

THE COURIER

Published by The Brantford Courier Limited, every afternoon, at Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Canada. Subscription rate: By carrier, \$4 a year; by mail to British possessions and the United States, \$5 per annum.

SEMI-WEEKLY COURIER—Published on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, at \$1 per year, payable in advance. To the United States, 5 cents extra for postage. Toronto Office: Queen City Chambers, 32 Church Street. H. B. Smallpiece, Representative, Chicago Office, 745 Marquette Bldg.; Robt. E. Douglas, Representative.

Friday, April 20th, 1917.

THE SITUATION

The main feature of the war news consists of the fact that German resistance of any moment continues to break down in front of the valorous French. They continue to take strong positions and prisoners, and now have over seventeen thousand of the latter, together with many guns. The British have also made progress around Lens and Monchy.

THE VIEWS OF A FAR SEEMING MAN.

The Toronto Globe, in giving a sketch of the career of the late Sir Melvin Jones, said:—

"The fact brings in, the tie of Sir L. M. Jones with Liberalism and his later break. After his Winnipeg experience he had been closely in touch with the party, and was known as a leading business man politician. It is needless to recall his long career of usefulness, but the story of how and why he broke was given in The Globe on March 30, 1914, as follows:—

"I am unalterably out of the Liberal party because I feel that the policy they are supporting is detrimental to the interests of a business in which I am not only deeply concerned, but in which I have a great human interest. I have stated the policy that I believe to be fair and just, not only to the concern in which myself and others are interested, but to the people of Canada. I intend to adhere to it, whatever other people do. I feel that the Liberal party has deserted me.

"I have never requested or desired a high protective tariff. I am not a free trader, and I do not approve of Canada raising its revenue by direct taxation. My opposition to such a policy is due to the fact that, taking into consideration the existing relations between Canada and the United States, such an innovation would be impossible. I feel that if I adhered to the policy advocated by the Liberal Opposition it would ultimately prove disastrous to one of the greatest industries in Canada."

The feelings of the late magnate are shared by thousands of other Liberals throughout the Dominion. They realize as he did, that protection is absolutely essential for the welfare of Canada, unless we want to be made a dumping ground and slaughter market for Uncle Sam's manufactured goods. And with factories and workmen thus affected the farmer in turn would see his home market largely go to the dogs.

BAGDAD.

In a general way most of us have recognized the importance of the capture of Bagdad, mainly, perhaps, because of its association with the Caliphs, the title applied to the successors of Mohammed. Of the material advantages of the place an evidently well informed writer in the "New Statesman" London, gives some very interesting particulars. Bagdad is the fourth largest city in the Ottoman Empire only Constantinople, Damascus, and Smyrna exceeding it. It is as it has been for over eleven centuries, the commercial capital of Mesopotamia, situated at the intersection of the most important trade-routes in the Middle East. It has a unique prestige all over the Arab world as the capital of the great Arab empire created and ruled by the Abbasid Caliphs. It is the centre of a highly cultivated alluvial district, which remains populous and rich, in spite of the poverty and depopulation which have overtaken Mesopotamia generally under the blight of Turkish rule. Lastly, it has developed a new importance within the last quarter of a century as the objective of the Bagdad Railway and the seat of a growing trade with Europe.

It is 400 miles up the Tigris from Basra but there is good water communication all the way for suitably constructed river boats. On the other hand the communication with distant Syria and still more distant Constantinople, left nearly everything to be desired and hence the Berlin to Bagdad railway conception which still remains unbuilt for a distance of some three hundred miles. The reason that Townshend's expedition finally came to grief was that a sufficiency of river craft had not been assembled nor had Basra been adapted for its new role as a great port of transhipment from sea-going to river going vessels. Consequently the number of troops enabled to be supplied for the fighting front was inferior to the number which the Turks, using the Bagdad district as their immediate base, were able to pit against the British.

That was why they were enabled to encircle and eventually capture Kut. The blow inflicted on British prestige by the fall of the latter place compelled the effort to try again. This could only be done successfully by patient work with regard to communications.

After General Maude took command Indian labor was imported on a large scale, and by dredging, embanking, and wharf-building Basra was converted into a satisfactory port. Enough river-craft were collected, and organized into a highly efficient service. Extensive railways were built, both to supplement the river-service and to enable the impregnable Turkish front below Kut to be turned. These preparations enabled General Maude, when the time came, to bring to bear very superior forces. He used them well; the Turks hung on to their positions too long; and in the end a brilliant pursuit annihilated the enemy's Kut army.

