

THE COURIER

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Saturday, March 4, 1916.

The Situation.

The Courier ventured the opinion that the violent German offensive against Verdun would ultimately turn out to be only part of a general attack along the Western front, and so events are clearly shaping themselves. With regard to Verdun itself, it should be remembered that the French have surrounded Fort Douaumont, which some two thousand Hunns reached, and in which they are now cut off, so that this constitutes an added incentive for the Kaiserites to do their worst. After some what of a lull they are at it again hammer and tongs. They have in addition now secured a portion of the village, but the gallant French are not only holding out in a most reassuring manner, but also making successful counter-attacks. A despatch over the Courier's leased wire to-day says that General Gallieni, Minister of War, has informed the commission on military affairs that he "is satisfied" with the situation.

The Russians still continue their triumphant course in the Caucasus. They have captured Bidlis, a quite important place in the vilayet of the same name, and are now heading for Trebizond. This is the most important town in Northeast Asia Minor. The district stretches along the shores of the Black Sea for a distance of 240 miles and has a population of over half a million. The town itself is surrounded by walls of great extent.

In the region of Ypres the British troops have consolidated their gains. It appears that over three thousand troops went down when the French transport La Provence was torpedoed. That, be it remembered, is more than all the recruits in Brantford and Brant County, large though the total has seemed.

President Wilson, by his manly and forceful stand, has carried the Senate by 68 to 14 in the matter of refusing to knuckle down to Germany regarding the warning of Americans not to travel by belligerent armed passenger ships. As under the U. S. Constitution the President has a veto which cannot be over-rudden except by a two-thirds majority of both Houses, he doesn't need to care what the House of Representatives may do.

Japan as a World Power.

From the position of a great power Japan has become a world power, and the nations of the west can no longer make light of Japan's strength, particularly of her pre-eminent position and immense influence in the affairs of the Far East, according to Premier Count Okuma in an article in his popular monthly New Japan.

He calls his contribution "Japan's New Position in the World's Diplomacy." In a general way it bears out the feeling of observers in the Orient that Japan's policy of the future will be that of trying to play the predominant role in China on account of her power and special position and interests.

He says: "Japan, which half a century ago was an insignificant and mere island empire, isolated in a corner of the extreme east, has now become one of the world's powers and come to sway a great influence. Japan finds herself with Great Britain, the United States, Germany, France and Russia, and every move made by Japan affects in some way or other the interests of those great nations and reflects on the situation of the world."

Even Great Britain, which took pride in her world-wide influence and stuck to her favorite traditional policy of "honored isolation," was compelled to conclude an offensive and defensive alliance with Japan, casting aside her national pride of "isolated independence"—a proof that Britain recognized the greatness of Japan's national activity and future ascendancy. The great work and rapid development Japan achieved in the comparatively short period of only half a century after the country's opening to international intercourse, favorably compares and competes with the progress and development attained by the occidental countries through several centuries, and after hard laborious experience of wars and revolutions.

He points out that adhesion to the London peace agreement, by which the Entente Allies mutually promised

to make peace only in common gives Japan the right of speech at the peace conference to be held at the conclusion of the war, not only on questions pertaining to the Orient, but also on matters concerning the Balkans, the disposition of the colonies of the powers in Africa, and their territories in the Pacific—in fact on all problems that may arise, on an equal footing with the other great world powers.

The premier concludes: "In short, Japan's participation in the London agreement makes her an important element in the maintenance of the balance of power in the world. Practical peace east of the Suez has been maintained by Japan. Our nation has come to sway a great power by which we can control the peace or disorder of Asia and affect the issue of the great European war."

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Russian bear has become the real gobbler in connection with the Asiatic Turkey episode.

Now if Germany was only the U. S. Senate, President Wilson would be the happy man.

When a man marries for money, it is quite proper to speak of the bride to be as his finance.

The attention of Courier readers is called to a poem, "My England" in this issue, from the pen of Mr. William Winter, one of the foremost writers of the United States and author of "Shakespeare's England," and other notable works. It is not only a very fine piece of versification in itself, but it gains added worth as a tribute to the Old Land from an American, born and bred. There can be no doubt that he voices the feelings of the vast majority across the border. In this regard it is worthy of note that at a recent meeting in Boston, attended by 2,500 people, a suggestion that Uncle Sam should join the Allies, was received with tremendous applause.

