

THE COURIER

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Thursday, April 12th, 1917.

THE SITUATION

Hindenburg has heavily reinforced his northern flank, and the opposition offered by the foe is much more marked. In addition, a continuous snowfall yesterday hampered operations. However, Haig's men succeeded in taking the village and heights of Monchy-le-Preux. At Bullecourt the British, after penetrating the enemy line were forced to retire as the result of rushing German troops to the spot, and Berlin claims that one thousand prisoners were taken. Still later details with regard to the occupation of Vimy ridge show that the prisoners totalled twelve thousand and guns taken over 150. Flare counter-attacks have been successfully driven off. It is anticipated that Canadian casualties will total in the neighborhood of fifteen hundred. The noble part they took on this occasion and their memorable achievements will live forever in Dominion annals and have challenged world-wide admiration.

The official report of the submarine victims of last week shows that nineteen British vessels were sunk during that period, seventeen of them more than 1,600 tons each. During the same period, about five thousand craft entered or cleared British ports. It will thus be seen that the intensified under-water campaign has not begun to live up to the expectations of its devilish devisers.

British and French representatives are to visit Washington in order to exchange views and make plans with regard to war co-operation. Incidentally the distribution of the proposed loan of three billion dollars will also come under review. The Old Country delegation will be headed by A. J. Balfour, who has witnessed scores of changes among the public men of England and still holds his own in the very first line. He is now in his 69th year, but has borne the stress of great responsibilities from a very early age with amazing vitality and his remarkable mind is just as keen as ever, and his clear cut purposes unabated.

HUGE BANK DEPOSITS

The best possible evidence of the prosperity of the country is the periodical bank statement. The latest statistics of deposits show that Canadians never had so much money to their credit. The increase during the past decade, the last five years and since the outbreak of the war is remarkable. The statement for the month of February touches the high-water mark. The savings deposits totalled \$380,456,637 and the deposits on demand were \$430,331,801 as against \$728,242,609 and \$389,825,667 in February, 1915, or an increase in the year of the extraordinary amount of nearly two hundred million dollars. Since 1911 there has been an increase in deposits of over four hundred and eighty million dollars. Since 1905 the increase in deposits on demand has been three fold and the increase in savings deposits about two and a half fold, a record which is doubtful if any country in the world can equal.

The following are the yearly figures for the months of February since 1905. They tell their own story of growth and prosperity of which every Canadian should be proud.

Year	Deposits on Demand	Savings Deposits
1917	\$430,331,801	\$380,456,637
1916	389,825,667	728,242,609
1915	332,042,193	701,336,850
1914	348,732,830	659,806,682
1913	389,856,507	621,511,207
1912	383,814,572	644,097,323
1911	331,953,562	536,451,045
1910	280,838,612	549,016,725
1909	250,968,487	480,837,606
1908	190,114,091	414,789,347
1907	170,488,311	417,747,636
1906	181,498,733	390,909,519
1905	150,888,116	349,822,859

That the English language exclusively be taught in Alberta schools is the policy of the Government.

Lieut. R. O. White, Winnipeg, who is attached to the flying corps, is now a prisoner in Karlsruhe, Germany.

At Golden, B. C., the C. R. L. Company have started to overhaul their mill, getting it ready for the season's cut, which will commence as soon as the ice in the river breaks up to allow the logs to be floated down to the mill.

CANADA IN THE CONFLICT

Some striking figures which bring out in bold relief the part that the Dominion has played in the war, were given by Hon. F. B. McCurdy, Parliamentary Secretary of the Department of Militia in an address at Halifax on "Canada in the Conflict."

Mr. McCurdy said that, taking the number enlisted in the C. E. F. (407,302) and adding thereto the permanent force, active militia, naval service, direct enlistments in the British service and Canadians who as reservists joined the colors of their mother countries who are our allies, 443,184 Canadians resident in the Dominion at the outbreak of the war have left their previous pursuits and had taken up arms.

Notwithstanding the lamentations of those who say that recruiting is dead, enlistments were still coming in at a rate of more than 7,000 per month. "Who," he asked, "before the war, would have thought it possible that after two and one-half years of war and after 449,000 Canadians had already joined the Allied forces, men would under the voluntary system be coming forward at the rate of over 85,000 per year?"

