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MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1917

SITUATION IS SERIOUS
These are the most critical days since the beginning of the war. The news from Italy is very bad. Putting the best light upon the reports which have already come through, the Italians have suffered a severe and possibly an overwhelming defeat. Not only has the advance which was planned, and upon which the Allies seemed to look with some hope as likely to end the war, been checked, but the Italians have been driven back; the gains they made after heroic efforts, after months of endeavor, have been lost in a few hours; Italian territory has been invaded, and the Italian front is seriously menaced. Once before the enemy started the invasion of Italy, but the forward rush was checked by action by the Russians. But there is no hope from that quarter now.

The most alarming part of the news is the admission on the part of the Italian army. One army seems to have withdrawn without offering sufficient resistance. This was unexpected and very serious.

The elimination of Italy, which seems not impossible, will greatly prolong the war. The news in general is unexpected and depressing. The task of the other allies will be more difficult. The world now looks to the United States. The situation is serious.

In case of doubt, get some of the Victory Loan. It is good business and it is good patriotism. It is worth while.

The organization of a union government was worth while, because of making a start in checking the patronage evil, if for no other reason.

As yet there is very little interest in the municipal election, though this towards the end of October. The coming year will be so near to the Dominion election that the interest may not be as great as before.

A VAIN HOPE
Many Liberals in western Canada, opposing the union government, still have hopes of some declaration of comfort to them by Sir Wilfrid Laurier declaring in favor of conscription or some substitute for that method of getting Canadian troops to reinforce the men at the front. They give no reason for their faith. It will be very surprising if Sir Wilfrid Laurier makes any declaration which will in any way satisfy western electors, who are anxious for a more vigorous prosecution of the war. During the recent session many of his strongest supporters urged him, entreated and implored him to make some move, which would justify them in remaining under his leadership. But Sir Wilfrid was obdurate. He would make no move. He was opposed to conscription, and he would remain in opposition to conscription to the end. He has done so.

If he refused to alter his position to save his party from collapse, it is most unlikely that he will alter his position now that the party has been re-announced through his persistence. The Liberals who still hope for some announcement which will justify them in opposing union government, have great faith. But there is nothing to justify them in their faith. The question for them is plain enough. The Conservatives and a large section of the Liberals in Canada have united in a union government, the foundation of which is the determination to vigorously prosecute the war. Opposed to that government is an opposition which opposes conscription. In addition to that, the strongest force of the opposition is anxious for Canada to do no more, and many urge that Canada should drop out of the war.

This is the serious problem placed before every Canadian. The voter must settle it at the ballot box.

One thing that is to be said about his young winter, is that it is a fine one. The only objection to it being that it has come at the wrong time.

Thousands of bushels of spuds have been frozen in the ground and in about this city, because people did not get them dug. That is a serious criticism of the thrift of our people.

THE MACLEOD CONVENTION
The outcome of the Macleod convention of Liberals and Conservatives, held on Saturday, was not unexpected. The Liberals divided slightly against union government. The minority of the Liberals then began negotiations with the Conservatives for the organization of a union convention. Such a convention will be held in a short time.

Though the vote was close in the Liberal meeting, it hardly represents the opinion of the Liberals in the riding, or in any riding. The strong party men usually attend the public meetings. The strong party men find the greatest difficulty in breaking away from the old leaders. The ordinary elector finds difficulty in placing his country before any party affiliations or traditions. The average voter will not hesitate.

What occurred in Macleod will occur in other ridings in this part of the province. The people are behind union government. Whatever some prominent Liberals may say or do, the vast majority of the Liberals in this city and in this province are behind the union government. They are convinced that everything must be done to unite our nation in vigorous prosecution of the war. They are prepared to give this government a chance.

The news of the Italian disaster is the most serious since the early days of the war. Surely in this dark and threatening hour our people can for a few days forget their prejudices and form something like union.

When the city went forth as usual and coaxed the citizens to pay their taxes, the returns were not satisfactory. Now we shall see what the delinquent taxpayers will do when the city gets after them with the tax certificate switch.

ALMOST INSTANTLY KILLED
Victoria, B.C., Oct. 27.—Leonard Reeves, aged 27, was almost instantly killed today when the gun he was lifting from a boat at Alber Head was accidentally discharged, the bullet penetrating his lung. He had been duck hunting and had just hauled his boat to the shore when the "accident" occurred. Reeves was a gunner in the 5th regiment C.G.A. and had been stationed at Belmont battery for the last eighteen months.

PARTIES UNITE IN MANITOBA
Winnipeg, Oct. 28.—Springfield (Manitoba) Conservatives reorganized their association at a meeting held in Winnipeg yesterday, and appointed a committee of ten to meet a like number from the St. Clements "Win-the-War" association, and a like number from the Springfield Liberal unionists, with a view to selecting a union candidate.

