

THE COURIER

Published by The Brantford Courier Limited, every afternoon, at Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Canada. Subscription rate: By carrier, \$3 a year; by mail to British possessions and the United States, \$5 per annum.

SEMI-WEEKLY COURIER—Published on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, at \$1 per year, payable in advance. To the United States, 50 cents extra for postage.

Executive Office: Queen City Chambers, 62 Church Street, Toronto. H. H. Smallpiece, Representative.

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 1916.

The Situation.

It is reported that the guns of the Allies are checking the foe in a big artillery duel along the Flanders front. Time was when the guns of the foe outmarched those of their opponents, but that period has happily now passed. If the Huns started the game for feeling-out purposes, they are now receiving their answer in a most emphatic way. The artillery, and the munitions, and the men, are on hand in excellent force, and a German drive to any extent is manifestly out of the question.

There is a rumor that an agitation has been started in Turkey for a separate peace. Such a course, however, would not seem to be at all likely. Meanwhile they make the claim that they are holding the British relief force several miles from Kut-el-Amara and inflicting heavy losses.

Another Sample.

During the recent cornering of the Expositor with reference to the manner in which Liberals, when they have secured control of the City Council, have always and without exception put the knife right up to the hilt in Conservatives, the Courier also pointed out that they did not hesitate to guillotine men of their own side who refused to fall into the caucus line.

In the respect named this paper quoted the year 1905. Ald. Leitch (Liberal), by long service, was entitled to be Chairman of Finance. The caucus decided on Ald. Lloyd Harris (Liberal), a new-comer. At the first Council meeting (as reported in both the Courier and Expositor), Ald. Montgomery (Liberal) told that he was promised if he would run he would be made Chairman of the Board of Works. He consented to be a candidate on this basis. Then—well, perhaps it will be better to use his own words:

"Since the election it had been rumored around that he was not going to support the full slate, which included Ald. Harris for the position of Finance Chairman. This was true. He had promised to support Ald. Leitch for that position, and so he told them. Then one of the gentlemen present—he would give his name if necessary—phoned to him and stated that if he would not support Ald. Harris for that position he would not be made Chairman of the Board of Works. I soon learned that if I carried out my promise to Ald. Leitch I would be knifed by those who had framed the slate, and I can say positively that if I had promised to support Ald. Harris I would have secured my chairmanship."

Now in connection with the appointment of this year's Warden for the County of Brant we are afforded another exhibition of how one Liberal will beat out another in order to carry out a program. Reeve Evans (Liberal) of Paris, an old-time member of the Council, was, as he states, according to the unwritten law, entitled to become Warden. A contrary decision was reached, and Reeve Harris of Brantford Township, who has only been a member of County Council for two years, secures the post.

The affair is none of the funeral of this paper, but it is of interest as fully confirming what this paper has alleged, and which the local Grit organ has not yet summoned up enough nerve to deny, for the simple reason that it dare not do so.

U. S. Navy Unprepared.

A confidential report on the U. S. navy written by Admiral F. F. Fletcher, commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet has just been made public by a New York paper.

Deplored the fact that the Atlantic fleet is far below the complement of officers and men necessary for the efficient operation of the vessels now in active service, Admiral Fletcher catalogues in detail the deficiencies of his command.

The report is dated August 15, 1915, and covers the period from September 17, 1914, when Admiral Fletcher assumed command to June 30, 1915. It includes reports made to the commander in chief by subordinate officers of the fleet and of his personal staff.

Speaking of the shortage of officers and men the Admiral states that at the June inspection one division alone of the fleet was short 1,350 men. Mine laying ships, he declares, are 25 per cent below the number of men necessary for proper operation, and

he complains of the fact that the Department has reduced the complement of the destroyers by 25 per cent.

He states that during the "battle efficiency inspection" of the battle-ship class it was found that a chief petty officer was in charge of one turret and that an ensign, who was graduated from the Naval Academy, in 1914, was in charge of another. The Florida, he reports, was short 29 officers, the Utah 28, the Michigan 27, and the South Carolina 16. A pay clerk and a yeoman, he says, were found to be in charge of the plotting room on one of the dreadnoughts doing the work which experienced commissioned officers were supposed to perform.

