

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N.B., SEPTEMBER 14, 1916

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THE WAR NEWS.

The situation in regard to Roumania becomes clearer as the days pass. After the main Roumanian army marched north and struck heavily in Transylvania the Bulgarians also struck north into that portion of Roumania nearest the Black Sea, in territory where only a small force of Roumanians had been left to hold the frontier. It was at first feared that the success gained here by the superior forces of the Bulgarians might prove serious, but it has since developed that Russian troops which were concentrated at Rumi, further down the Danube, are moving up and have already effected a junction with the Roumanian forces and forced the Bulgarians to retire from some of the territory they had occupied. It will not be necessary, therefore, to withdraw Roumanian troops from Transylvania, where they have been steadily advancing to meet the Bulgars in the south. A Russian army is advancing to invade Bulgaria, by way of Roumania and the Black Sea. Thus Bulgaria is threatened by the Russians and Roumanians from the north, and by the Allied armies on the Macedonian front from the south. Her strength is therefore to be tested. The Allies in Macedonia did not alter their policy when Bulgaria attacked the eastern portion of Roumania. They probably believed it was merely a feint to draw them on before they were entirely ready for the great drive. Possibly they are not quite ready yet, as the entrance of Roumania into the war would naturally call for some change in their general plans. Moreover, it will take Russia some time longer to move her armies where they will be in a position to strike Bulgaria with crushing force from the north and from the coast of the Black Sea. When she is ready, and the drive from Macedonia also begins, Bulgaria will be caught in a vice which will steadily tighten its grip, while Roumanian control of the Danube will prevent the passage of supplies from Hungary. A new element is daily expected to be introduced, which will still further increase the pressure on the Central Powers, and that is the entry of Greece into the war. While the Greek army is not large, it would be of immense value against Bulgaria and in the task of driving the enemy out of Serbia. Meanwhile the main army of Roumania continues to advance into Transylvania. In the whole Balkan region the Central Powers are on the defensive, and the Allies are drawing nearer to the supreme effort which should eliminate Bulgaria and Turkey from the conflict before the winter opens.

On the western front the French and British continue to advance, very slowly it is true, but they are daily demonstrating their superiority over the enemy. Not only have the Germans utterly failed at Verdun, but the French are now on the offensive there with good results, while on the Somme both British and French are gaining positions which will presently give them an opportunity to strike more decisive blows. We have heard very little of late from the Italian front, but as the general pressure by the Allies increases there should be news of important gains by the Italian armies. The lower of the German and Austrian armies has been destroyed. Their power of resistance is gradually weakening and now, as in the early days of the war, time fights with the Allies.

MORE GRAVE CHARGES.

Charges, the gravity of which startles the people of New Brunswick, have just been made by Mr. H. M. Blair, who was deputy minister of public works at Fredericton until dismissed last winter.

Mr. Blair, who naturally wants to know why one kind of treatment should be given him and quite another kind to Mr. Flemming and others whose wrongdoing was exposed by royal commissions, has decided to strike back.

He charges, and asserts he can prove, that contractors were held up last fall for large sums of money, and says the checks by which payment was made can be produced.

Of far greater gravity is his charge that since 1912 he, as the agent of others, paid large sums to members of the legislature to influence their votes.

Mr. Blair says that he was a blind follower, and permitted himself to be a willing tool of the party leaders. He says he is prepared to prove his charges if an investigation is held. Of course Mr. Blair must be more specific in this charge, or the investigation will be refused.

The campaign in Carleton county is developing sensational features. If Mr. Blair can prove that members of the legislature accepted money given to influence their votes, no time should be lost in laying the facts bare. It would not, of course, surprise the people very much, in view of the record of the leaders of the government party, but now is the time to have the facts laid before them.

A religious group looking about for moral issues ought to be able to discover one in Carleton county without the use of a magnifying glass.

THE VERDICT OF MAINE.

"It looks good. I don't see how we can lose now."

This was the comment of presidential candidate Hughes when he learned the result of the Maine elections. Mr. Willcox, the Republican national chairman, said:

"The result in Maine means the election of Hughes in November."

