

THE COURIER

Published by The Brantford Courier Limited, every afternoon, at Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Canada. Subscription rate: By carrier, \$3 a year; by mail to British possessions and the United States, \$2 per annum.

SEMI-WEEKLY COURIER—Published on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, at \$1 per year, payable in advance. To the United States, 50 cents extra for postage.

Toronto Office: Queen City Chambers, 22 Church Street, Toronto. H. E. Smallpeice, Representative.

Wednesday, September 29, 1915

THE SITUATION.

The news from the Western theatre of the war still continues to be of a favorable nature, although not partaking of the marked advance of Saturday and Sunday. Both the British and the French troops alike continue to gain headway, but it is foot by foot. The enemy has rushed forward reinforcements, and has had a chance to recover somewhat from the initial blow. This paper is not of the opinion that what has been popularly termed a "big drive" to force the Germans out of France and Belgium has been inaugurated. It still inclines to the belief that the end will, in the main, finally be reached by means of the consistent pressure brought upon Germany, not alone in a military, but in a commercial and financial, sense. Neither French nor Joffre are the kind of men to needlessly throw lives away, and the chances would seem to be that they will largely rest content for the present with the forcible illustration which has been given of the striking power of the Allies when such a demonstration is deemed desirable.

The Russians continue to do excellently. Berlin must now fully realize that for a supposedly crippled foe they are still very much alive indeed.

Sir Edward Grey now expresses the conviction that Bulgaria will not do anything against the Allies, and he is of all others the one man whose opinion is most entitled to weight. If she takes any other course he makes the strong statement that such a step will arouse "all the support in our power" for Serbia. If King Ferdinand knows when he is well off he will not monkey with the buzz saw.

ROOSEVELT AS A CANDIDATE.

Indications are not lacking that Roosevelt is bending every effort to again secure the Republican nomination for the Presidency next year. It is true that in former days he more than once affirmed that no man should seek a third term in the White House, but then a man who talks as much as Teddy is bound to put himself in a contradictory position with more or less frequency. He perhaps finds refuge in the consolation that a wise man changes his mind often and a fool never.

Roosevelt is without any question one of the outstanding figures of modern times. Explorer, hunter and writer, prominent public man, plucky fighter, as he showed at the time of the Yanko-Spanko war—in these and in many other directions he has been for many years in the limelight, and no doubt will be to the end. When he became Vice-President his enemies—and, like all vigorous and outspoken characters, he has not a few—thought that they had done with him for good, but not so. An office which had proved a tombstone for others simply proved a stepping-stone for him, and in like manner, instead of passing into innocuous desuetude like other ex-Presidents, he has been just as much to the fore since he left the White House as previously. He formed the Bull Moose party in the last fight simply because he had become tired of his nominee Taft, and without much doubt he will make some hot running if he again has a chance to carry the standard. From a Canadian standpoint the chief interest in him, if he should get into the struggle, will be in connection with his outspoken denunciation of the Wilson Cabinet for not making an active protest with regard to the Belgian atrocities, and later for turning the cheek so often towards Germany for some more blows. There is nothing of the watchful waiting about him, but an oft-expressed desire for the coat-peeling process.

He has crowded so much in his life and for so long been a foremost figure that it is difficult to realize that he will not have reached his fifty-eighth year until Oct. 27th next.

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THE HALF BILLION LOAN.

Word from New York is to the effect that the \$500,000,000 loan for the Allies is certain. In referring to the matter recently, New York Life significantly said:—

"Gentlemen opposed to establishing a credit in this country for the Allies include:—
Mr. Hearst.
Mr. Bryan.
Mr. Jeremiah Leary, president of the American Trust Society.
Mr. James Hamilton Lewis, of Virginia, Georgia, Washington and Illinois, the well-known carpet-bag Senator.

A swarm of hyphenated gentlemen not necessary to record.

In spite of this opposition the credit seems about to be established, maybe for half a billion dollars, maybe for a billion. Whatever the sum is, it represents an American bet that France, England and Russia are not going to be wiped off the map of Europe in the present set-to. There are those who predict that the fighting nations will have to repudiate their war debts. This credit will be an American bet that they won't. It will be a bet that the Belgians will get back Belgium, and the French northern France; a bet against payment of indemnities to Germany by anybody; a bet against "frightfulness," against the armed-robber habits in nations, against Hunism, Kaiserism, Prussianism, and the most brutal warfare waged in Europe for three centuries.

