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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1914.

THE WAR SITUATION.

Judging from despatches, the great battle of the Aisne is nearing the stage where it must be decisive. The news of yesterday from the war zone was not at all discouraging; on the contrary it held hope that success would rest with the Allies. The German attempts to break through the lines have apparently failed while the British and French troops are reported to have made further gains.

An important factor in the battle, and one which must grow in importance with each day of fighting, is the British quality of tenacity. Well drilled and well armed soldiers can make a brilliant showing in a battle of short duration, even if they lack the force to carry it on to a successful conclusion. It requires men of the traditional steadfastness of the British troops, however, to continue a fight as long as the battle of the Aisne has kept up, without signal success to either side. The men who can press forward time and again, after being forced back by a powerful enemy, are the men who must win in a struggle where as much depends upon resolution as in the present case. So far the Allies appear to have the advantage in this respect; they do not recognize reverses.

It is stated that the Germans are fighting with the desperation of men who realize that upon the outcome of this battle will depend much of the success or failure of the future campaign. Men in such condition may do deeds of valor that will redound greatly to their credit, but desperation does not always win battles. History teaches that confidence and steadiness have turned the scale more often than the desperation of a forlorn hope or a lost cause.

The next few days should produce results of decisive character. In the report of Sir John French it was stated that the German forces included the reserves; this being the case it can readily be seen how terribly the heavy loss of life must be telling on the Kaiser's armies. If, as reported, they have the further enemy of disease to cope with their plight is difficult indeed. Faced by a resolute and unbending foe on the battle line, ravaged by disease in their camps, and with the country behind them dissatisfied and sullen at the sacrifices the war has entailed, it is not surprising that the Germans should fight with desperation.

The reports indicating that Italy and Roumania intend to take an active part in the struggle have been revived during the past day or two. Should they prove to be correct, the armies arrayed against Germany would be increased by two powerful and efficient fighting forces. It is not improbable that one of the first actions of Italy after a declaration of war might be to strike across Austria and into the heart of Germany. Her task would be no more difficult than that of the Russians, and if an Italian army should cross the Alps, or, following a naval attack upon Trieste, strike through the Austrian provinces at the same time that the Russians were engaging Austrian troops on the other frontier, one or the other of the armies must soon find the road to the important German cities open before them. It would be a glorious stroke if, while the Russians were advancing upon Berlin, an Italian force could close on Munich and the other Bavarian cities. Such an operation might be expected to bring the war to a speedy termination—if it is not almost too good to be hoped for.

Whether Italy decides to join with the Allies or to retain her neutrality the situation is considerably improved. There must be a decisive result soon in the operations of the Russian and French and British forces. There is no reason to expect that it will be other than favorable to the cause for which the Empire is fighting.

A WISE POLICY.

That Canadians will now be able to get the very best qualities of Canadian fruit, principally apples, is a condition for which the European war is largely responsible. Hitherto the excellence of Canadian apples has been recognized to such an extent in Britain that the demand for the best qualities has been very large and the apple growers have found no difficulty in disposing of the best of their stock at fancy prices. Consequently the pigme product has been exported while the home market has been forced to content itself with an article of lower quality.

Canadian apple shipments have been an important factor of our export trade. Great Britain and Europe welcome the luscious products of the Canadian orchards and they have fixed upon them as the standards of quality for other apple exporters. The war has interfered with this business and

it has become necessary for the Canadian orchardist to find another market for his product. In this the Government has taken a hand and it is the intention that the Government will expend the money necessary to tell the purchasing public in Canada of the opportunity which awaits them as the result of conditions in Europe. In deciding upon this action the Government has acted not only in the interests of the fruit growers but of the fruit purchasers as well. There can be no doubt that the Canadian purchasers of apples will learn with approval of the Government's decision, as it will give them an opportunity to obtain a better quality of their favorite fruit. Apple growers will also endorse it as they will be provided with a market to replace that temporarily lost to them.

The Government in making the opportunity known to the Canadian people will utilize the best of all mediums, the newspapers. This is also good business. Private firms, catering for a trade, first stock their stores with a good article and then advertise it. The stores of the Canadian fruit grower are already stocked with the finest of all fruit and the only thing now necessary is to tell prospective purchasers of the quality bargains in store for them. The decision of the Government to take upon itself this task will be generally commended. By their action they not only ensure to the fruit grower a good market for his product, but they will assist the Canadian public in securing a better article than that with which they have been forced to be satisfied in the past. As it is with apples, so it may be in other lines. Canadian export trade must suffer to some extent because of the chaotic condition into which Europe has been plunged and the closing of ordinary avenues of trade. If it can be found that the home market can be developed to assimilate the products formerly exported, then the struggle across the world may prove to possess for Canada a lasting benefit which will do something to compensate for temporary loss of business. In taking steps along this line the Government has again shown that it is alert and businesslike and worthy of the support of all Canadians who place business welfare ahead of partizan political considerations.