The New York Times, Democratic, is not so sure about it. That journal admits that Maine is to some extent a barometer state, but points out that there have been exceptions. Thus:

"If the state election in Maine were really a barometer, showing how the presidential election was going, history would be different. Hayes would have been elected by a landslide in 1876, instead of by a disputed vote. Hancock would have become president instead of Garfield in 1880. Blaine and not Cleveland would have been elected in 1888, and Bryan would have defeated Taft overwhelmingly in 1908. The vote in Maine does not decide presidential elections, and, as in landslide years, is no great indication of their decision. Even in landslide years, as was demonstrated in 1908, it is no safe barometer. Such comfort as this election does give, however, is Republican comfort. It remains to be seen whether in other states the Progressives will return as generally as they did in Maine, or whether, as in 1876, 1880, 1884, and 1908, Maine has merely shown that she was out of step with the nation."

One fact is made clear. The Progressive vote in Maine went for the Republicans. If that proves true of other states Wilson will be defeated. But the vote for the Republican candidate for governor was greater than the combined Republican and Progressive vote, which leads the Bangor Commercial, Democratic, to observe that some who before were Democrats have this year voted Republican. Possibly the new vote went largely Republican. The largest vote in the history of the state was polled, and there was a Republican sweep.

The New York Times is quite right in its admission that whatever comfort there is in the result is Republican comfort, and Mr. Hughes and Mr. Roosevelt have every reason to be gratified with Maine's answer to their appeal, for both visited the state, and delivered addresses. The moral effect of the victory will be felt all over the republic. It would be surprising, in view of this victory, if President Wilson is not defeated in November.

A GREAT COMMERCIAL SCHOOL.

Toronto has just opened a new high school of commerce erected at a cost of over \$800,000, on a site which cost \$100,000. It is provided with the most modern equipment "for demonstrating business methods and systems of accounting, and for presenting the various aspects of business life." It will now accommodate eight hundred pupils, of both sexes, and when fully completed will care for a thousand. There are twenty-one class rooms, one business practice room, one business practice office, two study of material laboratories, two typewriting rooms, two lecture rooms, commercial art rooms, commercial museum, emergency rooms, library and reading rooms, and an auditorium to seat a thousand. In the basement are assembly and recreation rooms, and others. There are five courses—accounting, stenography, secretarial, salesmanship and general business, the first two being two-year and the last three four years. It will at once be seen of what great practical value such a school is in a city like Toronto. All our education has been given a more practical turn if the youth of the country are to be trained for efficiency in an age of specialization. It is high time St. John began to give more attention to the practical side of school work, for the benefit of the very large percentage who must leave school at an early age. We are entirely too conservative in this matter, and should pay more heed to the counsel of progressive educationalists at home and abroad.

The charge of the Irish brigade at Ginchy will be treasured as a glorious memory by men of the Irish race.

The new Greek cabinet will be strongly pro-Allies. Free long Greece will be one of the Allies opposed to the Central Powers.

Mr. H. M. Blair's letter to the Globe, in which he speaks of farming out government printing contracts to, to say the least, interesting.

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His Basic Thought

Victim—"What has happened? Where am I?"

Doctor—"You have been seriously injured in a trolley accident. But cheer up—you will recover."

Victim—"How Much?"

He was a simple looking chap and he annoyed the blacksmith by standing near the forge door, where he was in the way. Finally the blacksmith held a red hot iron to the boy's nose, hoping to frighten him away.

"Say, mister," said the boy, "if you give me a penny I'll lick it."

The smith gave him a penny.

The simple looking lad took the penny, licked the coin and went away whistling.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were both growing very plump. Every effort to reduce their weight had proved fruitless, and their discontent with their failure was pathetic.

"It is too bad," said a mutual friend to a sympathetic physician. "The Smiths are so fond of each other, and used to be so graceful and slender when they were first married."

"Ah, well," replied the physician, "think how much more they are to each other now."

Jones had just returned after his annual trip in his yacht, and was recounting his experiences.

"I never saw such a storm in all my life."

"Pardon me, my friend, since you saw the storm no doubt you can tell us what color it was."

"Certainly. The wind blew and the storm rose."

