

THE COURIER

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Monday, March 4th, 1918.

THE SITUATION.

The Bolshevik representatives at Brest-Litovsk have signed peace proposals with the Germans and given much more than even the first outrageous demands, for the avowed reason that if they didn't affix their signatures quickly, the robber demands would have been still heavier. The additional cessations are the regions of Karabago, Kars, and Batoum, which in former years the Russians took from the Turks. The Berlin contention with regard to Alsace-Lorraine evidently did not apply in this instance. Meanwhile Japanese and Chinese troops are reported to be heading for Siberia, and Petrograd, it is stated, will resist peace, or no peace.

The Hunns have been making more marked attacks on the Western front on British and French lines, particularly the latter. They made attack after attack to obtain possession of Fort La Pompelle, to the southwest of Rheims, and did succeed in going over the top at various points, but were again ejected.

Over fifty Hun airplanes have bombarded Venice and destroyed many historic places. Sheer vandalism was clearly the inspiring motive.

Announcement is made that the foe proposes to send an army into Finland, purely, of course, on humanitarian grounds.

BE FAIR

The Expositor, in referring to the final result in the North Riding says: "The other side of the matter is that the Colonel, about the time the Union Government was formed, was requested by the Premier to enter the field as the candidate of the government, and afterwards went so far as to offer to retire in favor of Mr. Rowell. He positively refused, however, to make way for Mr. Harold, who had been in the field for some months, first as a Liberal, and afterwards as a Unionist candidate."

Why was not the organ fair enough to tell the whole story?

Harry Cockshutt offered to withdraw in favor of Hon. Mr. Rowell if Mr. Harold would do the same. A letter was read to the latter in this regard over the phone to which he consented, and then the promise was not made good.

Why does the Expositor always seek to hide this phase of the matter?

THE UNION GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT.

Complete details of the voting on December 17th last show the tremendous verdict which was recorded on behalf of the Union Government. Over the Laurierite candidates there was a majority of 326,008, and over all candidates, however designated, 264,216.

Had it not been for Quebec the White Plumed Knights and his adherents would have been literally wiped out. In that Province, on racial lines, an adverse balance of 164,483 occurred, but good Old Ontario more than made that up with several thousand votes to spare into the bargain. Manitoba also did especially well.

Quebec and Nova Scotia were the only two provinces in which the Union Government and "win the war" cause did not lead, and the shame of that can be divided between them.

A FINE SHOWING.

The annual report of the Dominion Life Assurance Company, which was contained in The Courier of Saturday, told in an eloquent manner of the continued success of this splendid and well managed institution.

There has been an increase in assets over the previous year of \$300,000; the surplus now amounts to the handsome total of \$1,029,111 and the policyholders' reserve to \$3,357,000. This latter safeguard is computed on a basis even more stringent than that required by the Government. The business in force is now over twenty-two millions, an increase over the preceding year of three millions.

It is a notable circumstance that notwithstanding the war and the many demands arising therefrom, life insurance is becoming taken up in a more marked way than ever, and it is only natural that such an excellent and thoroughly sound company as the Dominion, should be receiving a goodly share of that increase.

Mr. James E. Hess is the very efficient district manager in this section of Ontario and it is men of this class who do much to enhance the already strong claims of the company to public consideration.

THE CASE OF NORTH BRANT.

The result of the election in North Brant and the awarding of the seat to Mr. Harold has caused a great deal of comment throughout the North riding.

On December 17th last the total vote cast in the constituency was 4,903, made up as follows: Cockshutt 2,007 Harold 1,616 Doran 1,280

It will thus be seen that over two-thirds of the electors voted against Mr. Harold. Now, the soldier vote is announced as 475 for him and he thus secures a majority of 84.

Lieut.-Col. Cockshutt is announced to have received only sixteen ballots from the men in khaki—10 in Canada and the States, 2 in France and 4 in England. This result comes with all the greater surprise, because letters were received from men overseas, stating that he was making a good run.

