

THE COURIER

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Monday, March 6, 1916.

The Situation.

The French military authorities describe Douaumont as a small collection of houses, and they do not seem to attach so much importance to events there as the outside world. As regards the general attack, with Verdun as the objective, they still express absolute confidence that the German offensive will not succeed, and point out that since the fierce onslaught was launched they have had plenty of time to strengthen their forces. Meanwhile the fact becomes more and more clear that this movement on the part of the Huns is simply one feature of a general plan to envelop the French troops on the east side of the Meuse. All accounts agree that the Kaiserites are subjected to a slaughter beyond any precedent. The struggle has entered upon its fifteenth day.

Lord Northcliffe, the newspaper king, who controls the London Times and many other sheets, has sent a despatch to his papers from Verdun. The most significant portion of it consists of the statement that some of the finest German regiments now include under-sized and small-chested men, clear evidence of the fact that the terrible drain on the manhood of the Fatherland is commencing to tell.

All the indications tend to the belief that Turkey is becoming heartily sick of the struggle, and that there is a growing desire in Constantinople and elsewhere for a separate peace. The Russians still continue to sorely harass the Moslems in the Caucasus. The return of the German cruiser Moeve to a home port after recording a successful foraging expedition, reads like a romance. How she eluded the British patrols in the North Sea is a mystery. She did so, however, and her commander has chronicled what must be fairly termed a daring exploit.

Some Farm Statistics for County Readers.

A bulletin issued by the Census and Statistics Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture summarizes the results of reports made by crop reporting correspondents respecting the values of farm land, of farm help and of farm live stock in the year 1915.

For the whole of Canada the average value of farm land held for agricultural purposes, whether improved or unimproved, and including the value of dwelling houses, farms, stables and other farm buildings, is returned as \$38.90 per acre. Last year the average value was returned as \$38.41. By provinces the average per acre range from \$22.48 in New Brunswick to about \$65 in British Columbia, the values for the other provinces being as follows: Prince Edward Island, \$37.64; Nova Scotia, \$28; Quebec, \$51.36; Ontario, \$52.49; Manitoba, \$30.36; Saskatchewan, \$24.20, and Alberta, \$23.15. In British Columbia the higher average is due to orcharding and fruit growing.

The wages paid for farm labor in 1914 fell to a lower point than in any other year. The causes for this decrease were the small crops of 1914, for the gathering of which fewer hands were required, the release of other laborers on the outbreak of the war and the increased cost of board. In 1915, owing to the abundant harvest and the effects of recruiting for the army, there was some reaction, and the average wages paid were more than in 1914, if not quite equal to those paid in 1910, the date of the previous inquiry. For the Dominion the average wages per month during the summer, including board, were \$37.10 for male and \$20.20 for female help, as compared with \$35.55 and \$18.81 last year. For the year, including board, the average wages were \$341 for males and \$200 for females, as compared with \$323.30 and \$189.55 in 1914. The average value of board per month works out to \$14.57 for males and \$11.45 for females, the corresponding figures of 1914 being \$14.27 and \$11.24. Average wages per month were lowest in Prince Edward Island, viz., \$26.67 for males and \$14.59 for females; in Nova Scotia the averages were \$33.74 and \$15.85; in New Brunswick \$33.74 and \$16.11; in Quebec \$33.08 and \$16.44; in Ontario \$31.09 and \$17.12; in Manitoba \$45.18 and \$27.29; in Saskatchewan,

wan, \$42.22 and \$23.81; in Alberta \$44.02 and \$24.95, and in British Columbia \$49.37 and \$31.21.

The value of horses is somewhat less than that of last year, but the prices of cattle show an increase, especially for milch cows. Swine are appreciably dearer except in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where they are about the same as last year. Sheep, too, have risen in price, and there is a notable increase in the value of wool, the average for Canada being 28 cents per lb. for unwashed and 28 cents per lb. for washed wool, as compared with 19 and 23 cents respectively in 1914. The average values for Canada are as follows: Horses, \$123 as against \$126 in 1914; milch cows, \$51, as against \$57; other cattle, \$44 against \$42; sheep, \$8, as against \$7; and swine \$15, as against \$12. Approximately the total value of farm animals in Canada at the end of December may be estimated as \$750,667,000, compared with \$725,530,000 in 1914, the values for each description being as follows: Horses \$370,378,000, as against \$371,430,000 in 1914; milch cows, \$164,224,000, as against \$153,633,000; other cattle \$151,477,000, as against \$143,498,000; sheep, \$16,225,000, as against \$14,551,000, and swine, \$48,363,000, as against \$42,418,000.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

March will kindly do just that as speedily as possible.

Many people pronounce the name of that cruiser Meaw. To them, no doubt, it will look like a case of the cat coming back.

