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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, April 15th, 1918.
OFFICERS' DRESS.

Officers in the British Army are no longer liable to the rebuke of an Assistant Provost Marshal because they wear collars or ties lighter than the standard shade of khaki. The Army Council has ruled that, in view of the shortage of material and dye, an officer may wear neckwear of any buff or yellow hue, however light, provided it is not pure white. Officers can also wear shoes instead of boots in town. That used to be a misdemeanour, but the Army Council wishes to save leather. It now encourages holders of His Majesty's commission to ride in electric trams, motor omnibuses and other public conveyances, telling them that in order to save petrol they should not take a taxi if they can travel otherwise. The A.P.M.'s occupation is not to give an officer whom he sees speaking a pipe in the street. Perhaps in view of the paper shortage the Army Council will next order officers to smoke pipes instead of cigarettes.

CONTINENTAL MILITARY AGE.

The new Military Service Bill (now being debated in the House of Commons) will bring this country practically up to the standard of France in respect of military age. In France the age limit may be taken as 48 and called up early in the war are now 45. I believe that in France men of the older categories are not as rule employed in work in the front lines. A Frenchman's liability for military service lasts for 28 years. For example, a French officer now in London gives the following account of his ar-

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- 350 Half Sacks P. E. I. Potatoes (Blues). Now due.
- 20 Half Chests Golden Tip Ceylon Tea. Retailing at 50c. lb.
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Highest Quality at Lowest Prices.

- Eddy's Silent Matches, large size, 6c.
- Brisket Beef, 1 lb. tin, 25c.
- Libby's Tomatoes, 3 lb. tin, 30c.
- Flour, Best Family, \$1.10 Stone
- Pride's Canned Apples, 50c. pk.
- Roll-Oats, best Canadian, 5c. lb.
- Table Raisins, 1 lb. ctns., 25c.
- Granulated Yellow Corn Meal, 1 lb. sack, 7c.
- Potato Flour, 1 lb. ctn., 30c.
- Sliced Bacon, in glass, 50c. 6d.
- Hayseed, finest Timothy, 18c. lb.

- Just in 300 lbs. Beecham Bacon.
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- EGGS—finest country.

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my them. A villager who cannot buy an ounce of tobacco because it has all been bought up by interested Germans has a genuine grievance.

SINGING FOR A TRAIN SEAT.

An excellent story of a tenor of Drury Lane opera fame being compelled to sing for his seat in a train (which he had to catch in order to keep a seaside engagement) graphically illustrates the conditions prevalent at a well-known London railway terminus, Victoria Station, in these days. Frank Mullings, the Irish tenor, is a man of the physical development, and his Herculean proportions scarcely suggest the typical tenor. Presenting himself at the barrier he was told this by the ticket collector in very direct terms. A seat in the outgoing train was not to be had for love or money. "But I must go. It is essential," urged Mr. Mullings; "I am advertised to sing in Eastbourne to-day." "Sing! You don't look to me like a singer," said the collector; but, resolved to put him to the test, "let's hear," he added, "if you can sing." There was only one thing for it. Mr. Mullings meant to keep his engagement, and instantly complied with a stave or two from a favourite air. There was no mistake about it. Here was a singer, sure enough. "I beg pardon, sir, that's good enough for me," said the smiling collector as he raised the barrier and clipped the tenor's ticket. He was an excellent judge, and the singer caught his train in a few giant strides.

AIRCRAFT IN THE BATTLE.

One who is in close touch with our air forces operating in France has given me some interesting facts about their work in the great battle. Between March 20-21 and April 3-4 they brought down 240 enemy machines and drove down 125, while 122 are missing. During the same period 1,138,525 pounds of small arms ammunition were fired from British aeroplanes at ground targets. At first sight the expenditure seems small considering the number of aeroplanes in action. But it has to be remembered that in work of this character the firing is intermittent, and rarely amounts to more than 10 or 15 rounds during each dive. In March we raided Germany on 13 days, whereas the enemy reached London only once. Excluding bombs dropped in Germany, our aeroplanes dropped in the battle area between the dates given 1794 tons by day and 161 tons by night. On one day 250,000 rounds of small arms ammunition were fired from the air at ground targets, and 31 tons of bombs were dropped and on one night 63,000 rounds were fired and 28½ tons of bombs dropped. One brigade destroyed 22 enemy craft and drove down 7 out of control.

Swollen With Aggression.

"It is clear," says the Daily Mail, "that Germany stands unprepared for war, and swollen with aggression. Never, to all outward seeming, was she less in the mood to consider any terms of peace except her own, and her own terms would mean the enslavement of Europe."

NOTICE.—Correspondents are requested to accompany their REAL NAMES, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The editor refuses to accept any matter unless this rule is adhered to.

SOCIAL AND DANCE.—On to-morrow, Thursday night, the St. Mary's Young Women's Bible class are holding a Social and Dance in Botwood Hall. The proceeds will be given to the C. of E. Orphanage and Flower's Cove Mission. An enjoyable evening is assured those who attend.

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WHEN AND WHERE GERMANY WILL BE DEFEATED.

(W. Beach Thomas, Famous War Correspondent, in America, after three years at the Front, sees end of War in 1919 with America the Deciding Factor.)

