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Tuesday, May 22nd, 1917.

THE SITUATION

The announcement is made that the British are now occupying nearly all of the "Hindenburg line." With the exception of some two thousand yards, Haig's men have possession of it, and will doubtless completely do so ere very long, although stiff fighting is still ahead to accomplish that purpose. "Thus far shall the foe come and no further" was practically what the hero of the many wooden nailed statues said, each nail at so much per. It is less, forbade the waves to advance any further, with unpleasant consequences to his admirers, and it was Mrs. Partington, according to an anecdote told by Sydney Smith, who at the time of the great storm and high tide in 1824, tried to push back the Atlantic ocean with a mop. Hindenburg and the Kaisers have now had the same experience as Canutes' followers, and the mop dame. The British waves have submerged them, and are still surging onward.

In the Aisne region, the French have succeeded in driving the foe from some strongly held positions in hilly country, taking a large number of prisoners, while hundreds of bodies of Germans lie in cavernous shelters.

The Italians continue their offensive without abatement. Another hill has been taken, this time between Palfiova and Britovo, and fierce counter Austrian attacks have been repulsed in the Trentino region.

Air fights are still numerous on the western front. The latest report in this regard is the bringing down of fifteen Hun planes, while four British failed to return.

The latest demand finding voice in Russia is that the Allies will not resort to any annexation. This, of course, raises an impossible point with regard to the seized German colonies. The new Republic will have to come into harmony with the rest or else be counted out in the finalities.

STATEMENT OF THE CITY TREASURER

Mr. Bunnell took a commendable course when at the city council last night he presented the members, and through them, the citizens, a clear cut statement with regard to city finances. Incidentally, it may be remarked that a good many people do not yet seem to realize that wartime conditions set in a most restrictive way, and that municipalities must recognize that fact as well as individuals. For instance, one fact alone should have a pregnant meaning to everyone, and this is that the entrance of the United States into the war has closed that market for municipal flotations. Other timely facts in addition to this are cogently set forth in the statement. It is pointed out that Brantford "entered this year in an easy financial position," but that great care will have to be exercised for the remainder of hostilities.

Not only has the cost of material and labor advanced, but in addition it costs a good deal more to secure money. Take for instance twenty year debentures. Before the war they cost in interest per year per thousand \$45.00 and \$32.58 for sinking fund. To-day the interest cost is \$60 with sinking fund the same. Said sinking fund is the amount set aside annually for payment of debentures on maturity, and at the present moment it reaches the enormous total of \$882,000. The municipal finance department, as one of the many duties attaching thereto, has to see that this large sum is safely and profitably invested.

According to the estimates of this year, there will be a civic expenditure of \$680,338, and every precaution must certainly be taken to see that present obligations are not needlessly enhanced.

The brief prepared by Mr. Bunnell should receive the most careful attention of every ratepayer.

WHY SHOULD SIR WILFRID LAURIE?

The country was undoubtedly ripe for the declaration by Sir Robert Borden of a conscription measure. From practically all quarters there has been whole-hearted commendation of the step, and about the only criticism in most instances was that it was not sooner taken. As to that, the fact must be remembered that the Premier and his associates have to consider a very wide field, that for instance, Quebec has been apt to regard steps as too radical, that Ontario might consider not radical enough. Furthermore, that as in England there had to first be general popular approval with regard to any coercive step.

All this is generally conceded by those who take care to think over the matter, but meanwhile, where is Sir Wilfrid Laurier?

He has had nearly three years in which to become awakened to the necessities of the case, and even yet he does not seem able to make up his mind.

Most people would have thought, after Borden's earnest and convincing speech, not to mention the practical exhaustion of the voluntary plan, that Sir Wilfrid would have at once held up both hands for the only practical solution.

But no. As usual he apparently still had both eyes on Quebec, and no man ever indicated a more middle or indefinite course than did he in his remarks following the Premier's proposal.

What he said as reported in the Toronto Globe, was:

"I am not going to say that we should adopt this, or adopt that; that we should reject this or reject that."

It is safe to say that no public leader in a time of crisis ever adopted a more equivocal, or more unworthy stand than that.

The heroic Canadians at the front are daily having their ranks decimated by death, and wounds and sickness. More men are urgently needed to repair the wastage, and yet the Liberal Chief hesitates when the only possible corrective is suggested.

The thing is part and parcel of the stand which he took when he refused to join the National Service Board. Meanwhile it cannot be too emphatically stated that this is not a time for political manoeuvring, but for action.

OPTIMISM OF SOLDIER IS REMARKABLE

Interesting Lecture By Capt. Cornelius on "Experiences at the Front"

To those who last evening gathered in the school room of St. Jude's Church to hear Capt. J. R. Cornelius, lately returned from the front, was given one of the most intimate and vivid descriptions of the life of our men overseas that has yet been listened to by Brantford audience. Capt. Cornelius related his story in a light and vivacious manner that greatly enhanced the attractiveness of the tale. He was assisted by Miss Miller, elocutionist, of Hamilton, who conducts a class at the Conservatory of Music here, and by Miss Elsie Senn, the well known local soloist.

