

THE COURIER

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Tuesday, Feb. 19th, 1918.

THE SITUATION

The Germans in their resumption of operations against the Russians have crossed the Dvina river without any opposition, having been offered them. They are at present heading for Dvinsk and it is believed that their ultimate objective is Petrograd. If that is their decision there does not seem to be anything to the present carrying out the project. It is asserted that 5,000,000 Russian soldiers still have arms but they are a disrupted host without leadership. Over the Courier Leased Wire to-day there came a cable that the social revolutionists had overthrown the Bolshevik government and that Lenin and Trotsky had fled, but nothing of a frolicsome nature exists.

The third air raid in succession upon London leads to the official announcement of few casualties and little damage. The defence system is manifestly much improved and for the rest the people continue to go about their affairs about as usual.

The Teutons were foiled yesterday in two attempts to regain from the French ground recently lost by them in the Champagne region.

The weather has improved on the western front and all the signs are that the preliminaries are now taking place for a resumption of the struggle on a larger scale than ever.

THE TAX RATE CONFERENCE

It was an excellent idea to have representatives of the various spending bodies of this Municipality meet with the Mayor and members of the City Council in an effort, if possible, to reduce the probable tax levy of thirty mills or so for this year. The ideas thus exchanged have without doubt, proved of much value and they have served to emphasize the fact that the estimates of the City Treasurer, which to many seemed large, were based upon actual demands, and what each Board considers to be absolute needs. In this regard also, after the natural order of things, there was quite a tendency to think that some other spending body could go with less, but certainly not the one represented by that particular delegate. As a matter of fact, the City Council itself, has very little control over outlays. The school board, library board, hospital, police board and all the rest frame their own estimates, and there is a large amount annually to be set aside for sinking fund and interest in connection with expenditures which have been made on capital account. In reality the Board of Works outlays and the Fire Department are about the only two with regard to which the Aldermen have direct control, and in the case of the brigade, matters have to be kept up to a certain pitch upon demand of the Underwriters, who, in case of failure, raise insurance rates.

All this is not to say that folded hands form the proper answer, because they don't, but to emphasize the circumstance that Council members cannot in reality do very much more than urge all possible care and economy. The Courier believes that this necessity is fully recognized by the various board members, and the conferences which have been held will certainly help to strengthen and solidify the intention. At the best it looks like a high rate and Brantford citizens are not of a class to needlessly grumble when they become convinced that extravagance has no part in the demands.

Quite one of the features of last night's gathering was the thoughtful address of Assessor Ludlow in which he dealt with tax exemption leakages. There are certainly far too many of them. One of his suggestions was that some of the waterworks property, now becoming very valuable, should be sold, and it was satisfactory to have the City Solicitor state that steps had already been taken to approach the Ontario Legislature in the matter. Another point made by Mr. Ludlow was that it was unfair to have dividends from industrial investment made free from Municipal taxation. However, the Dominion Government has recently decided to get after this class of income, but after the war the various communities should be empowered to collect the same. Poll tax is another item for the dodgers, and Mr. Ludlow's idea is that a man in uniform should immediately follow up on the serving of the paper.

A disposition was manifested on

the part of some in favor of having the Dominion Government take over the Patriotic Fund and the administration thereof. The Courier does not agree with that. There would be expensive machinery in connection with any Government collection and administration. Moreover most desirable voluntary effort and personal touch are two things which would become eliminated and many who now give far more than any Ottawa levy, would be inclined to rest within the limits of that. To help look after the dependents of the brave men overseas is a privilege and it should not be lightly impelled.

There also seemed to be an idea that the Ontario Government want tax of one mill levied for no particular reason. As a matter of fact that sum is devoted to the upkeep of hospitals for Canadian soldiers in the Old Land.

Viewed from every standpoint, the "get together" has been an excellent idea and should certainly be made an annual affair.

BRANT CHAPTER

Continued from page one

Regent's Report, Brant Chapter

In presenting this annual report of the work of Brant Chapter during the year 1917, I must ask your indulgence.

The illness of the Regent and absence from town of our treasurer for some months, combined with our difficulty in securing an assistant secretary, made this year a very strenuous one.

In spite of all our troubles, the Chapter has never before been called on to lend a helping hand to so many patriotic efforts, nor have we failed to respond to one and every call for help, whether of time or money.