Bottle Message Says Kitchener Lives
German agents are evidently still engaged in endeavoring to keep alive the belief that Lord Kitchener is a prisoner in Germany, but just what object they have in doing so seems strange and unexplainable.

Recently an account was printed of the efforts which had been made in Vancouver, and in practically every other city in Canada, and England, to trace to its source the story that a woman had received a note from a relative who had been on board of the Hampshire when that vessel, carrying Lord Kitchener, was blown up, and the failure which had attended the search for confirmation. Now another link has been added to the chain which points more clearly to the activities of German sympathizers to create belief that Britain's war minister is alive.

The latest evidence in the "Kitchener puzzle," as it is being called in England, is furnished by the discovery of a bottle message.

A boy named Sidney Derbyshire recently picked up a bottle on the sands near Carleton Place. It was an ordinary beer bottle, with a stopper of rolled paper. He broke the bottle and found a folded bit of paper on which was written:

"Kitchener captured by German submarine - H.M.S. Hampshire, P. O. Evans."

The police were informed of this message from the deep, and took possession of the paper, stopper and remaining portions of the bottle which the boy had broken in order to get at the "message" inside.

On board the Hampshire when she went down was a petty officer named Evans, who, it is presumed by those favoring the contention that Kitchener was captured by the Huns, would sign his rank as "P. O."

The strange part of the whole affair is that the wife of Petty Officer Evans is positive that the writing is that of her husband, despite the fact that the name is written "Evans." She points to various peculiarities in the writing of both her husband and the "message," and seemingly they do correspond to remarkable degrees. Mrs. Evans, a Liverpool woman, aunt of Petty Officer Evans, is also certain that the writing is that of her nephew.

Everything might be taken as indicating that there was a certain genuineness to the mysterious document, were it not for one or two little facts. One has to do with the paper stopper which sealed the bottle. This stopper was from a torn newspaper and the printing contained on it is part of a discussion regarding the Stockholm conference which appeared in a Liverpool paper on August 18, 1917. Lord Kitchener went down on the Hampshire on June 5, 1916. Another fact is that while the handwriting strongly resembles that of the missing petty officer, who was reported to have died on the Hampshire, it has the appearance of having been written carefully and with no haste, such as it would be natural to suppose any man would be in when sending adrift such a message from a submarine.

The misspelling of the name "Evans" would lead to the belief that in some way the writer of the note, which itself had all the appearances of having been in the bottle many months, had secured in some way specimens of the writing of Evans and had carefully copied it, and unable to distinguish clearly between his construction of the letters "A" and "E," had plainly inserted the latter. Evans, it is said, did make a peculiar letter "E" which might often be mistaken for an "A," but in the signature attached to the missive it is unmistakably an "E."

FLLOUR FOR BRITAIN
Agency Is to Be Created at City of Winnipeg.
Winnipeg, Oct. 28.—A fairly well authenticated rumor is current in Winnipeg, to the effect that very shortly there will be established at this point a flour-buying agency for Britain and her allies overseas. Hereafter, Canadian flour for the allies has been bought through New York.

DUTCH SELL TO HUNS
Amsterdam, Oct. 28.—The Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, the semi-official German organ, says an agreement has been concluded between Holland and Germany, which will extend over 6 months, by which Holland will get German and Belgian coal, iron and steel covering Holland's main requirements, while Germany will obtain Dutch foodstuffs, chiefly cheese and butter.

EUROPE STRIPPED OF FOOD STUFFS; WILL BE SUPPLIED
Dominion Food Controller Consults With Hoover; Food Demanded Will Be Supplied
Kingston, Ont., Oct. 27.—Hon. W. J. Hanna, food controller, addressing the Women's Canadian club here, said if the call to save wheat, beef and bacon issued to the housekeepers of Canada when he took office three months ago was insisted, then it was louder now by far.

During the last three weeks, he said, I have discussed the situation with Mr. Hoover's organization at Washington and with the British mission at New York, and I learned of the facts from the inside. I cannot state those facts in public, but with the help of ships that will be available in the United States, the foodstuffs demanded will be forthcoming.

"Our own supplies, at the end of eight months," Mr. Hanna said, "will be short, and at the end of a year, shorter still. But we must be prepared to carry the war on for two years, if necessary. Europe is stripped of foodstuffs."

