

The Evening Times and Star

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THE WAR NEWS

One of last night's reports was to the effect that the German chancellor would make a statement in the Reichstag today setting forth the terms on which Germany is willing to make peace. Germany, however, will not dictate the terms of peace.

The British government has given another evidence of its determination to pursue this war to the bitter end by taking over control of the entire engine-ering trade of the country in order to increase the output of munitions of war. The house of commons unanimously endorsed this action.

There is no news of special importance from the eastern or western front or from the Dardanelles. The general situation remains favorable for the Allies.

Much interest is felt in the situation not only in Greece but in Bulgaria and Italy, and the general impression appears to be that these countries are gradually drifting toward war against Turkey and Austria, and of necessity also against Germany.

While German submarines have destroyed three more British merchant vessels, a statement issued by the Admiralty shows that during the week ending March 4th, 1,574 vessels passed to and from British ports and not one was lost. The German blockade is a failure.

A NOTABLE CHANGE

It is interesting now to recall the fears which existed some five or six months ago in relation to possible achievements of the German navy. While it was felt that the British navy was sufficiently powerful to destroy the German fleet in a great battle there was more or less fear that the Germans, while avoiding such a conflict, would, by the use of their submarines and mines, gradually reduce the efficiency of the British fleet. At the same time, German cruisers in the Atlantic and Pacific were doing considerable damage, and the task of destroying them was very difficult, because they appeared to have such excellent facilities for getting supplies, and such sources of information as enabled them to avoid direct conflict with the British. There was also the fear of what German submarines might do in the destruction of British transports carrying troops to France. Even as late as three weeks ago it was feared that the threatened German blockade of British ports might prove to be a formidable affair. There had been so much talk about the efficiency of the German fleet and the destruction to be wrought by Zeppelins that even people who entertained no doubt as to ultimate victory for Britain feared that the cost might be very great. Looking back over the seven months of war it is possible now to estimate the true worth of German boats. It is true that Britain has lost some warships and quite a large number of merchant ships, but the loss is slight in comparison with that inflicted upon Germany, and there is no longer any fear in the British mind of a German naval success in any direction, or the remotest danger of an invasion of English soil. The dreaded cruisers in the Atlantic and Pacific have been destroyed or are no longer to be feared. A portion of the main German fleet has been destroyed in the North Sea, and the rest of it is in hiding. The German submarines have sunk no transports, and have destroyed but a mere handful of merchant vessels. They have not been able to interfere at all successfully with the trade of Britain. The dreaded Zeppelins have accomplished nothing. At every point British superiority is assured, and the best evidence of the absolute confidence of the British government in Britain's ability to command the situation in the North Sea and all the waters around the British Isles is the fact that so large a squadron of her most powerful ships has been sent to the Dardanelles, to join in forcing the passage of the Straits, and destroying the power of Turkey in that region.

When we turn from consideration of the naval aspect of the war to the fighting on land, we find that the same changes in the mental attitude of British peoples has taken place. Germany has shot her bolt. She cannot get to Paris or to Calais. She cannot get to Warsaw or drive the Russians out of Galicia, or keep them out of East Prussia. Her armies have hurled themselves in vain against the French and British lines in the west, and the Russian lines in the east. The most she can hope to do is to prolong the struggle. The statement is probably true that General Joffre could even now break through the German lines if he cared to make his great assault at this time. He is waiting, however, for better weather, and for a more complete preparation, to launch with overwhelming force such a drive as will force the enemy out of France and Belgium and behind their fortifications on the Rhine.

The Allies know that they will win. A spirit of confidence prevails and grows. They do not under-estimate the resisting power of the enemy, but they realize their own strength. The Germans are simply beating their wings against the steel bars of a cage from which there is no escape.

GREATER ST. JOHN

The town planning commission is wise in its effort to make the boundaries of Greater St. John include a large area east, north and west. A proper town planning scheme should be prepared for such portions of that area as are now being built upon or are likely to be built upon within the next few years, and, by having the larger area brought under the control of the commission for town planning purposes, that body will be able to exercise proper supervision, and guard against any action being built up without proper regard to a comprehensive general plan. It will be entirely to the interest of property owners, as well as of the citizens generally, to have the necessary boundaries set and approved. Such action will be a guarantee of better housing and better living conditions for all who come to live in Greater St. John, and the whole city will share the benefit. The visit of Mr. Adams is bearing better fruit than even the members of the town planning commission anticipated. He appears to have come at the right time, and to have inspired all with whom he came in contact with his own enthusiasm. St. John has an opportunity to set the pace for Canadian cities, and to give the world another evidence of a steadily growing public spirit, and a desire to have the city developed along right lines. By all means let the plan of the Greater St. John be prepared and all arrangements made so that it may be approved without unnecessary delay.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

