THE COURIER

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Wednesday April 17th, 1918.

THE SITUATION.

Matters on the western front wear a serious aspect. It would be idle and senseless to attempt to ignore that fact. The British have been fighting like lions, but the continual pouring in of fresh troops against them has naturally resulted in a falling back, but only inch by inch The securing of a foothold by the Germans on the Messines Ridge constitutes their biggest achievement thus far and one despatch to-day says that they have advanced as far at St. Eloi. Lloyd George and General Palmer both still express their confidence. The heavy nature of the German losses is emphasized by the fact that she has now called another half million men to the colors. Many are wondering when the reserves so much talked of are to get into action. In this regard the military critic of The Buffalo Courier says:

"General Foch will not hit the German attacking force where it expects to receive the thrust, and certainly not where the enemy's forces are best prepared to oppose it. This is fundamental strategy. Also he will choose for his blow the time when he figures the Germans have extended their active strength to the utmost and have drawn most heavily on their supplies of ammunition and materials for offence; that is, at the time when it will be most difficult to put additional effectiveness into their resistance. This, too, is basic military tactics. General Foch is a master both of strategy and tactics. He will not strike until he is ready—and he will strike where the attack will be the most difficult for the Germans to oppose."

The decision by the Dominion Government to call more men immediately to the colors and to wipe out much of the slow moving machinery of the Military Service Act will be generally applauded.

A STRONG LEADER.

The Ottawa correspondent of The Toronto Telegram makes the assertion:

"The critics of Sir Robert Borden suggest, and there is evidence in support of the suggestion, that Sir Robert Borden is unready, wavering and uncertain, incapable of quick decision or strong action."

As a matter of fact the career of the hon. gentleman does not show any such thing; quite the reserve.

Was there any sign of indecision or inaction when Sir Robert in 1912 brought down his policy of naval aid to Great Britain?

Was there any sign of wavering or incapacity for quick decision, when in 1914, Sir Robert pledged Canada to full and unreserved support of Great Britain in the present war. At the time of the Boer War when Canadians wanted to lend their help, Sir Wilfrid Laurier first of all took the stand that he could not do a thing until Parliament was summoned, but there wasn't any such beating about the bush by the present First Minister. He declared the true Canadian stand without any hesitation and immediate steps were taken for the mobiliaztion of men and other assistance.

Was there any sign of indecision or wavering when he introduced the Military Service Act, or in his successful efforts to form a Union Government after he had been given the cold shoulder by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, or in sanctioning the sending of the military to Queebc in connection with the recent trouble, or in accepting the resignations of Sir Sam Hughes and Hon. Bob Rodgers when they commenced to get too big for their positions.

Most assuredly not and anyone who seeks to depict Sir Robert as a spineless sort of individual, either doesn't know the man or else knowing him, desires for some reason to misrepresent.

Canada's Premier, of course, does not pay any attention to such picayune criticisms. He goes his strong way regardless of small calibred snipers and all unprejudiced observers must admit that during the most strenuous period of Canadian history he has proved himself to be a man of exceptional breadth of vision and clarity of purpose.

Sergt. Nicholson, of the Headquarters Company, 2nd Depot Battalion, C.O.R., left the city this afternoon on two weeks' leave of absence.

Bernard Shaw Possesses No Distinct Nationality And That Is His Weakness

BETWEEN two national stools Shaw falls to the ground. His opinions lose much of their weight by coming from a doubtful source, for who can tell to what nation he belongs, or to whom he will admit his allegiance? He may like to believe that he is a citizen of the world, and speaks for humanity. We, however, live in a world of nationalities, where even the smallest nation can claim sympathy for its national existence. We may be pardoned, therefore, a natural scepticism towards one whose philosophy by no means embraces the full compass of modern thought, and who would have some difficulty in proving the smallest right to speak for international civilization. Shaw must confess to a national identity, if he is to escape the suspicion of having no roots in any recognized community. Shaw, as we know, has never taken a national stand. Consequently, he succeeds only in awaking doubts and hostilties, when he wishes to obtain serious attention.