"Carry On"
A Fine Slogan

Few dying words are often quoted from the British section of the western front than those of "Carry on." The Frenchman has said, "For France!"; but the Britisher is less introspective; he bids no one to pause and care for him while the work is still to do. The phrase is one familiar to all in the military service over there. American enlistees soon catch the meaning of it too. The Boston Herald explains it as coming to the lips when an officer appears and every man stands at attention until he passes. "The officer wishing to release these men from this token of respect usually offers some words, 'Carry on.' That is, 'Return to whatever engaged you when I appeared.' The Herald finds it 'precisely the word that should be spoken to overworked men at home just now—"

"A cherished young man is going to training-camps and war-service; the hearts of many are moved to stand at attention, as it were. This is fitting. It is natural and for the good of the man standing forth as the nation's defender, as well as for the good of our people generally, that manifestations of honor and affection be made in homes and communities. But when that has been done—what then?—"

"The men who have done the nation's various uniforms and gone to their places of marching and drilling would surely make a common answer to that question. They would say to their friends at home, 'Carry on.' They want the life at home to go on as it was when they were with us. It will cheer and nerve them with strength to know that, daily duties are being performed in full without depression, pleasures continued much the same as before they left us. As autumn and winter brings the time when the life at home and school, church and community, usually takes on fuller activity and interest, our soldiers and sailors will wish to know that it is so now, though they are far away."

"Of course they would not have us forget them. Most certainly we must and shall do many things all these days to provide for their welfare and mightily support their huge undertaking. We at home are at war as truly as our men who have gone to the fighting front. All our war-time activities, we must not fail to maintain the endeared life at home which is such an empowering and upholding of the hearts of our fighting men. Away with down-heartedness. Hearten the school full of spirit, the church alive with hearty workers, social pleasures engaging and plentiful; and push business man-fashion, spurning the folly of gloom. Let letters to the men home be full of cheer and confidence. Carry on—not in the sense of giving way to loneliness and sorrow and anxious depression. Put the military meaning into that phrase. 'Carry on,' here at home even as the men in war-service have learned to lift those words to fuller meaning. For one of them has written:—"

"Carry on, Carry on!
Fight the good fight and true,
Believe in your mission, great dawn with cheer;
There's big work to do, and that's why you are here.

"Carry on, Carry on!
Let the world be the better for you;
And at last, when you die, let this be your cry:
'Carry on, my soul! Carry on!'"

AUCTION SALE
OF THE STOCK OF O. C. HOLDEN, JEWELER

Mr. Holden has been in the jewelry business for several years, taking over the well-established business of P. J. Harwood, formerly known as Watson Bros. Conditions have arisen in the past two years which prompt the public to buy less in every line; in short, the people must see a bargain before they will outlay a large amount of money. With rent and other overhead expenses higher than in the good times, it makes it hard for a young business man to pay off any indebtedness; the result, the creditors are not satisfied with what is being paid them on account. It has at last come to the point where some of the creditors have demanded their money or else an

ASSIGNMENT

Mr. Holden is like all other jewelers: they hate to put on an auction sale, for more reasons than one. Firstly, they know there are a lot of fakirs in that business that buy cheap goods for that purpose, then carry on an auction solely to make money. Secondly, a first-class jeweler hates to see his high-class goods being slaughtered for much less than he can purchase them himself. But credit is not like it used to be; you cannot go to the bank today and get an overdraft of \$10,000 to \$20,000, and perhaps just as well it is that way. Better to sell the goods below cost to the public, make your loss and be done with it than to always owe money and pay a large rate of interest.

The point is now reached where Mr. Holden has to have a sale and sacrifice or else

GO OUT OF BUSINESS

His extremity is your opportunity. There are men with good reputations known all over the continent for fair and square dealing, selling good goods that do not require underhand methods. These men travel all over and do nothing but sell by auction for the legitimate trade only—they give everybody a square deal. I am one of them. I can go back and sell in any town or city the second, third, fourth or as many more times as required without fear of meeting dissatisfied people.

I have held sales in many of the principal cities in the west. I am here to dispose of the entire stock (if necessary), turn it into money in the shortest possible time to satisfy the creditors of O. C. Holden.

Mr. Holden will personally guarantee every article as represented by the auctioneer.

These goods are not purchased for auction purposes; they were bought for a high-class trade.

HORACE DORER,
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Sale starts Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. Continued Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m.
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Canadian Officer Describes Terrible Fire of Saloniki
Witnessed Conflagration From Ship; Fifty Thousand Homeless; Saw Women Mad With Grief; Samples of German Kultur

A well-known young Canadian, who is an officer with the British navy and who witnessed the burning of Saloniki towards the end of August, has written a vivid description of the scene, to his sister. The following are paragraphs from his letter—used here through the courtesy of his family.

August 21.
"One can hardly realize the terrible things that has happened here the last few days.