One of the incidents in reference to the matter, as before related in The Courier, is that just prior to the taking of the soldier votes, an issue of the "Canadian Daily Record" left out the name of Harry Cockshutt as a candidate. This publication, a small eight-page sheet, gives items of interest to the Canadian boys and on the title cover are the words, "Issued by the Canadian War Records Office to all units of the overseas military forces of Canada."

The number mentioned, of which The Courier has a copy, is headed "Special election nomination number" and the names of the various candidates are given under the heading, "List of those officially approved by the party leaders." To say that it was for this reason that Harry Cockshutt's name was not given, does not begin to be sufficient explanation, for in other ridings, such as Welland, North Wellington, North Grey and so on, the names of ALB candidates were published, whether endorsed or otherwise.

In view of the circumstances the decision to take steps to have a most rigid investigation will be generally applauded. Under the demand for a recount, the soldier vote will be scrutinized in the Old Land as provided under section 15 of the Military Voters Act, as follows: "Such recount proceedings as shall relate to any votes polled within the United Kingdom, or on the continent of Europe, shall be instituted and had at London, England, before a person who may be designated for the purpose by a Judge of the High Court of Justice for England. Such proceedings shall be initiated by an application to the High Commissioner, or Acting High Commissioner of Canada at London that he secure the appointment of a recounting authority."

This thing will have to be cleared up.

AN OVERHAUL

(By Major C. J. C. Street, R.G.A.) The bombardment had now been going on steadily for four days and nights. In the Battery, the detachments almost unrecognizable under the grime of action, loaded and fired their guns with a mechanical swing that never faltered. They were long past mere fatigue, only the iron determination of the British gunner kept them at it, the will to victory triumphed over their exhausted muscles.

The Battery position was in a patch of low-lying ground between two small rises, and the natural drainage of a couple of square miles of country soaked into it. Mud and water lay knee-deep; the guns had driven trails into the soft ground until half their length was hidden. A gentle drizzle fell unceasingly, there was nothing dry in the whole Battery. It was marvellous that the delicate mechanism of the big howitzers stood the strain of continuous firing under such conditions, but good workmanship and the loving care of the Artificer triumphed and no breakdown marred the regularity of the Battery fire.

It was evening, nearing dusk. A bombardment is always carried out exactly to programme, a Battery is not kept continuously upon the same target, but shifts its fire from time to time as objectives are destroyed. As soon as the observers are no longer able to see the day targets are abandoned for others. During the night the enemy is harried in his billets, the paths by which his supplies must reach the front line are enfiladed, a dropping fire is kept upon these parts of the Battery can reduce their volume of fire very considerably, and so have a chance of renewing their stocks of shell and cartridges, and of carrying out the necessary overhaul of their guns.

The Battery's practice was to put one gun in turn out of action from the whole period from dusk to dawn. The rest were sufficient to carry out the night tasks. Indeed, it was often possible to leave the work to one or two guns only, and so give the remaining detachments a much-needed rest. Tonight it was Number Four's turn to come out of action, and at a word from the Section Commander the men ceased loading, and set to work to clean out the bore of their gun. However tired a gunner may be, however much he may long for a meal and a



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deep sleep afterwards, his gun comes until it has been cleaned and oiled he must attend to it, not till then is he free to look after himself.

The detachment had hardly finished its labours when the Artificer's squad came upon the scene. The Artificer himself had been a fitter in one of the big armament works before the war, and his knowledge of guns and their mechanism was thorough and extensive. His Assistants were the Battery Smith, and some men chosen from the ranks of the Battery who had had previous mechanical experience. They brought with them a few spanners, and set to work.

The first step was to stretch a big tarpaulin over the gun, to keep the wet out of the working parts that they were about to dismantle. Then, under the Artificer's direction, each man at once set about his own job. They were going to overhaul the gun thoroughly, and while there was just time in which to do it, there was certainly none to waste in looking on or talking.