This wavering, this imprecision where national sentiment is concerned, would appear to have extended to his entire philosophy. Serious readers have ceased trying to reconcile Shaw with himself, his attitude on any given question cannot be foretold, for want of fixity and coherence in his first principles. What are taken to be paradoxes, or deliberate intellectual gymnastics, are, in reality, the perfectly serious but disordered expressions of Shaw's point of view. Shavians are right in deprecating the tendency to regard as quips and jokes the greater part of his statements. But it is natural that people should do so, who have not the time nor inclination to disentangle the irrational knot of ideas which has accumulated about Shaw. There is no need to attempt to co-ordinate his criticisms of life, for they are simply a "chaos of clear ideas," each one with a certain separate or abstract value, but incapable of amalgamating so as to constitute a philosophy, in the proper sense of the term. No doubt there are certain social generalities to which Shaw has held with comparative fidelity, such, for example, as liberty. Similarly Irish loyalists are devoted to the abstraction of patriotism, and frown upon "rebellion." Unfortunately any of their practical deductions from theoretically acceptable premises do not correspond to the aspirations of those for whom they are intended. Thus, as Mr. McCabe has pointed out, Shaw's disciples never accept his teaching as a whole. Eugenists agree with him so long as he agrees with them; antivivisectionists, within their special limitations, call him master; socialists subscribe to certain portions of his program, but all have more points of difference than of agreement with him.

BERNARD SHAW.

In fine, the career of Bernard Shaw, with its strange combination of success and failure, is an illustration of the tragedy and farce of Ireland's relations with England. In normal circumstances he might have been the most powerful force in contemporary Irish life, whereas he is merely the impatiently tolerated satirist of a community in which he is a stranger.

The Scope of the Peanut.

Some of the usefulness of the peanut in industry is shown in the following enumeration of its by-products:

Peanut hay is used for feeding live stock. Peanut hulls are used as fuel, fertilizer, and in the tin-plate industry. Peanut meats furnish cake and meal for flour, live stock feeds, fertilizer, and dyestuffs, and oil for the following purposes: Cooking oil, salad oil, lard compounds, cosmetics, sardine packing, olive setting, oleomargarine, soap, miners' lamps, sweet oil substitute, medical emulsions, kid glove and silk manufacture. Peanut-oil "foots" are used for putty, washing powder, glycerine, nitro-glycerine, black grease, soap, candle pitch, roofing, roofing composition. Linoleums, insulating material, oilcloth, waterproofing, cheap paint base, cotton rubber, artificial leather, fulling ware. Roasted peanut meats are used for food, confectionery, vegetarian meat substitutes, and peanut butter.

Asbestos.

Cape Province is said to contain the largest asbestos bearing areas in the world.

Five sticks of dynamite, believed to have been stolen from the Martineau quarries, at Montreal, were found by girls looking under a sidewalk for hens' eggs a few days ago.

WAR PROFITEERS.

British People Angered By Recent Revelations.

The exposure of enormous profits made by British munition firms has created a deep impression in England. The evidence indicates the grossest incompetency and inefficiency in awarding contracts and fixing prices. Canadian munition makers, in their most profitable contracts, never benefited by such generous assistance nor were rewarded by such enormous profits. The British press is unanimous in condemnation and demands more technical knowledge and strict accounting in future business. One firm's profit was five times its capital, and others almost as great.

Even after special war taxation, the firms earned twice the standard profit, in addition to retaining huge sums for depreciation. "The report of the Committee on National Expenditure is not pleasant reading. It is an appalling exposure of shameless profiteering on one hand, and of absurdly incompetent red tape wielders on the other. Between the two the nation has been fleeced for vast sums." This is the typical press comment.

Almost concurrent with the exposure of waste came another depressing admission, that the shipbuilding effort had failed to produce the expected results. On the rapid production of ships depends victory and the Empire's existence. Labor troubles, lack of discrimination in enlistment, and again the failure to place direction of the policy under practical men, combined to lower the standard of production.

Drastic steps are being taken to remedy this condition. A new shipbuilding board of practical men has been appointed and the army is being combed for efficient artisans.

Canada and the United States are expected to force a greater production. The one essential to victory is ships and more ships. These failures and the ever-present Irish problem, accentuated by the death of John Redmond, is the dark side of the picture. Irish conditions show little improvement, and John Dillon lacks the personality of his predecessor. It is feared he cannot hold in check his more aggressive followers with the success of the late leader.