If we are to continue to trade with the Allies we have got to bet in this way that they will win. They cannot send us gold enough to pay for what they buy, nor would it be to our fiscal advantage to have them do so. A plethora of gold is a fiscal nuisance. If we are to sell to them far more for a time than they can sell to us, we must give them credit and take their paper. So by these negotiations, born of trade necessity, ours as well as theirs, we get a step further into the war, to the disgust of Mr. Bryan and all the pacifists, and the satisfaction of every one who cares to have it demonstrated which side the United States is on in this great war."

NOTES AND COMMENTS

As far as the Argonne is concerned, a number of the German trenches are gone.

In Toronto these days the villagers, after the evening meal, gather around to watch initial work on a new Union Station.

The Kaiserites now want the world to believe that nothing in particular happened on the Western front during Saturday and Sunday. Don't they wish they could believe it?

During the hearing of the charge against former cabinet ministers in Winnipeg, evidence was given that \$10,000 was sent to a man named Salt to keep him away. This particular Salt evidently tried to be worth something.

Sir John French celebrated his 63rd birthday yesterday. He was born in the village of Ripple, Kent, and has certainly done a good deal more than that on his own account. In the South African war a great many military men lost their reputations, but Sir John more than sustained his, and in the discharge of his present herculean task is earning fresh honors of a very high order.

ITALIAN WARSHIP MEETS DISASTER AT BRINDISI

Unexplainable Happens—A Big Ship Gets Blown Up.

Paris, Sept. 29.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Brindisi, says: "A fire, which was followed by an explosion, has occurred on board the Italian battleship Benedetto Brin. Eight officers and 379 marines have been saved thus far."

"Rear Admiral Rubin di Cervin is among the dead."

"The fire was purely accidental."

The battleship Benedetto Brin was a vessel of 13,214 tons, and in peace times carried a complement of 720 men. She was completed in 1904, at a cost of \$8,720,000. She was of 10,000 horsepower, with a designed speed of 20 knots. Her main armament consisted of four 12-inch, four 8-inch and sixteen 3-inch guns.

Rear Admiral Baron Ernesto Rubin di Vervin was in command of the vessel.

According to Berlin.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Berlin, Sept. 29.—Recapitulating from the British part of the territory won from the Germans north of Loos was announced to-day by the war office.

BRITISH ARE BATTERING THE THIRD LINE NOW

London Attaches Great Importance to New Offensive.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, Sept. 29.—The British are battering the third line of the Germans in the vicinity of Loos. The French are maintaining their offensive in Champagne. The Germans in the Argonne apparently have been unable to make important gains, and have refrained from infantry attacks. This sums up briefly the situation in the west as seen from London to-day.

No great change in the situation is shown, but England attaches high importance to indications that the offensive movement of the Allies is not to be relaxed as was predicted in some quarters. A short breathing spell has been succeeded by the hardest pressure on German positions at the points weakened or shattered by the allied rush.

That it is the intention to maintain this pressure is indicated by a telegram from Field Marshal French to the Lord Mayor of London, thanking him for his message of good will.

The British commander added that the message encouraged his troops "to push the immediate success to a really decisive issue." This leads the public to believe there is no stalemate, and that the battle of Neuve Chapelle, but that with new British forces in the field and ample supplies of ammunition, General Joffre and Field Marshal French plan a real test whether German resistance in France and Belgium can be broken.

Russia, though encouraged by the progress of her allies in the west, has not been doing so well in the last day or so. The Austrians have stemmed the Russian advance in southern Poland and retaken Lutsk. The Germans are renewing the great movement against Divinsk. Bulgaria has not replied to Foreign Secretary Grey's "friendly ultimatum," but special despatches from Athens and other points say a change is noted at Sofia and that events are now less likely to take a turn unfavorable to the entente powers.

CONFERENCE HELD BETWEEN ASQUITH AND KITCHENER

Discuss the Question of Keeping Armies Up to Strength.

London, Sept. 29.—The conscriptionists returned to the attack in the House of Commons yesterday—on the action which, according to the Chronicle's parliamentary correspondent, aroused keen resentment on both sides of the House. The paper says: "At question time, Captain Guest, as though he were holding a pistol at Premier Asquith's head, asked if he could promise to make a statement with regard to recruiting and national service, on or before Tuesday next."