FOUR FRENCH

(Continued from Page 1)

"The retirement order was executed and we went to take position in the woods in communication with the units on our right and left.

A GLORIOUS DEFENCE.

"The defence of Herbe-Bols will certainly remain one of the most glorious pages in the annals of our regiment. More than 3,000 Germans came in successive waves to smash themselves against our ranks. They were in a fighting position of most disadvantageous kind. We voluntarily abandoned the ground where hundreds and hundreds of German corpses show sufficiently how effective was our resistance. Neither the bombardment, nor the snow, nor the difficulties of securing provisions, nor the fatigue could overcome the stubborn bravery of our infantry. By thus holding firm in this corner of Herbe-Bols they for their part contributed to win time for the arrival of the necessary reserves, and they seriously interfered with the advance of the Germans. It was actions of this kind repeated at numerous points on our front which held back the enemy flood.

FRENCH OFFICIAL

By Special Wire to the Courier. Paris, March 4, 2.30 p.m.—The bombardment continued with considerable activity last night in the various sectors of the region of Verdun, followed by any action on the part of the infantry of the enemy.

"At Eparges we have prevented the enemy from occupying a crater produced by the explosion of one of their mines. The customary artillery fire has continued along the remainder of the front. The statement follows: "The bombardment which was maintained with considerable activity last night on the different sectors in the region of Verdun has not been followed by any action on the part of the infantry of the enemy."

Without Debate.

By Special Wire to the Courier. Edmonton, Alb., March 4.—Prohibition has passed its second reading in the legislature last night without debate.

French Setamer Mined.

By Special Wire to the Courier. La Rochelle, France, March 3.—The French Steamship Lakme of Dunkirk, 3,177 tons gross, which sailed from La Rochelle on Tuesday, was sunk on the same day in the Bay of Biscay, at a point six miles northwest of Ile d'Yeu. She is believed to have struck a mine. Six of the 22 men of the crew lost their lives.

The Danish explorer, Knud Rasmussen, has completed plans for a new expedition to North Greenland.

Much Enthusiasm Shown In Connection With the Conservative Meetings

There was a large and enthusiastic attendance in the Conservative Club rooms on Wednesday when some of the Ward Chairmen and sub-chairmen were chosen.

Mr. W. S. Brewster, K.C. occupied the chair.

Chairman of Ward 1—Van Lane. Sub div. 1. F. Clark, No. 2, Arthur Pitcher, No. 3, James Smith. Other

SCHOOL BOYS TO DO FARM LABORERS' WORK

Term in Intermediate Schools to be Shortened and Academic Standing Granted to 15,000 Boys Over 15—Advertising in United States.

Toronto, March 4.—To fill the depleted ranks of farm labor in Ontario on account of the war, no fewer than 15,000 male students of fifteen years and upwards attending schools and collegiate institutes will be available this summer for farm work, and an effort is also being made to obtain American labor. It is understood that two representatives of the Colonization Department have been despatched to Port Huron and Syracuse to make plans and report as to what help is available there. It is stated that from this quarter 500 or 600 men are aimed at. It is not considered that any difficulties will arise from the authorities on the American side.

A SERIOUS SITUATION

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, and acting Minister of Education, declared last night that, in view of the loss of valuable help on account of the enlistments of farm laborers, the situation this year from an agricultural standpoint was more serious than before. The Colonization Branch, which until recently was under the Agricultural Department, has been changed to come under the Lands and Forests Department, and has been searching around for available resources of supply. It is, of course, desirous that every man fitted for military service should be freed from obligations that keep him here. In releasing our farm labor we must use every effort and extraordinary emergency measures to meet the present critical situation. We purpose making a somewhat radical departure. We are working out a plan whereby we will make available no fewer than 15,000 male students who are attending high, public and continuation schools in this Province. It will

TALES TOLD BY MEN IN THE FIGHTING LINES ON LAND AND ON SEA

WORK OF GERMAN SPIES IN OUR TRENCHES.

"Last time going in the Germans must have got wind of us," writes a Vancouver soldier in the 29th Battalion to relatives in Montreal, just as we started across an open field they opened up with their machine guns, and it made things warm for a while. Not a person was hurt in my platoon, but they got some of the other boys. I think. One of the battalion we were relieving was headed by a whizz-bang. It struck the poor fellow just behind the neck as he was coming out. Of course, the trenches are in an awful state, and we have to work day and night but the Germans are worse. We were the boys of the battalion on our right walked across in broad daylight to the German trenches, and called back to us to come on over, as it was not yet dark. He was pulled up for it when he got back, but he said his trenches had two feet of water in them. He was either crazy or wanted to get home for

Christmas, but his luck was with him.

