

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The daylight saving movement is becoming more popular all the time, and it would not at all surprise us if its adoption becomes quite general before long. We see no serious objection to it, and have heard no arguments that show it would cause injury or any special inconvenience to any one. By simply advancing the hands of our clocks one hour, we could enjoy a long summer evening of daylight. What a splendid thing this would be to the working men and those confined indoors all day.

Human beings are funny animals. If you do not think so, you may find an example by taking a position on Talbot Street, say on a Monday morning. After the efficient street-sweeper has carefully collected the refuse of Sunday into neat piles, you will discover that there is not one driver of a horse or auto out of a dozen who will not go considerably out of his way to hit and scatter at least one of the dirt piles. That means extra work and extra expense to the town, and the childish practice should be stopped.

The virtual abandonment by the Germans of their attack on Verdun will be greatly discouraging to the Central Powers, and a disappointment to the German Crown Prince, who from the second month of the war, in 1914, when he was proclaimed the "conqueror of France," has been planning to take this old fortress. It will be interesting to learn whom he will make his scapegoat for the failure, as he considers himself a second Achilles. The awful slaughter to satisfy the ambition of this very conceited young man is horrible to contemplate, but it will not worry him, so long as he is not attacked for it, or lose the throne. Verdun has twenty outlying forts, yet in the 71 days of the most horrible combat the world has ever known, the Huns only succeeded in taking two, and this was probably due to the fact that the French commanders considered their men more valuable than a little land and destroyed works. The British are liable to suffer now.

There was an immense crowd in town last Saturday, and an Express scribe took an hour off to watch the traffic on Talbot Street. The greatest surprise we experienced was that no one was injured. The provisions of regulation of traffic on Aylmer's streets, was again and again smashed into. By-law 845, which provide for the re-smithereens, and looked like a dead letter. The most glaring infringements were of a clause in Section 4, which says that "the driver of every vehicle requiring or desiring to stop at the curb, shall do so with the right hand side of the vehicle next to the curb, and as near the curb as possible;" and that part of Section 6, which states that the driver of a vehicle desiring to turn shall do so only at the intersection of streets. There were many narrow escapes from collisions, and in one particular

instance the driver of an auto, who fortunately was going very slowly, was obliged to apply the emergency brake to keep from running into a horse and buggy, the driver of which deliberately turned in front of the auto in the middle of a block. And would you believe it, the one at fault actually had the audacity to abuse the auto driver for alleged carelessness. There appears to be no "safety first" methods on our streets, and it would be an excellent idea if a policeman were placed on traffic duty in Aylmer on Saturdays.

Happily the Sinn Fein revolution was of short duration. Some of the remarkable features of it were the bringing together for the first time on one point, Sir Edward Carson and John Redmond, the great leader of the Home Rule party, in their condemnation of the plot. Then there was the placing in the new rebel flag the green and orange colors, separated only by a strip of white, typifying, we presume, the purity of their intentions and combination of the opponents in the past. The fault-finding of the Boston-New York crowd—which was largely responsible for the whole trouble—with the Wilson administration, because they think it gave information of the plot, was interesting. Sir Roger Casement is a Protestant, and there must have been more of his faith with him, but the Orange Order would be opposed to it.

The disaster at Mesopotamia is unfortunate, and will have some political influence in the East. As the greater part of the force consisted of Indians, this victory of Moslems may cause a loss of prestige of the British in India, Egypt, and Persia, and thus make easier any uprisings sought for there. While both this and the Gallipoli campaign had unfortunate results, both helped Russia greatly in preventing Turkish movements on the Caucasian frontier, and the Tsar's men will keep the Turks well in hand now. Had General Townsend been able to take and hold Bagdad, the influence on the Oriental mind would have been very great, but his force was altogether too small for such an undertaking, and as no supplies nor relieving armies could be sent in to him, because of the floods, he had no other course than to surrender. The last ship sent in with supplies ran aground about four miles from the beleaguered force at Kut-el-Amara. The site of the Garden of Eden is in this neighborhood, and Townsend attempted gardening there. The garden seeds were dropped in to him from aeroplanes.

The second battle of Ypres, which began the evening of the 22nd of April, 1915, in which the Germans for the first time used gas, driving the Turcos—France's colonial troops—back, because they could not understand what the death-dealing cloud was, and were superstitious of it, and they thereby left the Canadian troops "in the air," so that the Germans nearly surrounded our boys, who valiantly retained their positions, when by all the rules of war laid down by the textbooks, they were annihilated, we presume, quite upset the Huns, and saved the day for the Allies; ended the 4th of May, a year ago today. The Germans have this year been putting their metal to the test by making a severe attack during the same period, but Nova Scotian troops again upheld Canada's name. The enthusiasm at the landing ports when Canadian troops disembarked, has been commented on by all who have seen it, and the best of treatment is accorded them elsewhere. We hope next year there will be greater evidence of our appreciation of the work our brave men have done for us, and that there may be some flags flying. Only one was put up this year on Talbot Street for the first anniversary.

