

THE COURIER

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Wednesday, July 18th, 1917.

THE SITUATION

The Germans just now are making a dead set on the French front, but the French are successfully handling all assaults, and yesterday scored a notable offensive on their own account. They attacked the foe on the left bank of the Meuse, and before they finished had captured German positions on a front of more than a mile and a half to the depth of about two thirds of a mile. The enemy losses are reported to have been very heavy.

Petrograd reports that for strategic reasons, the Russian troops have evacuated the town of Kalusz, but still occupying the bank of the river. The move is stated to have been rendered necessary because of heavy German reinforcements for the Austrians.

The capture by a British patrol of four German steamers in the North Sea, is one more evidence of the constant alertness of the British navy. They formed part of a fleet which has been trading with Norwegian and other ports, and it is satisfactory to know that such a blow has been struck against this traffic. It portends a further tightening on trading between neutrals and the Huns. Meanwhile, it is understood that on behalf of the Allies a warning will be sent to Holland and others that such profiteering must cease.

There has been another shake-up in the British war ministry. Among other changes, Carson becomes a member of the inner cabinet, and Winston Churchill is once more given office. There will be a good many to question the advisability of again using this undoubtedly clever but too erratic and self-satisfied personage.

News from Russia is once more disquieting.

A NEW VIEW OF CONFEDERATION

One of the French-Canadian papers in making recent reference to the fact that the people of Quebec do not pay much attention to Canada's National Holiday, said:

"On this occasion we are often asked why French-Canadians do not celebrate with more enthusiasm this splendid holiday of the Dominion. They ask us, in fact, why the English-speaking Canadians alone celebrate this day and why we do not manifest our patriotism on that day? The reason is very simple. It is because Confederation was a triumph for the English, who used the province of Quebec to pay the debts of those in the Province of Ontario. It was rather a defeat for us, the real Canadians of the Dominion. Was not, indeed, Senator Landry right when he declared that the Confederation Act was an infamous trap for the French-Canadian people?"

That's the sort of buncombe the habitant is fed on.

As a matter of fact the French Canadians secured far more under the terms of Confederation than was healthy for them, or healthy for this Dominion.

The fact that their tongue shares equal recognition with the English in the official sense, has from the first proved an arrant nuisance and a tremendous expense, and it has probably done more than anything else to foster their idea of a nation within a nation.

In many other directions they have been pampered far too much, and the departments at Ottawa are over-run with them and their lingo.

Canada's two Western rebellions were headed by a man with French blood in his veins, and there is a tribe of them there now, who ought to be indicted for treason and punished as traitors.

HUNS ADMIT LOSS

Berlin, July 18.—Via London.—The trenches recently captured by the Germans, near Malancourt wood, on both sides of the Malancourt-Esnes road, were penetrated by the French yesterday, the war office announces.

On the northern part of the front, from Yser to the Lys, the artillery fighting increased toward morning.

The Department of Labor's Index Number, showing the average wholesale cost of 272 commodities of general use, rose during June to 242.7, as compared with 240 for May, 183.3 for June of last year, and 135.3 for June, 1914.

LAURIER WANTS AN ELECTION

There can now be no doubt that Sir Wilfrid Laurier wants to force a general election. He has it figured out that with a solid Quebec, the foreign vote and those who object to the conscription proposal, he can again win his way back to office and as that is all he cares about the deplorable holding of a bitter contest during war time does not weigh one iota with him.

In the House yesterday he had the temerity to flout the statement that a contest at such a period would be a "National Crime," and yet only two years ago when an appeal was spoken of he used the very same language and added "I refuse to open the door of office with that bloody key."

That was because he thought then he could not win. Now he believes that he holds the key in the conscription issue and he is just itching to make the effort.

So much for a man who has so lamely failed in all the demands of true statesmanship during the existing crisis.

Prior to the taking of the vote on the extension motion, Sir Robert stated that unless there was preponderant approval the British government could not be approached in the matter. A majority of twenty is certainly not that and the indications are that the belief expressed in the Courier yesterday that there would probably be a contest is likely to be fulfilled. It is pity that such should be the case and the struggle will be of the most acrimonious nature, but an old man in a hurry to again taste the sweets of power has not taken such things into his consideration.

The rumor persists that Borden is quite likely to make another effort to form a Union Cabinet and in any event there would be many Liberal candidates who would feel themselves constrained to include conscription in their category. Their number should be enough to largely offset a solid Quebec vote on the main issue.

Taking everything into consideration Borden and his associates would seem to have nothing to fear if a light should come.

News Notes

In retail prices the average cost of a workman's family budget for a week's food in June rose to \$11.89, an advance of seven cents over May, and of \$3.38, or nearly 40 per cent., as compared with June, 1916.

