

RECEIVED
APR 2 1918
Int. Ag. Dept.

The Journal of Commerce

VOL. XLV. No. 14

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1918

Price, 10 CENTS

The Journal of Commerce

Devoted to
CANADIAN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND
FINANCE.

Published every Tuesday Morning by
The Journal of Commerce Publishing Company,
Limited.

Head Office: 35-45 St. Alexander Street, Montreal.
Telephone: Main 2662.
Toronto Office: 263 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.
Telephone: Adelaide 917.

HON. W. S. FIELDING,
President and Editor-in-Chief.

Subscription price, \$3.00 a year.
Advertising rates on application.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1918.

Special Articles

Editorials:

The War News	1
The Quebec Riots	1
Steel Shipbuilding	2
The Senate's Frills	2
The Australian Crisis	2
Conditions in the West	3
The Exchange Situation Between Canada and the United States	4
Britain's Trade	5
Mentioned in Despatches	6
Public Opinion	7
Among the Companies	8-9
February Bank Statement	11
Canadian Trade Marks	12
A Little Nonsense Now and Then	16
News of the Week Que.	17
John D. Rockefeller at Close Range	18
The Commodity Markets	22-24

The War News

IT WOULD be folly to deny that the war news from France during the past week has been of an alarming character. So much had been said of the coming German spring offensive on the Western front that many people doubted if it was more than German bluff, designed to divert attention from other movements. The English and Canadian correspondents had systematically represented that on the side of the Allies everything was ready for the attack if it should come, and that there was no reason to fear the results of any assault. The threatened offensive proved very real, and the resistance of the Allies, while heroic, failed to develop the strength that the public had been led to expect.

There was good reason, from the German standpoint, why a desperate attack should be made now. The German people, while still apparently in sympathy with the Kaiser's war policy, have been manifesting signs of war weariness. The food conditions in Germany are becoming very severe. The prospect of months more of indecisive trench-warfare, each day more exhausting than its predecessor, was not calculated to improve the internal situation in Germany. Then, the Americans! The German military writers professed to regard the coming of the Americans as of little importance, just as in the first days of the war they sneered at Britain's "contemptible little army." But the wiser military men at the German headquarters, we may be sure, did not deceive themselves. They knew well that the kind of men whom America was sending over would, even with a moderate amount of training, give a good account of themselves; and that behind them were legions of the same kind ready to take their places at the front. Difficulties of transportation still limited the number of Americans in France. But these difficulties were being overcome and soon many American battalions would be face to face with the German army. To make a bold attack—one that might possibly prove decisive—at once, before the main body of the American troops could take its place alongside the British and French armies, seemed to be sound tactics. So, with the aid of divisions brought from the Russian front, the Germans assembled at what they regarded as weak points in the Allies' line what was probably the largest army ever set in motion since the world began, and launched a tremendous assault in which they were able to make a considerable gain of territory.

The intense optimism of the allies' reports in advance of the attack made the success which the Germans achieved somewhat surprising and, for a little while, alarming. Apart, however, from the over-confidence manifested by these correspondents, there is no reason for surprise. It was not to be expected that success would crown the Allies at every point.

That the Germans would be able to bring forward at selected points much larger forces than would be at hand to block the way, was one of the situations of the war that was to be expected. There is little doubt that, with their overwhelming numbers and their resolve to make a desperate struggle, they counted on breaking down all resistance, destroying the allied armies and opening the way to Paris or to the channel ports. In this great object, however, they have failed. Realizing, no doubt at the early stage of the battle, that successful resistance to these immense forces was beyond the power of the Allies for the moment, the British and French generals sought to effect an orderly retirement to lines of greater safety, and to await the coming of needed reinforcements.

The expulsion of the Allies from a considerable section of territory which they had so firmly held in the earlier battles of the war is a defeat for them and a victory for the Germans that must not be under-estimated. It will give the Germans some of the encouragement that they needed so much for the maintenance of the German morale. But the main objective of the attack has not been accomplished. The armies of the Allies have not been crushed. The line has bent, but is not broken. The fighting has been desperate. The losses of the Germans, advancing in massed formation in the face of the mowing fire of the Allies, must have been enormous. The losses of the Allies, though much less, have been severe. But the spirit of the Allies—French, British and American—remains as strong as ever. In the army itself and in every country which it represents there is still the same resolve that the German enemy must and will be beaten. It is a cheering sign that in the dark hours, when the civilian population has been full of anxiety and even of alarm, our soldiers at the front have remained as confident as ever. They are nobly maintaining the best traditions of the nations they represent, and in their heroic struggle they have the warm admiration, the hearty sympathy and the cordial support of their people at home.

The Quebec Riots

THE damage to property, though not inconsiderable, is the smallest part of the harm done in the anti-conscriptionist disturbances at Quebec. The good name of the city and Province, and indeed of the Dominion, has suffered severely. And aid and comfort have been given to the enemy, for wherever the flags of Germany and her partners are raised there will be rejoicing over the events at Quebec, the meaning and effect of which will be immensely exaggerated.

That the people of Quebec were strongly opposed to the Military Service Act was well known. The results of the recent elections gave unmistakable evidence of that. But while