

THE COURIER

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The Situation.

The allied forces in Serbia continue to fall back in face of overwhelming numbers. The official report especially names the Connaught Rangers, the Munster Fusiliers and the Dublin Fusiliers, for their splendid fighting during a successful retirement. These are regiments which in the past have more than once earned undying fame, and it is very evident that the pluck and the fighting material is still there. The struggle is getting closer and closer to Saloniki, and the indications at the present time are that the Greeks are seeking to avoid a clash. They have decided to withdraw all troops at the port named with the exception of a few. The announcement that the British have received reinforcements is cheering news. At the same time, the fact is fully recognized that both they and the French still need much greater strengthening.

The Italians are able to report a notable success after very severe fighting. Several important positions have fallen into their hands. The United States Government has sent the stiffest note to Austria which has yet emanated from Washington. It calls a spade a spade and makes demands regarding the brutal sinking of the Ancona which cannot in any sense be misunderstood. It is the sort of ultimatum which Germany should have had long ago.

Terrace Hill Street Car Service.

If the proposed sale of the Gall-Paris end of the municipal railroad for the sum of thirty thousand dollars should be sanctioned the Courier would like to see the necessary steps taken to extend the operations of the city portion of the road to Terrace Hill.

This is one of the most important and rapidly growing sections of the city and that the need exists for transportation facilities is abundantly proved by the patronage extended to a bus service in that region.

Roughly speaking the district is comprised in sub-divisions 7 and 8 and the population according to last assessment is 2,625, with an assessment on taxable property of \$1,045,540, exempt \$178,000, or a total of \$1,225,540. In addition a well-located line would reach far more people than the number designated, residing in the populous and progressive Grandview district. There are two factories in the area, the Carriage Works and Pratt and Letchworth works, and also three cemeteries, Greenwood, Mt. Hope and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic. The General Hospital, which has a constant stream of visitors, is also located there. Should the suggested line follow the route of the franchise issued to the old Brantford Street Railway it would also serve the Bucks, Stove works and Ham and Nott factory section.

That such an extension would pay does not admit of any question. There was some doubt as to running a line into the Holmedale, a much smaller district, but returns proved satisfactory right from the start. That they would be much more so in connection with Terrace Hill, does not admit of any question.

The need exists; the people on the hill are heavy taxpayers, contributing their share towards the purchase and upkeep of the road, and have a right to have their wants and convenience considered. The thing should be done the moment there is any cash in hand for the purpose.

Salisbury's Secretary Dead.

London, Dec. 12.—Captain Sir Schomburg McDonnell, whose death from wounds has been announced, was for fourteen years private secretary to the late Lord Salisbury and later acted as secretary of the Board of Works with personal control over the upkeep of the Parliament buildings, the crown post offices, the cleaning of public monuments and the maintenance of every British embassy and consulate abroad. In these positions, Capt. McDonnell was noted for his tact and his ability. He was 54 years of age and brother of Lord Antrim.

Many young men who left Ireland a few weeks ago, with the intention of emigrating to the United States have returned to Dublin. They adopted an attitude of sullen doggedness, and declined to discuss their reasons for leaving the country. Some of them, however, stated that there was a scarcity of employment in their districts, and that, as there was no work available in Ireland, they had to seek work elsewhere. None would admit that he was trying to escape from service in the Army.

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EMBARRASSING POSITION OF HERR BALLIN

(From the New York Times) When Herr Albert Ballin, the head of the Hamburg-American steamship line, rose to address the annual meeting of the Hamburg Shipping Union the other day, he found himself in a difficult position. He thought it "inadvisable" to present the usual printed annual report of activities during the last fiscal year. "With trifling exceptions," he said, "the German merchant marine is interned either in German or neutral ports. But every cloud has a silver lining, and he was able to point out that by their very inactivity the ships of Germany had done some service to the Fatherland, for through scarcity of tonnage sea freights had risen to high figures and England had been compelled to disturb the "business" for conveyance of foodstuffs and other necessities. This, he feels, wants "a serious economic blow to her."