"With the exception of a sector about 2,000 yards long, immediately west of Bullecourt, we now hold the whole of the Hindenburg line from a point one mile east of Bullecourt to Arras.

"The hostile artillery has again shown considerable activity on the north bank of the Scarpe.

"There was great aerial activity on Sunday. A number of successful bombing raids were carried out, and our airplanes co-operated excellently with our infantry in the attacks, engaging the enemy troops in the enemy's front line trenches with machine guns.

"In the air fighting seven German airplanes were downed, of which one fell inside our lines. Eight others were driven down out of control. Another was shot down by our anti-aircraft guns. Four of our airplanes are missing."

Bomb Trench Stations.

Paris, May 22.—The war office statement last night read:

"The day was comparatively calm. The artillery actions were intermittent over the greater part of the front in Champagne, where the enemy violently bombarded the positions we occupied on Sunday in the region south of Moronvillers. There was no infantry action. On the night of May 19-20 our airplanes dropped 2,200 kilos of explosives on railroad stations and bivouacs in the region of Epoye and Bellenyville. On May 20 the aviation force of the British Empire, working from the ground at Habeshem and Bovenyville, were likewise bombarded with numerous projectiles.

Week Two Poo Planes

"The same day two German airplanes were brought down by our pilots, and a third by the fire of our special guns. Three other enemy machines were compelled to make a landing, having been seriously damaged.

"Belgian communication. Sunday at the end of the afternoon, violent enemy attacks took place in the region of Dixmude. Yesterday the artillery activity was comparatively slight."

Eastern Theatre: An intermittent artillery action occurred along the whole front. The enemy attempted in vain five times on the night of May 19-20 to capture a post occupied

NOTES AND COMMENTS

May is certainly having a jolly time.

He should be known as Wilfrid, "The Unready."

A large sized potato left at this office will be swapped for a house and lot.

A German professor is telling the people that hay makes a tasty dish. They ought to be forced to take it if only for the reason that they were jackasses enough to think that they could lick the universe.

The Irish are to be asked to meet together and settle a Home Rule plan. Now look out for an Irish stew.

HOPE FOR SETTLEMENT

Continued from Page One

The Daily Mail expresses the belief that the probabilities are the convention will meet and adjourn.

"It will put Ireland very definitely on trial before the British Empire and the world and test most thoroughly whatever capacity for constructive statesmanship she possesses."

The ultra-Conservative Morning Post says that asking Ireland to devise a plan for her own government may seem reasonable from the first view, but that it must never be forgotten that a Government for Ireland is not purely an Irish question, because the security of Great Britain largely depends on Ireland, which holds a position through which every enemy who ever fought England has tried to enter. Elaborating the view that what is fundamental is a British question cannot be settled by Irishmen alone, this newspaper contends that the British cannot carry into effect a convention's decision unless they do not injure the interests and security of the Kingdom.

BRITISH OFFICIAL

London, May 22.—"We made successful raids last night northeast of Epoye and during the night east of Bullecourt, south of the Arras-Cambrai road and west of Lens," says to-day's war official report.

"Yesterday afternoon we destroyed a large German ammunition dump on the Arras-Cambrai road northeast of Queant. The shock of the explosion was felt at great distance behind our lines."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

An Excellent Group Photo of the Sergeants of the 125th Battalion taken at Bramshott Camp. In the Centre are Lt.-Col. Cutcliffe, O.C., and Capt. A. C. Emmons, Adjutant.

Four Mile Section of Hindenburg Line Taken

Famous Defense Work From Arras to Bullecourt, With Exception of One Small Part Only, Is in Hands of Gen. Haig's Forces

London, May 22.—The British troops are now holding the entire Hindenburg line from the eastward Bullecourt to Arras, with the exception of trench elements on a front of about 2,000 yards west of Bullecourt, according to the official communication issued last night. Recent gains northwest of Bullecourt have been consolidated. The statement says:

"Our new positions in the Hindenburg line northwest of Bullecourt have been secured during the day with little interference from the enemy. All information received confirms the severity of the German losses in the recent fighting in this area."

"The hostile artillery has again shown considerable activity on the north bank of the Scarpe."

"There was great aerial activity on Sunday. A number of successful bombing raids were carried out, and our airplanes co-operated excellently with our infantry in the attacks, engaging the enemy troops in the enemy's front line trenches with machine guns."

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Eastern Theatre: An intermittent artillery action occurred along the whole front. The enemy attempted in vain five times on the night of May 19-20 to capture a post occupied

by the Serbians in their latest attacks."

Berlin Statement.

Berlin, May 22.—The evening official communication issued by the war office says:

"In the morning English attacks at Bullecourt and French local attacks southwest of Nauray, in Champagne, failed."

"Throughout the day there were artillery duels of varying intensity on several sectors of the Arras, Aisne and Champagne fronts, and also on the eastern bank of the Meuse."