"Please excuse writing, but there is a bunch of howling idiots in my billet raising the mischief on account of having to go on fatigue by moonlight. These moonlight excursions are the bane of our lives. You go to Engineer's headquarters and pack in sandbags galvanized iron, trench bottoms, iron nails and such other little whatnops up to your neck in water and mud. Can't smoke, can't talk, and you are only allowed to grouse under your breath. We should worry, though. Fritz has his troubles. I bet. We invited him to come over this morning and have a drop of rum. Gee! it's comical to think we are thirty yards from a bunch of water and mud, and we are going to knock off some day."

JUST MISSED ESCAPING

A young Bristol soldier now a prisoner in Germany, recently wrote a graphic letter to his father, which the German censor allowed to come through. His story runs:

An Advance Showing of SPRING STYLES

---On--- Wednesday March 8th and Following Days

we will show the latest models in Spring Millinery, including the famous Gage Models, which arrive weekly.

We invite your inspection.

TULLOCH'S MILLINERY and Dressmaking Parlors

(MITCHELLS) "Fashions for Women" 95 COLBORNE ST.

"It is only by the worst of luck and some of the best of German organization that I am not at home with you all now. It is now many long months since I first conceived the idea of trying to escape from here to Holland, and from there home. Well, after a lot of trouble and very difficult preparations, I put my idea into operation last Nov. 25, at midnight, whilst at work. I was away from this prison from Thursday midday, Nov. 25, to Sunday night, 11 o'clock, Nov. 28. After creeping through forests, over rough country woods, copses, and all kinds of difficult places, travelling by night only, and in the day lying hidden in forests, I was captured on Saturday night at 8 or 8.30 by German sentries. Where do you think? One hundred yards from my goal—one hundred yards more and I should have been a free man—free to return to you all, and have Christmas with you. I think this is about the worst stroke of luck I have ever had. After swimming through the Lippe in a snowstorm, picking my way through snow-covered ground, forests, woods, copses, streams, ditches, barbed-wire fences and lying from 6.30 each morning until the evening dead still, without covering in deep snow, practically frozen through and through, with only what food I could carry in my pocket, and only a small compass to guide me—after all this, because my legs were frozen from the knees downward, I was captured one hundred yards, a paltry thirty to sixty seconds walk, from the frontier, over which had I been able to take one step I should have been a free man. That's what I call bad luck, don't you?"

PRaise FOR EAST AFRICAN TROOPS.

A member of the East African Mounted Rifles writes: "War as waged out here is not the hell that war in the European area is; but it is nasty cold blooded business when you shoot at a man on the plain just as you shoot at a buck, and exit when you kill him, mainly because it was a good shot. Those King's African Rifles men are wonderful. They marched twenty miles, climbed a precipice, fought a battle that included a bayonet charge, and marched back, some of them wounded; and this on a water bottle no food. They are always cheerful, do not know what fear is, and no wound can depress them. I myself, saw a man shot through the leg limp down the hill to his horse, feed it and see near there before he thought of looking at his wound. They fought like demons, but the place is a natural fortress—I know because I have seen there before—and the Germans had dug themselves in.

EVERY SOLDIER A HERO.

In a letter read at a South London gathering, Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P., for Blackfriars, Glasgow, wrote: "I have been right along the front. I have seen the men coming out of the Ypres trenches, have been under shell fire on Hill, and have sampled to a small extent the discomforts of the soldier's life in France and Flanders. And I am filled with admiration of their heroic fortitude. They are wonderful. I only wish our folk at home would really more fully what debt they are incurring to these splendid men. I note that the best men are those lowest in rank. Their patience and endurance of the men are almost incredible. I was in the rear camps just behind the lines, where it was really difficult to get at them for mud, and I found them singing in the darkness. It is the men in the line regiments who are carrying the burden and running the risks of the war. When you see an infantryman you see a hero, who deserves all you can do for him. We can never repay him for what he is doing and undergoing."