Even with these discouraging conditions there is no weakening among the people nor the slightest pessimism for the ultimate result of the war. All are awaiting America's efforts and hoping it will not be long delayed. British people have accepted a real war basis conditions without protest, and are willing to submit to any deprivations that will make for victory. No objection to the drastic food regulations nor restrictions has been heard.

More Voters.

England's new Electoral Reform Act not only gives the ballot to women, but also to a large number of additional male voters. It is the most sweeping measure of enfranchisement in British history. The number of voters will be at least double, increasing from 8,000,000 to 16,000,000, and the latter figure is probably an underestimate.

The men voters will still be in a substantial majority for several reasons. The first is that the qualifying age for men is 21, or, if serving in the army or navy, 19, while no woman under 30 is admitted on any ground. In the second place there will still be plural voting, and although both men and women are restricted to not more than two votes each there will be far more men than women to qualify as twice-voters.

A woman may have two votes only if she is a university graduate, in which case she has a vote in her home district and also a vote for her university candidate. A man may have two votes under the same conditions, but he may also have two votes if he is a business property-owner in another district than his home.

As an illustration, take a family consisting of husband and wife and two sons, one, aged 19, in the army; the other 23, and a university graduate. The family lives in a London suburb, and the father is in business in London. He has a vote in his home district, and also one in the district where his business is located. The wife, not being a university graduate, has but one vote. The two sons will each have a vote as residents, and the elder will have an additional vote in the university constituency, and one or both may have a second or alternative vote on account of the occupation of business premises outside his residence district.

The wives of twice-voters will be potent factors of uncertainty on election day, for they are permitted to select which of their husband's constituencies they will vote in, and they need not announce this selection beforehand.

The old-fashioned British methods of electioneering are scarcely touched by the new law, except that the system is adopted of having all elections throughout the country on the same day. Proxy voting is allowed in the case of persons necessarily absent from their constituency on election day. It is noticeable that while a woman must be thirty to vote herself, a girl of 21 may be a proxy-voter for an absent male voter of nineteen.

As a check on bogus and freak candidates, every candidate must deposit $750, which is forfeited to the Government if he does not receive an eighth of the votes polled.

A Voiceless Mule.

The bray of the army mule is to be heard no longer in France. French veterinarians are extracting the bray and after that is done the nearest a mule can come to making a noise is to wheeze. A slight surgical operation on the nose removes the hee-haw which sounded like an imitation of Hun shells. The brayless mule is less dangerous, for it cannot warn the enemy of its nearness, but removing the hee-haw takes all the romance out of a mule.

That some men are paying as high as $30,000,000 income tax is stated by Charles E. Eaton, of the U. S. Shipping Board, and they do not "squeal."

Prussians Now Plotting To Secure Cynical Peace At the Expense of Russia

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON has done yeoman service to the allied cause, but he has perhaps never done greater service than when he protested against the conclusion of what he termed "a cynical peace." There is not, of course, the faintest doubt that amongst the cards in the German hand is "a cynical peace." Thwarted in the efforts for which the war was undertaken, the efforts, that is to say, to establish the Mittel-Europa wedge and the Hamburg to Baghdad railway, Germany is now turning her eyes towards an alternative in the shape of a Hamburg-Odessa-Turanian railway. The calculation upon which such an idea is based is that of bartering her grip on Belgium, Alsace-Lorraine, Serbia, and Asia Minor, for a grip on Southern Russia and Turkestan. Now everybody knows that valuable as such an acquisition would be, it would by no means make up for the loss of the territory originally aimed at, whilst, in addition to this, it would necessitate what Mr. Henderson calls a cynical deal with the allies."

Quite apart, however, from anything else, Mr. Henderson, speaking largely in the name of the British Trade Unionists, sees that such a peace would be only another Peace of Frankfort, in other words, merely an opening for another war. Just as the seizure of Alsace-Lorraine made the war of to-day inevitable, so the

ARTHUR HENDERSON.

cynical seizure of the Russian provinces would make a Russia Irredenta along the shores of the Black Sea and the Caspian. Nor would it ultimately in any way satisfy Berlin. What the Leipzigerstrasse would inevitably do, would be to set to work to raise a huge army of Turcomans and Cossacks with which, in due time, to strike a new blow for the Hamburg-Baghdad route. Therefore, a cynical peace would not be a peace at all. Or it would at the best be a Peace of Amiens, a peace, that is to say, invented for the express purpose of giving one side, in the present war, time to recover and prepare for a worse war in the not far distant future.