National Highway Recommended

The Dominion Hospitals Commission have recommended that the Dominion government construct a national highway for the purpose of giving employment to the returned soldiers. One of the advantages of the project, it is also set forth that the scheme would also allow a gradual disbanding of the troops from coast to coast. At the same time the project would be a boon to the community in that it is completed and used for a convalescent home for returned soldiers.

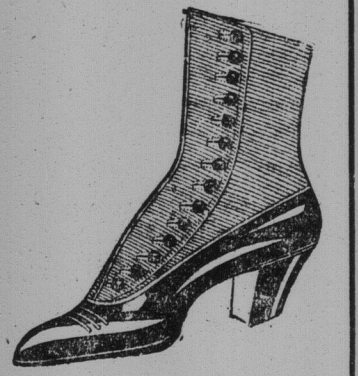
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IRISH SWEPT GINCHY LIKE A WHIRLWIND

Munsters and The Dublins Did Doughty Deeds

BAVARIANS FOUGHT IN VAIN

In Dugouts and Cellars They Were Hunted Out Remorselessly After Each Advance—Gallant Work on the Somme Front

(Philip Gibbs in London Chronicle and New York Times.)

With the British Army in the Field, Sunday, Sept. 10.—The capture of Ginchy by the Irish brigades should be told not in journalistic prose, but in heroic verse. Ireland will weep tears over it, for many of her sons have fallen, but there will be pride also in the hearts of the Irish people because these men of Munster, Dublin, Connaught, and all parts of the West and South have done such splendid things in courage and endurance, adding a very noble episode to the history of the Celtic race.

When they came out of battle this morning they were weary and spent. They had left many good comrades behind them, but the spirit of war sustained them, and they came marching steadily, with their heads held high. It was one of the most moving things I have ever seen in this war.

A great painter would have found here a subject to thrill his soul—that long trail of Irish regiments, some of them reduced by losses and with a few officers to lead them. Ahead of them walked one Irish pipe, playing them to the last harvest fields of peace, with a lament for those who will never come back.

Brigadier came riding over the fields to meet them. He stood a solitary figure by the side of the track down which his name and fame were great and tender in his eyes as he watched them pass and called out to them words of thanks and words of good cheer.

"Eyes right," shouted the officers or sergeants, who were leading their companies, and the General said "Carry on there!" and "Well done, you did gloriously!" "Brave Dubliners," you did well, damned well, Munsters, my lads!"

The men's eyes brightened at the sight of him and they squared up and grinned under their German caps and German helmets.

One sergeant of Munsters told me that the taking of Ginchy was the hottest thing he had seen since the landing on August 21 at Suvla Bay. He and other men of the old regulars spoke of the regiments of the New Army who had fought with them today.

"They were just great. The Irish Rifles went through like a whirlwind. There was no stopping them. When the Germans ran, you couldn't see them for the dust."

Gain 600 Yards in Eight Minutes.

The attack began yesterday afternoon just before five o'clock. After a heavy bombardment the Irish sprang up and went forward amid cheering and shouts of "Go on, Munsters!" "Go on, Dublins," and old Celtic cries.

The British shell fire crept up in front of them. They went from the south in four waves in open order with about fifty yards between them. From the first halting place in the village they went right across the first German trenches and dugouts in eight minutes after the starting time, a distance of 600 yards, which is a wonderful record.

On the right the Irish were checked by three machine guns, well placed for deadly work and sweeping the ground with waves of bullets. Many men dropped while others fell deliberately with faces to the earth so that the bullets might skim above their heads. At the same time the officers and men were

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being sniped by German marksmen, who had crept out into the shell holes. It was a serious situation here unless the machine guns could be taken to the front. The danger was done by the troops on the left of the right wing, who swung round and charged the village almost straight on. The men who were ordered to stay in the village almost went with rage because they could not join in the next assault. It was the same spirit which had made the temporary desertion of three Irish sergeants on the brigade staff. One of them left a note yesterday morning on a master's table.

"As I could not be at Guillemont, I am going to Ginchy. I hope to be back in a few days."

There was a Sinn Féiner among the men with all the passion of his political and a "splendid soldier," said one of his officers who is an Englishman. Sinn Féiners and Catholics, Irish to the core, with blood and spirit they fought yesterday and in the dawn of today, without any thought of grievance or any mercy of hatred except against the enemy whom they call Jerry instead of Fritz.

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