Unable to speak of the past or say much about the present, Herr Ballin nevertheless laid confident plans for the future. Germany cannot be content to remain shut up in her part of the North Sea; if her fleets are to cover all the seas she must have naval bases. It is not enough, he said, that there should be a base at Zeebrugge; there must be bases "both at the entrance and at the exit of the Channel." That is easy as to Zeebrugge, already in German hands. Germany has but to retain Belgium and she will have the base. But what base will she choose at the exit of the Channel? Will it be Havre? That is not at the exit. Cherbourg would be better. Possibly Herr Ballin has his eye on Southampton, an ideal spot, so good that the English have always used it. Or Plymouth might do in a pinch. The trouble is that all the ports are held by the French or the English, and they exhibit a most unaccommodating disposition to hang on to them.

Still the thing must be done, for the Imperial Chancellor, as Herr Ballin pointed out, "has already proclaimed the freedom of the seas." Here is an inconsistency. Herr Ballin says that "Germany must have freedom of the seas" if it is to continue a development so splendidly achieved during the last few decades." That development has indeed been splendid. From no national rank Germany has risen to second place in commercial sea power. How could she make "a great advance if the seas were closed against her? What do Germans mean when they talk about freedom of the seas as something they must have but have not enjoyed? Herr Ballin says there must be bases not only at the entrance and exit of the Channel but across the seas, and he appears to hold the belief that neutral nations everywhere will join hands with Germany in furtherance of her ambition. In furtherance of her lawful peaceful ambitions Germany need fear no opposition save that of honorable rivalry. There lies the source of doubt, the uncertainty, the whole trouble Germany's behavior since the end of July, 1914, has not been of a nature to impress the nations of the world with confidence in the peaceful nature of her designs. The war she has brought upon Europe and her conduct during the war have put in the way of her commercial development on the seas and beyond the seas obstacles vastly more formidable than any England has ever thrown in her way. If she sees her worst enemy she must look at home.

Not the Only One.

London, Dec. 12.—Henry James, the novelist, is not the only former American citizen who has recently become a subject of King George. Another is Robert Emmet, a son of Dr. Thomas A. Emmatt of New York, who has lived most of the time since he was graduated at Harvard in Warwickshire, and now has a commission in the British army. He is a descendant of Robert Emmett, the famous Irish leader who died in 1803.

MR. JAMES SIMPSON FLAYS THE WHOLE LIQUOR TRAFFIC

Declared in Mass Meeting Held in the Grand Opera House yesterday Afternoon That Labor as a Body Were Against the Bar—Some Interesting Statistics Quoted.

Ex-Controller James Simpson, of Toronto, was the speaker of the day at the Grand Opera House yesterday afternoon at the meeting held on behalf of Local Option. The well-known labor leader was in particularly good form and took a strong stand against the liquor traffic. An interesting announcement was made by Mr. Fred Mann who stated the Chairman Flavell had informed him that should Brantford go dry, no club licenses would be issued in this city.

There was a very large attendance, of men, women and children, of ladies. In the absence of Mr. Howard Phipps, who was to have been chairman, having been detained, Mr. Harry Symons, corresponding secretary of the Trades and Labor Council occupied the chair in a tactful manner. On the platform, among others, were the following—Revs. Smythe, Lavell, Gordon, Woodsie, Martin, Dr. Henderson, James, E. Ryerson, W. H. Freeborn, Jennings, Mellen, Calbeck, Minshall, Secord, and Messrs. T. Linscott, J. Lewis, W. D. Reeves, E. E. Reynolds, I. D. Scruton, Grant Service, Sam Carter, M. P. P. J. Ham, M. P. P. J. J. Hurley, W. Colvolyer, E. Sherry, T. L. Wood, T. L. Townsend.