Now this does not happen to be what any of the allies went into the war for. Many months ago Sir Edward Grey, as he then was, explained that if the present war was not a war to put a stop to war, it would indeed be a world disaster. Nevertheless the energies of the Bureau of Enemy Psychology are being devoted to preparing the way to a cynical peace. Germany has, as is usual, very much in her favor in such a campaign of suggestion. First of all, the world is tired of war. Much of the world, indeed, is a great deal more than tired of war, it has reached the point when it does not know how to carry on war any longer. The collapse of Russia, which was brought about as part of the campaign of suggestion, has involved Roumania in its disaster, with the result that Roumania has been forced to lay down her arms for the moment. In the same way, Belgium and Serbia have been overrun, but the Belgian and Serbian armies, more fortunate than those of Roumania, because they were not betrayed by the British, the French, or the Italians, as Roumania was betrayed by Russia, were able to save themselves, and so to live to fight another day. Still, in spite of as well as because of this, the world needs peace. Even countries like France and Great Britain would be the better for peace, whilst as for Germany, she needs peace most of all, although one of the principal aims of the Bureau of Enemy Psychology is to induce the allied press to dwell on the difficulties of the allied countries, and to forget that any difficulties exist at all for the Central Powers.

Now, because this desire and this necessity for peace exist, Germany is anxious to take advantage of the fact by inducing the Western Powers to betray Russia as completely as Russia has betrayed them. Belgium and Northern France might be evacuated, Roumania and Serbia might be made free, even Alsace-Lorraine might be restored, in return for a territorial quid pro quo in Russia. Russia, having betrayed herself, and betrayed everyone else, Germany calculates should have no friends; therefore, why should not Russia pay the price of the war, and everybody else live together quite happily ever afterwards.

U.S. War Trade Board has agreed to deliver to the Japanese shipbuilders a corresponding amount of steel for shipbuilding, ton for ton, against delivery of the ships.

Margaret Garrett's Husband

By JANE PHELPS

The Night of the Musicale.

CHAPTER XXXI.

To please Bob I took great pains with my appearance the night of Mrs. Root's musicale; but I anticipated no pleasurable evening, rather, I made up my mind that I was going solely because Bob wished it. That I had a subconscious idea if I pleased him in this I would the more easily get him to accede to my wishes, I did not admit.

He was all excitement and pleasant anticipation.

"We'll have a bully time!" he said as he struggled with a refractory collar button, "you'll meet a lot of nice people."

"For whom I won't care a straw."

"Oh, come, Margaret! don't take that attitude. Of course you won't like them if you deliberately make up your mind not to before you see them. Be fair, give them a chance. And, Margaret," he spoke more soberly, "I wish you cared more for the people I like; my friends. It has always been part of my plan that when I married I would have my friends around me; make them welcome in my home."

It was none of my plan to have our home invaded by a lot of gay unconventional men and women. But I made no reply I would not annoy Bob by disagreeing then; but after this was over I would have my say.

We were to stop for Elsie and. Elsie looked particularly lovely and bubbled over with good spirits.

"I am just sure we'll have a splendid time!" she said as we drove along; Gladys Root always does things just right."

"What do you call just right" I asked.

"Oh, she is artistic to her finger tips, and she gathers the right people around her; furnishes them a wonderful evening's entertainment; but leaves them all so free, makes everyone so comfortable to talk about their latest hobby or to make love to their neighbor's wife," and she laughed mischievously.

"In other words she gives what Tom calls 'Bohemian parties.' "

"Yes, and they're just lovely! so different from the cut and dried society affairs."

"Well I shall be glad when it is time to go home."

"For heaven's sake Margaret! why you'll be like all the rest, once you get there. No one ever wants to go home, do they, Bob?" she called, interrupting a discussion Bob and Tom, who were in front of us, were having anent some new golfer who had made an astonishing score.

