

The Evening Times and Star

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THE WAR NEWS

The slow but steady advance of the British and French on the Somme front continues. The Russians, after a period of preparation, have launched a new drive north and south of Lemberg, and are drawing nearer the Galician capital. On the Saloniki front there are no developments of importance, although Greece is expected to declare war this week on the side of the Allies, and that would materially improve the situation. The Roumanians have met a reverse in Transylvania. After over-running a considerable portion of that province their army permitted itself to be almost completely surrounded by the enemy, who brought up large forces to the attack, and as a result the Roumanians were compelled to retreat. The extent of the reverse is not yet announced. In the south-eastern Roumania the enemy is still held in check.

The situation on the Italian front shows no change. Rome reports that the fighting is largely confined to artillery duels, although in any infantry action that occurs the Austrians appear to be getting the worst of it.

It matters little on what front the heaviest fighting occurs, so long as the strength of the enemy is steadily reduced. That is the important fact to be kept constantly in mind. Whether east or west or south, the losses sustained by the Central Powers cannot be replaced while the Allies have a superiority in men and munitions with which to keep up the deadly pressure and draw ever closer the cordon of steel.

CONCERNING INDEPENDENCE

"By all means," says the Sackville Post, "let us have an independent press." The Post adds that the spirit of independence is conspicuously lacking in the office of this newspaper.

The subject is worthy of discussion. It may be observed at the outset that the Times is not in receipt of any patronage from any government, and is not influenced either by present or anticipated favors. It does not follow that this paper should not support a party or a candidate. The support of a party or a candidate takes no part in public affairs and has no views to express is the sort from which the country may well pray to be delivered; as well as from that other sort which always has its eye on the box office.

A newspaper may be Conservative or Liberal, and yet be truly independent. Such a paper will condemn wrong-doing and wrong-doers in any party. The chief fault of Canadian journalism has been a too strict adherence to party, and that fault is gradually being cured by the rise of journals which do not need political patronage. They support a party, but refuse to accept responsibility for its wrong-doing. The number of such papers in New Brunswick, on the Conservative side, is not large. Had the Conservative press of this province demanded that Mr. J. K. Flemming be thrust out of public life, and his political misdeeds repudiated, a great service would have been rendered the province of New Brunswick. They were not sufficiently independent to pursue that course, and today all Canada is judging this province by the Flemming standard of political morality. When the Sackville Post and its confreres grow courageous enough to hit a head which they know ought to be hit, they will deserve the name of independent and yet be Conservative newspapers. And since the Post is well able to assert its independence there is no reason apart from an unreasonable partisanship why it should not say what it thinks about Mr. Flemming and those who are determined to make his political standards the standards of the party to which they belong. By all means, then, let us have an independent Conservative press. It will be good for the country and certainly will not cast any reflections upon the party.

THE FATE OF GERMANY

As an expression of the views of the great majority of the American people concerning the war situation, the following comment by the Bangor Commercial on the speech of the German chancellor last week is of interest to Canadian readers:

"But the address of the chancellor had no ring of confidence, no song of triumph to come. It halted in its facts and went lame in its conclusions. His remarks about the crops close upon the appeal of the German food dictator to the rural residents to cut down their food consumption in view of the need that the soldiers and the munition workers should have sufficient food. Foreign loans for Germany cannot be obtained and the people of Germany have reached their financial limit. German diplomacy has failed. Greece will follow Roumania into the ranks of its foes and Bulgaria and Turkey, its allies, must be aided or fall, while Austria is in a similar case with Italy and Russia pressing it hard. Germany will soon stand practically alone and its armies today are being forced back into gradually shortening lines. Germany is at bay, but the German chancellor would not tell his people the facts. He probably believes that such admissions would but increase internal difficulties and strengthen the hand of the German peace party. But the world knows the

facts and it is difficult to believe that the people of Germany can still be in ignorance of the ruin that Prussian ambition and militarism is rapidly bringing upon them.