I wish before going further, to most heartily thank the executive and members of the Chapter for their splendid assistance, particularly the younger members, who have been called on so many times, and responded so willingly.

In March, Brant Chapter was asked to assist the Women's Patriotic League, in holding an "Art Loan Exhibit," in aid of a returned soldiers' club.

The Regent, Mrs. Yates, ably assisted by Mrs. N. D. Neill and Mrs. Geo. Watt, arranged a most attractive booth, at which were all manner of things for sale, and a goodly sum realized.

In April several of our members attended the church parade and service of the G. W. V. A. in St. Jude's church, commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of Ypres. I need say no more than it was a privilege to attend such a service, and pay tribute to the brave men who had given their lives for their country's sake.

At our May meeting, Mrs. Hardy was kind enough to offer her grounds for a garden party, or, as she preferred it called, "A day in the Country," to be given by the Chapter. A meeting of the executive was called, and convenors of the different committees appointed, the names of all members being drawn for and decided in the usual way.

Everything to make the day a success was arranged for, except the most necessary of all, the weather. As the day drew near, rain continued to pour down, and the weather remained cold. Knowing how impossible a day in the country under such circumstances, would be, the Regent called a second meeting, and the event was postponed until early in June.

The weather absolutely refused to behave, and June came in cold and wet.

With the Regent gone to her summer home and every convenor, with only one or two exceptions, and many members phoning me that it would be impossible for them to attend anything at which they had to be outside, I was in a dilemma.

Under such circumstances, there was only one thing to do, accept the suggestion of one of our executive, and ask permission of the officers of the Golf and Country Club, which was most graciously given, to hold our long anticipated day there, which required practically a re-organization of all our arrangements.

I felt very keenly, having to acquaint Mrs. Hardy with our change of plans, but received the kindest assurance from her, that while she appointed the day with me, that the good of the Chapter must take precedence of everything.

That we had been justified in making the change was more than proved, when at the conclusion of the day we found ourselves in receipt of the magnificent sum of \$400.

At our June meeting it was decided to try individually to raise money through "talents."

Every member was notified, and while many did not adopt the scheme, those who did found it to be a very simple way of increasing our funds.

Heretofore, our summer months have been free, but this past year, with dark conditions demanding more of our time and energies, we were called upon to help with a number of patriotic events.

At the garden party in aid of French relief, held at Mrs. Livingston's, the chapter was asked to take charge of a booth for ice cream and soft drinks.

Then came the G. W. V. A. tag day, and later on tag days for Italian and British Red Cross, in all of which we took an active part.

In September, we had the pleasure in October, greatly to the regret of the chapter, we were obliged to accept the resignation of the Regent, who, owing to sickness, found it impossible to continue holding office.

A vote of regret and sympathy, accompanied by a gift of flowers, from

the executive, was the means the chapter took of expressing their feelings.

At the unveiling of the Bell Memorial, the chapter supplied waitresses to assist at the banquet given in the Kerby House, for which a generous cheque was received from Mr. Littlefield.

In response to many letters received, telling of the urgent need of the Navy League, a committee was appointed to wait on the city council and ask for a grant towards this work of these. On finding that a representative committee of the business men of Brantford were bent upon the same errand, the two committees combined forces, and met with such a generous response that they carried their appeal to the county council, where a further grant was obtained.

Our year has ended in the same whirl of work that has characterized it from the beginning.

At the dinner given to the G. W. V. A. by the Women's Patriotic League, early in January, several of our members assisted. And our help was also solicited in connection with the Red Cross collections, the chapter having been asked to undertake collections in one of the largest districts.

I felt very proud of the work done when I found Brant Chapter's list headed the list with a total of over nine hundred dollars for January, though this, of course, covered many total subscriptions.

As a grand finale, and a means of replenishing our depleted bank account, a concert was arranged, at which Madame Gardini and Mrs. Green were the attractions, which required an enormous amount of work to make this a success, and our most grateful thanks have already been given to Mrs. John Ker and Mr. Ralph Reville, for the splendid assistance they rendered. The concert was wonderfully successful, as our treasurer's report shows.