That the conditions found at this inspection were not unusual the commander shows by the fact that such reports of shortages were a frequent occurrence. This situation he describes as dangerous, contending that regardless of the number of officers and men available the ships of the active fleet should be kept up to their full complement. If this is impossible he concludes, it would be better to put some of the vessels in reserve.

Admiral Fletcher says that in January, 1915, he reported a shortage of 3,000 men in the fleet, and the shortage is now even greater.

Comparing the present system of officering dreadnoughts of the American navy with the systems used by Great Britain and Germany, Admiral Fletcher takes three dreadnoughts of approximately the same size and type from the American, British and German navies and presents the following table:

Name of ship.	Nation.	Total grade of ship.	Officers above grade.
Delaware	U.S.	35	9
Bellerophon	British	53	19
Hellgoland	Germany	54	29

The admiral lays particular stress on the navy's lack of fast armored cruisers and refers pointedly to the unsatisfactory condition of the submarines of the navy and their limitations of mobility. In the same way he warns of the lack of aircraft, the lack of mine laying and mine sweeping vessels, and the absence in the entire fleet of a radio direction finder.

Destroyers, upon which the navy department has in the past been relying to perform the work of scouts, he declares to be unsatisfactory for the work.

Referring to the operations of the fleet, Admiral Fletcher criticizes adversely the marksmanship of the fleet, owing to the system of target practice used in use, and strongly recommends not only that more time be given to big gun practice, but that the department authorize him to increase the range and permit the use of full charges for the guns at target practice.

To that end he advises that the long range firing should be held at Guantanamo or some other little frequented part of the Caribbean. In order that the fleet shall be made more effective, he urges that all vessels now in reserve should be mobilized at least once a year to determine their fitness for use in time of an emergency.

The admiral also criticizes adversely the frequency of the "overhaul periods" fixed for each dreadnought, although he considers satisfactory the present overhaul period for smaller vessels of the fleet.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Kaiser has offered to put his second son on the throne of Serbia. He does not seem to yet realize that at the end of it the word with regard to the whole Hohenzollern outfit will be "thrown."

The Expositor does not desire to take any special credit to itself for the amended committee slate which was introduced and put through at the meeting of the City Council last night.—Expositor.

As a matter of fact, you can't. Ald. Ward is authority for the statement that he hadn't seen the Expositor when he sent in his resignation, and the order was issued not to have the usual committee cards printed before our contemporary was issued on the day named. Having disposed of this, the Courier once more asks the Expositor to name one instance when the Liberals had control of the Council when Conservatives got anything but the knife. The organ will either answer or else by silence admit the charge to be true. Moreover, it greeted every swish of the guillotine with glee.

The annual report of the Victorian Order of Nurses shows how splendidly the good work is maintained. Another year of great activity and accomplishment has been chronicled by the Association, than which there is none more worthy in this city. The conservation of infant life and the upbringing of children under healthy conditions, always important, has never been more so than in this period of world-wide desolation with regard to adult life. Mrs. Frank Cockshutt, the very efficient President, and her colleagues deserve hearty congratulations upon the success which has attended their efforts with reference to so notable a work.

Uniform war ship building has been suggested informally to the Latin-American powers.

CASTORIA

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SOME GREAT MEN AT PLAY

To see Lloyd George with a golf club in his hands is to behold the gallant Welshman in his element. Indeed it might be said that a majority of our prominent men of to-day indulge in this healthy sport.

Some celebrities, however, are more eccentric in their choice of amusement. M. Venizelos, the Greek ex-Premier, for instance, is said to seek his chief recreation in playing games with young children, whilst the Prince of Montenegro's favorite pastime is the reading of the English magazines.

All the world has heard of the hobby of the late Mr. Gladstone, who revelled in chopping down trees. He considered the yew tree the most difficult to fell; next to which came beech and ash.

G. O. M. ON RISING EARLY.
"Oak, though very hard, falls well," he declared on one occasion, "but the easiest tree of all is the Spanish chestnut."

Considering the vigorous nature of his recreations, it is worthy of note that Gladstone objected as strongly to some of the vessels in reserve in the morning.

"I hate getting up in the morning," he confessed, "I hate it the same every morning, but one can do anything by force of habit, and when I have had my seven hours' sleep, my habit is to get up."

