

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1916

The Evening Times and Star

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THE WAR DRAGS ON.

A correspondent of the Associated Press, after a visit to Verdun, says the German losses there have been one half a million men, and the French less than half that number. He says it is the belief in well-informed quarters that the Germans will gradually let go before Verdun, and before winter will try to shorten their whole western line by a steady retrograde movement.

The New York Times' military expert, on the other hand, thinks the Germans may concentrate for one more desperate attempt to get to Calais. He sees no other course open for von Hindenburg, if he is to justify his appointment to the chief command by turning the tide in some quarter. This writer points out that it is useless to attempt another drive against the Russians, that Austria and Bulgaria are so weakened that with the recent developments in the Balkan region Germany cannot hope for a decision there, nor would it save Germany if the Italians were driven back. Hence the one field at all attractive to von Hindenburg and where a decision might be gained if he had sufficient men and guns is, in the opinion of the New York Times' expert the western front. We quote—

"If, then, this summary of the situation is practically correct, what field is there open to Hindenburg's strategy? The western front, and only the western front, looms up on the horizon—a drive to Calais. A blow must be struck somewhere. Germany cannot in face of opinion at home, remain entirely on the defensive. Somewhere an effort must be made, another reaching out away into the annals of the past. A show of activity exists, but it is not serious. And at any rate Verdun could not end the war. This is now generally accepted and acknowledged by all parties regardless of sympathies. Calais might. Therefore it would not be surprising if, before the snow falls, we should see the effect on von Hindenburg's appointment take definite shape in the form of a tremendous effort, and a final effort, to seize the command of the Straits of Dover by driving to Calais and bring England to her knees through an active threat of invasion."

It is certainly on the British front the Germans are fighting hardest, but they are losing ground, and there is very little likelihood of a change. Nevertheless the British advance is extremely slow, and there is evidently to be another winter in the trenches. When weeks and months pass, with only an advance of a mile or so at long intervals, it is idle to talk about a sudden collapse of the enemy. It does not now seem possible that the Germans can be any more successful in attack than they have been during the last two or three months; but they are still strong in defence.

THE MEN HAVE WON

That was a memorable meeting in the Interstate Commerce Committee Room in the Senate Office Building at Washington last Thursday when the threatened railroad strike was under discussion. The New York Times report says:

"From 9 o'clock in the morning until after 7 o'clock tonight representatives of the brotherhoods and the railroads and the shippers of the country deliberated and argued over the legislative programme, while the members of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, plainly far from familiar with the details of the issues before them, listened and urged delay that would give them time to understand. Beside them at Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. Before them a group of railroad presidents, representing \$20,000,000,000 worth of railways, faced four men, the heads of the brotherhoods, who were ready to halt the commerce of the United States, to put millions face to face with hardship and want, not only to get the added wages they sought, but to show that the organization they led could make good."

The men demanded an eight-hour day, with one-and-one-half time for overtime work. They have gained the eight-hour day, but overtime is to be prorated. The railroad presidents failed to get consent to increase rates. A conference, however, will observe the operation of the eight-hour day for six or nine months and report upon its effect on the railroads. Through that long conference on Thursday there was no declaration of high principles, but the situation was well put by Mr. A. B. Garretson, chairman of the Railway Brotherhood Conference, Committee, when he said:

"In times like this men go back to primal instinct. They go back to the day of the cave man, the cave man who with his half-gnawed bone, started at the other cave man who wanted to take his bone away. I am reminded today of the time I worked on a train down in Mexico, where the vulture was a sacred bird. When we hit a cow speck in the sky that were vultures could soon be seen over the carcass. Now the public is the carcass. And we are all, perhaps vultures. We brotherhood leaders are protecting the pockets of our men, the railroads are protecting the pockets of their stockholders, and the shippers are protecting their own pockets. The country will pay."

Mr. Garretson would not admit, however, that the country would suffer. He said:

"But I take no stock in this talk of advancing prosperity. What can be

prosperity is it that piles up great fortunes for the few and leaves the pockets of the great masses empty? If that be prosperity, then prosperity is a damnable thing."

The comments of the American press show that the railroad men have gained a great victory. They refused to wait any longer than Sept. 4 for the compromise measure which had been agreed on, and congress was forced to act or the strike would have occurred. One paper bitterly said:

"At the present time, 400,000 men dictate terms to a nation of 100,000,000 people without giving the 100,000,000 people a chance to be heard; and another said: 'The trainmen's brotherhoods have simply held up the country at the point of a starvation gun, and demanded more money, and the country has had to pay.'"