"I cannot give any such undertaking," said Mr. Asquith. "These and cognate matters are engaging the government. In due turn they will announce their considered policy. He earnestly appealed to the House to abstain from this question, adding:—

"We are at a very critical moment in the history of the war. There would be no greater disservice to this country and to the allied cause than any suggestion should go forth to the world that there is any division of opinion here."

There were observations were loudly applauded, but Mr. Asquith's solemn entreaty was unheeded by the conscriptionists. On the third reading of the consolidated fund question Captain Guest, as though to defy the minister, brought up the question of national service and spoke at length upon it. Other members of the group followed suit.

Sir Charles Henry, an advocate of national service, dissociated himself from this ostentatious flouting of the prime minister.

J. A. Pease, who has just returned from France, begged the conscriptionists to stop the discussion, and spoke from personal knowledge of the harm these debates do abroad. The appeal was made in vain.

The Daily Chronicle says:— "Mr. Asquith and Lord Kitchener had a very important conference yesterday afternoon with most of the leading representatives of organized labor in the kingdom. The subject discussed was the question of keeping up our armies to war strength and the best method of repairing the waste which goes on every day in every theatre of the vast struggle."

The conference was an outcome of the resolution unanimously carried at the Trades Union Congress at Bristol which, while offering the government every possible assistance and support in bringing the war to a successful conclusion, protested against the introduction of compulsory military service.

When the conference broke up all the information given was that the prime minister and the war secretary had attended it in response to an invitation from the meeting and had addressed the conference on the military situation, and all those who were seen by our representatives afterward

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TRANSPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

Athens makes it likely that they were on their way to the Dardanelles. In addition to the report from Berlin on September 21, there have been several other unconfirmed announcements from German sources of the sinking of British transports.

ANOTHER ONE
Berlin, Sept. 29.—(wireless to Saville)—The sinking of a British transport with the loss of all but a few members of the crew, is reported in a despatch from Constantinople to the Overseas News Agency.

MOHAMMEDAN TROUBLES
"A special despatch from Constantinople gives reports about Mohammedan troubles in India," says the News Agency. "It says that a British transport was sunk by a Mohammedan engineer, who died with the troops. Only a few members of the crew escaped."

This is the second report of the sinking of a British transport with Indian troops. An Athens despatch earlier to-day said that the Ramazan had been sunk by a submarine. It is possible that the two despatches are different versions of the same incident.

BANKERS

(Continued from Page 1)

set about to form. Such group will include representatives throughout the country and all members of the syndicate will be on precisely the same footing. This syndicate, whose business it will be to arrange that every investor shall have an opportunity to subscribe to the issue, will contract to purchase the loan from the two Governments at 95.

It was announced that Russia would not participate in the loan.

The two per cent. margin between the prices at which the issue will be offered to public and to syndicate likewise will reimburse members of the syndicate, it is contemplated, for their expenses in placing the loan on the market.

To bring the great offering—the largest of its kind ever placed in the United States—before investors throughout the entire nation, the country will be divided into districts or zones and to each district there will be delegated a sub-committee of the syndicate managers, composed of the subscribing banks and trust companies within the districts.

These sub-committees will work simultaneously and will report to the general syndicate managers, who will be located in New York. The five-year bonds, principal and interest, will be payable in New York.

It is possible that the interest will be payable in other cities; this detail with any others is yet to be decided upon. In order, however, to comply with regulations of the New York Stock Exchange, New York City will be designated as the place of payment upon maturity.

COVER MUNITIONS
When the statement was made public at the Hotel Biltmore last night by Sir H. Babbington Smith, Henry P. Davison, of J. P. Morgan and Company, was present. The British banker was disposed to answer questions as he had been definitely settled as to detail, while Mr. Davison was likewise frank about the American end so far as that had been settled.

One of the first questions asked was as to the participation of Russia in the loan, and the reply was that she does not appear as a party or a participant.

The next was in regard to munitions. The answer was that the money is to be exclusively for the purpose of stabilizing exchange; that is, preventing bills drawn on foreign countries from depreciating. This meant any and all bills that might be drawn. It would mean the wheat bills and the cotton bills, as well as bills on manufacturers.