The fall of Bagdad strikes the German imagination chiefly as a blow to the Berlin-Bagdad conception. It will strike that of the Ottomans themselves as lopping off the Mesopotamian end of their empire, which they had set their hearts on linking up.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

Toronto ball fans are not very hilarious up to date for the reason that their team is very much cellarous. Lajoie is the captain and Le Miserere the club song.

The incident that Berlin workmen were able to win the strike on their own terms is one more evidence of the fact that the Prussian authorities are commencing to fear the populace.

The splendid reports which Stewart Lyon, Canadian correspondent at the front is sending, constitutes full justification for the expense the Associated Press papers, the Courier included, have shouldered in sending him there.

THE PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY

The communities which are seeking to have the above road run via Kitchener instead of by the direct and natural route via Brantford, are leaving no stone unturned to accomplish their object. Over two hundred delegates in this behalf waited on the Ontario Cabinet yesterday and when the case had been presented, Premier Hearst told them that he had been impressed with the arguments, advanced, adding, however, that "he still had an open mind as to the route which would best serve the public."

The Mayor of London went along to help with his influence.

Brantford and kindred municipalities will have to get exceedingly busy to offset what the "other fellows" are doing.

In this regard The Courier once more wishes to emphasize the necessity of concerted action. Mayor Bowdler is a man of much energy—remarkably so for his years—and he can do much good for the help of the cause if he will only get into harness with the rest instead of writing sarcastic letters to the Mayors of other Municipalities. Surely he can take this observation in the proper spirit and act accordingly.

STREET CLEANING

Superintendent of Streets, Fred Unger has a gang of men employed in cleaning up the city streets, and about thirty two were in the East Ward today removing the accumulation of debris that has collected over the winter.

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OGILVIE, LOCHEAD & COMPANY

British are Now at the Gates of Jerusalem

Dragged From Cement Dugouts by Victorious French Forces, They Were Too Weak to Eat; French Advance Continues

Is the dream of the ages to come true? Is Jerusalem to fall into the hands of the Christians after having been held by the Turks these many centuries? Is the object of the crusades to be attained as one of the results of the present war?

The indications are that the British army now in Palestine will soon reach the Holy City, and that streets made sacred by the feet of the Savior may respond to the tread of soldiers from the west.

Wise men from the east journeyed thither 20 centuries ago. For two centuries at the dawning of modern history it became the place sought by Christians from the west, moved by a holy fervor to take from the Moslem hands the sacred tomb and the region roundabout, hallowed to them by association with the brief story of the Man of Sorrows.

But crusades after crusades beat itself to death on the perils, toil and pains of the desert, and thousands of impetuously religious men, women and children lost their lives in what appeared to be ill-starred attempts to wrest the holy place from the vandal.

If Jerusalem falls into Christian hands as a result of this war; if the British arms push their way through the oldest of civilized lands to Palestine, the consummation of the pious hopes of Christendom for the ages will have been accomplished, and the ultimate aim of the crusades will have been attained.

Crusades that Made History. But the crusades from 1096 to 1272 were productive of so many side issues whose influence has been felt through the ages that, although they failed at the time of their original purpose, they have exerted an influence on history and on the destiny of mankind so potent that it is doubtful if ever expeditions were attempted which were so pregnant with events.

Such things as the discovery of America directly resulted from the crusades.

No armies from France, Germany and all western Europe could march thence today even to the innermost of their journey overland to the realm of Russia and topples a Czar

gates of Jerusalem without coming into contact with luxuries of the vastly older civilization of the far east. Coming back home, war-scarred Crusaders brought, with them touches of the Orient. They brought bits of silk, brilliant gems, bold, flavors of spicery and wines which the east produced. The luxuries of the other nations, China, India and the lands of antiquity, aroused in the peoples of Europe. Just bursting from barbarism and susceptible to the cultural value of these luxuries, a great desire for those commodities, and trading became profitable.

No band of pilgrims under the banner of the Cross, plowing the blue Mediterranean of the eastern port of Jaffa to land and help capture the Holy City from the Saracens, could be unmindful of the ease with which ships of trade could bring to their southern European ports the products of the east.

Trade That Made Cities. Thence arose the commerce which built up Genoa and Venice and Marseilles and the other great ports of medieval times.

Then arose the desire to find an all-sea route to the Orient. And this you remember from the first pages of your history you used to thumb in school, gave rise to the wonderment among navigators if there did not exist a northwest passage.

