM BECK.
 Brantfordites should extend a hearty welcome to Sir Adam Beck to-night when he gives an address in Victoria Hall on Government Nationalization of Railways.

For many years his great services have been used on behalf of the people, for a long time at great personal loss, and he is rightly regarded as the inspiring force of the great Hydro-Electric undertaking. It was the child of the Whitney Government, but it required an exceptionally strong man for the guardianship, and such Sir Adam has abundantly proved himself to be from the very inception. There were many very powerful interests arrayed against the project and capitalist corporations left no stone unturned in the effort to create public distrust. Beck fought against all odds with an unswerving faith and everyone knows what the outcome has been. He is not a man of personal magnetism, but "he does things" and that after all in a practical sense is what counts in this workaday world. Without any doubt the message which he delivers to-night will be characterized by his usual foresight and vigor of thought.

NOTES AND COMMENTS
 The demise of Mr. Dan Hanley removes a man of most sterling characteristics and one who enjoyed the respect of all. The Courier begs leave to join in sympathy to the bereaved.

When Daylight Saving comes along don't get into the habit of thinking that you can stay up an hour longer because it is really 9 instead of 10 o'clock.

Right now the Russians must be commencing to realize that a separate peace has meant for their country dismemberment into separate pieces.

The excuse of one drafted in Montreal as to why he should not be sent to the front was "that he possessed 'unusual oratorical ability.'"

That's the kind who generally talk people to death, so that in reality he should be very valuable in a front line position, within speaking distance of the foe.

Lord Lansdowne is still writing peace letters which misrepresent the feelings of the Old Land. It is a pity to find a man of such previous good service adopting such a grossly mischievous course.

The robins have arrived and are expected to worm a living out of the soil as usual.

New York Tribune: It is said that Japan has ambitions in Asia, but so also have those who suspect her. It is said that Japan in her own part of the world seeks to take advantage of the exigencies of war, but that it is a thing of degree only and needs not to be denied, in fact. It is said that Japan would enter Siberia, not to save it for Russia or for the allies, but to entrench herself there. That is opinion. And if it be said that the opinion is supported by all the inherent probability of human weakness, the answer is that human weakness is constant, but the enemy is German. We are obliged to be more interested in what is happening now than in speculation as to what will happen after the war. The question is not whether Japan shall be permitted to acquire advantage in Asiatic Russia. It is whether we shall trust our Eastern ally to stop the enemy in Asia. There is nobody else to do it. Asia lies open to conquest. If it were a choice between Asia for Japan or Asia for Germany, the decision rightly would be the same. The enemy must be stopped in Asia, not for the sake of Asia, but for the sake of Japan, but for the defeat of Germany.

THE BRANT
 It is doubtful if Mary Pickford's past record of triumphs holds anything to equal the characterization which she gives us as Unity Blake in "Stella Maris," to be seen at the Brant the last of this week. Miss Pickford enacts dual roles for the first time in her screen career, and as Stella Maris, she is her usual sweet and winsome self, but as Unity Blake, the orphanage founding, she must win the hearts of all by the sheer ugliness and pitifulness of the characterization. Conway Tearle gives exceptionally good support, and Teddy, the great Dane, does some acting of genuine merit. "Stella Maris," may, in fact be hailed alike as one of the supreme achievements of the Artercraft studio and of Miss Pickford's genius. With

LOOK IN PRIDE BACK ON 1917

WATCH CLOCK -AND- JEWELRY REPAIRING!
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Sam S. Hart is an added attraction, in one of his old Triangle pictures "A Square Deal," wherein the virile Western star is seen at his best. It was during the time that Brantfordites have heard a more pleasing singing offering that of Trux and Summer, whose repertoire includes everything from opera to popular songs.

STANDARD HOTELS GIVE SATISFACTION

Ontario Temperance Act Proved Beneficial During Year 1917.

Toronto, March 7.—"On the whole the public is receiving satisfactory service from standard hotels," is the finding of the Ontario License Commissioners in their report on the operation of the Ontario Temperance Act for 1917. "The average tendency," the report goes on to say, "has been towards improvement rather than deterioration." At the time of meeting of the legislature the number of these hotels was estimated at 1,326. From September 16, 1916, to September 30, 1917, there were eighty convictions against standard hotel licenses and 28 dismissals as against 2,135 convictions of non-licenses and 543 dismissals.

"This indicates," the board comments, "that the chief source of offense against the new law is not from standard hotel licenses." In Canada Temperance Act territory during the same period, there were 101 convictions and 17 dismissals.

The total revenue from fines under the Ontario Temperance Act was \$184,762.49, and with fees for standard hotel licenses, sale of confiscated liquor, etc., this is brought up to \$199,531.84. Municipalities have received revenues in fines up to October 31 last, under the O. T. A. of \$305,466.76, making the revenues of province and municipalities nearly half a million dollars.

Greater sobriety as a result of the act is shown, the board says, by a reduction of 2,738 in commitments for drunkenness.

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NEW YORK STOCKS.
 By Courier Leased Wire
 Kemmer, Matthes and Co., 140 Dalhousie street, phone 184, quotes New York stocks, 1 p.m.:
 Railroads—B and O 53%, N Y C 72, C and O 56%, Can Pac 146%, Erie 15%, Mo Pac 22%, Penna 45, Reading 73%, R I 20%, Nor Pac 85%, So Pac 86, Ua Pac 121%.
 Industrials—Anaconda 62%, Car Foundry 78, Smelters 81%, U S Steel 91%, Pressed Steel 63%, Gt
 Nor Ore 23 1/2, Utah 79 1/2, ex-dividend 2 1/2 per cent, Crucible 63 1/2, Insteel 32 1/2, Beth Steel 79 1/2, Corn Products 34 1/2, Gen Electric ex-dividend 2 per cent, Amn Can 40 1/2, Mex Petroleum 95 1/2, Baldwin 76 1/2.
 Mr. S. H. Williamson is a business visitor in Toronto to-day.
 M. J. Donohue, collector of Inland Revenue, is in Waterloo attending the funeral of the late G. A. Bruce.

FINANCE CO
 The Finance City Council, this afternoon
 Y. W. C. A. The Y.W.C. house committee.
 Mr. and Mrs. Park Avenue, that their son is in hospital from trench with the 125th
 BOARD OF V The board of fine session with a number
 HOURLY SEE In future the Railway will be between Brant Saturday and ending at 1 p.m.
 BOARD OF TE As Sir Adam here to-night, Board of Trade until Monday
 NO LUNCHEON "There will connection with visit to the Mayor MacBrid day. "The only be the meeting Hall."
 DOING WELL. Mr. H. J. Sm card to-day from Maxwell Smith, visited Elmer Glad Raymond, both doing well
 FIRE AND LIC The advisab ance for the ceptives for the mittee last night cided to make tenders for the
 Mrs. A. W. cent is visiting few days, the gu floor Street.

Can wom men's plac for certa work. Of example, eyesight. means mo If you m have us e eyes.

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