Among the eccentric relaxations of some great men may be mentioned the peaceful hobby of warlike Julius Caesar. He was the possessor of several swarms of bees, and in the autumn he would occupy much time in boiling sweet syrups on which to feed them.

Calvin was very fond of throwing dice—a truly disreputable game—whereas Luther was great at ninepins! When he knocked down all the pins at a stroke his delight knew no bounds. Voltaire was fond of the same game, and when he prostrated his ninepins he was better pleased than if he had completed his best ode.

FOND OF PUNCH AND JUDY.

Buffon, a celebrated writer, used to delight in gleaming the local gossip and scandal from the village barber during the performance of his morning toilet.

Charlemagne's chief relaxation and pleasure consisted in swimming in a bath, together with his sons, officers, and friends. Charlemagne could beat them all at swimming.

Boyle, the philosopher's great delight, like Curran's, was to watch the exhibition of puppet shows. The performance of Punch and Judy always dragged him into the street, and he did not mind standing in a heavy shower of rain to witness it.

The corporation of Norway possess the historic bowls with which Lord Hawkins, and Lord Howard of Effingham, according to the famous story, were playing when the first news of the Spanish Armada arrived.

A great Socrates, like M. Venizelos, would spend many an hour in the society of youths, "especially if they had fair minds in fair bodies." On the other hand, possessing perfect control over all his appetite, he could at a banquet drink more than anyone else present without being overpowered.

LAYING OUT HIS ESTATE.

Sir Walter Scott is said to have been fascinated by a recreation opposite to that which Gladstone indulged in; he planted trees. The famous poet bought an estate near the River Tweed and began to build a fine mansion upon it. Scott delighted in arranging walks around it and in planting thousands of trees in suitable places.

Golf, of course, enjoyed the favor of many prominent men of the past. Charles I. was fond of the game, and on his visit to Scotland in 1647 was playing on Leith links when intimation was given him of the rebellion in Ireland. The Duke of York—afterwards James II.—was also much devoted to the game.

HARLEY

Mrs. Hart, who has been the guest of her cousin, Mrs. Marshall, has gone to Sarnia to visit Mr. W. Marshall.

Wedding bells will soon be ringing in Harley.

Mrs. Rathburn is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Medcalf.

We are sorry to report Mr. Emerson Medcalf is sick with pneumonia.

We are sorry to report little Miss Jean Clement on the sick list.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Swears spent Sunday at Mr. Charley Radford's.

Mr. W. Clement of Clinton spent over Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Clement.

Miss Irene Morris is visiting in Brantford.

Mr. and Mrs. A. McIntyre of Cathcart spent Sunday at Mr. W. Bum-berry's.

Miss Hazel Elliot of Burford spent a couple of days last week the guest of Miss Mable and Dora Fort.

Mrs. S. Secord spent over Sunday with her brother, Mr. A. Casner, who is very low.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Harley spent one evening last week at Mr. Percy Clements.

Miss Ena Ryder is visiting in Brantford.

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Clement of Cathcart spent Sunday at Mr. S. Clement's.

Miss Gladys Swears spent a couple of days with her sister, Mrs. C. H. Radford last week.

Mr. Sharp of Hamilton spent one Sunday the guest of his brother, Wm. Sharp.

Mrs. Dave Shellington on Thursday last had a quilting bee and oyster supper at night. The evening was spent in merriment. All returned home, having had a good time.

Mr. Wm. Bonney, Mr. J. Fox and Mr. and Mrs. W. Ryder attended the funeral of Mrs. R. McKay, Woodbury.

Fire put the Tremont Theatre in Boston out of business for at least eight weeks. The sections of the house containing the stage and dressing room were destroyed.

STORIES OF DANE IMPORTS NOT VERIFIED

Copenhagen Paper Says Charges Based on Sensational Rumors.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Copenhagen, via London, Jan. 26.—The National Tidende attacks the sensational statements of the London Daily Mail's Copenhagen correspondent regarding Danish imports, declaring that the correspondent never visited the Foreign Office, the Merchants' Guild, or the Industrial Council, where reliable information is obtainable, but used sensational rumors.

As an example The Tidende cites the Daily Mail's figures on the Danish importation of rice in 1913, of 2,800 tons and in 1915, 16,625 tons, while the actual imports were 685 tons in 1914, and 6,439 tons in 1915 and for the first eleven months in 1915, 12,455 tons. This increase The Tidende is due to a falling off of the importation of groats for which rice is a substitute among the poor, who are eating more rice and less expensive rye bread.

