

# POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1918

## The Evening Times and Star

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### THE WAR SITUATION.

In the face of the continued German advance, which has resulted in the loss by the Allies of Soissons and perhaps of Rheims, along with many prisoners and considerable war material, let us gather what comfort we may from the reassuring remarks made by Allied leaders and the French press. Premier Clemenceau, who returned to Paris from the front yesterday, says the Allied commanders are worthy of all praise and the morale of their soldiers admirable. Another report dwells on the perfect harmony that exists between French and British divisions fighting side by side. While much ground has been yielded to overwhelming force, the Allied line is nowhere broken, and La Liberté of Paris says the French command is absolutely convinced it can save the situation, because of the power of the reserves and the morale of the whole army. A semi-official note today says that the arrival of Allied reserves has slackened the enemy advance, and that when the reserves are thrown in the German flood will be stopped. A Paris cable today says that the Germans are fighting against time, throwing every ounce of man power into the struggle to get a decision before Foch's reserves are ready, but it adds:

"On the centre the enemy has again pushed forward but his efforts to broaden his advancing front have met with less success. The Allied wings have been obliged to give some ground. This action was carried out slowly and the full price was exacted from the enemy. Soissons has gone and the British have fallen back toward Rheims, but in either case the enemy has only won a couple of miles of territory. In competent circles there is quiet confidence in the outcome and signs are not lacking that the advancing waves shortly will be stemmed. Unity of command puts the Allies in a better position than they were in the March offensive. On that occasion French reinforcements came into action on the third day and on the eighth the Germans were stopped definitely. Today things should go more quickly."

As was pointed out yesterday, the whole situation depends on the reserves. The Allied line where the Germans struck on Monday was so thinly held that the enemy pressed forward by sheer weight of numbers. We are told that his losses have been very heavy, and far heavier than those of the French, who fought valiantly but withdrew before they could be crushed and resumed the fighting in new positions. It is not necessary to ask why the Allied line was thinly held. The men who might otherwise have been there were held in reserve, to be thrown against whatever point the enemy might attack in force. These reserves are now taking their places in the battle-line, and we are told that the arrangements are so well perfected that "an entire division can be moved by motor truck from the Somme to Rheims in forty-eight hours and arrive without a button missing." The battle, therefore, is described as a race between the Crown Prince and Foch. The former is straining every nerve to get a decision before the Allied reserves come up, but the latter are already taking up positions on the battle line. The momentum of the German rush may carry the gray waves forward for some distance further, but there is confidence both in Paris and London, that Foch will presently place an insurmountable barrier of French, British and American troops across their path. Fresh enemy divisions have been brought up to increase the pressure. We can but await the outcome in that spirit of confidence which marks the utterances of those best qualified to discuss the situation.

The St. Stephen correspondent of the Standard writes: "Hon. P. J. Veniot is spending a few days in Charlotte county this week, inspecting the highways and consulting with all interested in road matters. This evening he met a large number of citizens in the town council room in St. Stephen and heard many suggestions as to needed road work. It was Hon. Mr. Veniot's first official visit here, and the gentlemen who met him were much pleased with his frankness in discussing matters brought to his attention."

Mr. F. P. Starr brought good news when he announced that hard coal would be available for this market if the transportation could be arranged, but his warning that those who can burn soft coal or wood should lay in a supply is also worthy of serious attention. It is always better to be on the safe side, and our winters are severe.

Baron Goto, foreign minister of Japan, declares his country is true to the Allied cause, and would give sympathetic consideration to any suggestion concerning Japanese intervention in Siberia. Japan, he says, entered the war to keep faith with England.

Men of draft age in the United States who are unfit for service overseas but can render limited military service are to be drafted to produce or handle army equipment.