What are the objects of Children's Aid Societies? The question is very well answered in the annual report of the Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children in Nova Scotia, as follows:

1. To protect children from cruelty.
2. To provide and care for friendless and destitute children.
3. To endeavor to prevent children from becoming incorrigible and criminal.
4. To endeavor to prevent children from becoming destitute or dependent on public charity.
5. To teach neglectful or cruel parents their duties towards their children.
6. To endeavor to provide suitable foster homes for such children as may require them.

There is a Children's Aid Society in St. John. There are many children in St. John who ought to be protected from cruelty and neglect, and there are friendless and destitute children who should be cared for and placed in foster homes. The Children's Aid Society, however, is entirely without funds, and is therefore utterly unable to carry on its work.

As a matter of fact, the province of New Brunswick should follow the example of the province of Nova Scotia and appoint a superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children, to encourage and assist in the organization and establishment of Children's Aid Societies and assist them in carrying on their work. The Nova Scotia superintendent is also the chief probation officer for juvenile delinquents in that province.

Neither good streets nor a town plan will make a city. Why should we lay the emphasis upon these and neglect the boys and girls?

Fast steamers are able to run away from German submarines. When such a steamer sights the enemy in good time she is apparently quite safe. One would like to hear a present expression of the views of that portion of the German press which quite recently boasted about what their submarines would do to British commerce.

A French doctor in charge of a medical corps remained behind to care for the wounded when the position was captured by the Germans. This doctor carried a revolver, as is the custom in the army. Because he carried it he was shot by a Prussian captain. The wound was not fatal, and the doctor lived to tell another story of German violation of the rules of civilized warfare.

It would apparently pay the owners of summer cottages to combine and employ a detective to keep an eye on their properties during the season of the year when the cottages are closed. The detection and severe punishment of one or two of the persons who break into the cottages to destroy and steal would have a salutary effect upon that class of criminals in general.

A delivery wagon containing quarters of beef without covering stood for some time on Prince William Street yesterday, with a high wind blowing down upon the wagon and its contents the dust and filth of the street. It is quite useless for the police to take action in a case of this kind? It is quite useless to have laws and regulations regarding public health if merchants who have no regard for public health are permitted to violate those laws and regulations with impunity.

LIGHTER VEIN

Keeping Out
"Hey, don't you see that light going on over there, officer? Why don't you jump in and stop it?"
"Not much, young feller; I'm neutral."

Courage
"That fellow's got courage."
"So?"
"He's backed out of two weddings that had been planned for him."

The Silver Lining
Mother (to newly enlisted son)—
Good-bye, and I hope you'll come back safely.
Small Brother—Can I have your motorbike if you don't?

"By jove, I am glad to see you looking so gay and festive!" said Mr. Old-Friend. "You were all black the last time I saw you." "Yes," demurely replied Mrs. Brogin, who had just taken a second husband, "but it wasn't a fast black."

The dentist had just moved into a place previously occupied by a baker, when a friend called.
"Pardon me a moment," said the dentist, "while I dig off those enamel letters of 'Bakery' from the front of the window."

"Why not merely dig off the 'B' and let it go at that?" suggested the friend.
Angelina—And so you love me with all your heart? Would you die for me?
Edwin—No, dear, I wouldn't.
Angelina—You wouldn't die for me?
Edwin—No; mine is an undying affection.

Diamond's Peculiar Position

The South African Diamond Mines are closed. The cutting and polishing industry of Antwerp is ruined. The only other centre of the kind, Amsterdam, is little better off.

At present there are no Diamonds being put on the market. The controlling syndicate is holding their surplus stock.

The Canadian government has recently levied a war tax of 7½ per cent.

Diamonds must just naturally go much higher. The American continent, which is being led astray by the war, buys about 70 per cent of the world's output.

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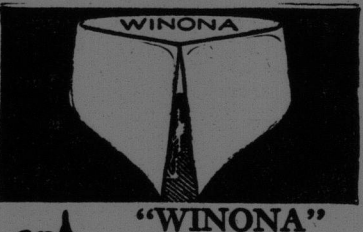
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Thin, lightly spread slices of BUTTERNUT BREAD, with a glass of milk, or a cup of hot cocoa, will be found delightfully tasty and comforting just before retiring.

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