The work of the sock and wool committee has been most ably looked after by Ms. Leonard and Mrs. McFarland, who kindly offered to undertake this branch of the work when Mrs. Digby resigned. The record Mrs. Digby set was no easy one to live up to, but the work has been splendidly managed, and many hundreds of socks, scarfs, caps, etc., which have gone from Brant Chapter bear witness to the fact that many knitting needles have been kept busy.

Mrs. C. J. Mitchell has again been in charge of the extra supply of wool for sale.

The Brant Sanatorium is a branch of our work, to which we are all devoted. We owe Mrs. Mitchell a grateful word for her faithful work in connection with the Sanatorium, and to the many callers, who have offered each month, to visit, and carry such a variety of good things to the patients.

At Christmas time we had the pleasure of again supplying a delicious Christmas dinner, and I'm sure the pleasure it gave, more than repaid us.

The piano, donated by us, has been a source of great happiness to the inmates, the need for which was expressed by Miss Bowen, who ever has the patients' interests at heart.

As a means of providing a sufficient amount of funds, which this branch of our work, a yearly Sanatorium Sunday has been arranged for, to be held in February.

It is hoped, by this means to raise a regular yearly sum, to be used exclusively for Sanatorium needs.

In conclusion, I would urge the Chapter to do more Red Cross work. At the first of the year I wish to see at least a day for us to meet at the Patriotic rooms, and Mrs. R. H. Reville kindly consented to act as Convenor. The response from the Chapter was so poor that the meetings were discontinued.

Now that our monthly meetings are held in a central public place could we not meet in these homes, and sew or knit, and if thought advisable to serve a cup of tea, make a small charge as other chapters do.

Would this not accomplish two objects in bringing the members in friendly contact as well as having a special time for sewing?

I would also like to suggest that a strong committee be appointed to look after the inspecting and packing of the box.

This is quite a task, and requires many willing hands, besides giving a great deal of pleasure to see such comforts on their way to our soldiers.

I wish to thank Mrs. Aird and Mrs. Sutherland for their efforts in connection with our tagograph quilt. We should all help to make this a success.

Our thanks are due so many outside the chapter for contributions and help given during the year, that it would be impossible to enumerate them, but I am deeply grateful to one and all.

My dearest hope is that this dreadful war will soon end, with victory to the allies, and that we may find the many causes which contributed to this year to be a thing to look back on and remember with joy, that we were ever ready to do our bit.

An excellent report by Mrs. M. D. Neill, Secretary, gave in detail the activities of the year.

GUARD THE BABY AGAINST COLDS

To guard the baby against colds nothing can equal Baby's Own Tablets. The Tablets are a mild laxative that will keep the little one's stomach and bowels working regularly. It is a recognized fact that where the stomach and bowels are in good order the colds will not exist; that the health of the little one will be good and that he will thrive and be happy and good-natured. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

M.H.C. Plans 900 Bed Orthopedic Hospital

National Cash Register Property in Toronto Secured for Great Orthopedic Centre

Much significance attaches to the announced acquisition by the Military Hospitals Commission of the National Cash Register property at Christie and Dupont Street, Toronto. The property consists of about seven acres of land on which most up-to-date buildings have been erected. It was inspected and approved by the board of consultants to the Army Medical Corps.

The existing building has accommodation for about 400 patients but the Commission plans to add two stories which will give an ultimate accommodation for between eight and nine hundred patients in the main building.

Chief Centre of Orthopedics. As it is contemplated that this shall be developed as the chief centre for Canada for the treatment of orthopedic cases, much valuable equipment will have to be installed and on account of the difficulty of duplicating such equipment in more than one centre, it is considered likely that additional standard ward units such as those at the Davisville, Winnipeg, Halifax, St. Anne, Moose Jaw, and other hospitals, will be added for the accommodation of any additional number of patients which may be found necessary to concentrate at the orthopedic centre.

HUNS PLAN

(Continued from Page 1).

man infantry will overcome speedily any resistance offered in captured positions.

Despite these assurances and the intensive training to which they have been put, the German troops are frankly skeptical and are undertaking their task with no enthusiasm according to prisoners. They feel they are going to be thrown into battle to be used as cannon fodder and do not relish the prospect.

It is said that General von Ludendorff recently addressed a body of infantry at Laon and asked how many men were willing to fight to a finish. Only five non-commissioned officers and privates stepped forward. The others declared their desire for an early peace by "arrangement."

