

# POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1918

## The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 23, 1918.

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### BRITISH LINE BROKEN

Tremendous issues hang on the result of the great battle on the British front. If the Germans persist in throwing their armies forward, making a supreme effort to break through, and fail to accomplish their object, the moral effect of their gains in the east will be lost, for it is on the western front the war will be won or lost.

We are told that the initial attack failed, though the British were compelled to withdraw at some points, the line at one place being bent back two and a half miles. The reports indicate that the German losses were very heavy, and this will readily be believed, for even if outnumbered the British were otherwise fully prepared, and massed troops advancing to the attack would be exposed to a withering fire. A report from British army headquarters says that the British generals "are well satisfied with the results of the first stage of the fighting." It is pointed out that the plan is not necessarily to hold the front line trenches everywhere, but to so organize the resistance that the farther the enemy advances the stronger will be the opposition. The later news confirms the statement of very heavy enemy losses, to which the British air-service appears to have contributed to no small extent. The battle is still in the initial stage, but the British are confident, and their bulldog tenacity stands out in the record of the fighting of the last two days. The Germans, by throwing tremendous forces into the struggle, evidently hoped to triumph by sheer force of numbers and guns; but though the ground is piled with their dead they seem to have gained very little advantage. In a struggle waged on so colossal a scale days must pass before a decision is reached, and the losses on both sides will be great. This is a testing battle, and we can only hope that the confidence of the British has not been misplaced.

Since the above was written a bulletin brings the disturbing news that enemy attacks have "broken through the British defensive system west of St. Quentin." Further news will be awaited in painful suspense. We are at one of the great crises of the war.

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

No measure to come before the legislature at this session is more urgently needed than one relating to the public health. From whatever viewpoint we regard it, any expenditure wisely made in this direction yields the most substantial returns. It is better to prevent epidemics than to suffer the loss they involve. From the purely financial standpoint it pays. But there is also the gain in productive capacity which goes with good health laws affecting the lives of all the people. Whether it be lack of medical inspection, or bad housing, or carelessness about infectious or contagious diseases, indifference carries heavy penalties. That community, also, which has no proper and complete registration of vital statistics is willfully blinding itself to facts of the highest value. Whoever protests against a properly conducted health department on the ground of expense is really showing less regard for human life than for the live stock whose proper breeding, care and development is the subject of so many conferences and conventions and legislative enactments. It is well to conserve the forests, but it should be for the benefit of a healthy people. It is well to have good roads, but also to have healthy people to use them. This province has been far too slow in recognizing the relation between national health and national progress and prosperity. It is time to give the human element its proper place in provincial economy, and make the conservation of life an object of legislative concern. Hon. Dr. Roberts has given a very large amount of time and study to this question, both before and since he became a member of the provincial government. The Hall report shows the need of legislation. The members of the legislature should give the most sympathetic consideration to the subject when it comes before them, remembering that an investment in health is one the province can well afford to make, because the return is sure and ample.

### DAYLIGHT SAVING.

The objection made by farmers to daylight saving is due to a misconception. It will be the same here as it was in England. The Toronto Globe points out that the committee appointed by the

Home Secretary in Great Britain to inquire into the results of the Summer Time Act, as it is called there, reported that farmers who thought it would not be advantageous to agriculture advocated its removal after they had seen its benefits to the community at large. All the evidence taken by the committee was favorable to the experiment.

The people in the country already go by the sun rather than by the clock. They will continue to do so. In cities and towns, as the Globe points out, an extra hour of daylight after the closing of shops, offices, and factories would be a substantial boon, especially to those who do gardening in the evening.

A Washington despatch, pointing out that the plan will go into effect in the United States the last day of this month, says: "The plan will go into effect and be observed without the slightest disorganization or impairment of existing conditions. Trains will run as usual, and every feature of daily life into which the element of time enters will remain unchanged. Before retiring on the last Saturday of this month the American householder will set his clock an hour ahead and then may go to sleep and forget entirely about daylight-saving until the last Saturday of October. On that date he will reverse the process, turning back the hands of the clock, and the next day the nation again will run on 'sun' time."

"The plan's practicability and efficiency have been effectively demonstrated in twelve European countries. The Interstate Commerce Committee of the House, in submitting a favorable report on the measure, urged its passage for the following reasons: It is fairly calculated to accomplish valuable economies in our national life; the comfort and convenience of many millions of people will be promoted by its passage, and it is regarded as of special value in the present national emergency."

The daily tragedy of life in England is revealed in a letter which the Times prints today. Food rationing begins there on Monday. What would happen if the food shortage should extend to the men in the trenches? Every letter stamped in the United States post offices goes out with these words on the envelope: "Food Will Win the War." Do we realize that in Canada? Food production must be increased to the limit in this country.

After the fighting of the last three days the casualty lists will be terribly long. The Canadians apparently are not yet engaged.

### GOOD NEW BILL AT THE OPERA HOUSE ENJOYED

Capacity Houses Greet Vaudeville Performers and the Mystery Ship Serial

Capacity houses greeted the vaudeville performers in the Opera House last evening, and, judging from favorable comments heard, the acts will be as popular as any seen here in recent weeks. There is an abundance of eccentric dancing, good acrobatic act and a comedy sketch are included.

One of the most popular numbers on the programme was that of Brown and Carstairs who proved to be exceptionally clever stunts and their eccentric dancing is a feature. One of the members gave a demonstration of Fred Stone's latest dance and it was very good. Stone's many puns and his laugh, however, were missing.

Miller and Chapman, two step dancers, were also well received. They have clever steps and their eccentric dancing is a feature. One of the members gave a demonstration of Fred Stone's latest dance and it was very good. Stone's many puns and his laugh, however, were missing.

The Triangle Clubs of the Military Y. M. C. A. are getting short of magazines and books. They have distributed to date 12,000 magazines to soldiers returning, going overseas and in hospitals and will require a great many more, also books for the libraries in the Triangle Clubs here. Anyone having either magazines or books that they will donate for this purpose, might telephone F. W. Houch, Main 8476, and they will be sent for.

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He—The first blond, dearest.

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## PERMIT DRINKING IN HOMES

But U. S. Attorney Decides Soldiers Can't Take Liquor at Clubs.

United States District Attorney Francis G. Caffery has ruled that soldiers and sailors of the United States cannot drink liquor in clubs. His ruling, however, indicates that they may take a drink if they are bona fide guests in a "home."

Colonel Caffery's ruling, which has been approved by the Department of Justice, is expected definitely to end any misunderstandings as to when, where, and how a fighting man in uniform can take a drink.

The decision quotes the law prohibiting the sale of liquor to soldiers, later amended to include members of the navy, and gives the regulation forbidding that liquor cannot be "sold, bartered, given, served, or knowingly delivered" to members of military forces. It concludes as follows:

"As you will observe, the statute itself prohibits sales of alcoholic liquors to members of the military forces. The

regulation goes further; it prohibits gifts, directly or indirectly, to members of the military forces unless 'administered for medical purposes by or under the direction of a regularly licensed physician or army surgeon,' with the proviso that this regulation shall not apply to the giving or serving of such liquor in a private home to members of the family or bona fide guests."

"I take it as manifest that the regulation is not intended to modify the statute with respect to either clubs or individuals. On the contrary, the regulation creates restrictions which do not exist under the statute, and did not exist under previous regulations. So far as concerns the proviso in the regulation, I am

of opinion that the phrase 'private home' does not embrace a club."

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