"Wants what?" he asked, as he turned around.

"Wants to go home from Gladys Root's she laughed.

No indeed! why should one want to go home when they can stay there?"

The very idea of Bob talking like that, I thought, indignant that he should speak so of his home; slightingly I called it. Why I was in his home; I loved him; and he loved me. Why in the world did he care about going to other places? Now he agreed with Elsie that he never wanted to go home from Mrs. Root's. I was sorry I had decided to go. It would have been wiser had I declined, even tho Bob might have been annoyed for a few minutes.

Just as I arrived to this conclusion in my thoughts we drew in front of the studio building in which the Roots made their home. Sounds of merriment reached us even before the motor stopped.

"Hurry boys, I don't want to miss anything!" Elsie called, as she ran on ahead. I waited until Bob and Tom had attended to the car, then I followed soberly.

Mrs. Root welcomed us cordially. She introduced me to two or three people then turned me over to John Kendall:

"You are such a friend of Bob's you will know what to do with Mrs. Garrett," she said as if I were something to be disposed of at will. "Bob knows everyone here, I think, so he can look out for himself. I see that he has found Maud Warren. He's fixed for an hour at least. You don't expect me to do anything for you and Tom, do you, Elsie?" she rattled on. "If you do you will be disappointed. Hustle around and find fun for yourselves."

Fun evidently was not hard to find, for soon I heard Elsie's gay laugh float out from the other side of the room; while Tom had made his way to a tall, thin, abominably dressed girl—at least I though her badly dressed, who, John told me, was a very successful artist.

Mrs. Root was exquisitely dressed as were most of the women. The men were all in correct evening dress. The studio was beautifully lighted with softly shaded lights; and a famous violinist was to play. Yet I wished I were back home, and that Bob were with me. My lips tightened as I heard his hearty laughing out; then saw him bend over Miss Warren and say something at which she too joined him. Some one said "Sh—s" and all was quiet for a few moments until the violinist had finished, when the fun broke out again. At least they all seemed to think it fun.

"You don't appear to be be enjoying yourself, Mrs. Garrett?" John Kendall broke in on my thoughts. He had been talking of a new author he had discovered. And had caught me yawning. "Let me introduce you to some of the ladies."

"I never care for affairs of this kind," I replied. "They bore me."

ALLEN H. ROYCE.

Well known Toronto lawyer, who died in North Carolina as direct result of illness induced by overwork.

TURKS HAVE TAKEN BATUM

London, April 17.—The capture of the city of Batum by the Turks, is announced in an official statement issued at Constantinople on Monday.

Batum is a Black Sea port in the Transcaucas territory taken from Russia under the terms of the peace treaty. This region has been evacuated by the Russians, buts its occupation by the Turks is being resisted by the Armenians.

GIRLS! MAKE A BEAUTY LOTION WITH LEMONS

At the cost of a small jar of ordinary cold cream one can prepare a full quarter pint of the most wonderful lemon skin softener and complexion beautifier, by squeezing the juice of two fresh lemons into a bottle containing three ounces of orchard white. Care should be taken to strain the juice through a fine cloth so no lemon pulp gets in, then this lotion will keep fresh for months. Every woman knows that lemon juice is used to bleach and remove such blemishes as sallowness, freckles and tan, and is the ideal skin softener, smoothener and beautifier.

Just try it! Get three ounces of orchard white at any pharmacy and two lemons from the grocer and make up a quarter pint of this sweetly fragrant lemon lotion and massage it daily into the face, neck, arms and hands. It naturally should help to soften, freshen, bleach and bring out the roses and beauty of any skin. It is wonderful to smoothen rough, red hands.

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PRISONERS REACH U. S.

By Courier Leased Wire

An Atlantic Port, April 16.—The first German prisoners of war to arrive in the United States, formerly members of the crew of the submarine U-58, which was sunk by an American destroyer, arrived here today on the same vessel, on which Secretary of War Baker made his return trip from Europe.

The number of prisoners is believed to be about twenty.

MEDICAL

DR. KEANE—Physician and Surgeon, 114 Dalhousie St. Brantford. Hours; 9 to 11 a. m., 2 to 4 p. m., 7 to 9 p.m. Bell phone 177. Specialty. Electric treatment.

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