General von Hutier, who is reported to have laid the plans for the capture of Riga has come to the western front to assist in the preparation. The lessons of the capture of Riga have been preached religiously to the German troops. It has been pointed out that there a preliminary bombardment of four or five hours let out its enemy wire and demolish defenses was sufficient to give the Germans a firm footing in the Russian positions. The enemy troops have not been told, however, that the morale of the Russian at Riga was very low, and that the German attack was a complete surprise.

The Germans will find the Allied morale at the highest pitch on the western front and their attack will be far from the surprise desired. The Allies are ready for a big blow and await the next move of the German high command with assurance. The German attack cannot be delayed much longer. All information points to the fact that both German civilians and soldiers are keyed up to such a high pitch of nervous expectancy that the strain cannot endure for long. They are waiting for the attack with feverish hope that the high command can, this time make good its promise. The German troops are expected to fight well.

The coming battles will perhaps be the most sanguinary of the war and they will be the most intense yet seen. But they will mark the beginning of the end, for if the Germans are not broken clear through the Allied line—and they cannot—they virtually will be finished. The emperor is putting every ounce of strength into this great gamble and if it fails in the early stages it means the end of the Russian military.

The Allied forces have a superiority in numbers, both in men and guns and no doubt is felt on this front as to the outcome.

GUESS BY MAIL

If you cannot come in to register your guess we will register it for you if you mail it to us. Just tell plainly how many hours, minutes and seconds a Regina watch will run on one full winding. Your guess may win one of the watches. Buller Bros.

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CIVIL SERVICE ON A NEW BASIS

Appointments in Province Must be Approved by Commissioner

NEW ACT INTRODUCED

System of Competitive Examinations Not to be Adopted

Toronto, Feb. 19. A Civil Service Commissioner will be appointed for the Province of Ontario, with jurisdiction over all appointments in the inside service and all those in the outside service where the salary exceeds \$1,000 a year.

This is the chief effect of the Public Service Regulation Bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. F. B. Lucas. The Attorney-General stated that the Commissioner would be a permanent official, who would make a survey of all the different departments from time to time and make reports to the Department and to the Legislature upon the working conditions of the various Governmental departments in the general organization and administration methods of the government.

The Ontario Fruit Growers' Association deplored the lack of labor, and the possible ban against manufacture of native wines.

The Toronto Board of Control decided to discontinue extra grants to city hospitals, forcing the problem of maintenance on the Government. Heavy snowstorms in northern Ontario have almost completely blocked many of the roads.

The Civil Service Commission is advertising for civil servants, patronage appointments having been abolished.

Recollections of Sixty Years in Canada

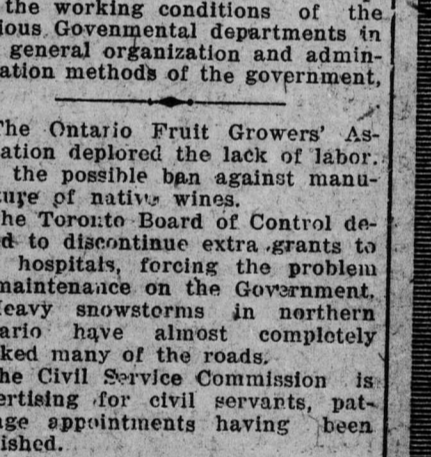
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SANTARIUM

With a full staff of trained nurses, the Brant Sanatorium has reached the highest standard of efficiency.

SOCK SHOW

The W. P. City sock soldiers, reported held on Saturday place until it will be held in the evening to conform with regulations of the Red Cross.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Brant Sanatorium was held in the evening to conform with regulations of the Red Cross.

BUD FISHER

But Fisher, a local artist, is the staff artist with the fine in London brook. Mr. Fisher in the afternoon for seven months to get to the signed his Am order to join Mr. Fisher in completing arrears to sail for a few days.

CONTINUATION

A meeting of the Trustees of the Brant Sanatorium, will be held in the afternoon for the consideration of the proposed system of continuing the Brant Sanatorium—particular mention being made of the regulations of the establishment of the Brant Sanatorium.

Glasses, properly should rest on the nose, close

Sometimes man with end of his is a reason such cases ply glasses close to the efficient for FAR seeing

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