It has not yet been decided definitely how many payments will cover the loan. They are to be arranged for upon calculation of how often they will be needed. It was explained that 25 per cent. might be required with the subscription, or more or less. These subscriptions are to be made at any one of the banking centres which will form a group of the syndicate. The money thus held by the designated depository will draw the usual banking interest of 2 per cent., which will go to England and France.

To Constantinople.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, Sept. 29, 3.35 p.m.—"The hundred thousand Austrian and German troops have begun an advance on the Serbian frontier, in the direction of Orsova," says the Athens correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company.

BULGAR PREMIER HAS OUTLINED COUNTRY'S POLICY

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, Sept. 28.—Constantine Stephanov, professor of English at the University at Sofia, who is at present on a mission in this country to explain the position taken up with regard to the war by Bulgaria, has communicated his ideas to a representative of the Morning Post. Stephanov said:—

"Before leaving for England I had a long conversation with Premier Radoslavov, who had been informed of my intended journey and he said: 'You can tell the English people that Bulgarians entertain towards them the very kindest feelings. Between the two nations there is a historical bond of sympathy. We, on our part do not forget that in the past England has been the champion of Bulgarian unity and Bulgarian independence.'"

"I ventured to ask what I should say to my English friends supposing they seemed to think that even if the entente powers agreed to the realization of Bulgarian ideals, Bulgaria would still be powerless to help them because of some supposed understanding with the Central European powers, whereupon he said:—

"Tell your English friends that if the entente powers pledge themselves to satisfy our sacred wishes and legitimate claims we shall at once throw our lot in with them. That is my policy, and even if it were not I could not do otherwise. If I did there would be at once such an outburst of popular feeling that no government could stand against it."

"Then I asked him whether there was any truth in the rumors to the effect that Bulgaria had entered into certain obligations toward the central powers, and he replied:—

"None whatever, neither with the Central powers nor with Turkey. My aim for the present is to maintain neutrality as far as I possibly can until the time comes when the realization of Bulgarian ideals compels me to take action."

Mr. Stephanov added:— "At the worst Bulgaria will remain neutral. Never will she throw in her lot with the Teutonic powers against her old friend, England."

To The Editor

GOOD SUGGESTION

Brantford, Sept. 27th, 1915.
The Editor Courier, City.

Dear Sir,—Could I take up a little of your valuable space to put before the public, especially the city officials, a plan whereby the city who are willing, but unable to go to the front to fight can nevertheless do their little bit as it were, right here. I think a hearty response would be the answer to this plan if it were launched, I for one would be only too willing to do my share.

Now my idea is this: We have several manufacturers, right here, making shells and supplies for the British Government, and from all accounts they cannot be turned out fast enough; could not a night force and a Sunday force, be inaugurated from among the men who do not work in the factories—say for instance myself. Give me something to do two nights a week and a half day Sunday. I to give my time and services gratis, as it were, but at the same time to be paid an ordinary or small wage; those wages to be taken and collected by a committee appointed by the city and used either here or anywhere else, that the committee see fit for our disabled heroes or for any other such purpose.

No doubt somebody will say that it takes an expert to make a shell, maybe, maybe not, personally I am no judge, but granting that it is so; there is something that I can do. I am willing to do it around the factory whereby they could earn a little to make this fund that I have spoken briefly of.

It may be asking the Mayor too much to take this in hand, but I am sure if he would only call a mass meeting, that such a scheme could easily be started and sent on its way flying, therefore I ask him and the other city officials to think this over.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor,

I remain,

Yours truly,

W. C. Greenhill.

World's Series Oct. 9.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
Chicago, Sept. 29.—Details of the world's series will be arranged at a meeting of the National Baseball Commission in New York City this week. B. E. Johnson, president of the American League, and member of the commission, said to-day: "The date of the meeting cannot be set until the races in the two leagues are decided definitely. It probably will be held on Saturday, Johnson said."

Globe's Opinion.

By Special Wire to the Courier.
London, Sept. 29 (in Montreal Gazette).—Commenting upon the support shown by Canadian newspapers to the proposal that India be given official representation at the next Imperial conference, "The Globe" reminds these papers that such representation, if the concession is made, implies much more than is apparent on the surface. "It would render all regulations which now impede the entrance of natives to India to the overseas dominions immediately impossible and even offensive," says the Globe.

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