### FACTS TO REMEMBER.

At a time when there is such keen anxiety over the situation on the western front it is well to keep in mind certain salient facts which tend to strengthen confidence in the final outcome of the war. The last issue of Bradstreet's contains an excellent summary of the situation as it is viewed in the United States, and based on information gained from reliable sources. The article is well worth quoting in full. Bradstreet's says: "Indications of a kind to strengthen the confidence of the Allies continue to make their appearance. The United States is evidently getting into its war stride. As was learned this week, our military forces now number nearly 2,100,000 men, of which well over 500,000 are now in France. Their movement abroad is being accelerated, 50,000 having gone abroad in the first ten days of May. With increasing transportation facilities, the number on the western front will soon be doubled. Judging from the action of the House Committee on Military Affairs this week, Congress will place no limit on the size of the army to be ultimately raised. The programme of airplane production has been placed definitely under a single head, and is now proceeding under a quickened impulse. The much discussed Liberty motor cars are being turned out in large quantities, and demands from our Allies for thousands of them are being met. Steel production is at its maximum. Our shipbuilding has taken an upward curve. The equivalent of one 10,000-ton ship a day is being turned out, and a daily production of 16,000 tons is expected after June 1. Steady progress is being made in combating the submarine menace, as appears from figures of tonnage losses, which show a decline from a total of 2,296,924 tons, British, Allied and neutral, lost in the quarter ending in June, 1917, to 1,123,510 in that ending in March last. Thus the U-boat toll has been almost cut in half over the period, while figures for the month of April show a total loss of shipping amounting to but little more than a third of that for April of last year. Far more enemy U-boats were destroyed in the three months ending in March than were built in that period, and in April another record was made. The decline in the U-boat danger was reflected in the reduction of war risk insurance rates early this month. In the ten months ending in April, thanks to the organization and popular co-operation, we were able to send to our Allies the equivalent of 110,000,000 bushels of wheat, while the exportable surplus under normal conditions was estimated at only from 10,000,000 to 80,000,000 bushels. This has greatly eased the food situation abroad, as may be gathered from the statement of the French food controller a few days ago that the end of food restriction is in sight. Moreover, crop prospects in the Allied countries are of a highly gratifying character. The outlook for the coming harvest in France is reported as better than in any prior year since 1898, and the prospects in our own country have seldom been surpassed at this date. On the other hand, there are poor crop reports from the Ukraine and elsewhere in Russia, have been keenly disappointed, and despatches tell of widespread lack of food and popular unrest in Austria-Hungary, in parts of which rioting has forced a resort to arbitrary measures on the part of the government. The situation is decidedly one to stiffen the morale of the Allied forces and of the peoples behind them."

The Maritime Branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has endorsed the act relating to vocational training passed at the last session of the New Brunswick legislature, and committees will be appointed to urge action in the various centres to have the provisions of the act carried out. This is the next necessary step.

German airmen have again deliberately dropped bombs on hospitals behind the Allied lines. One nurse was killed and another injured. Several civilians died of wounds. A number of Americans were among the injured. Nothing short of reprisals of the most harsh nature will have any effect upon such an enemy.

Ireland is more tranquil since the arrest of the Sinn Féin leaders. The new government is well received in Dublin. Conscription, it is said will be held in abeyance till the home rule bill is ready for submission to parliament.

The teaching of German in the schools of New York has been discontinued till the end of the war. Our neighbors are not doing things by halves, despite the hyphens in their midst.

The Germans advanced five and a half miles on the first day of the present drive, seven miles the second day, and only three and a half on the third.

### LIGHTER VEIN.

Bright Youth.  
Caller—So your son, Willie, has started work as an office boy. How is he getting on?  
Fond Mother—Splendidly! He already knows who ought to be discharged, and is merely waiting to get promoted so that he can attend to it.

Two Husbands.  
Mrs. Brown—My husband, 'e's a very dainty feeder.  
Mrs. Green—Is 'e? Now my old man is jest so much the other way about: 'e's a perfect epicure, 'e'll eat anything.

