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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1914

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THE WAR NEWS

Last night's official despatches from Paris said that the retreating Germans appeared to have decided to make a stand on a prepared front along the River Aisne. An official statement from London said that the Germans had stubbornly disputed the passage of the Aisne, but that the allied forces had succeeded in seizing nearly all the crossings of the river. We are told that, broadly speaking, the German lines have been forced back to points from sixty to eighty miles from Paris, and about an equal distance from the Belgian boundary. Of course the German right wing has been compelled to cover most ground in the retreat; but the centre has also been forced back a considerable distance, and even the right wing has been compelled to give way in some degree to the impetuous attacks of the enemy. In short, the whole of the German armies have been compelled to retire from their most advanced position on French soil; and there is every reason to anticipate that the retreat will be continued, with here and there a pause and doubtless with some severe fighting, until they are back on German soil, if in the meantime some of their armies have not been cut off and compelled to surrender. Indeed, there is reason to anticipate very heavy loss, if not disaster, to considerable portions of the German forces before they reach German territory. The attack on France has utterly failed.

Reports from the eastern theatre of war tell of further Russian victories over the Austrians and over the German armies in Russian Poland. In East Prussia the Russian advance has not been pressed with as much vigor, and it is said that the Germans have brought up such strong reinforcements that not much progress can be made until the Russians have also brought up fresh armies. A Petrograd despatch says, however, that "the slowness of the Russian operations in East Prussia is not disquieting." The immediate task is to crush the Austrian and German armies in Poland and Galicia, and in this there can be no doubt of success. Russia is preparing the way for an irresistible march toward Berlin. Her work is being done thoroughly, and when Austria has been rendered incapable of giving effective aid to Germany, the Kaiser will have as much, if not greater, cause to fear the danger from the east than that from the west.

The British army in France has conducted its operations with a dash and cleverness which have won it undying glory. It held the German right wing in check during the most critical period of the advance toward Paris, and withstood with iron resolution the savage attacks made again and again in the attempt by the Germans to encompass its destruction. Since the German forces began their retreat they have been constantly harassed by the unwearied soldiers of Sir John French, who have taken ample revenge for the losses inflicted upon them when they were retreating before the overwhelming masses of the German right on the road to Paris.

TERMS OF PEACE.

There is much speculation as to the extent of the reverses Germany will endure before she sue for peace, and some optimists are of the opinion that it will not be very long before she makes the first overtures looking toward a cessation of hostilities.

There is very little prospect of an early termination of the war at the instance of Germany. It is quite possible that the Kaiser when he finds that nothing but defeat stares him in the face may endeavor to make terms with the enemy; but it is not at all probable that he would without another struggle be willing to accept the terms which will certainly be exacted. France will insist upon the restoration of Alsace and Lorraine, and it is suggested that she will demand also a return of the billion dollar indemnity which Germany took from her in 1871. It is perfectly certain that all the powers will insist upon a very heavy indemnity for Belgium, because the territory of King Albert was violated and enormous loss inflicted upon his people, accompanied by the grossest acts of barbarism. Russia will insist upon carrying out her policy for the restoration of the boundaries of ancient Poland, and England will certainly insist upon the dismantling of the German fleet. When these terms are presented to the Kaiser he will certainly reject them, and go on with the war in the hope that the rigors of winter campaigning may cause his enemies to lessen their demands.

There is just one possibility which might if realized shorten the war, and that would be a revolution in Germany itself, which would make the representatives of the people instead of the Kaiser and the military bureaucracy the party to the negotiations. One fact may be accepted without question, and it is that Germany as a menace to the future peace of Europe must be eliminated before a treaty of peace is signed. The allies would not for one moment consider the question of peace until the German armies have been driven from French and Belgian soil, and thereafter the length of the war will depend on how long it takes Germany to make up her mind to accept the demands of the allies.

In the heart of Portland, Me. a large number of bees store their honey in the walls of dwelling houses. Several times removed the outer foundations were taken out nearly enough to fill two large tubs. It is believed that the bees have been storing the honey for at least two years.

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LIGHTER VENIN.

"I don't want to brag about myself. I've done many foolish things in my time, but I've been wise in one way."

"What's that?"

"I never had the idea that I could paper a bedroom myself."

Bright Girl.

She (at the ball game)—Why does he make those motions with his arm before he pitches the ball?

He—Those are signals to the catcher.

The two men work in concert.

