

THE COURIER

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Monday, April 1st, 1918.

THE SITUATION.

At present writing the great German drive would seem to have been perceptibly slowed up and the danger which at one time seemed to threaten Amiens has been very largely abated. Speaking generally the big crushing plan of Hindenburg has been a failure, the Allied lines have not been broken and the British and French troops are commencing not only to hold their own, but also to retake lost positions, thus adding initiative to successful defence. Two important repulses to the foe were reported Sunday on the Somme front and Canadians took a glorious part in the recapture of Moreuil. Further assaults of a violent nature may be expected on the part of the foe, but confidence is fully warranted.

King George upon his return from a visit to the front expresses himself as more than satisfied with the morale and the spirit of the men and his statement in this respect coincides with that of all others competent to give testimony.

As one of the first results of the appointment of General Foch to the supreme command on the Western front it is announced that United States troops will be merged with those of the French and British.

The feeling grows with regard to the troubles in Quebec that there is need for drastic and salutary action.

THE TREND OF THE TIMES.

The largely attended gathering which took place in the Labor Temple, Toronto, on Good Friday was significant of the trend of the times. The delegates represented a variety of organizations, including labor unions, United Farmers of Ontario, Socialists of America, Social Democratic party, Fabian Socialists, Social Reconstruction group of the Theosophical Society, and Single Tax.

The Radical Socialists are stated to have numbered less than forty in a total attendance of over three hundred and their extreme advocates did not carry any general weight.

The general tone of the gathering was sincere and emphasized the fact, now generally recognized, that with the passing of the war there will come a big change in social conditions with an all-round distribution of a more equitable nature.

One of the main discussions arose with regard to the proper interpretation of the word "worker." Some seemed to think that only those who worked with their hands should come within this category, while others held that those who depended upon their daily bread by the exercise of their mental powers without manual labor were also entitled to come within that category.

In a resolution which was finally adopted this and other points were covered in the following manner:

"The name of the party shall be the Ontario Section of the Canadian Labor Party.

"The membership comprises the trades unions, Socialist societies, co-operative societies, trades councils, local labor parties and farmers, together with those men and women who are individual members of a local labor party, and who subscribe to the constitution and program of the party.

"Objects: (a) To organize and maintain in Parliament, Provincial and Federal, a political labor party. (b) To co-operate with kindred organizations in joint political or other action in harmony with the party constitution and standing orders. (c) To give effect, as far as may be practical, to the principles from time to time approved by the party conference. (d) To secure for the producers, by hand or by brain, the full fruits of their industry, and the most equitable distribution thereof. (e) Generally to promote the political, social and economic emancipation of the people, and more particularly of those who depend directly upon their own exertions by hand or brain for the means of life."

Strong emphasis was placed on the desirability of securing seats in the Dominion House and Legislature and reference made to the fact that in the British House there were many Labor members.

In this respect it may be remarked that at Westminster the representation is forty-two and that in the Old Land there are four million union members. In the next election they are expected to make many gains.

HOME AGAIN

Mayor MacBride and Secretary MacDonald met three returned men at the G. T. R. station—Instrail, Howison and Brown. They are under medical treatment.

IMPROVED MARKET IS ASKED

It will be noticed that at the annual meeting of the members of the Brant County Board of Agriculture held in the city on Saturday, market conditions came in for a good deal of discussion and that a strong resolution was passed.

The fact is emphasized that farmers lose valuable time under present conditions for the reason that they have to place their stuff on the square the night before, in order to secure positions. To this it might be added that more or less exposure is not at all desirable from a sanitary standpoint. More protection from the sun and rain is also asked, in other words a covered market. This is something which The Courier has advocated for a long time, and this paper believes that interest and sinking fund on such an outlay could be fully met by small rental fees.

Another thing the farmers request is that restrictions should not exist with regard to early purchasing. The whole market question is one which the City Council of this year can well afford to grapple with to a final conclusion. Present conditions are certainly not right for either seller or buyer, and there is a splendid chance to make the entire condition of affairs more in accord with the needs and conveniences of both classes.

THE KING IS SATISFIED

With What He Saw on Visit to the Front

Inspiring Determination Characterizes All Ranks

London, Apr. 1.—The King, on returning to London from his visit to the battle front, sent a message to Field Marshal Haig in which he said:

"Though for the moment our troops have been obliged to sheer weight of numbers, to give some ground the impression left on my mind is that no army could be in better heart, braver and more confident than that which you have led to the front."

The King noted how he had seen the units recently withdrawn from the front and the entraining of fresh troops, "eager to reinforce their comrades." He said he had listened with wonder as officers and men had narrated thrilling incidents of the stubborn fighting. The King also told of a visit to a casualty clearing station where the patient cheerfulness of the wounded was equaled only by the care and gentleness of those who administered to their wants. He added:

"With these experiences short, but vivid, I feel that the whole empire will join with me in expressing gratitude to your army for the skillful and unswerving manner in which this formidable attack has been and continues to be dealt with."

"Anyone," King George concludes, "privileged to share these experiences would feel with me pride in the British race and in that unconquerable spirit which will please God, bring us through our present trials. We at home must endure that our workers, men and women will continue nobly to meet the demands for all necessities of the war."

"Thus may you be relieved from anxiety by which support of our faithful and brave Allies and your heroic army have been justly inspired determination which I find permeated all ranks."

STORY OF GREATHEROISM

London April 1.—It is now possible to tell of a spectacular feature of a brilliant British defense last week below the Somme. It is the story of a little army composed largely of assortments of troops who had hardly assembled in a great crisis and who successfully held a vital stretch of the front against furious German onslaughts until reinforcements could arrive. In this gallant force were included American railway engineers, who, as in the battle of Cambrai last November, threw aside their tools and took up arms in defense of the Allied colors.

