

ON THE SPOT.

One (1) Car of Bright Whole Corn
—AT—
Good Prices.

J. J. ROSSITER
Real Estate Agent

The Mail and Advocate

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JOHN J. ST. JOHN

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., NOV. 20, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Missing Schooners

THE gale on Tuesday is responsible for driving to sea two or three schooners with at least 50 lives. A year or two ago we agitated for a heavy tug capable of searching the ocean in quest of schooners, driven to sea by the fall gales which this country seldom escapes. Had the Government provided such a steamer which could be used as a tug, she would have been self supporting and provided an insurance against loss of life, which is a usual happening along the Northern Bays in the fall months.

Last year was an exception. This year, up to Tuesday, no gales were experienced; but if Tuesday's gale claims 40 or 50 lives, it will be a sad day for Newfoundland.

The schr. "J. J. Rose," Captain Clemens, which left Catalina on Monday, must have reached Cape St. Francis by the time the wind veered South on Monday night. The little boat "Annie" of Red Island, P.B., would have easily been saved had there been a rescuing steamer ready to go to her aid on Wednesday.

Fifty schooners left here for North early Tuesday morning, and so far have all been heard from. Two or three went ashore; but no loss of life has been reported up to the present.

What might have happened if the N.W. gale broke three hours earlier may better be imagined than described. Some of those schooners received a severe overhauling, but came through owing to having fairly good canvass.

Over a quarter of a million dollars worth of goods formed the cargoes of that fleet of vessels and not ten per cent of that sum was insured.

Very few who carefully studied conditions Tuesday believed that 90 per cent of the fleet that left here for North that morning would pull through and reach port safely.

The Government can find \$24,000 to expend on a fad under the supervision of Dr. Rendell. They have during seven years spent \$250,000 on a useless, wasteful policy called an Agricultural Policy. They have expended \$40,000 during the last five years in repairing the Fiona. They have added 200 loafers to the Civic Service List and increased the Civil Service expenditure nearly \$100,000 per year.

Yet for such a laudable object as providing a suitable tug that could be utilized to save life and property annually risked by the gales of October, November and December, they could not find five cents.

Surely Minister of Fisheries Piccott might have left some monu-

Where the War Will be Decided

KITCHENER'S departure for the Near East has undoubtedly intensified popular opinion regarding the significance of the Balkan campaign as the "beginning of the end." There are anxieties in England concerning Egypt, and possibly India. The German press speaks jubilantly of a victorious thrust at the heart of the British Empire, and foresees Kitchener at the task of defending the Egypt which he consolidated. It was inevitable that from the beginning of the Teutonic invasion of Serbia, and Bulgaria's entrance into the conflict, the attention of the world should be directed towards Suez. In part, this is due to the magic of vast possibilities. Unquestionably, the approach of German armies closer to that vital link in England's colonial possessions does raise all sorts of speculations.

No one will venture to say that an extension of the war to Egypt is altogether impossible. But sober and expert critics in England and Germany do not regard such an event as probable. If the war is to be decided on the field of battle, instead of by exhaustion, the decision must fall in what still remains the crucial point of contact, France and Belgium.

A recent dispatch quotes from an address of the Kaiser to his troops in Belgium: "Import results are pending in the Balkans, where our troops and those of our courageous allies are bringing glory upon themselves. It is on the western front, however, that all eyes are turned, and the necessity of success here is paramount."

Of English students of the war, the best-known, Hilaire Belloc, has declared that the attack on Serbia is intended as a political diversion, with the object of creating discord and chaos among the Allies and affecting popular opinion among Germany's enemies. And the able Major Morant, the most thoughtful of German military commentators, makes very much the same point. He describes the attack on Serbia as primarily a strategic operation, of service "to the policies of the Central Powers and the Will to Conquer (Siegesidee) which animates us."

This is as much as to say that the Balkan campaign is aiming primarily at a moral effect. Morant insists that the belief in victory among the Allies is thoroughly shattered, that doubts and suspicions have arisen among Germany's opponents, that Italy, for example, has refused to place herself at the orders of Great Britain and France, and is determined to wage her own war.

The Balkan campaign is thus a continuation of German policy as it was determined long before the outbreak of the war, but adapted to present circumstances. The iron ring around Germany had to be broken. It was to be done by victory on the field of battle, first France, then Russia, then England. Later the plan changed. It was to be first Russia and then France. But Russia, though de-

feated, did not acknowledge herself beaten. Neither was she tired out, and the plan of breaking up the iron ring, not through crushing victory, but through the seductions of a separate peace, fell through.

