

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1918

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THE RUSSIAN PROBLEM.

A Washington despatch says the American government is being urged by the French government to assist in intervention by Allied forces in Siberia, and the question is receiving serious consideration. But the question of sending troops to Kola, on the White Sea, in European Russia, is also receiving attention. The despatch says: "The situation at Kola is understood to have prompted the navy department to plan for sending reinforcements to the small American force there, but no details are available, as it is said that Vice-Admiral Sims, commanding the American naval forces in European waters, will select additional ships to go. The French and British are likewise understood to be sending reinforcements. But the menace of the German expedition of 60,000, which already has been launched against Kola, according to reports, could not be checked effectively with a few thousand additional sailors and marines. The British viewpoint is said strongly to favor launching an expedition of considerable strength into Russia by way of the White Sea ports and thereby relieving the threatening situation there as well as establishing the nucleus for a 'Russian front.' Meanwhile the president's plan to send a mission of business men on the peaceful errand of building up Russia agriculturally and commercially is progressing smoothly. The question of a military escort for these Americans and the need to protect the supplies which later will be shipped so that they will not fall into enemy hands must be considered."

It is pointed out that President Wilson is extremely anxious to convince the Russian people that the United States has no desire to meddle with Russia's internal affairs, but only to meet the well-understood aims of the Allies in this war. A report of the Supreme War Council of the Allies had already decided on military intervention in Russia appears to have been at least premature.

Those citizens of the south end of the city who decided last evening to organize an Improvement League, and prove their earnestness in the matter by real work in clearing up the site of the proposed new playground, should find their example infectious. No doubt this will prove to be the case, and a real manifestation of the community spirit result from the movement. When the playground is fitted up and formally opened, and the boys have an opportunity to play without fear of broken windows or of the police, these workers will have their reward in the consciousness of a duty well performed.

The secretary to the British minister of munitions says the U-boat is still one of the greatest perils we have to fight, but adds this comforting remark: "Thanks to the navy, our losses are being brought to within limits which the Allies can bear without flinching. Recent returns show the loss of munition ships from submarine warfare are only about a quarter of what they were when the U-boat campaign was at its height. There have been weeks recently when the Germans failed to sink a single ton of munitions."

A German newspaper asserts that Secretary Baker is lying about the number of American soldiers in France, and that his statement is "the usual American bluff." There is no bluff about those American soldiers who drove back the German troops at Hamel. When the German people find out who the real liars are there will be something done beyond the Rhine.

It has been demonstrated in recent fighting that the tank is the thing with which to put the enemy machine guns out of action. In a recent encounter one group of British tanks captured or destroyed over thirty machine guns and took more than three hundred prisoners, while others are believed to have done equally well.

Kerensky does not favor Japanese intervention in Siberia lest it be used by the Bolsheviks to inflame the people and induce them to turn toward Germany. There is doubtless some force in this objection, but unless there is Allied intervention of some sort the influence of Germany will not be overcome.

It is reported there is to be one meatless week a month in Germany. Assurances of victory will be much less impressive when received on an empty stomach. And food conditions in Austria are infinitely worse than in Germany. The German hog feeds himself first.

The Allies continue to have the best of the fighting on both French and Italian fronts. They are not idly waiting for the next offensive, but keeping the enemy constantly busy and improving their own strategic position in anticipation of the coming drive.

A HOUSING SUGGESTION.

In Toronto, to encourage better housing, the city has power to guarantee the bonds of any housing company to the extent of 85 per cent. There is one concern, the Toronto Housing Company, now operating under this act. So great is the shortage of houses, however, that it is now being urged that firms operating large industries should take advantage of the terms of the act and provide houses for their work-people which the latter could eventually own by paying a little more each year than the ordinary rental. Finance Commissioner Bradshaw is preparing a report giving costs, operation and mode of financing, and he contends there could be a considerable number of firms or companies financed on lines similar to those of the Toronto Housing Company. The following interesting report and comment appears in the Toronto Star:

"The commissioner suggests that the city might co-operate with large firms and employers of labor in assisting them to provide model, self-contained dwellings for their work-people which would in the course of a comparatively short term of years be purchased by the workmen through monthly payments comparing with rental values.

"Departmental stores, factories, foundries and large plants could procure tracts of land adjacent to one line or to their plants and erect model workmen's houses. These would be six or seven roomed, self-contained, semi-detached or detached dwellings that the workman could purchase outright through monthly instalments similar to rent in the case of the money involved in the purchase of the house. The company would procure the money along similar lines to the housing company, by providing a small percentage of the capital, with the balance raised through bonds guaranteed by the city. Each house would have a lot about twenty-five feet in frontage and the building would be erected for about \$2,000. The objectionable feature of apartments or tenement houses would be obliterated and the occupant would have his own home, plot of ground and garden.