Popular This Season.  
Young Lady (with hopes)—What do you think is the fashionable color for a bride?  
Male Shop-walker—Tastes differ, but I should prefer a white one.

His Reason.  
"Going to send your wife to the seashore this season?"  
"No, I can't afford it."  
"Why, she isn't extravagant, is she?"  
"Yes, she was away I blew in four hundred dollars."

### THE BRANCH LINES

Ottawa, May 29.—The government will take over, on June 1, the Elgin and Havelock Railway, the York and Carleton, the Moncton and Buctouche and the St. Martins railways. The purchase of these roads was authorized by parliament at the close of the session on the terms already agreed upon. The Selkirk and Albert line will be formally taken over on July 1.

Pending final agreement on terms no date is yet fixed for the taking over of the Kent Northern and Carleton and Gulf Shore railways. Parliament voted \$800,000 and \$200,000 respectively for the purchase of these roads, but the companies have not yet accepted the price set by the government.

Sir Gilbert Parker Resigns.  
London, May 29.—Sir Gilbert Parker, the author, has resigned his seat in parliament. It is understood that Sir William Weir, secretary of state for the air services, will be the government candidate at a by-election in the Gravesend district to fill the vacancy.

Sir Gilbert has been a member of parliament for Gravesend since 1909.

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## Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment

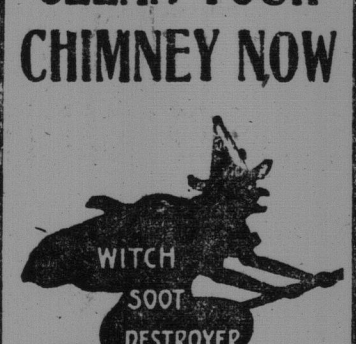
Major Dugald Stewart, ex-M. P. in Nova Scotia unit medical director, with headquarters in Halifax, and Captain G. H. Boyd, deputy commandant and assistant director of "K" unit, which included New Brunswick with headquarters in Fredericton, are in the city looking over the situation here and organizing the province. While the headquarters of the "K" unit are to be in Fredericton, St. John is to have a branch office. The government has created a new department known as the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment. This department has been divided into branches, one the board of pension commissioners, and the other known as the Invalided Soldiers' Commission. The object of the two organizations is to deal with discharged soldiers.

Enforcing the Act.  
It is understood that instructions have been issued to all officers commanding military districts in Canada to the effect that the responsibility for apprehending deserters and rounding up absentees under the Military Service Act rests entirely with the military authorities, who act immediately under the district commanders. Should the dominion police come under the military authorities they are only entitled to \$1.10 per hour. The military department have declined to pay more. This matter as yet has not been thrashed out.

Lieut.-Colonel John W. Worden, D. S. O., formerly of Baywater, has sent word to his relatives here that he is on the Euphrates river, the ancient garden of Eden, en route to Bagdad. He has

been transferred from France to Mesopotamia.

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season in New Brunswick as compared with that in Ontario and western Canada, the leave of absence for the farmers called into the service has been extended to June 15, so announced the military authorities here yesterday. Lieut.-Colonel W. C. Good has been appointed to the conducting staff.

Word has been received of the safe arrival in England of the steamer carrying New Brunswick drafts. On the troop ship, last evening and tendered their son, Fred Lee, of Moncton has been advised that her husband, formerly a C. G. R. brakeman, a member of the first contingent, has been awarded the Military Medal.

About sixty friends assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Chambers, Apohaqui, last evening and tendered their son, Fred Lee, of Moncton has been advised that her husband, formerly a C. G. R. brakeman, a member of the first contingent, has been awarded the Military Medal.

The names of seven New Brunswick men appear in the midnight casualty list. Presumed to have died, E. K. Cove, Mount Whitley; G. MacDonald, Lower Hainesville; H. M. Boyd, Moncton; G. F. Bourne, St. John; P. Bacon, Holderness. Wounded, Captain J. R. Gale,

# WRIGLEY'S

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