One of the strangest things about this war is just that contented ignorance of the German people. The British or French people would not tolerate anything of the sort. They agree to a censorship which is imposed to keep the enemy in ignorance, but they want the general news of the situation, and they insist upon the right to criticize in a general way the conduct of the war. The German people, however, appear to have delivered themselves body and soul to the war-lords, and fought blindly on, deluded with the assurance of victory given to them by those in authority. The scales must soon fall from their eyes. In the third year of the war they and the British, French, Italians and Russians stronger than ever, steadily driving in the German and Austrian lines, while Roumania and Greece are now to be counted as enemies, and Bulgaria and Turkey have proved but broken reeds in the hour of trial. The German chancellor asserts that the German lines cannot be broken. Even as he speaks the impossible is being done. The pressure is kept with more deadly effect as the weeks pass, and it cannot be long before the German people are enlightened as to the actual situation. When they learn what the Allies already know, there will be revolution. The night of doom will be delayed as long as possible by the Kaiser and his war-lords, but already the shadow begins to creep toward them, and no human hand can stay its coming. It is kismet.

There are fresh rumors of a general Dominion election. No doubt the government is much worried over the accumulating evidence of its loss of popularity and prestige, but it will probably go the limit before taking the plunge.

The action of Germany in continuing Zeppelin raids on England cannot be explained in any other way than just to assert that it is one more evidence of an insane folly which is bringing the country to destruction. It serves no warlike purpose, and loses for Germany the respect of neutral nations.

The Rotary Club by its series of fairs has gained a substantial contribution to the Patriotic Fund, and has also demonstrated its own efficiency. It had cheerful and untiring support from the people of the suburban places where it held fairs, and in last week's event the Young Women's Patriotic Association gave invaluable aid. Everybody enjoyed these events, and spent money freely in the good cause.

The Trades and Labor Council of Canada is unanimously opposed to conscription or registration. The Toronto Telegram describes conscription as a scheme of the Liberals to discredit the government. Evidently we are still a long way from its adoption. Meanwhile recruits are few and far between, in proportion to the need. The growing casualty lists call for men to fill the ranks. How does the government propose to aid in filling them?

The Toronto Telegram says: "Canadians have again proved their right to fight shoulder to shoulder with the finest soldiers in the world. On the Somme, as in the Ypres salient, they have met the Prussians and defeated them. They have faced death with a smile in their eyes and a jest on their lips. They have earned the admiration of their comrades and the respect of their enemies. The battle of the Somme, brought sorrow to Canadian homes, but that sorrow is mingled with pride. Canada is paying the price of freedom. Thank God, her sons are paying the price in a way that makes the name of Canadian loved and revered wherever the flag of freedom floats and the cause of civilization is held sacred."

The Toronto Star gives currency to a laudable suggestion as follows: "The suggestion has been made that a silver cross be awarded to the mothers of Canadian soldiers who have fallen in the war. The idea has been put forward by Mr. W. A. Fraser, the author, in a letter to the press, and it appeals to all the deepest and finest sentiments. It would be unique. No other country has done anything of this kind and Canada might well begin it. The silver cross would be the emblem of the valor of woman, the heroism of motherhood, in the sacrifices which the war has imposed. It is to be hoped that the proposal will meet with the same quick approval of the government that it does with the public."

FEDERAL ELECTION MAY BE HELD NEXT APRIL

A rumor current in political circles in Ottawa is to the effect that a federal election is probable in April. The forces that are out for an appeal in December have little hope of success. The growing discontent with bungling and lack of leadership alarms those in touch with the people and another extension would probably not be concurred in by the Liberals.

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LIGHTER VEIN

Mrs. Jones wasn't feeling very well, so Jones called in the doctor.

After asking a few questions the medical man placed his little thermometer between the patient's lips and told her to keep her mouth closed for several minutes. Then he promised to send in a bottle of medicine and departed.

Just as he reached the front door he felt a gentle touch on his arm and turned to find Jones eyeing him eagerly.