"The scheme would be a large factor in overcoming the present lack of housing and would assist in better relations between employer and employee. Large tracts of idle land within the municipality would be built up and the citizens of Toronto greatly benefited by the splendid homes that could thus be provided at a reasonable cost by the employer and purchased without hardship by the employee. The citizens securing such homes would not be receiving anything for nothing, but would be paying the full cost of their model homes—a low price by reason of the minimum cost of the money involved and the efficiency in construction without a high profit going into the pockets of speculative builders.

"Of the numerous schemes for overcoming the housing problem by three-family apartments, apartments or tenement houses, this plan seems to be the most free from objectionable features and would result in the many idle properties within the city being built up with substantial homes, providing ample play and garden room for the families of workmen who, while paying little, if any, more than rent, would be purchasing homes that would be most creditable to themselves, their employers and the city. The number of large firms in Toronto who are taking a keen interest in the welfare of their employees would also seem to argue well for the success of such a project."

The crop report from Saskatchewan is not encouraging. It is said that in many sections not more than half a crop of wheat is anticipated, and only ideal weather hereafter can ensure this result. We hesitate to think of what crop failure this year would mean. Happily the reports from Manitoba and Alberta are much more satisfactory. The first named province anticipates an excellent crop.

If it be true that German soldiers in groups have been attacking supply trains to secure food, and that these trains are now guarded by machine guns, the question of food for the German army must be one of pressing importance.

"Changes in Russia are imminent," says the Frankfurter Zeitung, which adds that if the Bolshevik government should collapse there would be little left of the peace treaties. This is quite true. Trotsky and Lenin are playing the game for Germany.

Of course Germany will try to convey the impression that the war is being fought by the Allies brought about the assassination of Count von Mirbach. At the same time she will make it an excuse for carving another slice or two out of Russia.

The editor of the Standard is evidently depressed by fears of what the prolonged wet weather may do to the wild cucumbers beside his vine-clad cottage at Public Landing.

THE BROADWAY OF THE TRENCH



Like the Canadians, the American troops in France have named their trenches after home streets. "Broadway" and "Fifth Avenue" are not quite so crowded as their parent streets in New York.

Premier's Tribute To King and Queen

London, July 8.—In the house of commons, today, Premier Lloyd George moved a resolution congratulating King George and Queen Mary on the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding. In a long speech the premier paid tribute to the manner in which the king has faced the gravest issues during a period in which the world has been devastated by the greatest hurricane that ever swept the surface of the globe.

"When ancient thrones are tottering and monarchs are being deprived of their sceptres in other lands," the premier said, "the British throne has become more firmly established than ever on the only foundation that is possible, namely, the affection and good-will of the people.

"The war has strengthened the bonds which unite our king and people. As a monarch like this, the crisis of the war, the unity of the empire means much, and in this respect the position won by the occupants of our throne is a matter of imperial moment. The stability of the throne is essential to the strength of the empire, for it is not merely a symbol, but a bond of unity."

Ottawa, July 8.—His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire has received the following cablegram from His Majesty King George, under date of July 6: "I thank you most cordially for the loyal congratulations you have tendered to the queen and myself on the occasion of our silver wedding day, in the name of the government and people of Canada. (Signed) "GEORGE R. I."

LIGHTER VEIN

Artificial Pies. "We are using artificial pies in all our comedies now," said the motion picture producer.

"That's a patriotic thing to do."

"Yes, and we get better results with real articles. Our property man has invented a pie that melts magnificently." —Birmingham Age-Herald.

Doubtful Penitence. "So you found out for yourself that it was wrong to fight?"

"Yes," replied the boy with a bruised eye and swollen lip. "It was wrong for me, but it was all right for the other fellow." —Washington Star.

Active Movement in Tarts. Young Tommy returned from school in tears and nursing a black eye.

"I'll pay Billy Doyle off for this in the morning," he wailed to his mother.

"No, no," she said. "You must return home and say you're tired and want to go to bed. You must take it to Billy and say: 'Mother says I must return good for evil, so here's a tart for you.'"

Tommy demurred, but finally consented. The next evening he returned in a worse plight and sobbed:

"I gave Billy the tart and told him what you said, and then he blacked my eye and says you're to send him another tart tomorrow." —Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph.

The Bumps' Tiff. Willis—What caused the row between Bump and his wife?

Gills—They went out to a theatre last night and Bump hired a taxi to take them home. When the driver asked him where to, Bump said "Home," and the driver said "Which one?"—Judge.