The trial of the young man Braman sufficed to give another young lawyer a chance to rap the moving picture theatre and the censors. Despite his earnest contention that the moving pictures exhibited in St. John serve as an incentive to crime, we venture the opinion that his statement was not fortified by knowledge. The "Movies" are an important source of amusement to a very large section of the community. They are already past the experimental stage and have established their usefulness here and elsewhere. All the oratorical outbursts of juvenile disciples of Blackstone are not likely to interfere with the business of the theatres or to cause the censors to change the methods which appear to be giving very general satisfaction.

St. John theatregoers will welcome the opening of the winter season of stock productions. Last season the Thompson-Woods organization made many friends for themselves by their clever productions of good plays. If last evening's performance may be taken as a criterion then the company which is now with us, under the same ownership, but containing new faces, will prove as popular as its predecessor.

If the report is true that there is a possibility of a New Brunswick unit being sent to the front to supplement the splendid contingent of fighting men which Canada has already contributed then there will be no lack of volunteers. As it is, one unit of the first contingent will bear the flag of New Brunswick and is likely to add lustre to the fair name of this province.

The Kaiser is reported to be suffering from an illness caused by falling into a water-filled trench. If he had to take his place with his men fighting in the water-filled trenches day in and day out, with all the added discomforts of insulative bullets poking about his head, his fierce desire for war might be somewhat assuaged.

Although dwarfed by comparison with events in Europe, the Japanese campaign against the German forces in China is being successfully carried on. The Japs proved their mettle as fighting men some ten years ago, but it is interesting to learn that they have not forgotten the art.

Madame Thebes, the noted French seeress, set November 1st as the date on which the war would cease. It is sincerely to be hoped that she is a good guesser.

Bravo!

(London Daily Mail.)
 Kitchener sat in his London den. Silent and grim and grey. Making his plans with an iron pen. Just in Kitchener's way. And he saw where the clouds rose dark and dim. And all that it meant he knew; We shall want every man who can shoulder a gun To carry this thing right through! Bravo, Kitchener! Say what you want. And the world shall know, where our bugles blow. We've a man at the head—today!

Jellcoke rides on the grey north seas. Watching the enemy's lines. Their lord high admirals skulk at ease. Inside of their hellish mines. They have drunk too deep to the boozed fight. They have vowed too mad a vow! What do they think on the watch-tower tonight? What are they drinking now? Bravo, Jellcoke! Call them again. And whenever they take the call Show them the way, give them their bugles blow. And settle it once for all!

And French is facing the enemy's Stubborn day by day. Taking the odds and bearing the brunt. Just in the Britaners' way. And he hears the message that makes him glad Ring through the smoke and flame! "Jack's at the same old game!" Bravo, Tommy! Stand as you've stood And, whether you win or fall, Show them you fight as gentlemen should. And die like gentlemen all!

So Kitchener plans in London Town. French is standing at bay. Jellcoke's ships rise up and down. Holding the seas' highway. And you that loaf where the skies are blue. And play a petticoat him. These are the men who are fighting for you! What are you doing for them? Bravo, then, for the men who fight! To hell with the men who play! It's a fight to the end for honor and friend. It's a fight for our lives today! —Fred E. Weatherly.

Conditions in Turkey

(Boston Transcript.)
 The desperate political situation of Turkey is reflected by a despatch received in Boston from a high authority in Constantinople. It seems that at the beginning of September urged by German advisers and under ministerial leadership, Turkey was rapidly drifting towards war. Mobilization was carried on with extreme vigilance and with a determined recklessness as to the cost entailed beyond all precedent in Turkey. The utter disregard of the consequences of such a course was shown in the mobilization revealed the critical situation in which the Government was placed. The moratorium declared for one month was then revoked and extended for another month. Constantinople banks were still refusing to pay their depositors, excepting a small sum for daily expenses. There was a serious question with the banks whether it would be possible for them to remain open even for such small payments. Business about the country was at a standstill. Merchants and others having money were hoarding it and there was no sale for mercantile paper in the provinces. Peculiarly enough, the war, which was expected to be a source of revenue for the Government, was regarded by the country almost regardless of what they left behind them in the form of houses and other immovable property.