After referring to the magnificent part the women had taken in the war, Mr. McCurdy said that upwards of 1,000 women, all mothers, sisters, daughters of overseas men, were engaged in carrying on the work of the Militia Pay and Records Office at Ottawa.

The most recent table of Canadian casualties to March 25th showed:

Killed in action	12,255
Died of wounds	4,370
Died of sickness	681
Presumed dead	1,144
Wounded	62,095
Missing	2,630
Prisoners of war	2,373
Total	77,558

He showed that while Canada is fighting business is flourishing. Whereas in the last pre-war year Canada's adverse foreign trade balance had been \$309,000,000, this year shows a creditor balance of \$325,000,000, an improvement for 12 months of \$634,000,000, and the total annual value of foreign trade is crowding up close against the two billion mark.

Canada has enlisted six and one-quarter percent of her total population. By provinces, the enlistment has been in proportion to population as follows:

Quebec 2 1/2 percent; Prince Edward Island 2 3/4 percent; Nova Scotia, 4 1-2 percent; New Brunswick, 5 percent; Ontario 6 2-3 percent; Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 6 2-3 percent; Alberta, 9 1-3 percent; British Columbia, 10 percent.

Canadians have no reason to feel ashamed of their part in this great struggle. What they have done has won the praise and unstinted admiration of the Empire and the Empire's Allies; excited the amazement of the neighboring republic and the hatred and chagrin of the Germans.

NOTE AND COMMENTS

No one will be surprised to hear that German Red Cross nurses have practiced brutality towards Allied patients. It's in the breed.

German crops have had a bad start this year. This refers to the field variety. Their crop of busted hopes is unusually large and maintains steady growth.

A Minto man who admitted seditious utterances, has been allowed to go on suspended sentence. A suspended something else would have been quite in order.

The baseball season is here and the players will not be allowed to take anything stronger than when Rachel took a pitcher to the well.

The fact that the militia authorities have decided to allow Rev. Mr. McKegney, chaplain of the 216th, to proceed overseas at any rate in that capacity, does not in any sense detract from his decision to serve as a private when there seemed to be no other way of going along. He showed himself to be the man that he is in that resolve.

The Ontario Minister of Education has arranged that when the school book contracts expire this year, there shall be a renewal without any advance in prices, notwithstanding the big advance in the price of paper and other printing expenses. What a contrast this affords to the period under Grit rule when the public were soaked with monopoly charges.

At Vancouver through Sir Charles Hibbert Tipper, naturalized Japanese of British Columbia have approached the Government of British Columbia and there are between 2,000 and 3,000 who wish to become voters.

SOAP AND THE SOMME

When the story of the battles of the great war come to be written, there will be one which will make joyful reading. That sounds paradoxical; that a battle should make reading which gives one to merriment. Yet, so it is. And the battle in question is the longest, the most continuous and the one that spreads over a larger area than any other in the whole category of a thousand sanguinary struggles. It is the battle of hygiene.

The forces engaged in this battle are the allied powers of sanitation, hygiene and health against the enemy alliance of dirt, disease and discomfort. The battleground is anywhere from a hospital train to a soldier's finger nail.

To the small boy being washed it is as bad as having senna tea administered to the soldier, a bath is as wane that maketh glad the heart, for it renews a vitality which eight days and nights in the trenches have done much to exhaust. The thought of a bath to a man in the Somme trench is the promise of spring sunshine to a growing bulrush in a stagnant marsh.

After about eight days and nights in the trenches facing what the Germans, not without reason, call their "grave," the British fighting men are relieved. Then begins the plod back to the rest billets. It is a journey not without its own peculiar excitement. The night time has passed with it spitting bullets about the place. Many a stray shell has been known to burst away down a communication trench in the night as if it had lost its way in the dark. Why the plodding relieved unit rearranges itself after such a "bong santay," and plods on towards the rest billets, its members have been heard to remark: "Near shave that time, might have lost our bath after all."

Movement is fully well expedited along this weary way back to the rest camp; but it is not done at the rate of eight miles an hour. It is generally down by the time the party reaches the bathing place, way through the battered streets of a village, which, perhaps, may have been in the hands of the enemy not very long ago. The party is well behind the lines here. They are beyond the range of the sniper, and the machine gun is heard no more.