Under their deft hands everything went smoothly. The gun was laid to its cradle, and they set to work to disconnect all its parts. They worked mostly by touch, hardly seeming to use their eyes at all, and indeed the hurricane lanterns they carried did not give much light. Every few minutes one of them would place some mysterious looking piece of metal on a dry plank laid down by the side of the gun for that purpose.

In a very short time all the moving parts had been dismantled, kept by the Artificer proceeded to examine them by the light of his electric torch. A leather washer was worn in one place, a tiny spring broken in another, a long rod was slightly bent, a gear required a little delicate filing. He put them all on one side while he examined every part of the gun minutely. Then the party, carrying between them the articles for repair, ploughed their way through the mud to the Artificer's shop.

This was a tiny corrugated-iron shed some few yards behind the guns, just big enough to hold a bench, a forge, and half a dozen big tool chests. Here they set to work with their hammers. The bend rod was put upon the forge whose cheerful glow shone out upon the night through the open doorway. The gaps of silence between the slow booming of the two guns still in action were filled by the familiar sound of hammer and anvil, irresistibly calling up a picture of the village smithy far away at home. And perhaps the whole Battery, hearing that sound, smiled and set their teeth and worked the harder at their labours.

The defective parts were soon repaired or renewed, the noise of the forge ceased, and the party jugged back to the gun. Each man took up the pieces he had dismantled, and started to reassemble them, straining at his spanners to make all tight. The Artificer watched each step, testing the work as they went on, for the responsibility for the overhaul was his, and he was not a man to take risks in such a vital matter. An hour before dawn all was ready, the Section Commander, who had looked in frequently during the night, made his examination and nodded approvingly. You've made a good job of it," he said. Now you'd better get off and rest, it'll be Number One's turn again to-morrow night.

The Artificer's squad disappeared ten minutes before dawn, the detachment came on duty again, rested and refreshed. And with the growing light Number Four took her place in the round of fire once more, fit and full of a ton of shell into the German lines every hour throughout the day.

CONSCRIPT ALIENS

By Courier Leased Wire. Toronto, March 4.—Controller McBride will move at the Board of Control to-morrow that the Dominion Government be memorialized to conscript alien enemies and pay them enough to live on and use the balance of wages for patriotic purposes.

TRANSPORT INQUIRY

The court of inquiry named to investigate conditions on troops returning to Canada from overseas,

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ALIEN SLACKER BILL. By Courier Leased Wire. Washington, March 4.—Consideration of the alien slacker bill, recently passed by the House, was begun to-day by the State Immigration Committee. It would subject friendly aliens, who claim draft exemption on the ground of foreign nationality, to deportation and consequently military service in their own countries. The same end has already been accomplished with Canada and Great Britain by treaty and France and Italy have agreed in principle to such a treaty.

INCREASE FOR G.T.R. MEN. By Courier Leased Wire. Montreal, March 4.—A wage increase averaging \$300 a year for practically every man in the shops of the Grand Trunk Railway went into effect on March 1. The men who began a 9-hour working day system with time and a half pay for overtime and legal holiday work.

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4T HEAD Miss Sara of the mill Young. INQUEST The inq Ralph Bate Gue Work place in the LOCAL CAS This mor gives the n of this city W. H. Lee F. Hurley g CITY COUN The plun ve its res to-night, as been called by-laws, an ters, will al ELM AVE. The servic church was League. Th the Shenst preached to The ushers y the league, the Misses G liams gave a C. N. R. E Canadian earnings for 28, 1918, \$7 period last y \$51,300. SBECK COM Mayor Ma a meeting to Hall on Frid the nationa has secured of Toronto. LIEUT. SIDD Lieut. J. I the 4th Bri home on Sat of service ov the ranks, w the field and the Military Mr. J. F. S British Nor LIBRARY B The regul the Public l held to-morr