To add to the confusion it was recognized that the entente Powers were daily becoming more and more exasperated with the German policy. The Ottoman Government in response to her German advisers. Anticipating that Turkey was likely to go to Germany's aid by declaring war against Russia, it seemed not improbable that the patience of the Powers might reach the breaking point and that they might declare war against Turkey before she had time to act herself in that direction. Such an act, it was feared, would be followed by declaration of war on the part of Greece who regards Turkey's attitude as altogether hostile to her. Foreign residents, especially those representing nations involved in the war, were quietly planning what to do should the emergency arise. The outlook was said to be decidedly "gloomy."

The passing of this month without Turkey's becoming actually involved in the war strengthens the hope expressed that some solution might be found which would stave off such action while it does not lessen the fact that the war has added to the tension, disorder and distress throughout the Turkish empire.

The Real German Spirit

(From the Rochester Herald.)
 The destruction of Louvain and Rheims, with their countless artistic treasures, has led many to ask if the Germans are barbarians. If the Russians had done what the Germans have done, Americans in general would not have been surprised, for Americans are accustomed to thinking of Russia as a barbarous country, as a country far more barbarous, indeed, than it really is, but they have been not only surprised, but shocked, to discover that a people priding itself upon being the most civilized in Europe should have been guilty of such wanton acts of destruction. Are the Germans barbarians? They are as much over and over again at the present juncture. No, we must answer, the Germans are not barbarians, any more than Americans are, but they have been hypnotized into believing that the despotism of their government can do no wrong, and they are not yet clearly enough minded to see that they are living under a despotism which has wrought not only the world at large, but the German people themselves more than any others. The German

as a people are, in the main, very hospitable, very devoted to all that is noblest in human life, very patient in adversity, very true hearted that pertains to the heart, very tolerant, and even sympathetic toward all that emanates from the thinking mind. No foreigner ever had a greater love for the Germans than Carlyle had, and all persons who have lived for any length of time in Germany feel that Carlyle saw very deeply into its soul. But the true Germany is not manifesting itself very conspicuously at present. The Germans have come to believe—they have been hypnotized into believing—that the world is jealous of them, and has long been desirous of doing them harm. Even the gentle Professor Bucken has come to believe that. They believe that the world wants to destroy their commerce and their national integrity, and that they must fight for their very existence. Militarism has wrought havoc with German perception. And we fear very much that Germans are so bewitched at present that they are going to act like barbarians until their power to work mischief is crushed by the success of the armies of the Allies. When that has happened the true German spirit will, we predict, show itself and be restored to its rightful place, not only in Germany, but in Europe and the world.

Gentle German Governess

An Englishman residing in Ottawa has received a letter, dated September 14th, from relatives in England. In the letter one of the following passages occurs:—"The M—'s of G— had a German governess for the children. The governess called at G—'s a few days ago and asked to have her sent out for a walk, as they wished to search her room. This they did, and found a number of bombs, etc., concealed in her trunks and about the room, and they say other German governesses round hereof have been found doing the same thing."

HE SNEEZED.

Eddie Cicotte is one of the charter members of the Order of the Kerkchoo, master of the Hay Fever. Far from permitting a little thing like that to trouble him, he makes use of it. He was pitching a game for the Chicago White Sox in Philadelphia and he perpetrated a trifling talk. The umpire was just lifting his hand to call the ball when Eddie cut loose a kerk-choo that started the flags flapping on the stands. "Balk nothing," yelled Cicotte, as he recovered, "I was sneezing." A few moments later a runner reached first. Eddie commenced to make faces, distort his features, and, right in the midst of a terrific sneeze he shot the ball to first and nipped the runner.

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BANK CASHIER ROBBED WITHIN 100 YARDS FROM PRISON

Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 28.—Within a hundred yards of the state prison, a masked man held up Geo. A. Goff, cashier of the Sugar House Bank and Clifford Goff, a bookkeeper, locked the two men in the bank vault, took \$1,825 and escaped. It was forty minutes before the two men were able to get out of the vault and give the alarm.

RAISED CHECK FROM \$54 TO \$54,000.

Montreal, Sept. 28.—James Birch, enough, real estate broker and financial agent, was found guilty this morning of raising a \$54 check to \$54,000 on October 6 last, and he will come up for sentence some time next week.

Rich Pickings.

The British naval officer was on his way to the bank with several bags of prize money. "Hallo," exclaimed a friend, "what have you there?" "These," replied the Britisher, "are the fortunes of war that you've so often read about."

Not With Water, However.

He—I gave a poor man a dollar yesterday and told him to come around and let me know how he was getting on. She—That was good of you; like casting your bread upon the waters. He—Yes, something like that. Any way he came back this morning "soaked."

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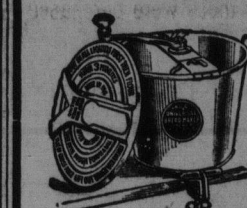
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