Naturally the question arises: What will be the next demand, and how will it be met? The action taken by congress does not settle the question. It merely tides the country over for the present. The railroads will attack the constitutionality of the new law, and then there is to be the report of the special commission six or nine months hence. But the men have scored a decided victory, and may be relied on not only to hold their ground but to demand further concessions.

ROOSEVELT SPEAKS

People are wondering whether Mr. Hughes, the Republican candidate for president of the United States, will follow the lead of Mr. Roosevelt. The latter jumped into the campaign in Maine last week, and at Lewiston roundly denounced the "German-Americans who in our politics act as servants and allies of Germany." Referring to President Wilson's attitude in the war he said:

"His task was not an especially difficult or dangerous task, but it needed a brave heart and steady hand. Under his lead America could and should have put itself at the head of all the neutral nations, by its example, if not by direct diplomatic agreements, in demanding that the war should be conducted in accordance with the usage of civilized nations, that international law should be observed, that the rights of neutrals and noncombatants should be respected. If this spirit had animated our administration there would probably have been no invasion of Belgium, no fears of a like fate to territories of smaller nations, no torpedoing of merchant vessels, no bombardment of churches and hospitals, no massacring of women and children, no murder of Miss Cavell, no attempted extermination of the Armenians and Syrian Christians."

This is very plain talk, and if Candidate Hughes is as outspoken the charge that he is after the hyphen vote will be at once lessened. But while Col. Roosevelt at Lewiston was thus riding roughshod over the German-Americans, Mr. Fairbanks, the Republican candidate for the vice-presidency, speaking at Indianapolis, was offering them this soothing position:

"There never was a time when it was more important for us, as Americans, to avoid creating lines of cleavage in this country, based upon place of birth or occupational status. We cannot properly censure Americans of foreign birth for sympathy with the nations which once claimed their allegiance, as against the nations with which they are fighting, and the attempt to impute treasonable motives to any one class of citizens because of their original nationality, or the sympathies which go with it, so long as these do not interfere with their paramount loyalty to this republic, or in any way infringe it, is severely to be condemned."

Is Hughes with Roosevelt or with Fairbanks? It is true that Mr. Hughes telegraphed Col. Roosevelt saying: "I heartily congratulate you on your speech at Lewiston and warmly appreciate your effective support," but will he be as outspoken himself on the subject of the hyphenated-Americans and the duty of the United States in regard to Germany?

There are many Conservatives in Carleton county who are not in the Fleming ring, and who have some regard for the reputation of their county and the province. It is for them to turn the scale and turn the grafters out.

Canada is still far short of that half million soldiers. If the war lasts another five years Sir Robert Borden may be able to redeem his pledge. Meanwhile Sir Sam Hughes is posing on the other side of the Atlantic.

The announcement that Mr. H. M. Blair is going into Carleton county to tell some of the things he knows about the provincial government is a cause of worry for the Standard. If Mr. Blair would go to Boston, as Mr. Bill Berry did, and stay there till after Sept. 21, the Standard would be delighted. The opposition party is not responsible for Mr. Blair, or for the facts to which he may direct attention. If he chooses to tell what he knows, however, his statements should be of more than passing interest. No man had a better opportunity to gain inside knowledge.

"What is the difference between firmness and obstinacy?" asked a young lady of her fiancé. "Firmness," was the gallant reply, "is a noble characteristic of women; obstinacy is a lamentable defect."

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LIGHTER VEIN
Sobriety Proof
A captain in the army was called to answer a charge of being intoxicated. Among those questioned was an Irish orderly, who protested vigorously that the allegation was a slander—that he was sure the captain was perfectly sober.

"Why are you so sure that Captain Blank was sober that evening?" he was asked. "Did he speak to you upon his return to his quarters?"

"He did, sir."

"He told me to be shure an' call him early in the mornin', sir."

"And did the captain say why he wished to be called early?"

"Yes, sir, he did, sir. He said he was goin' to be Queen of the May, sir."

"Supreme their love! supreme their sacrifice!"

Employees of the street railway company in Old Orchard, Me., rioted up a rummy and placed it as if it was some one waiting for the car. They then informed the crew of the outgoing car that an old lady was waiting at "Warrens" and that they would have to stop and help her aboard. Several cars halted to pick up the old lady.