Willie Gordon, fifteen years of age, was killed by lightning on his uncle's farm near Sunderland, on Saturday.

Premier Borden has issued an appeal to the men and women of Canada for co-operation in gathering in the harvest.

St. Mary's raised \$1120 for wounded French soldiers, Kitchener contributed \$1857, Orillia \$1300, and Clinton \$675.

Charles Jenvey, a pioneer resident of Oxford county, who for some years lived in Toronto, is dead at Ingersoll, aged 85.

Hugh McLean, aged 53, St. Catharines, was fined \$200 at Niagara Falls for merely having a bottle of whiskey in his possession. Hitherto if the bottle had an unbroken seal the man carrying it was not molested.

The house of Norman MacQueen, about five miles from Sydney, N.S., was struck by lightning at 9.30 last night. He and one of his youngest children were killed, while a brother and a son were seriously shocked.

A CHANCE FOR THOSE GOING WEST

Home-seekers' Excursions to Western Canada at low fares, via Canadian Pacific each Tuesday until October 30th, inclusive.

ENEMY DEPOSITS

Rome, July 15.—Returns from the banks showed enemy deposits in Italy exceeded two and a half billion lire, says the Idea Nazionale.

Garden Plot Prizes

Brantford Thrift League announces

1. Competition strictly limited to those who secured land through the League.

2. The entries to be made to Ward chairmen on or before July 21, and to give name, address and exact position of plot.

3. City divided into two divisions, viz Wards 1 and 2 and 4 and 5.

4. \$25 in prizes to each division.

5. 10 first prizes ..... \$2.50  
10 second prizes ..... \$1.50  
10 third prizes ..... \$1.00

Send your entry at once to your Ward Chairman.  
Ward 1—John Wild, 6 Brant Street.  
Ward 2—R. A. Whyte, 132 William Street.  
Ward 4—Jno Allen, 129 Chatham Street.  
Ward 5—E. C. Kilmer, 105 Northumberland Street.

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A CHEERY CHAT WITH MAN WHO HAS BEEN THERE

Globe Trotter Tells of Great Battles Fought On West Front

ENEMY IS EXHAUSTED

Many of German Soldiers Now Fighting Said To Be Mere Boys

He had been blown up by a high-explosive shell and had received a goodly number of splinters. One thought that he would not like to talk, but felt impelled to ask, at least, "How goes it?" He put a brown hand up to his pillow and gave it a tug. He was prepared for a chat. The crows-feet round his eyes—staringly blue eyes—wrinkled up and his long, humorous nose seemed to droop a trifle more when he grinned.

"I'm about as comfortable as ever I've been in my life." He wriggled a trifle in his bed. "Ah-such!" he grunted. "That comes of being too adventurous when you've been chewed up. No, thanks; it's nothing—only grouse. A fellow's body doesn't always play up to what his mind wants, does it?"

"Where did you get that lot?" He gave a nod of his head, accurately to the southeast. "Over there," he said, "we were attacking a place called Fresnoy. I'd just got over the top and I got one from a machine-gun in the leg. Before I dropped, an H.E. burst close to me and bowled me over. I was well peppered." And he laughed outright.

"I don't see much to laugh about?" he said.

"But it's so darned complete!" he chuckled. "You remember that yarn? The farmer out west standing in the bar-room—somebody comes running in to him and yells out, 'Say Jones, your house has been burned down!' 'No,' says he, 'Fact and your barns are all gone, too.' 'No,' says he, 'That's the neighbor's. And your stock is all burned and your hayricks.' 'No,' says the farmer, 'Fact, and your wife and kids are killed!' The farmer starts to laugh like blazes. 'What in thunder are you laughing at?' asks the neighbor. The farmer turns round to him, 'B—b—but it's so darned complete!'"

The way in which the wounded soldier told the yarn was inimitable. He pointed the story by giving the speech. The eyes impeding in his face were wonderful and his high spirits, despite the fact that he was swathed in bandages, struck one as amazing.

A Globe Trotter:

"Where on earth do you come from?" I asked.

"I'm a Scots-Irishman from an English mother," he said. "I've knocked about all over the globe. I ran away from school when I was coming on fourteen, and shipped on an Allan liner—the old Hibernian. What an old tub, she was—as an ordinary seaman. I was big for my age, and it was easy. I celebrated my twentieth birthday in the fo'c'sle at St. John's Newfoundland. Stuck at St. John's as quartermaster at eighteen, then tried my hand at farming in Canada. Liked it, but it was no Oregon. Got tired of that and labored on the Panama Canal. Shipped again and slipped it to Rosario. Was foreman on a railway job in the Argentine. Got a farm and grew alfalfa. Lord knows how many ducks I had, and how many head of cattle. The drought came and I lost the lot. I was hiking around Honolulu when

this affair came on—and dodged around until I came over from the States with mules. Enlisted at London—Kitchener's Army—in the beginning of 1915. Went out to France and have been there since. I've been pretty well all over the line, the Somme push and then this do. This is my first packet, and they've given me good measure, too."