The war became more than ever a war of attrition. In this contest the Allies were bound to win, if it was only a case of matching physical loss against physical. So the war, if won, must be won, from the German point of view, by moral attrition. How long would the Allies hold out if Germany held her own in the conquered lands of east and west and at the same time continued to keep up popular spirits at home by physical victories where they were still to be had, namely, in Serbia?

Observe how Morant describes it. On the one hand, the will to conquer is to be nurtured at home; on the other hand, the belief in victory is to be shattered among the Allies. With German bulletins still recording victories, if only over the Serbians, with Allied bulletins recording only deadlocks, this war of endurance and "nerves" is to turn out as favorable for Germany as the actual test of armies has proved, when measured by the visible fruits of victory.

Endurance And Efficiency

THE Germans are not alone in their anxieties over the national food supply. High prices obtain in England and France. One of the problems which the Paris press has been discussing is the same that now confronts the German Government, namely, the prevention of speculation in food. This is the plain meaning of Berlin's announcement that there is enough food for the people, but that prices must be regulated so as to ameliorate the hardships of the poor. Speculation in food is openly charged in the Paris newspapers.

We are witnessing one of the inevitable effects of a long war in the wearing down of the first fine instincts of patriotism, and the re-assertion of selfish interests. The tone of the German press is bitter in its implication that because of private selfishness and governmental incapacity the burdens of the war have fallen with special weight on the lower classes. The Government is apparently on the defensive when it goes to the pains of declaring in an official note that a large portion of the Socialist party agrees that the new food regulations are sufficient for the needs of "the whole nation."

It may be that the problem is just as acute in France, and that our impressions of German conditions are partly shaped by the very foresightedness of the Berlin authorities. Germany is in the habit of taking drastic measures for the purpose of warding off a situation which other nations deal with thoroughly only when it arises.

There is, however, significance in the fact that the problem of a food supply manipulated to the disadvantage of the poor should ever arise in Germany. It compels us to revise fairly established notions about the extraordinary discipline, resourcefulness, patriotism, and unity of the German people.

We now begin to discern the same limitations of humanity under which the less efficient and disciplined nations labor. The man who would make an extra profit out of the starvation of the poor is apparently not unknown in Germany. The selfish rich who find ways of evading the regulations for bread cards and meatless days have to be dealt with. The control of the food supply has been taken over from the provincial authorities by the Federal Government, which argues that not every German official, wherever found, is by definition a model of the highest conceivable efficiency. But above all the fact stands out that, while Germany may not be threatened with famine, she is plainly facing a shortage of food.

It is all very well to throw the blame on the speculator, but food is usually not cornered when it exists in abundance. The Frankfurter Zeitung speaks of sinister conditions brought on by the blockade. Maximilian Harden says the German people are in distress. A South German paper whispers the dread word "famine." Official

Endurance And Efficiency

feared, did not acknowledge herself beaten. Neither was she tired out, and the plan of breaking up the iron ring, not through crushing victory, but through the seductions of a separate peace, fell through.

The vision of England with her back against the wall somewhere around Suez and the Pyramids is just the sort of thing to keep up flagging spirits at home and to accentuate depression among the Allies. And this is why the German press to-day concentrates on Egypt with much of that same finality of tone with which it spoke of the end of the war around Calais and in Russia.

Press opinion in Germany, more than in any other country, has a way of dealing with universal and perpetual certainties. And tomorrow, when another opinion rules, that also is universally and perpetually certain. Even observers of the more cautious type can not escape this tone of finality. Morant spoke half a year ago of the Russians in retreat as a disorganized and discouraged "soldatesko." To-day he speaks of Germany in the west and in Russia as standing on the defensive. Morant spoke contemptuously of Kitchener's gathering battalions, and was convinced that Germany's leaders would see to it that Kitchener had no leisure for building up a real army. To-day there are a million English soldiers in the west, and the German effort has turned in altogether a different direction.

If we study the progress of the German campaign in Serbia, impressive though it has been, the heralded attack on Egypt is only a remote possibility. The Teutonic armies have been moving forward in Serbia with the same machine-like precision which marked their advance into Russia. But that very precision is dependent upon long preparation and the proximity of sources of supply. Operating through the Sinai desert is by no means the same thing as operating close to the Danube.—The Nation.

