

The Evening Times and Star

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THE WAR SITUATION

It was pointed out by the Times yesterday that if President Kennedy were correctly reported his statement fore-shadowed the practical withdrawal of Russia from the war, and the hope was expressed that he had been misunderstood. Last night's cables show that this was the case. He did not say that the Allies must now take up the whole burden of the war, but that Russia, under present conditions "had the right to claim that the Allies now take the heaviest part of the burden." Even this assertion were better not to be made, because such an admission of weakness will encourage Germany to fight on; but it is a relief to be assured that Russia will stay in the war, for this means that large German and Austrian armies will still be kept more or less busy on the eastern front.

It is now suggested that there may be heavy fighting all winter on the Italian front, where the winter weather conditions are more favorable than in France and Flanders. Col. Remington says there is nothing to prevent fighting all through the winter, and carrying on a successful war of attrition. It is therefore possible that while the Allied grip on the western front will not be relaxed for an instant there may at the same time be given to the Italians such assistance as will make the operations on their front more formidable than at any time since they entered the war.

The Germans have withdrawn their lines for some distance on a portion of the Aisne front, where they have been so hard pressed by the French. They have fallen back toward Laon. It does not yet appear whether they will withdraw at any other point, although such withdrawal at points farther north toward Arras is regarded by one observer as quite probable. Berlin says: "Unnoticed and undisturbed by the enemy, we systematically withdrew our lines from the hills front of the Chemin des Dames last night." It is perfectly clear that no such withdrawal would have been made had not the pressure of the Allies become too strong for successful resistance. The situation on the western front is therefore favorable for the Allies, although the weather conditions are such as to interfere greatly with aggressive operations.

Meanwhile Dr. Michaelis is down and out, and Count Von Hertling, described as the most bitter of all German hawks of England, is the new chancellor. He hates England and democracy, approves of the most ruthless submarine warfare, favors the annexation of Belgium and French territory, and stands with the most extreme of the pan-German party, which is still in the ascendant.

Reviewing the war situation we find the Allies anticipating a German retreat at some points on the western front. On the Italian front preparations are in progress for what may be a tremendous battle for supremacy. On the Russian front there have been no important developments of late, no doubt due to the withdrawal of portions of the German and Austrian forces to fight against Italy. The first American army is getting a taste of trench life on the French front, and will doubtless soon take over a portion of that front. The German successes on the Russian and Italian fronts have driven deeper home the conviction that the war will be prolonged, and that, in the words of Lord Cecil:

"What has happened only means that we and the other governments must make stronger exertions. We cannot afford to neglect any chance."

THE BUTTERNUTS

Speaking in Hamilton yesterday, Hon. F. H. Carroll said:

"I tell you there are men in my province, wearing the King's uniform, who never left Canada and who never intend to leave Canada; who are drawing enormous sums from the government in salaries and separation allowances for which they give no adequate return. Some of these may be necessary, but their places could and should be taken by returned soldiers."

If Gen. McBurn, the new minister of militia, can cut himself loose from everything savoring of patronage and convert himself into an interrogation point for a short time he will find all over this country and in England a good many thousands of reasons why Canada has not long before this time enrolled more than half a million men for active service. We are told that Mr. Carroll's remarks were greeted with a remarkable demonstration of approval. That is not at all surprising. We have had far too many gentlemen in uniform drawing fat salaries who ought to be in overalls in the potato field, helping along the campaign for food production. The new minister will find them in all ranks from lieutenant up, and they have cost and are costing the country a fair sized Victory Loan, although bonus or bounty would perhaps be a better term.

The Canadian correspondent at the front writes that information gathered from prisoners indicates increasing uneasiness in Germany.

THE ELECTION ACT

Referring to the "infamous" war-time election act, the Halifax Chronicle describes it as "without parallel in the political history of the Dominion, and adds: "But the new government can do something to mitigate the iniquity of it by seeing that the act shall be operated as fairly and equitably as its provisions will permit. The new government is on its honor and on trial in this matter. It will do much to dispel distrust and inspire confidence in its good faith if it makes it plain that it proposes to administer the measure fairly and squarely without prejudice to any party or candidate. From time immemorial in Nova Scotia the sheriffs, in the main, have been chosen as recruiting officers in their respective counties, and they have discharged their duties to the general satisfaction of all concerned. This practice should be continued, and in the coming election the returning officers should be the sheriffs or in any event, men who enjoy the complete confidence of both parties. Then as to the enumerators who, under the act practically have control over the preparation of the voters' lists and have large discretion and extensive powers as to adding to and striking off names, the government should appoint the present revisers as the enumerators. They are the appointees of the municipal councils. They are familiar with the work of revision, they are in intimate touch with the districts, and they have performed their duties honorably and impartially, as the record proves, with such general satisfaction that few appeals from their decisions have ever been necessary. The government then, as an evidence of good faith and a guarantee of square dealing, should make the present revisers the enumerators under the new act. No other appointees are likely to be acceptable to the public."