The 19th of April is an eventful day in American history. In 1775, on that date, the Battle of Lexington was fought. In 1861 the first blood was shed in the Civil War, and on that date this year President Wilson announced to Congress that he had sent what was virtually an ultimatum to Germany, demanding a cessation of her submarine attacks on the mer-

chant fleet, and that he should have an immediate reply. A fortnight has gone by, and there is no reply. Next Sunday will be the first anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania, in which more than a hundred American lives were lost. President Wilson promptly informed the German Government that this wholesale murder of American citizens would not be permitted, and that he would hold them to "strict accountability" for any similar attacks, but little or no attention was paid to him, and the same methods have been pursued by the submarines ever since. In Germany, the school children were given a holiday, that they might celebrate the event, and a medal was struck off in commemoration of it, which shows the ship sinking, and bears the words, "Steamship Lusitania. Sunk by German Submarine, May 7, 1915." In many of the pro-German centres in the United States, there was also much enthusiasm. At Chicago, a meeting of a "Peace" society was being held, of which John Brisben Walker, a capitalist, and former editor and owner of the Cosmopolitan Magazine, was a central figure, and during a speech a telegram announcing the sinking of the ship was sent to the platform, and the speech ended that all might cheer for this chivalrous assassination of so many helpless people. Germany has in no way sought to make reparation to the United States people, and has decorated the commander of the submarine which sunk the Sussex, the last steamer on which Americans lost their lives, and the subject of the latest "humanity note."

The recent anniversary of the fighting about Ypres, when the Canadians, according to General French, saved the situation by withstanding the attack of the Germans after the French colonials fled because of the awful effects of asphyxiating gas then used for the first time during this war, reminds us of the fact that this is not the first war in which British blood has been shed in that district, but on former occasions British and Belgians (or Flemish) were in alliance against France as a result of a schism in the Roman Catholic church. Pope Clement V. was a devoted adherent of the King of France, and took up his residence as near France as possible, and never visited Rome as a Pope. His successor, Gregory XI., died at Rome, and when the election of the next Pope was about to take place, the Italians insisted that if he were not a Roman, he at least must be an Italian. Of the 23 cardinals who formed the new college, 11 were French, the others being from Italy, Spain, Flanders, and Britain. When the voting was about to take place, the Roman populace became so clamorous in their demands for an Italian Pope that when the Mass was held, those attending could scarcely hear the service. It convinced the cardinals that a compromise must be effected, and a man was chosen who had not been a candidate of either of the rival factions. He was an Italian named Prignano, Archbishop of Bari, a man of austere life and great executive ability. He was crowned on Easter Sunday as Urban VI. The following day he rebuked some of his prelates and bishops for neglecting their duties, and two weeks afterward he reproached the cardinals for their immoral lives, and denounced the simony they had practised. The French cardinals left themselves prisoners about his court instead of enjoying the luxury of Avignon as previously, and proceeded to select a Pope more to their liking. They nominated and elected Clement VII., the Arch-Pope. Urban, however, was somewhat of a politician, and he created 28 new cardinals. France at once championed Clement VII., but both parties looked anxiously to Britain for support, as her contributions to the Holy One were very great. Britain at that time looked upon France as an enemy, and when Urban sent the Bishop of Norwich a Papal bull, or letter of authority, permitting him to take action against Clement, the people were in sympathy with him and he raised an army and landed at Calais.

The Bishop might well be styled a militant Christian, and even the

Church was no sanctuary to his opponents. He raised an army and crossed the Channel to Flanders. The three most important cities in Flanders at this time were Ghent, Bruges, and Ypres. Ypres lay in the south, and was on the main road to Bruges. It had surrendered the previous year to the French without striking a blow. It was now held by a French garrison. If Ypres could be taken, communication with France would be cut off and Bruges would soon fall. It was one of the great cities of the world at a time when London had only about forty thousand inhabitants, and was the seat of an extensive woollen and linen industry. It was surrounded by beautiful suburbs, more magnificent than the extensive city itself. The alarm of an intended attack by the British soon reached the city, and fortifications were strengthened. The inhabitants rushed to the defence, while the British, deceived by the vastness of the suburbs which had fallen into their hands, fancied they had secured the city. The suburbs were burned and a night of tumult followed. The British succeeded in cutting the city off from all supplies. The besiegers made repeated assaults, and there were many hand-to-hand fights, with heavy loss on both sides. The river that supplied the town was turned from its course, and attempts were made to fill up the dry ditch and scale the wall. Artillery threw stones into Ypres day and night. The wall was mined; the besiegers tried to set the town on fire. But all failed, and at the end of two months Ypres remained unconquered. As the siege went on, both sides became greatly distressed. The defenders of Ypres had always to combat with danger in their own camp. Soon both food and water began to fail, and it is a singular comment upon the chivalry of the days of chivalry, that women, whose husbands were absent, were turned out of the city when the pressure of famine was felt. What became of them we may only imagine. Human life and female honor found little reverence in a rough army of the fourteenth century. To add to the diffi-

culties of the British, disease broke out owing to the unsanitary condition of the camp, and the siege was not pressed. Not receiving the support he expected, the Bishop of Norwich gave up the siege and returned to Calais, then a British possession. Ypres rejoiced, but the disasters of the long siege proved final. Her state-ly faubourgs were not rebuilt, and she has never again taken her former rank among the cities of Flanders.

Word was received in St. Thomas on Sunday by his parents that Pte. John McCausland had been wounded again in the fighting on the western front in France. The telegram received by Mr. and Mrs. McCausland, who live at 92 Metcalfe Street, stated that he received gunshot wounds in the thigh and in one hand. The wound in his hand is a bad one. Pte. McCausland had only been in the trenches about two weeks after coming from the hospital where he had been suffering from shrapnel wounds in his head. He is now at No. 6 Base Hospital at Etaples. Pte. McCausland

came from the west a year ago last winter to enlist, and joined the 15th Battalion. He has two brothers at the front, and both are not far from him at the present time. Dr. A. McCausland is a medical officer and M. B. McCausland is with 12th C. M. R.

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