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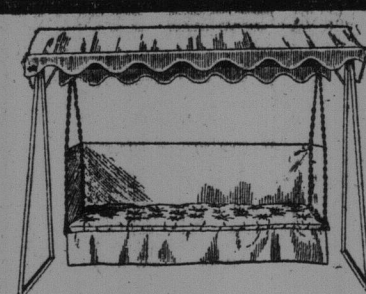
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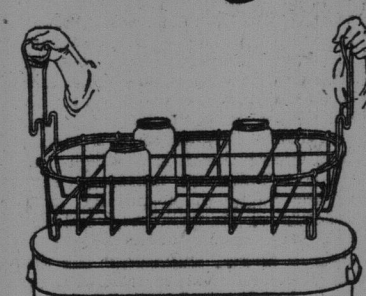
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that Mr. Belding should continue to act as provisional chairman and Mr. Scott as secretary till the election of officers later.

Before the meeting adjourned to come together again at the call of the constitution committee, Captain Mulcahy, of the west side, who was present, congratulated the gathering on the splendid public spirit which had been manifested in the election of officers and the result of the newly formed league's operations.

SCHOOL MEETINGS IN SUBURBAN DISTRICTS

The annual meeting of Beaconsfield school was held last evening in the new school building. The order of business was the inspection of the building by the ratepayers; the election of a trustee; the passing of the usual estimates for the year; the report of the audit committee and the passing of a resolution expressing appreciation to the members of the building committee for their efficient work.

John A. Barry occupied the chair and there were present, besides the trustees, about thirty-five of the ratepayers of the district. Keen interest was shown in the new school building which, following the inspection of those present, was declared correct in every detail. The large amount of money which is outstanding, \$800 in all, was given earnest consideration by the financial committee and the best methods of collecting this arrears of school funds were discussed.

Arrangements were made for the sale of the old school building either by private or public auction, if necessary. The work of the schools in the past year was considered entirely satisfactory.

RETURNED MEN EXPECTED.

Charles Robinson, secretary of the New Brunswick Soldiers' Aid Committee, received a wire last evening from Halifax saying that the following returned men had arrived there from overseas for this military district: A. Levine, Campbellton; G. N. Calhoun, McEwen Junction; F. Pepper, Woodstock; C. W. Dryden, Sussex; J. W. Pilley, Oak Point; Kings county; R. Thompson, Gasquet; L. J. Blake, Hillsboro; A. Chaisson, Pigeonhill; Port Elgin; J. M. Gibson, Fredericton; K. S. Kennedy, Hampton; F. Martin, Somerset street.

The annual meeting of the Rotheray consolidated school was held last evening and P. F. Blanchet, the chairman, presided. There was a fair attendance of ratepayers at the general meeting which preceded the board meeting and the new trustee elected was Robert Schofield, replacing J. C. Featherstone. The schools have a new principal for the coming year. C. P. Wetmore, previously of Hampton, having been chosen to fill the position. Miss Mabel K. Smith will take over the position of Miss G. C. McIntyre who has resigned from the teaching staff. The present board of trustees is composed of P. F. Blanchet, J. M. Robinson, E. S. Carter, G. P. Saunders and Robert Schofield. No business of special importance came before the meeting and the statement for the coming year was authorized.

Simonds No. 1.

The annual meeting of the Simonds school district No. 1 was held last evening in the new Glen Falls school and a representative gathering was present. G. N. Breen presided at the meeting and the following gave in their names: R. E. Armstrong, A. M. Belding, Thomas Kilien, C. M. Lingley, John M. Elmore, William Holmes, Thomas Dule, Alexander Wilson, J. T. Power, F. Doyle, J. McCarthy, Albert Ellis, Dr. S. B. Sigth, Isaac Mercer, H. F. Puddington, and J. K. Arthur.

It was then decided on motion of Mr. Elmore, seconded by Mr. Kilien, that those present form themselves into the South End Improvement League, but that the election of officers be deferred till a later meeting. This idea was endorsed by many of those present and Engineer Hatfield told what a boon the formation of similar leagues had been to the city of Providence (R. I.).

Mr. Lingley then moved that a committee be appointed to draft a constitution for the league. This was agreed to and the chairman named the following: Mr. Lingley, chairman; Dr. Smith, Mr. Power, Mr. Doody and Mr. Armstrong. Another motion which was carried was



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new trustee elected was J. R. Clayton who replaces F. C. Colwell. The new board consists of Edward Riley, Walter Drake, J. R. Clayton and W. C. Cassin, the secretary to the board. The new school in which the meeting was held was finished last year before the winter term, and completely satisfactory and is said to be finished in such a manner that no finer fitted two-room school can be found in the country. The large amount of money which is outstanding, \$800 in all, was given earnest consideration by the financial committee and the best methods of collecting this arrears of school funds were discussed.

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