"To start with, the city has disappeared—at least more than half of it has. I was writing a letter at the time and noticed a small fire at the back of the city. It seemed just an ordinary fire, but a terrible wind sprang up, and by the time it was dark, the city was doomed.

"It was too awful for words. By midnight it had burned down to the harbor, about a mile and a half deep, and a mile and a half wide. All the hotels, picture shows, stores, everything gone! It hardly seems possible, I've never seen anything so weird in my life, the tall white minarets standing out ghostly white, the tops burning like huge candles.

"No Water Supply
"Every now and again was a huge explosion, blowing up houses, trying to stop the progress of the fire. It was useless. As I've said, the houses etc. are practically unknown in this part of the world, the fire had everything its own way.

"All through the night I stood on deck, watching, watching ash and sparks falling into the harbor by the ton. I got it in my eyes and they started to burn like red hot coals. It happened that we were special guard that day, tied up behind a battleship.

"At two in the morning the whole front of the city was burning, and the wind blew everything past us, as they dumped everything they could into the sea.

"What a sight! The wind was now half a gale, and blowing past us were beds galore, mattresses by the hundreds, chairs, barrels of wine, cupboards—everything imaginable. It all seemed like a gigantic moving picture show.

Blazing Oil Barge
"Suddenly a huge barge full of blazing oil and petrol, started to move, flames bursting fifty feet high from it. Can you imagine anything more dramatic? It came straight at us. Some refugees, chiefly women and children, in a small caïque, were in the way, too. With a shriek a woman jumped into the water. In about another fifty seconds they would have been burnt to death, when one of our little picket boats rushed in, picked the woman out of the water, and saved the caïque.

"By this time we were on the move. The battleship fired two shots at it (very risky in a harbor with boats all over the shop), but the flaming barge on its wild career, didn't seem to mind anything, but made straight for one of our hospital ships. I've never seen a big ship get her anchor up and move away so quickly in my life.

"It's too long a story to follow the barge. It meant death to anyone getting near it. In the end a big tug rammed it and the last I saw of it, it was sailing down the harbor still blazing, but out of harm's way.

After Effects
"It's too long to describe the whole fire on shore (it's still burning). The most awful thing about it is the after effects.

"At the present time there are over 50,000 women and children living around the streets without shelter, food or even water. I've been amongst them. Women are half crazed with grief, some properly crazy—a sight I hope I never will see again.

"Everyone is trying to do his best, but the conditions are awful. They couldn't be worse. It will be many, many years before the place will be built up again. I doubt whether they will start until after the war.

Risk Lives
"No one knows how many were killed. Not many, I hope. But these poor creatures think more of a dirty old mattress than you do of all your clothes. A mattress and a shack mean home to many out this way, and they risked their lives to get a few more of their poor treasures together. From my porthole at the present moment I can see hundreds of them, chiefly women and kids, trudging along with their treasures, not knowing what to do or where to go.

"To give you a sample of "kultur," in the middle of all this a Hun flew into the smoke (so he couldn't be seen) and dropped some bombs. A funny world this!"



LAST HONORS TO A SINN FEINER
Pictures at the funeral of Thomas Ashe, the Irishman who tried to starve himself to death, and died of heart failure, brought on by excitement. The figure of the woman is Countess Marcovice in the uniform of an Irish volunteer. The larger picture shows the Sinn Fein party and the crowd.—London Daily Mirror photo.

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SALE OF TAX CERTIFICATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Treasurer of the City of Calgary, at his office at the City Hall, Calgary, on and after the 21st day of November, 1917, will sell to the best applicant Certificates of Delinquency for unpaid taxes levied or assessed prior to the 1st day of January, 1916, on the land included in the list—printed copies of which may be had by electronic or written application to the Treasurer or City Clerk, City Hall, Calgary—if such taxes with interest and costs are not sooner paid.

Why Tax Certificates Are An Attractive Investment

They take priority as security on real estate over mortgages and other encumbrances.

They may bear interest at 10 per centum per annum, preference being given to the tender offering to purchase a certificate at the lowest rate of interest.

They cannot be redeemed within one year unless the holder is paid the total amount thereof, plus one-tenth of such amount.

If unredeemed within three years, the holder, by simple procedure, can sell the property to recoup himself the amount thereof, with interest borne by the certificate, plus subsequent taxes paid by the purchaser or holder, with interest thereon at 10 per centum per annum, plus all costs, and if no sale, title to the property may be obtained.

They bear the guarantee of the City that, if set aside by the Court for any reason, the City will pay the holder the amount thereof, plus 5 per centum per annum.

For further particulars, including the method of tendering, prospective purchasers are invited to obtain and read the introduction contained in the printed list.

DATED at Calgary, Alberta, the 23rd day of October, 1917.