It is gratifying to note that in New Brunswick Hon. Mr. Carvell has pursued the course advocated by the Chronicle. It is clear that if under the union government any attempt were made to introduce partisanship into the machinery of the election act it would be resented by every Liberal in the country.

The Halifax Echo hands this one to the food controller:—"In the tenders for supplies to the City Home there were a number of interesting quotations, one of which was the tender of a firm for fish for the Home, to be supplied 'as required.' The price given was 4 1/2c. per lb. This fish, we are given to understand, is of the same kind and grade as that for which the consumer, long suffering no longer—he is past the suffering stage—pays eleven and twelve cents per lb. Here is work for the food controller. He has objected to criticism, but this he cannot classify as such. It is a statement of fact. Allowing all possible difference for quotations on large lots as compared with small ones and even for transportation by the city instead of by the firm, there is still a margin that is altogether too wide. There has been an investigation of sorts of fish prices at Halifax, but it has led nowhere as far as the consumer can ascertain."

Philadelphia Press:—"If the people of this town want efficient municipal government; if they want police clubs and tuggery kept out of politics; if they want elections without murder; if they want to stop fee-grabbing; if they want retrenchment and economy in the public departments, they will just have to vote for these things."

There is naturally a degree of sympathy for the Standard and Globe in these troublesome days in the political arena. Both of them are vexed and worried, and more or less apprehensive. And they have also the rather sad and gloomy consciousness that there is no relief in prospect.

China has agreed to charter to England nine German vessels now in Chinese ports and aggregating 29,984 tons. This will only help to offset part of one week's loss by submarine, but every little bit helps at such a time as the present.

Germans are making trouble in southern Brazil. It will not last long, for the Brazilians have learned the true character of the disturbers, and will take prompt measures to maintain order.

The Italian reverse, Lord Cecil says, will not effect the result of the war, but may affect its duration. The Allies have the men and the resources, and theirs must be the final victory.

Today's war news tells of the sinking of a German commerce raider and some armed trawlers by the British, and of a new forward movement by the French on the western front.



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**WOULD DISBAND RATHER THAN PLAY NATIONAL ANTHEM?**  
Boston, Nov. 3.—Major Henry L. Higginson, founder and patron of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, announced that the orchestra would be disbanded and Symphony Hall sold if public clamor or for the orchestra to play "The Star Spangled Banner" continued.  
The matter was brought to a head by demands that the anthem be played by the orchestra at a concert in Providence. This followed protests over Geraldine Farrar's all-German programme, when she was the soloist at the orchestra's pension fund concert in Boston on Sunday.  
Thomas Howick, special agent of the Department of Justice at Providence, recommended to Washington that the orchestra be prohibited from giving concerts anywhere unless the anthem should be played, and the Rhode Island Council of Defence condemned Dr. Karl Muck, German leader of the orchestra, as "deliberately insulting."  
Major Higginson said the anthem was out of place in purely harmonic programmes. He had, he said, no place in a programme of artistic symphony music. He added that Dr. Muck made up the programme in summer, and that when war started he addressed the orchestra and asked them to forget their racial differences. More than a dozen nationalities are represented in it. The major said that the Department of Justice had referred to him that none of the German members, even the conductor, Dr. Muck, was under suspicion.  
"They think they will test the loyalty of these men by making them play the anthem," said the major. "Suppose you were in Germany and got up and cheered the Kaiser. Do you suppose they'd believe any more that you were for him. No; they'd say: 'Put that man in the guard house and watch him!'"  
Dr. Muck said: "Why will people be so silly? Art is a thing by itself and not related to any particular nation or group. It would be a great mistake, violation of artistic taste and principles, for such an organization as ours to play patriotic airs."

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LATER.  
Boston, Nov. 2.—The resignation of Dr. Carl Muck, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, was announced by Major Henry L. Higginson this afternoon. It also was announced that the national anthem would be played at all concerts given by the organization.