The Tidende challenges the accuracy of the Daily Mail's statements in importation of linseed and oleomargarine, but "it is granted that considerably large amounts of American pork are imported on account of the high prices of Danish pork. It is a curious reproach of Denmark importing American pork, as actually large amounts of Danish bacon go to England."

The Tidende declares that the British blockade, during the past six months has been carried out with great strictness and effectiveness.

A Study of the Penguin.

A foreign scientist who has been for a long period a close observer of the habits of the Adelic penguins states that there are two prominent facts in their behaviour. The first is the custom of forming "creches," for the chicks when they reach a certain age. When the chicks are young they are easily fed by one parent at a time. The hen sits and the male goes down to the sea to fill his crop with Euphausiid crustaceans. He returns, and the chicks are fed. After some fussing the hen surrenders the task of incubation to her mate, and goes down to the sea; and so it goes on in regular alternation. But as the chicks grow bigger they require more food, and the turn about method of collecting this is inadequate. So the parents "pool" their chicks and form creches, which are under the charge of a few old birds. The young are educated and protected from the intrusive skuas and the "hoodlums" males, who are even worse. The other exhibition of sociality is a kind of "drilling." The penguins assemble in bands, thousands strong, and exhibit remarkably orderly movements, just like soldiers at drill.

Coal miners all over the United States prepare to demand wage increases, at Indianapolis convention.

DIED.

LAMBROOK—In Brantford, on Monday, Jan. 24th, Henry Lambrook, 27 Murray St., in his 84th year. Funeral will take place from his late residence on Thursday at 6:45 p.m., thence to G.T.R. to Extension. Friends and acquaintances kindly accept this intimation.

FRIEND OF KAISER DEAD IN BERLIN

Formerly Postmaster-General and Minister of Agriculture.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Amsterdam, Jan. 26.—General Viktor Von Podbielski, former Postmaster-general and a close friend of Emperor William, is dead in Berlin, at the age of 71 years. General Von Podbielski was to have officiated as president general at the Olympic games, which were to have been held in Berlin this summer.

General Von Podbielski, in addition to having been postmaster-general, was once Minister of Agriculture. When the Emperor appointed him minister of posts in 1907, he organized the telephone system and brought about the direct cable service between the United States and Germany. General Von Podbielski was one of the few officers in Germany who rose from the army to the higher civil service without any training in the lower grades. For years he was Emperor William's favorite companion in the game of skat.

CONFER AGAIN ON LUSITANIA

Count von Bernstorff and Secretary Lansing Meet Again.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Washington, Jan. 26.—Secretary of State Lansing had an engagement to confer again to-day with Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, over the controversy growing out of the sinking of the liner Lusitania.

Germany's last proposal in the Lusitania negotiations having failed to satisfy President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, the ambassador, it was said, was to submit another tentative proposal for settlement, embodying the requirements of the United States.

The new proposal after being considered by President Wilson and Secretary Lansing is expected to be forwarded immediately to Berlin for the approval or disapproval of the German Government.

The United States, it was authoritatively stated to-day, would insist upon holding the German Government to "a strict accountability" for the loss of American lives and desires that the Berlin Government admit, in effect, that it is liable according to law for lives of neutrals lost in the commission of an act against a vessel of the enemy.

Teutonic diplomatic circles still were optimistic to-day regarding the outcome despite the United States' refusal to accept the last proposal.

Burning of the four-masted American schooner Forest City in San Juan harbor marked the close of the career of a vessel long known along the Atlantic coast as a "hoodoo ship."

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CONSERVATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Conservative Association for South Brant will be held at

THE CONSERVATIVE ROOMS
Dalhousie St., Brantford

SATURDAY 29th

at 8 p. m.

All Conservatives of the riding are welcome. Election of officers and other business. Mr. W. F. Cockshutt M.P. will be one of the speakers.

ANDREW L. BAIRD
PRESIDENT

TO-MORROW IS DOLLAR DAY

Did You Get Last Night's Paper? If Not Get One NOW!

In last night's issue we gave you one full page of bargains for Dollar Day that should crowd the store all day.



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