Pondering on the problem, one Christopher Columbus, who as a boy used to hang about the redolent wharves of old Genoa, conceived the idea of going to India by the western route.

They called him crazy, of course; they always call men crazy who start radical ideas; they refused to give him ships, until the Queen of Spain became interested and financed the expedition, but he sailed and sailed and fetched up against a continent where has grown the world's greatest republic.

Thus does the cycle of events turn from a crusade to take the holy sepulchre at Jerusalem rises a new land to the west, whose spirit dominates today even to the innermost of Russia and topples a Czar

**MEN WANTED FOR NAVAL SERVICE**

The Canadian Naval Service wants Canadians for immediate service on the coast of Canada, for the period of the war.

Officers Naval Reserve, or Mercantile Marine are accepted with rank according to qualifications. Pay \$2.50 a day and up; \$30.00 and up monthly separation.

Men are accepted from 18 to 45 with previous seafaring experience. Seamen, Stokers, Engine Room Ratings, etc. —Minimum pay \$1.05 a day. Separation allowance made.

FOR OVERSEAS—Men from 18 to 38 wanted for immediate overseas service in the R. N. C. V. R. No experience required. Pay from \$1.10 per day. Allowances as in C. E. F. All must be sons of British subjects. For full particulars apply to

COMMODORE AMILUS JARVIS, Naval Recruiting Officer, Ontario Area, 103 Bay Street, TORONTO, or The Naval Recruiting Secretary, 305 Wellington St., Ottawa.

From his throne, while trench-stained men in khaki march toward Jerusalem, in marked contrast to the knights of Richard Coeur de Lion and Godfrey of Bouillon, whose armor, emblazoned with the sign of the cross, once glistened in the Oriental sunlight as they progressed on their holy errand 800 or 900 years ago.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Petrograd, April 20.—via London —Admiral Kolschak, commander of the Black Sea fleet, has been appointed commander-in-chief of all Russian naval forces in the Baltic.

Purifier For Water Works to be Bought

A meeting of the water commissioners was held in the City Hall yesterday afternoon, when Messrs. John Fair, Chairman, C. A. Waterous, and Mayor J. W. Bowdler were present. It was moved by C. A. Waterous, and seconded by Mayor Bowdler that a No. 8, 300 horse power Hoppes Live steam feed water purifier be ordered at a price of \$167,500 in

accordance with specifications previously supplied. The secretary was requested to write to Messrs. E. S. and W. S. Lea, consulting engineers, Montreal, asking them to visit Brantford at an early date and report upon existing conditions as to the water supply. They will also be asked to recommend plans for increasing the same, under the direction of the Board.

The chairman reported upon his visit with the secretary and engineer over the Britain Farm, and the situation there since the flood at the river screen house. He outlined the necessary work to be done at the galleries at once.

LOCAL

CLEANING PARKS.

Under the direction of Parks Superintendent J. C. Waller, men at work, engaged in cleaning up various civic parks, and a great improvement is noted since the abolition of winter waste has been moved.

GARDENING IDEAS.

The library attendants state there is now an ever increasing demand for books on gardening, evident result of the agitation back yard cultivation being urged by the Thrift League. There is a considerable number of titles of books on the circulation list and the public is rapidly learning to take advantage of this convenient

TRANSFERRED TO DEFENSE.

A number of the young men of the 215th Battalion have been transferred from that unit to 38th Dufferin Rifles, and will be members of the C. E. F. Company of that regiment, with the option of joining the C. E. F. company of unit, when they become of age, men thus affected are: Privates Cleaver, R. Stuart, E. Dwyer, Explin, K. Bradens and J. J. Clever.

CHURCH PARADE.

The local branch of the Great Veterans' Association have issued invitations to over one hundred fifty retired soldiers in the men's Patriotic League, the of Education, and other civic to be present at their church service in St. Jude's Anglican church Sunday morning next, when colors will be deposited in the nave until a suitable club room has been procured.

FORESTERS' TRIP.

Members of the Ancient Order Foresters of this city last night the number of over fifty, paid an enjoyable return visit to the Hilton brook. A special train had been chartered for the occasion and the visitors arrived in the bitious City at eight o'clock, were met at the depot by a delegation of their Hamilton friends, conveyed them to the lodge on James Street. Progressive was played, in which Mr. J. T. son was the Brantford high man in spite of this, the local unit lost out by a narrow margin round. A musical program presented and dainty refreshments were served, the visit leaving at twelve o'clock, after a home an hour later, after spending an enjoyable evening in fraternal intercourse.

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