But as they round a corner a new sound greets their ears. It is something akin to the musical noises of a careful statistical summary. Automobile trade authorities agree that the opening of 1917 saw no less than 3,000,000 passenger automobiles in use. The same authorities put the average mileage per car at 6,000 miles as a minimum. Neither of these figures appear to be at all inflated. On that basis the motor car mileage for the year would be 18,000,000,000.

If the motor car load be put as low as two passengers, the accomplishment of the year's motors would be 36,000,000,000, a trifle more than that of the railroads. It is probable that two passengers is too low for the average motor load.

For two or three years railroad men have recognized a relative decline in passenger traffic and earnings, despite the fact that this business does not ordinarily fluctuate as widely as freight traffic between good and bad commercial periods. The automobile has frequently been cited as a factor, but until recently its importance in this regard has nowhere been fully recognized. The enormous increase in motor output since the middle of 1915 is now beginning to reveal its logical consequences for other modes of travel.

Meanwhile, the "reception party" is hard at work. All the baths have been unloaded and placed in rows under the roof of the wall-less shed. The baths lie cross-wise over a narrow but deep ditch into which pour the plugholes of the baths. A motor engine, combining the purposes of a pumping engine and a "super-heater boiler," is drawn up close to the row of about twenty to thirty baths. Long piping is run down to a stream at the far end of the farm yard. In a few seconds the blast fire of the pumping engine is roaring and belching forth dense, black clouds of fiery smoke. It looks very much like the arrival of the first fire engine at the scene of a fire.

An officer has seen to it that all preparations for the offensive are things done in the command of both forces of the battle—hygiene and dirt.

"Number one platoon, ready, there."

Immediately from the shelters there issues forth a motley crowd of soldiers equipped for the "battle." Their equipment consists of a towel! At the same moment the engineer turns a lever. There is a hissing of steam. A length of piping from the "fire engine" is taken by one of the "reception party," and held near the row of baths. He stands, holding over the nearest bath a highly polished nozzle at the end of the hose pipe—just like a fire hose. In an-

other second or two, from the nozzle gushes a spout of steaming water. Like a gardener watering plants, he traverses the row of baths with the nozzle of sanitation. Another lever is turned and the stream of water becomes cold. In its return traverse of the row of baths, the hose supplies the cooling influence, and hardly before the last bath is filled, the first one is occupied by a "relieved" soldier, floundering in the steam and soap bubbles like Pan after a woodland frolic.

Three minutes of this, and its time for the next platoon. In exchange for his battle equipment of a towel, the bather is given a new suit of underclothing, straight from the Government laundry. A few minutes later, that same party that plodded out of the Somme trenches, trips merrily along the village streets to the billets. But first, illustrated with lantern slides. Rev. Langton of the Baptist church, occupied the chair and introduced the speaker of the evening. A number of hymns were also thrown on the screen and sung by the audience.

The engagement is announced of Edith Elliott, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Elliott to Mr. Chas. R. Hickson of St. John, N. B. The marriage will take place the latter part of the month.

To-morrow evening the ladies of the patriotic league are going to entertain the Paris men of the 215th battalion. The supper will be given in the Presbyterian Sunday school, and the boys will receive their usual parcel from the society, consisting of socks, soap, towels, etc.

The following donations have been received by the Methodist Red Cross society: Miss Brown, \$5; Dr. Duntson \$5; Mr. Beer, \$5; Mr. Howard Duntson \$2; Mr. Ira Elmes \$2; Mrs. Ridley \$1.

On Tuesday evening the Falkland Women's Institute and the Farmers' Club held their final meeting of the season in the Falkland Hall. Mr. Jack McKinnon ably acted as chairman, and after the routine business was transacted, two splendid little plays were given. "The Three Admirals," by Miss Fernie Turnbull, Messrs Arthur Martin, Ernest Potuff and Shirley Davis of Bethel.

"Two Aunts and a Photograph," by Mrs. Lee, Miss Alice Parkhill, Miss Dee and Miss Bond, One and all are deserving of every praise for the way they took their parts, as the audience seemed to enjoy the plays from start to finish. Between the acts the following assisted on the program: Vocal solo, Mrs. J. McNeill, quartette by the Bethel young people; recitation by Miss A. Pitts of Paris. At the close a dainty repast was served by the women's institute. Last evening a right jolly time was spent at the residence of Mr. F. P. Blackhurst, Burwell street.