She—Dear me! Is that the "concert pitch"? I've heard about so often?

Rivals.

"Is there much competition in your town?" asked Miss Skidelsky.

"Tommy—That's what they got Skidelsky—Between the mirror and the clock."

Why?

Man at Desk—Why do you claim a trombone player is less of a bore than a pianist?

Man in Chair—He is because he doesn't get the chance. He doesn't find a trombone in every home he visits.

Served Them Right

The Vicar—For shame, my lad! What have these poor little fish done to be imprisoned upon the day of rest?

Tommy—That's what they got for chasing worms on Sunday, sir.

What Ails Jones

Knicker—What is the matter with Jones?

Bocker—If he takes a vacation, they wonder how he can afford to; and if he doesn't they wonder if his accounts are straight.

SOLDIERS WHO DRINK

WILL BE SENT HOME.

Twenty Have Been Rounded Up by the Authorities at Valcartier.

Valcartier Camp, Sept. 15—Twenty soldiers have been rounded up by the authorities on charges of drunkenness or having liquor in their possession. It is not unlikely that all of these men will be sent home, according to the order of the camp commandant several days ago.

Canadian Guards Artillery was also sent to Quebec for patrol duty, which will greatly assist the police of the city, who have been considerably bothered by soldiers who have conducted themselves in a disorderly manner.

A few of the others in camp will suffer as the pass privilege will be henceforth practically eliminated.

BRITAIN'S FOOD SUPPLY

The Canadian Census and Statistics Monthly for August gives some interesting information about the food supplies of the United Kingdom. Since the question of the wheat supply is the most important, some facts concerning it will be of special interest. During 1913 the imports of wheat into the United Kingdom amounted to 229,589,865 bushels.

In addition there was a monthly production of 56,996,400 bushels.

The monthly estimates of the total annual wheat requirements of the United Kingdom to be in round figures about 288,000,000 bushels, of which only about 55,000,000 bushels, or one-fifth, are produced at home. The remainder is imported from Canada, Australia, and India.

Twenty thousand bushels of wheat

and more are found in Canada and Australia.

The former last year exported more than 15,000,000 bushels of wheat and more than 1,800,000 barrels of flour to countries other than the United Kingdom, and Australia exported more than 15,000,000 bushels of wheat to other countries than Britain. Hence the monthly says:

"If we assume that of the quantities now exported to other countries than the United Kingdom by Canada and Australia, 10,000,000 can be diverted by each of these countries to the United Kingdom, 20,000,000 bushels of the British deficiency can thus be supplied, leaving only the small balance of from 200,000 to 5,000,000 bushels to be furnished by non-belligerent countries."

Since the sea routes are safe the problem of Britain's food supply will not present any serious difficulties. It is important, however, that the farmers of Canada should increase their production to the fullest extent possible next year, since there will then be a much greater demand for food products in Europe than there will be for this year's harvest.

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number of bees store their honey in the walls of dwelling houses. Several times removed the outer foundations were taken out nearly enough to fill two large tubs. It is believed that the bees have been storing the honey for at least two years.

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BACK-TO-LAND PLAN

MEETING SUPPORT

Conference in West Will Discuss Means to Increase Crop Acreage

Winnipeg, Sept. 15—A proposal put forward by the Regina Board of Trade for materially increasing the crop and area and output in western Canada has been favorably commented on in Winnipeg banking and financial circles. This proposal is embodied in an official circular calling a general meeting, to be held at some central point in the Canadian prairie west, at which this object shall be discussed by representatives of the dominion and provincial governments, the business and producing interests, as well as financial institutions.

The circular points out that the world's greatest need in the near future must be food; that this is the opportunity of Canada, which will be able to meet it by its agricultural resources and its amount of capital invested in the dominion during recent years. But for the last couple of years the increases in area under crop in western Canada has not been so great as it should be under normal conditions of immigration and cultivation.

Canadian cities are full of unemployed, thrown on their own resources, through stoppage of railway construction, city building, and the like. Therefore these could be engaged in farming operations before coming to Canada. At the same time it is estimated that one hundred thousand heavy horses are now standing idle in Canada for a like reason.

The idea, then, is to get these people and horses on to the land, and a rough estimate is that several million acres may rapidly be brought into crop by this means. Land values have fallen, and the cost of labor is high, so that the cost of production will be reduced.

Mr. Bourassa, the president of the Winnipeg board of trade, has agreed to act as chairman of the committee to draw up a plan.

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