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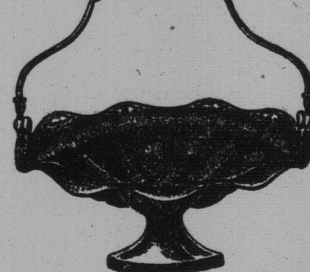
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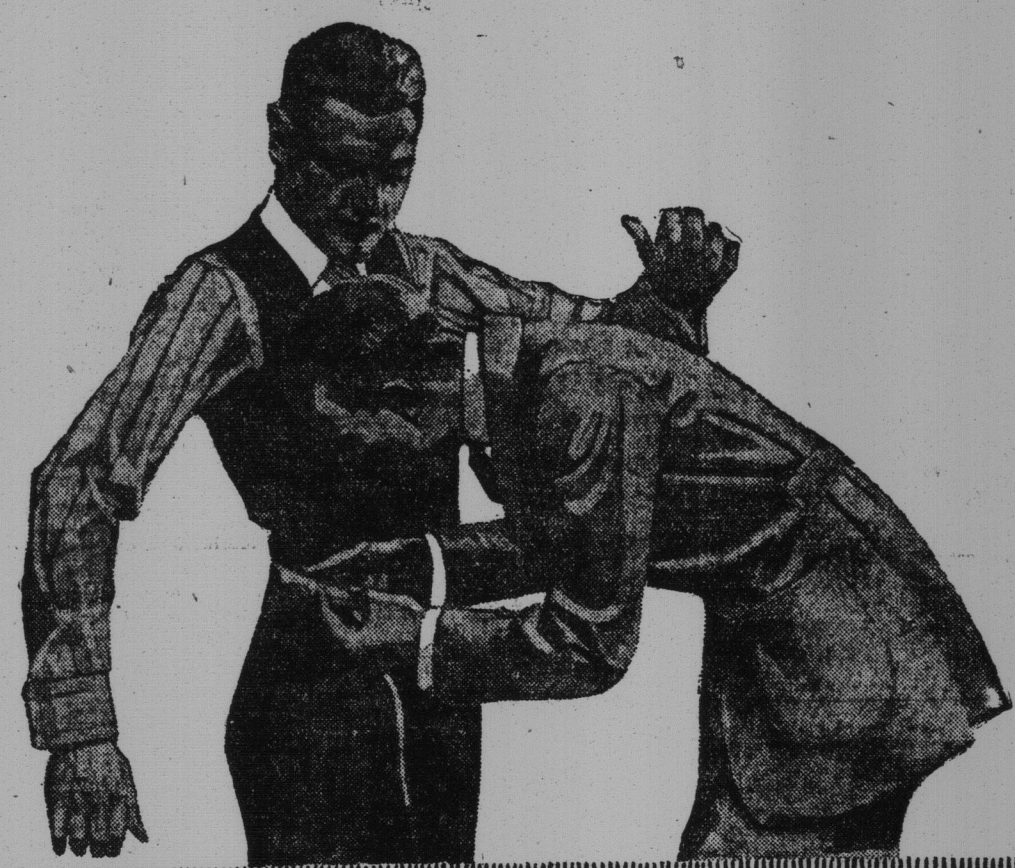
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ENGAGEMENTS ANNOUNCED
LEB. Drury Lockhart of Moncton, announces the engagement of his daughter, Mary H., to Charles W. Milton, the marriage to take place during September.

Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Leeger, of Bouchette, announce the engagement of their only daughter, Mary Edna, to Amand Ouellet, of Sherbrooke, marriage to take place in September.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Sutherland, of Moncton, N. B., announce the engagement of their daughter, Esther Mae, to C. Howard Clayton, of Fredericton, the marriage to take place at an early date.

TOUCHING PROHIBITION
Moncton Transcript.—The St. John Standard tells the temperance people of New Brunswick that they must support the provincial government in return for the so-called prohibition bill, but in the other columns it publishes advertisements of beer, whiskey and other temperance drinks favored by a certain class of political prohibitionists. The Standard is about as sincere as is the government with its two per cent. beer licenses indiscriminately issued.

Young Sub (to coquette).—"If you don't answer me one way or the other—yes or no—I'll hang myself at your garden gate." Coquette.—"You mightn't do that. Father doesn't like young men hanging about the place!"

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