15,000 LADS AVAILABLE

"We will not only make those 15,000 or more young fellows available for work on the farms, but we will make it to their interest and advantage to assist in agricultural work all over the Province during this season. In this way the Government hopes not only to furnish a very large contribution to the ranks of farm labor, but a contribution that should be most valuable one, because the large percentage of the boys attending these educational institutions are the sons of the farm, and will have more or less practical knowledge of farm conditions that will render their work of real service."

FIFTEEN YEARS AND OVER

The boys in view are those who are fifteen years and older, and outside the universities it is estimated there are 36,000 in this category. It is in this way the lads will be able to go in for this work about the beginning of May until October. Making allowance for the usual school vacation period it means the boys who are thus employed will lose two or three months' education, but it is stated that by an arrangement their academic standing will not be allowed to suffer.

GREAT REMOVAL SALE Commencing Wed., March 1st

E. H. NEWMAN & SONS JEWELLERS

We are moving into larger quarters and do not wish to move any more goods than we have to. Everything usually found in an up-to-date jewelry store must go at big reductions. Sale will continue till the latter part of March. Now is the time to secure bargains. Take advantage while the sale lasts.

Our Free Picture Offer holds good during this sale.

E. H. NEWMAN & SONS

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED Official Watch Inspectors, Grand Trunk Railway. Correct time received at our store by special wire every day.

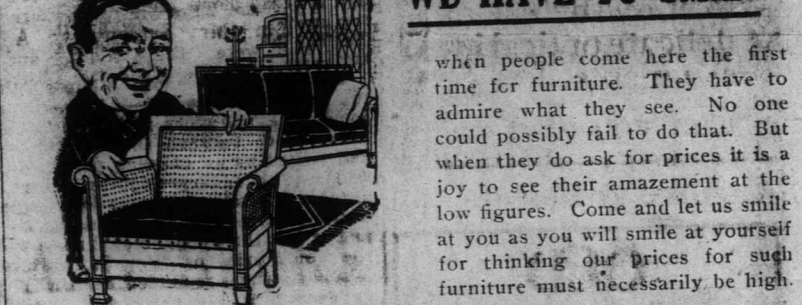


ACT WISELY!

Do not trust to your own means for the protection of your securities, deeds and other valuable papers—keep them in a Box in our Safety Deposit Vault, where they are absolutely secure against fire and other elements of risk. Boxes \$3 per year and up. Vaults open every day during banking hours. Your inspection is invited.

The Royal Loan & Savings Company 38-40 Market Street, Brantford

WE HAVE TO SMILE



when people come here the first time for furniture. They have to admire what they see. No one could possibly fail to do that. But when they do ask for prices it is a joy to see their amazement at the low figures. Come and let us smile at you as you will smile at yourself for thinking our prices for such furniture must necessarily be high.

A. G. HACKETT, 139 Market Street

TO GET RESULTS USE COURIER WANT ADS.

Help to Make Her Dream Come True

SHE is one of some Three Million Belgians who, since they refused to sell their honor to Germany, have lived on the brink of starvation. A thriving industrial people, used to life's comforts, they have been reduced to a state where they dream, not of luxuries or pleasures, but of having enough to eat!

True to their character as the war has unmasked it, the Germans callously refuse to help the starving. The task of feeding them has been undertaken by Belgium's Allies and Neutral Nations, through the

Belgian Relief Fund

provided by voluntary contributions and administered with wonderful economy and efficiency by a neutral Commission. Absolutely none of the supplies go to Germans, and most of the food taken into the country is paid for by Belgians who have still a little money. But to feed those who cannot pay, nearly \$2,500,000 a month is needed!

Send your contributions to Local or Provincial Committees or to the Central Executive Committee, 59 St. Peter Street, Montreal.

\$2.50 KEEPS A BELGIAN FAMILY A MONTH

Cheques to be made payable to "THE TREASURER, BELGIAN RELIEF FUND" 59 S. Peter Street, Montreal, or to local committees.

LOCAL

IN WOODSTOCK Judge Hardy and a Northern Railway fire early this morning on the Oxford battalion.

CAR BURNED. A work car on the Northern Railway was burned on the Oxford battalion.

WELCOME HOME A welcome home to Sheldon Vansant, a member of the Oxford battalion, who was in the front.

WOMEN'S EMERGENCY A meeting of the Women's Emergency Committee was held at the Oxford battalion.

TEST CHAS. A. HACKETT, 139 Market Street

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Chas. A. HACKETT, 139 Market Street

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