"My Lord! That's a life if you like."

"Oh, yes. I've had a good time. 'If it isn't rude—what age are you?'"

"That's all right. I'm just thirty. I tell you what it is, when we've got this affair properly settled, our old Fritz done for, I'm going to start a small farm. I'm going to watch the little beggars running hundred yards handicaps."

"Going Well at the Front."

"How do you think things are going over there?"

"Now, look here, I'm going to tell you straight. This push is going on fine. We're killing Fritz like flies, and I take it that's what we're out for. For the first week or two after Easter we were going strong. It was a walk-over. Then we began to feel the resistance of the enemy getting stronger. They've got into a very strong line, and it will take a bit of backing to drive them from it. If we liked to be as brutal as the Germans we'd get on quicker; for the land too much. Still, I reckon there's a good reason behind our policy. In the first few days, the Germans weren't fighting as well as they are now; the quality of their troops was not so good. We'd got up to them and they'd give in without a fight. But the German command has got the wind up, and I'll tell you why I think so. They are putting in their very best troops against the British now. They're using all their storming troops. The men we've been up against round Fresnoy have been big, strong chaps that sometimes fight like devils. It's only up to a certain point, though. There's a breaking point, and past that they never go. As long as they are in big

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Summer Toys Auto Coaster Wagons, with roller bearings extra well made, at prices from \$6.50 to ..... \$8.50

Velocipedes, strongly made, have leather seat and rubber tires, price ..... \$4.95

OGILVIE, LOCHHEAD & CO. Beautiful Fancy Voiles They are extra special value, 40 in. wide, in very fine sheer weave, with light and dark grounds, reg. 75c, for this sale ..... 49c Indian Head at 25c Yard 36 in. wide, excellent quality, regular 35c a yard, for this sale ..... 25c We have special sales on in PALM BEACH SUITING, WHITE PIQUES, SERPENTINE CREPES and POPLINS, in white and colors. All to clear at exceptionally low prices. An Important Shipment of New Sport Silks at \$1.00 A shipment that should have been here months ago, and bought at the old price, in fancy plaids and sport effects, all very exclusive, beautiful quality silk. Comes in widths of 36 inches to 40 inches, would make a lovely skirt, suit or dress. Today's value is \$1.50 a yard, but we are offering it special for this sale ..... \$1.00 LOOK, MEN! A Line of Men's Hosiery 50c Seamless silk lisle Hose, special at per pair 25c, in blacks, tans, greys and other shadings. Mens navy blue bathing suits, regular \$1, on sale at ..... 85c Boys' Blouses That are cool and comfortable, made in fancy stripe prints, with turn down collar, closed and open cuffs. Splendid patterns and materials, all well made ..... 85c

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Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

LOCAL NEWS

GOING OVERSEAS Sub Flight Lieutenants Lamont and Joseph Baker of the Canadian Royal Flying Corps, their last leave having expired, left to-day on the first stage of their journey overseas. Since enlisting in the R. C. F. C. with the rank of cadet, they have been receiving instruction, but have now both qualified as flyers and are leaving for overseas.

MAPPING ROUTE Mr. Ray McNamara of the Maxwell automobile company was in the city yesterday together with Mr. A. Hedrich, district representative of the company, for the purpose of mapping out a roadway from Windsor to Montreal, for a race to be held in the near future.

MILITARY CROSS Mr. Word has been received in Brantford that Capt. A. C. Johnson, formerly of that place, has been awarded the Military Cross for valor upon the field. Capt. Johnson, who is a physician by profession, has resided for some years in Alberta, and went overseas attached to a western unit in the capacity of medical officer.

RETURNS TO DUTY Private Charles Wally, who left Brantford with the 25th battalion, and has been in England since that unit landed there about a year ago, returned to the city early this week. He contracted asthma while overseas and was invalided home. He left to-day for Camp Borden where he has been instructed to report for duty again.

PICNICS About three hundred and fifty members of St. Paul's and Trinity churches held a joint picnic to Port Dover yesterday over the Lake Erie & Northern Railway. This afternoon approximately five hundred more were expected to leave for the same destination from the Immanuel Baptist church.

STRUCK BY AUTO. When she passed to the rear of a street car from which she had just alighted yesterday at the noon hour at the corner of Arthur and Murray streets, Miss A. Batson, 11 Murray street, was struck by an automobile and knocked to the ground. The street car was going in an easterly direction while the automobile was travelling westward, and Miss Batson was unable to see the approaching vehicle on account of the street car. The driver immediately stopped and assisted the unfortunate lady to her home a block away.

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