REV. D. ALEXANDER SPOKE AT PARIS

Local Clergyman Gave Illustrated Lecture on "Pilgrim's Progress"

OTHER NEWS OF PARIS

Rev. Dr. Primrose Tells of Work at Saloniki

(From our own Correspondent) Paris, April 12.—A large and appreciative audience greeted Rev. Dr. Alexander, of Brantford, Tuesday evening, in the Mission Hall at the Junction, and thoroughly enjoyed his lecture on "Bunyon's Pilgrim's Progress." Illustrated with lantern slides, Rev. Langton of the Baptist church, occupied the chair and introduced the speaker of the evening. A number of hymns were also thrown on the screen and sung by the audience.

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Canadians Won Fresh Honors

By Courier Leased Wire. Toronto, April 12.—A news agency despatch says:

With the British Armies Afeld, April 12.—Canadians earned new honors to-day in a storming advance on a mile front south of Vimy ridge. Dashing forward impetuously they stormed and took nearly a mile of German trenches running south from the German commandant's house near the Barbus wood.

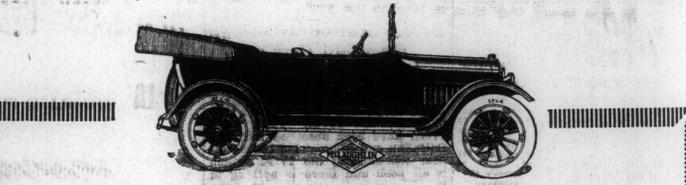
It was along this line of defense that the German forces have been clinging desperately since the first sweep forward of the Canadians cleared the top of the Vimy ridge.

GRANDMOTHER OF REVOLUTION By Courier Leased Wire. London, April 12.—Telegraphing from Petrograd Reuter's correspondent says:

"Mme. Catherine Breshkovskaya, 'grandmother of the Russian revolution' arrived here to-day. She was welcomed by enormous enthusiastic crowds."

Mme. Breshkovskaya was released recently from Siberia, after having spent forty-four of her seventy three years as a convict, prisoner and exile in northern Asia.

Another Vancouver man to receive high military honors is Second-Lieut. T. M. Reid, son of Mr. J. M. Reid, of Grande Aloua, who has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry on the field of battle.



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LOCAL NEWS

POST OFFICE INSPECTION.

The government post office inspector is in the city to-day, looking over the local building.

JOINS 22ND.

Sergeant C. A. Dixon of the 215th battalion has been transferred to the 22nd battalion. The change takes effect on Tuesday, April 10th.

S. DUMFRIES CONCERNED.

The township of South Dumfries, which will be vitally interested in the decision of the Dominion Railway Board in Hamilton this afternoon, regarding the St. Paul's Avenue subway, are sending Rev. C. Crichton, township solicitor, and S. Dumfries as delegates.

TOWNSHIP DELEGATES.

The township of Brantford is represented at the hearing of the St. Paul's Avenue subway question before the Dominion Railway Board in Hamilton this afternoon. Messrs. A. J. McCann, reeve, J. Smith, township clerk, and S. Dumfries, township solicitor, are the delegates.

WILL PARADE

Under orders of Lieut. Chevens, the officer commanding the 22nd Battery, Canadian Field Artillery will parade this (Thursday) night at headquarters, K. German trenches running south from the German commandant's house near the Barbus wood.

SUSPEND BULLETIN

As a measure of economy, a committee representing both houses of the Dominion Parliament, has decided to suspend the publication of the Bulletin of Foreign Agriculture, Intelligence, and the best feature will be incorporated in The Agricultural Gazette of Canada. This formation will be of interest to those who have been accustomed to receive either of these two Government pamphlets.

TALENT TEA

A successful talent tea was held in the school room of Grace Church yesterday afternoon and evening. Miss Mary Wheeler, the proceeds of which were devoted to the Red Cross Fund. Delightful home-made cooking and fancy articles that really appealed to the feminine eye were disposed of with facility, and a really sum was realized to assist in the commendable work of the Red Cross. In the evening a short program of songs was given, that considerably added to the enjoyment of the event.

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