That Germany "lost the war" when her U-boats sank the Lusitania and that peace will come next year when the full military might of America, combined with that of the Allies, is hurled against her, though the fighting may still be in France and Flanders, is the belief of the Allied military leaders as expressed by W. Beach Thomas, who is in this country fresh from the British Headquarters in France. In Current Opinion for May, this spokesman of the Allied High Command goes further and says that the present great drive is Germany's acknowledgment that she must win now or never, and that German defeat will come in 1919 with the "armies not far from the cliff of trenches that joins the floods by Neuport to the neighborhood of the Swiss mountains where the French are clinging to one small reach of German territory." He writes: "Oscillations there will be, victories and defeats there will be at this and that spot in the line; and one day there will be a symptomatic defeat and victory from which any observer, whether he is seer or no, will be able to deduce with some certainty the progressive decline of one side or the other. It is inconceivable to the mind of any leaders among the Allies that this progressive decline—this spot on the fair fruit of the alliance—can appear among them while America, with her 100 million people and resources that defy arithmetic, is heart and soul in the cause. We may have defeats but not progressive defeats. Those are reserved for the Central Powers. When the first of this sort comes, peace will be in sight. Germany will not wait—neither her population nor her army authorities will permit it—till she tumbles back in successive failures upon her own frontiers, and the targets for the growing hordes of airmen come nearer and nearer, and the boom of the Liberty engine at last plays foreign music over German cities."

Further: "American influence on the war will be irresistible; her ships, her men, her wealth, her will. When Tirpitz rose victor from the interview with Bethmann-Hollweg and the U-boats sank the Lusitania with a pair of torpedoes, Germany lost the war, whatever may be the date of the proclamation of peace. The cardinal reason for this is that Germany, up to and over the old battle ground of the Somme, is the conviction in Germany that 1919 is America's year, and that if Germany is to force any sort of victory she must force it in 1918, before America is ready. And not late in 1918.

"The German public has just begun to understand that the U-boats, which were America into the war, are failing, in the everlasting see-saw between the arts of offense and defense, the defense, which was inferior, has begun to rise to a level. The people of the Central Powers lost one ground of confidence after another, but this some English residents in London were seriously warned by close friends in Germany to leave England instantly as it would be made untenable by Zeppelins. Nearly all the general population in Germany believed this, as they will believe anything they are told 'from above.' But one fateful afternoon has proved a false god; and now both the public and the High Command have been driven back to the old faith that the army and only the army is their shield and their buckler. To act as a shield alone was not enough, so they prepared with little concealment—indeed with much advertisement of Kaisers and Hindenburgs—to amass the biggest onslaught ever conceived by the mind of man or hatched in his factories. It was no secret to us. "I spoke with one of the most thoughtful and successful of our generals at the end of January, as he returned to France from Italy. 'The Hun,' he said, 'is going to attack us good and proper. It will be the vastest thing in drives ever imagined. But the more he attacks, the better for us.' The German is a great learner; much more remarkable, even in military affairs, as a learner than as an originator. He learned and amassed for this attack almost all the forms of 'triflingness' used against him during the war. He copied our trench mortars—much the best then invented—and our trench artillery. He copied their number. He copied our deadly device of throwing gas in cylinders from mortars. On the advice of General Von Armin, who commanded against the British in the Somme battle (I have seen the General's memorandum), he equipped his infantry with hand-carried flame-throwers, which are chiefly useful for inspiring terror. He built little armored cars for carrying forward ammunition, of which absurdly exaggerated accounts were published in Germany for public consumption. He made light, very mobile guns much

NOTICE

— TO —

RETURNED SOLDIERS and REJECTED MEN!

All Returned Soldiers and all Rejected Men in Newfoundland, both in Saint John's and in the Outports, are requested to fill in the form below and mail it to the undersigned, or to Mr. B. B. Harris, Secretary, The Soldiers' and Rejected Volunteers' Association, St. John's.

It will be to every man's own advantage as well as to the interest of the Association and its work, WHICH IS JUST BEGINNING, that every man entitled to register should send us his name. So fill in your form and mail it to us—AND DO SO AT ONCE.

The Soldiers' and Rejected Volunteers' Association.
HAROLD MITCHELL, President.

N. B.—This form has nothing to do with the registration under the Military Service Act, but is for the Association purposes only.

RETURNED SOLDIERS' FORM.

Name

Address

Occupation :
If at present employed

If unemployed

Occupation previous to enlistment

Date of enlistment

Date of discharge

REJECTED VOLUNTEERS' FORM.

Name

Address

Occupation

No. of Rejection Badge

on the American model. He built vast underground tunnels and caverns capable of concealing a division of men at a time, and concealed in them first his 'storm troops,' then his reserves. He brought up not only field guns and howitzers (especially the standardized 5.9's), but almost enough long-range guns of a semi-naval type (they were planned and manufactured in Austria) to drop a curtain of fire on lines of communication ten miles back. More than this, the German had prepared the whole ground of advance a year before, a thing never before done in the history of war. "British doctors as well as Intelligence officers examine most of the prisoners. The doctors find that a great number of the younger classes of 1918 and 1919 are as much as two years behind the development proper to their age. They have been undernourished in their homes. The Intelligence officers find in regard to

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