The Crown Prince has been heard from. He told the troops operating in front of Verdun that after the bombardment all they would have to do was to occupy the French trenches on a "parade march." He knows a hanged sight better now.

At a conference between the Women's Emergency Corps of Toronto and manufacturers of that place the need of women taking the place of men in order to spruce up clothing was shown. The same thing will have to be recognized in Brantford, and the sooner the better. The Courier right now is prepared to take girls in its reportorial department.

PARIS

C Company Increasing—Only Trucks Left—Visit Postponed.

Paris, March 6.—About 9 o'clock on Saturday morning a fire broke out in one of the large freight cars used by some Italians engaged on the Lake Erie and Northern Railroad, near the city of Verdun. It seemed that the fire was occasioned by the overturning of a stove. The fire brigade could not use much water as the stream would come in contact with the highly charged electric wires of L. E. and N. About all that was left of the car was the trucks.

Last evening at the close of the service in the Presbyterian church an organ recital was given by Dr. Pearce assisted by members of the Paris Musical Society.

The death took place late on Friday night of Mr. Thomas Martin from pneumonia. The deceased who has a hardware store in Stratford, contracted a cold while visiting here about a week prior to his death. The funeral took place this afternoon from the residence of his sister, Mrs. Ed. Goddard, to the Paris cemetery.

On Saturday afternoon, Miss Gladys Wymers of Brantford Township gave a birthday party to a number of her young friends. A very pleasant afternoon was spent by all. Miss Gladys being kindly remembered by her guests.

C Company, 12th Battalion has now about 125 men on parade, Saturday 2 new members joined; Carl Hare and George Littleboy of near Etiona, and before leaving were publicly presented in the church there by their friends with wrist watches. Several Paris people were at the patriotic entertainment given by members of the Falkland Women's Institute at Etiona Church on Friday evening. In addition to the play and musical programme, Mrs. (Dr.) Lovett of Paris, gave a very interesting talk on Red Cross work and its needs. Miss B. Stewart of Woodstock spent the week end with her parents in town. Mrs. Ed. Goddard who was visiting her daughter at Buffalo, was called home on Friday owing to the serious illness of her brother. Miss Hunt of Hamilton, is visiting relatives in town. The visit of St. James' A. Y. P. A. to her sister society at St. John's church, Brantford to-night has been postponed until the Monday following Easter, on account of a number of their members assisting in the play to-morrow evening, and a full dress rehearsal is being held to-night.

World-famed Woman Orator.

Brantfordites will have an opportunity of hearing Mrs. Pankhurst, the world-famed woman orator, plead the cause of the suffering Serbians on March 10th at Victoria Hall. This patriotic suffragist has had to refuse numerous invitations to speak in other places in Canada.

GUNNER VANSICKLE

Is Tendered a Welcome Service at the First Baptist Church.

There was a very large attendance at the First Baptist church last evening, where a welcome-home church service was held for Gunner Sheldon Vansickle, who has recently come home from the front. Mr. Vansickle sat with the pastor on the platform, but did not say anything, as he was not physically fit to speak. The pastor said in part as follows:

"I have looked through the Bible but do not find the word welcome there. However, I find in Acts, 10-33 a passage which will serve well the purpose of the hour, which reads as follows: 'Thou hast well done that thou art come.' We are here to rejoice together over the safe return of one of our number, Mr. Sheldon Vansickle, who was one of the bravest to volunteer his services to his king and country when the call came eighteen months ago. He has taken part in most of the main engagements in which the Canadians have participated, and has been invalided home. We honored him when he volunteered for active service. We honored him when he faithfully served his country, not counting his own life dear unto himself, and now that he has safely returned, after enduring great hardships and prolonged suffering from gas and wounds, we honor him and rejoice with his family in receiving him safe, although we cannot add sound, however, we hope and pray that in due time his health will be fully restored to him again."

It is altogether fitting that we should honor a brave soldier like this. We are all indebted to him. We have all profited by his pains and hardships. His faithful discharge of duty has helped to keep back the cruel oppression from our gates, and has helped forward the cause of liberty and freedom. It is only by such men as Sheldon Vansickle doing their duty faithfully that we can hope to keep intact and the old flag will not fall.

It is not our good fortune to welcome home every day a hero who has served overseas. Many of these have already fallen, but other hands will be stretched to welcome them to the reward of a faithful soldier. But our brother who has returned from the very jaws of death itself, we extend the hand, and say "all hail, welcome home." There is nothing too good for our brave soldier boys who have faced shot and shell for us. He is no true patriot whose breast does not throb with emotion as he looks upon the flag that flies from the front. All will join earnestly in prayer for the speedy return of health to our brother. You have done your bit nobly and well, and in this week's "duty done" we will mention the name of our brother who has returned from the very jaws of death itself, we extend the hand, and say "all hail, welcome home." There is nothing too good for our brave soldier boys who have faced shot and shell for us. 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