Chairman Symons said the only apology he had to make for being present was that he was taking another man's place, who was unable to attend, but would do the best he could. He wanted it distinctly understood that he was in favor of Local Option. The large audience was to him a criterion of what was going to happen on the third of January. He undertook to answer a few of the arguments advanced by the anti-localists. He did so effectively judging by the applause greeting his remarks. He spoke of blind pigs, the moral issue of the taking away of personal liberty and moral suasion.

MR. JAMES SIMPSON.

Mr. James Simpson, printer, reporter, ex-controller, official of the Trades and Labor Congress and labor leader, of Toronto was the principal speaker of the afternoon. The versatile "Jimmy" appeared to be in his best fettle. His opening sentence was: "This is the Hydro age. I run by water power, given as he poured out a glass of water, tickled the crowd immensely. To say that Mr. Simpson is a first class orator is not saying too much. He is a good mixer, a fine logical reasoner and a good story teller. He made it plain in opening that he was not sent there by any organization, he was there as a citizen. But he could confidently state that all great labor organizations were against the liquor traffic. He told of a great mass meeting held in Toronto when the American Federation of Labor held its convention there, when John Connolly, John Mitchell, himself and others took the platform, as labor leaders against the liquor traffic. The International Labor and Socialist congress which was to meet in Vienna, had before it a resolution, introduced by Vanderveldt the great Belgian leader condemning the liquor traffic and demanding the abolition of it. The speaker declared that the traffic was detrimental to the interests of the workers and should be suppressed. Mr. Simpson by no means confined himself to the liquor traffic, but took in the bulk of his time was taken up discussing the economic, social, moral and medical side of the issue. The time was he said when the liquor traffic is the greater momentum it attained.

To-day he would not want to be in the shoes of the clergyman who would openly take the stand for the open bar in any of its forms. Public sentiment was so strong to-day in practically every country in the world for its overthrow, that it was like a snowball going down a mountain, the farther it went the bigger it got, the greater momentum it attained. The U. S. had for its slogan, a dry Republic by 1920. To-day more than half the states of the Union were dry. Ontario had taken for its slogan, a strong terms by July 1st, 1916. Fifty labor men in the British House of Commons had voted for the cutting off of 60,000 licenses in Great Britain, but he would not appeal to their feelings by describing the desolation caused by the drink habit; he preferred to appeal to their common sense. Canada's drink bill was \$100,000,000 a year. He could not understand the attitude of a merchant who refused to vote for Local Option. This money would of necessity be spent in legitimate channels. Liquor was not a food, science had disposed of that fallacy. Employers of labor did not want men, especially in responsible positions, who tampered with it. It lessened a man's efficiency. Dr. Hastings of Toronto had issued a special bulletin on alcoholism, of announcing its use in very strong terms. His lead had been followed by the medical health department of New York and to-day 400 medical health boards in America had also condemned the use of liquor. In the United States 44 bars a day were being put out of business. Two hundred million gallons less liquor was being consumed than formerly. Some people condemned him as a labor leader for talking and working against the traffic, saying it would throw union men out of work. He believed in the greatest good to the greatest number. The point was well illustrated by the opening of a 1,000 acre prison farm by Toronto where criminals were housed and placed on their honor and in many cases reformed, in preference

he has an hour off duty and an hour of rest, alternately. In the day time, one man in four is on sentry or listening duty.

Colonel Sutherland related how keen was the disappointment felt by the Canadian soldier, if, when the Canadian mail came up to the front, everyone received a letter but him. People at home who have friends of relatives at the front should write regularly and often. He also explained many other phases of the life; the protective measures taken, such as wire entanglements, periscopes, etc. He highly praised the Army Medical Corps for its very efficient work. It was due to this corps that the dreaded epidemics of disease had not ravaged the ranks. Every soldier was given a hot bath on being relieved after his four days and nights in the trenches.