Berlin, in defending Zeppelin raids, speaks of "millions who are suffering not inconsiderable sacrifice."

This is a situation which will come as a surprise to those who have been persuaded of Germany's limitless capacities in rallying to the needs of a crisis. Last winter Germany's anxieties concerning food were to terminate automatically with the harvest of 1915. It was assumed that this harvest would be sufficient for a year, because it simply had to suffice, because Germany willed it so. The mere fact that four million men were away from the farms was no handicap. German ingenuity would utilize woman's labor, would devise magic fertilizers by which the earth would give forth in increased abundance. That was nonsense, of course. For one thing, the rains could not be mobilized at the behest of the General Staff, and the crop of 1915 has suffered from drought.

The story of extraordinary substitutes devised under pressure of war—substitutes for nitrate, for copper, for cotton, for wool, for foods—has been accepted seriously by a good many people because the story came from Germany. The legend of a Germany that has replaced everything with something just as good has been incorporated into serious economic studies of the war. But now we are beginning to see that there are limits even to what Germany and her people can do.

We are brought back to the thought that perhaps democracy and individual liberty are not always synonymous with middle, but, as President Eliot implied, in an address last week, may give rise to an efficiency of their own which we have been too ready to discard without waiting for definite results of the war and for knowledge of the price that the different nations are paying for the results so far obtained.

And these doubts of the perfect German efficiency are not confined to the outside world. The German press, in commenting on the Government's handling of the food problem, speaks of "abuses," "insufficient measures," and "dismal and unholly" policies. It is the inevitable outcome of fifteen months of war carried on with prodigious efforts and cost, and no end in sight.

The Frankfurter Zeitung can only recommend drawing one's belt tighter and hacking a way through. But hacking through to what? The West is out of the question. The hacking process in Russia has come to an end, and the conquest of the Czar's grain lands has not relieved the situation.

There is only Serbia now to hack through. When Gen. Mackensen opens the way to Constantinople he has come no nearer to a source of food supply for the beleaguered German people. Asiatic Turkey is hardly in a position to feed the German Empire. Hence that very grim jest by The Frankfurter Zeitung, when it foresees the necessity of the German people "nourishing" itself on hate.—The Nation.

NOTICE.

THE SEVENTH Annual Convention of the Supreme Council of the F.P.U. of Newfoundland will be held at ST. JOHN'S on the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th of NOVEMBER next. All Councils, District and Local are expected to send Delegates.

By order of the President,
W. W. HALFYARD,
Secretary F.P.U.
St. John's, Oct. 25, 1915.

NOTICE.

THE FOURTH Annual Meeting of the Fishermen's Union Trading Co., Ltd., will be held at ST. JOHN'S on THURSDAY, the 25th of NOVEMBER next at 7.30 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that at the said meeting Resolutions will be submitted to increase the authorized capital of the said Company from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

W. W. HALFYARD,
Secretary.
St. John's, Oct. 25, 1915.

NOTICE.

THE First Annual Meeting of the Union Export Co., Ltd., will be held at ST. JOHN'S on the afternoon of the 25th Day of NOVEMBER next.

W. W. HALFYARD,
Acting Secretary.
St. John's, Oct. 25, 1915.

NOTICE.

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of the Union Publishing Co., Ltd., will be held at ST. JOHN'S in the forenoon of the 25th Day of NOVEMBER next.

W. W. HALFYARD,
Secretary.
St. John's, Oct. 25, 1915.

NOTICE.

FOGO DISTRICT COUNCIL of the F.P.U. will hold its Sixth Annual Meeting at ST. JOHN'S during Convention week. All Local Councils will please arrange to send a Delegate.

W. W. HALFYARD,
Chairman.

NOTICE.

BONAVISTA DISTRICT COUNCIL of the F.P.U. will hold its Fifth Annual Meeting at ST. JOHN'S during Convention week. All Local Councils will please arrange to send a Delegate.

R. G. WINSOR,
Chairman.

NOTICE.

TWILLINGATE District Council of the F.P.U. will hold its Sixth Annual Meeting at ST. JOHN'S during Convention week. All Local Councils will please arrange to send a Delegate.

W. B. JENNINGS,
Chairman.

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