It was last Tuesday afternoon, a critical moment, when it was absolutely necessary that more troops should be thrown into the British line to hold the onrush of Germans. Reinforcements were on the way, but could not arrive in time. There was no time to lose, and a certain general immediately organized a force contained from the various units nearby, in which were the Americans.

Fifteen hundred soldiers followed the lead of their fighting brigadier out into the swirling battle line where they were strung over a front of 1,200 yards against which hordes of Germans were being flung. It seems almost inconceivable that these defenders, brave onto death, though they were could have been able to hold this long sector, but they held. The enemy advanced in force and hurled themselves time and time again against the British line in this region, but they found no weak spot. This composite force stood as gallantly and as well as their comrades to the right and to the left. They clung on for many hours until the regulars came up. This is a sample of the fighting spirit which Allied soldiers are showing in this time of stress.

This incident is more spectacular but hardly finer in spirit than that of seven British soldiers. These had been home in England on leave and on landing at a channel port in France, could find no transportation to the front. Did they sit down and wait? They did not. They tramped almost every foot of the way to the battle lines to take

FARMERS ASK IMPROVED MARKET CONDITIONS

Need of Greater Production Also Dwelt on at the Annual Meeting of Brant Board; Want Free Implements, and Against Daylight Saving

The annual meeting of the Brant County Board of Agriculture was held in the Department of Agriculture room, Dalhousie street, Saturday afternoon. A fair number of farmers were in attendance.

The president, Mr. Tolfer, in his remarks, laid special emphasis on the need of greater production and said that nothing be left undone to gain this end.

After the routine business was disposed of a number of matters of vital interest to farmers were discussed.

A resolution passed by the East Simcoe Board of Agriculture was endorsed, it was with regard to the severe losses in sheep raising caused by the ravages of useless dogs.

Rural school improvement was next discussed.

It was moved by Messrs. Clark and McCormick that a suitable building be presented to the school, showing the most improvement in surroundings, the same to be won three years before becoming the permanent property of any one school.

The prize of \$10 voted last year was won by the St. George Public School. Much credit is due the St. George School Board for the expense of maintaining the well equipped playgrounds and well kept lawns, drive and flower beds falls entirely on them.

Prizes for Judging Team.

It was felt that the prize offered in the inter-county judging contest, which Mr. Guelph was not a sufficient incentive to the boys competing. It was moved that \$15 be set aside to furnish an extra prize for the judging team. Messrs. Tolfer, McCormick and Schuyler were appointed a committee to arrange these prizes.

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The following resolution was moved and seconded, and carried unanimously:

"The Brant County Board of Agriculture, in meeting assembled, do hereby resolve that the members of the Brant County Board of Agriculture, in an annual meeting assembled, would respectfully urge upon the Government that in its consideration of the setting of prices for agricultural products it should take into consideration the interests of greater production."

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Vice-President—R. J. McCormick.

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locate them easily. In the opinion of this meeting assembled it would be good business to sell the space for a stated amount (with restrictions) for the year or season, and we further believe that in the interests of production no restrictions should be placed on anyone who wishes to purchase early, and that the city housewife would greatly co-operate by making a special effort to market early in the day and further that more suitable protection from the hot sun and rain should be provided and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the City Council.

It was moved by Messrs. Clark and McCormick that a suitable building be presented to the school, showing the most improvement in surroundings, the same to be won three years before becoming the permanent property of any one school.

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Margaret Garrett's Husband

By JANE PHELPS

A LAST WEEK END VISIT. Chapter XVIII.

The last Sunday in September mother-in-law Elsie and Tom down to spend the week end with us. They were to go down Friday night and return with us on Monday morning. Bob was delighted.

"I'll walk Tom Barton so he'll remember it this time!" he declared as he swung his racket idly back and forth. He had had his retraining and was sure he could win again.

"I hope so, it will please you," I returned. I liked Tom, and was willing Bob should be amused with him. That was quite different from enjoying the society of the society.

Mrs. Root, or the psychological discussions he frequently held with Jack Kendall. Discussions which often brought the blushes to his cheeks, and compelled me to leave the room because of the awkwardness of their descriptions; the—Bob put it—"calling a spade a spade."

"I do hope it will be nice weather," he next said. "It will be our last Sunday down there, that is, if our father, he told me they were going to close the house this week."

"Yes, I know. They always do immediately after labor day."

We were a gay party Friday afternoon when we left the house for our week end with mother. Tom insisted that we all go in his touring car, so Elsie and I sat in the tonneau with the roof sticks and tennis rackets, beside the luggage. Tom drove, and as it was a lovely day the ride was most enjoyable.

It was only five o'clock when we arrived. Bob jumped out, and after greeting father and mother, called, "Come on, Tom, time for a set before they rushed off."

"Didn't I tell you they were nothing but boys?" Elsie demanded.

"All men are more or less like children in many ways," I stood smilingly returned, while I stood watching Bob hurry away from me, and my eyes filling at the thought that he had forgotten to kiss me.

"Come on, Elsie let's freshen up before they get back!" I called, running up stairs ahead of her, so concealing my emotion.

Dinner was ready when they returned, and we had to wait while they bathed and dressed. I was disposed to scold a bit, but mother only laughed and said:

"Never mind making any apologies, just hurry along and get down as soon as you can. If the dinner isn't quite as hot as it should be you will know who is to blame."

"No wonder your husband looks so contented and happy, Mrs. Lawton. You certainly know how to make people comfortable and feel comfortable too."

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