The speaker also clearly illustrated the life behind the trenches, the routine of the supports, and the splendid scouting work done by the aviators. For the first time Brantford people were told the awe-inspiring tale of the battles of Ypres and Langemarck, related by the clever speaker in a vivid and stirring manner. If people would only realize what is happening over in the war zone, there would be no difficulty in recruiting for such battalions as the 125th. We cannot under-man the farms as the farm products must be had. This is so in the case of the munition workers, also, but there are plenty of other young men left besides these. Many are kept home through parental objections. No boy at home is a bit better than those who have already answered their country's call. Parents should not shield their boys. The boys, if they have any courage at all will not allow shame to be showered on their parents as well as themselves. The young men in banks and stores who realize the responsibility that rests on their shoulders, should enlist, and set an example to the irresponsible young men who frequent the pool rooms.

Mayor Spence then took the chair during the appeal for recruits. Only two enlisted there but twelve names were added this morning to the strength of the 125th. The Mayor announced that there would be another recruiting meeting next Sunday in the Theatre.

Steamship Sunk.

London, Dec. 13.—The British Steamship Pinegrove has been sunk. Her crew was saved. The Pinegrove, 2,847 tons gross and 372 feet long, was built in 1896 and owned in Glasgow.

Colonel Sutherland and the front with the first Canadian contingent. He was attached to the first battalion, 1st brigade. The 1st and 4th battalions were very closely connected. The 4th contained mostly all Brantford boys.

The mobilization took place at Valcarier over a year ago. There the units were reorganized and formed into an evenly balanced fighting force. The largest rifle ranges in the world were constructed there, and 20,000 men could practice at one time.

When the time for embarking came I took 32 ocean liners to convey the troops with a convoy of 15 British cruisers. It speaks well for British naval efficiency when, during the whole passage, not a German conning tower, nor a column of German smoke was seen. At that time, the North Sea was infested with the dreaded German submarines.

The troops disembarked at Plymouth, and the whole city gathered along the water front and quays, cheering the Canadians wildly. Certainly they extended a right royal welcome.

The contingent stayed at Salisbury for about three months, then orders came the first of February and the soldiers left for France.

The Colonel clearly explained the modes of travelling in those Old Countries, and then passed on to the trenches. The first line extends from the sea to the borders of Switzerland, the allied and German trenches facing each other at a varying distance apart. This distance is between 200 and 400 yards.

The billeting system is worked out entirely in the war zone. While men are quartered in the villages and towns one sees a very noticeable thing. Every able-bodied man is away fighting, and only the women, old men and boys are left behind to do the work. The women of France and Belgium have done wonderful work and all honor is due to them.

The Canadian boys were sent into the trenches first with the Imperial troops to learn the trench warfare. The system of relieving was very interesting to the boys, and it contained much detail. The system of trench routine is perfect. Every man is on duty four days and nights. At night

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LOCAL WILL RUN. The many friends of Mrs. Colquhoun received Mrs. Colquhoun received word from "MAC". Mrs. Colquhoun received word from "MAC".

CHRISTMAS TREE. The Matron of the Brantford wishes to express thanks for the generousity in the matter of tree presents and will gladly lodge similar gifts this year.

RECRUITING MEETING. Capt VanSomerensky Rev. well and Mr. W. N. Andrieux at Harley to-night. The new school at Echo Place at 8 o'clock will be addressed by Mr. J. J. J. Myrs who will occupy the chair Tuesday night at the King school, Eagle Place, Mr. G. will occupy the chair and the Rev. Mr. McKean, Mr. Lane.

TALENT TEA AND CON. On Saturday afternoon the school League held a most successful talent tea and concert. The capable President, A. McFarland, received the her usual cordial manner. Containing the cakes, etc., sided over by Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. Boulton, Day in a very able manner. Linscott poured tea and was by Mrs. Farr, Mrs. Misener, Lyle. The programs, one of the other at 4:15, were a standing room was at a premium and very enjoyable. The credit to themselves and Elsie Senn, who was largely able for their training, and rooms were appropriately decorated with flags, bunting and mas bels. Over \$40 will be

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