Say British Repulsed.

Yesterday afternoon's statement says:

"Army group of Crown Prince Rupprecht: Sunday's attacks by the British were made on both sides of the Arras-Cambrai road, on a front of eight and one-half miles. Wherever the enemy thrusting troops succeeded in leaving their trenches between the Scarpe and the Seneffe brook they were shot to pieces by our destructive fire. Enemy troops, which penetrated our lines east of Croisilles, were driven back again by a strongly delivered counter-attack. Attacks repeated many times between Fontaine and Bullecourt during the afternoon, evening and night, met with the same fate. We maintained our positions with the exception of one completely demolished trench, which we left in possession of the enemy in accordance with our plan."

"Army group of the German Crown Prince: While French local attacks at Lauffaux were again unsuccessful, West Prussian grenadiers at Braye-en-Laonnois and Bavarian troops at Cernay, and to the west of Harchies farm, succeeded in improving their positions by capturing trenches. They maintained their gains against enemy attempts."

Artillery Violent.

"In the Champagne heavy fighting occurred again Sunday. The artillery battle, which had been increasing in intensity for days, was of the utmost violence from the morning onward. In the afternoon the French advanced by strong attacks against the hill position north of the Prunay-St. Hilaire le Grand road. After bitter fighting, which continued into the night, the enemy succeeded in obtaining a foothold on Mont Caruillet south of Naroy, and on Mont Keil, southwest of Moronvillers. We are established on the northern slopes of the heights. Fighting for possession of other hillocks fluctuated, advantages at first obtained by the French being wrested from them in a prompt counter-attack. The old positions here are in our hands in the evening, were repulsed in the recaptured lines. The losses of the enemy yesterday were again very considerable."

"Eastern Theatre: The situation is unchanged."

"Macedonian Theatre: The fighting was limited to local artillery engagements."

face, and a cigarette in his mouth. As to their moral character, the speaker was quite willing to take thirty-five thousand boys from the front, and compare them with the same number of civilians, and he was quite sure that 95 per cent. of them would be better than the men clad in mufti, and furthermore declared that his statement was upheld by statistics. The sympathetic care given to comrades in the trenches, was touching, and although with practically no medical skill or knowledge, the best of care was always received by the wounded soldier from his comrades.

This concluded Capt. Cornelius' story of his experiences overseas, and he then outlined what he called national service and urged those present to work and sacrifice in every way possible to assist in the winning of the war. Whatever could be done by those at home could compare but poorly with the men who had gladly gone overseas and gallantly laid down their lives in a sacrifice that liberty might prevail.

"Let the duration of the war be a Lent to you," he said. Since January the 1st of this year, more automobiles had been sold in this city than during the whole of last year, and this condition was deplored by the speaker, who thought that as gasoline was a vital asset in the war,

automobile for pleasure should be eliminated.

Nothing savoring of German Kultur was wanted in this or any other liberty loving country, and Capt. Cornelius was heartily in favor of having this language erased from the curriculum of our schools, and was of the opinion that it would be no loss, but a decided gain. In conclusion, he made a strong appeal for thrift, and urged the necessity and patriotism of doing away with all lavishness and unnecessary expense.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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LOCAL NEWS

WEDNESDAY CLOSING

The retail clerks of Brantford would like to have the merchants close on Wednesday afternoon throughout June, July and August.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Rev. F. Vair, of Otterville conducted the services last Sunday. Rev. Mr. Vair is a St. John's boy, and he is a welcome visitor.

BUILDING PERMIT

Application was made at the office of the city engineer this morning by Alex. McDonald, 5 Fair Ave., for a permit to erect a frame verandah to cost \$160. The permit was issued.

NO PICNIC

The Brant District Holstein Breeders Club will not hold their annual picnic this year. At their meeting held in the office of the Dept. of Agriculture Saturday, it was decided that every effort should be made to encourage production, and as the picnic would draw from two hundred to three hundred people for the day, it was deemed inadvisable, in view of the present shortage of labor to postpone the picnic for the present year.

POLICE COURT

An unusually brief session of the police court was held this morning, only two cases being dealt with, and both were adjourned. B. W. Young was remanded another two weeks on a charge of conversion of a piano. This case has been hanging fire for considerable time, and an effort is being made to adjust the difficulty. Roy Jackson, who was driving the automobile that knocked over and injured Mr. Herbert Johnson, some time ago, was remanded for another week, owing to the inability of Mr. Johnson to be present.

Y. M. C. A. RESULTS

The campaign which has been conducted here for the purpose of securing funds for Y. M. C. A. work among the soldiers overseas, has now been practically concluded, and although the returns are not complete, Mr. Yelton, who has been directing operations, stated this morning that \$8,000 was at least assured. The returns from the various churches, in which collections were taken up on Sunday have not been as yet received, and some of the teams have not completed their canvass, but by this evening it is expected that the work in Brantford will have been finished.

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