"Doctor, what will you take for that thing?" whispered the man urgently, never knew my wife to keep her mouth shut for such a long time before."

Two men were in the dining car ordering breakfast. The first one said to the waiter:

"George, you may bring me two fried eggs, some buttered Virginia ham, a pot of coffee and some rolls."

"Yassa."

The other said:

"You may bring me the same."

"Yassa."

The second man then called after the waiter, and remarked:

"Just eliminate the eggs."

"Yassa."

In a moment the waiter came back. "Scuse me, boss, but just what did you all say about den eggs?"

"I said just eliminate the eggs."

"Yassa." And he hurried again to the tiny kitchen.

In another moment he came back. "The teacher was teaching her pupils grammar."

"Now, Tom Jones," she said to an intelligent youngster in the front seat of the class. "A is the indefinite article, you see, and must only be used with the singular number. You say 'man,' but you can't say 'a men,' can you?"

"Yes, I can," replied Tommy. "I can say 'a men,' like father does after his prayers."

"Come, Tommy, no jokes," replied the teacher, reprovingly. "Decline 'he.'"

"Nominative 'he,' possessive 'his,' objective 'him.'"

"Now, you can't say 'him book,' but you can say 'his book.'"

"Yes I can," said Tommy. "I can say 'his book,' too," said Tommy, with a chuckle.

Each one of these sallies made teacher smile in spite of herself.

"But now, Tommy, seriously, just attend to the active and passive verbs. 'I strike' is active, you see, because if you strike you do something. But 'I am struck' is passive, because if you are struck you don't do anything, do you?"

"Yes I do, I strike back again."

After this the teacher gave him up as a bad job.

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pink wings, and a white ostrich ruff. Her bouquet was of cream roses and ferns. Following the ceremony a wedding luncheon was served after which Mr. and Mrs. Beyer left for St. John, where they will make their home.

SUPREME GRAND KNIGHT VISITS LOCAL K. OF C.

Yesterday afternoon in the local Knights of Columbus' reception hall, James A. Flaherty, supreme grand knight, addressed the members of the council and took occasion to meet each member personally. During his address, the supreme knight dealt with the work of the organization and what it is doing for education. He cited the aid that the Knights of Columbus had given the Catholic University of Washington and to the great work they had in hand along the line of education. The present membership of the order is \$20,000. State Deputy Dr. McEllan, of Prince Edward Island, also addressed the members. District Deputy Mahoney, president of the local council, Rev. William M. Duke and Rev. M. P. Howland. In the evening Mr. Flaherty was entertained in the local club by prominent members of the local council. Mr. Flaherty will leave this morning for Chatham.

MORNING CABLES TELL OF ADVANCES ON THREE FRONTS

British troops in the centre along the Somme line have made an advance on a three thousand yard front from the east of Eaucourt L'Abbaye to the Albert-Bapaume road, according to the official statement issued at midnight. Eaucourt L'Abbaye itself is reported to be in the hands of the British.

During the night some progress was made between Fiers and Le Sars. In the Thiepval area the enemy was driven out of ground he held near the Stuff redoubt.

On the Struma front, below the Orlik, British troops took possession of a number of the Bulgarian lines. After stubborn fighting and heavy artillery preparation the gains were extended during the evening.

In fighting at close quarters on the Somme front last night the French pushed forward their lines near Morval and Clerly, it was announced officially.

The Russian drive at Lemberg was renewed on Saturday. The Russians inaugurated strong offensive movements north of the Galician capital. According to the war office report material successes have been won. It is said the Russian army has captured 4,000 prisoners, and that more than 4,000 prisoners were taken.

SERGEANT BAXTER COMPLETES THIRTY YEARS ON FORCE

On Saturday Police Sergeant George Baxter rounded out thirty years of active service on the St. John police force. Sergeant Baxter was sworn in by the late Lester Peters and started duty under the late Chief Marshall and has thus seen service under three chiefs. Sergeant Baxter is among the most popular members of the local policemen. He

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