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THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY, LIMITED.
London, Ont., Monday, March 19.

THE NEWS OF A SUNDAY.

GERMANY'S "strategic" retreat as reported last night is the greatest since the western front became deadlocked. A retreat that gives away valuable lines of communication to the attacking force and overwhelms the rear guards is likely to develop into a rout if the artillery pursuit can be kept within constant striking distance.

A day or two may see the mightiest pitched battle in the history of the world. The Germans may have their feet set, but a fiercely exultant and superbly organized Anglo-French army is likely to deliver blows that may have a power to send the invader beyond the borders of France.

While the French cabinet resigns the wonderful work of Briand seems to be manifest, and the British appear to be delivering the initial smash of the drive for which the Somme was a preparation.

On the seas the "overt act" has been committed with the sinking of three American ships, one of them without warning. Action is certain to follow or the United States will appear an impotent race.

On many sides the forces of the evil cause of Germany are meeting with the fate of having to relinquish all that for which millions of lives have been poured. Prediction must be folly, yet "the day" seems to be dawning for the races that stood true to honor and freedom.

ACHIEVEMENT.

THE PERIOD between Allied anticipation and Allied realization grows shorter with each succeeding month. The advantages of victory to the morale of a nation may be fewer than the advantages of such tragedies as Gallipoli, the first Kut-el-Amara campaign, Neuve Chapelle, but no one will deny that today the British are in a position to demand of the enemy a need of the realization so long denied. For while the fall of Bapaume to the doughy men of Haig may be regarded as by German consent, the fact remains that the constant British hammering has battered the Prussian breastplate so that the giant reeds, if only for a step or two. With the fall of Bapaume observers see a German reforming process to receive an offensive that will make the whole Somme attack look like a minor operation. The major movement of the war is probably now in contemplation, and the Germans, sorely harassed in a retirement that too much resembled a rout for comfort, realize that they must prepare to defend the vital lines of communication found in the Noyon angle. The German line runs from the North Sea to Noyon, and from Noyon to the Rhine. It parallels most of the chief French lines of railway running north and south, as well as east and west. The Somme offensive was struck to cut the railway line running north and south, and while Bapaume is not the root of the railway tree, it is an important branch, reaching down well into the main trunk at Cambrai. Its capture also immediately endangered Peronne and St. Quentin. Its vital bearing on the situation is great, but it is in the hope that relatively it is a minor victory being launched by the western Allies, not only as a "spring offensive," but as a dynamic counterstroke on land against German submarine warfare. The Allied plan in all probability is to strike before the U-boats can have had a crippling effect on commerce, even though the ruthless sea war is to all appearances rapidly nearing comparative impotency.

A GOOD STROKE.

AN ADJUSTMENT of the difficulty arising out of the proposal of Hunt Bros. to double the output of their mills, erect a new plant, and employ many more men, appears to have been satisfactorily effected. Thanks to the good offices of Controllers Moore and Little and Industrial Commissioner Philip, the board of control and utilities commission have been able to come to an agreement in general terms in regard to the matter. The price to be paid will be lower than anticipated, and the city will secure a building, a considerable acreage, a water right, an ample right of way, and a chance to

extend Talbot street. Power development will also be a factor of some importance.

When one remembers the amount expended in the Saunby dam litigation, it is possible to believe that the securing of the Hunt dam may obviate a considerable trouble in the future. The city in return will secure a valuable new factory, a large increase in power consumption, and the employment of another force of men. In addition to this, the flour industry will be stimulated and encouraged. These are only some of the positive advantages that come to the city.

The negative advantages, if such they may be termed, could be described as the prevention of a certain loss of prestige in the removal of an old industry, which would have gone to another city, and received far more than it had asked here. Not only this, but the removal of the Hunt mills would have involved a considerable reduction in power consumption, with a possible increase in the peak load. Loss of taxation and payroll and loss of inter-trade would also have been involved.

London is on the eve of industrial expansion. That has been said before, but it cannot be possible that the spirit manifested toward the Hunt proposal will fall to do more for the city. The citizens as a whole should do their part in holding what we have and reaching out for new concerns.

THE HOSPITAL OVERDRAFT

WHILE fifty odd creditors of Victoria Hospital await their just return for service rendered, the check which would liquidate their claims remains unsigned in the office of Mayor H. A. Stevenson.

Mayor Stevenson no doubt has a strong conception of public duty, but in the case of the \$13,000 Victoria Hospital overdraft he is making the city appear ridiculous.

Worse than that, he is unjustly withholding—and after his city council has authorized payment—the amounts which should be paid to men who have honestly rendered a service. In some cases the business existence of some of these dealers may be threatened if the council does not speedily take measures to make good its obligations.

The obligations of Victoria Hospital are the obligations of the city of London. The hospital cannot be commended altogether. Some people would like to see it closed unless it pays a dividend, but they will never be happy with anything spent on this earth. The hospital was first built for the poor. Then the moderately well-off and the wealthy began to come in, because of the advantages. So that, it comes about, the hospital must deal with three classes, non-paying, partial paying, and full paying. And there must be some loss and uncertainty of cost, unless the citizens with the door closed in the face of some would-be patients, and refuse to purchase commodities when the prices rise. It is difficult in ordinary times, but in a year like 1916, when abnormal conditions prevailed, it was not to be wondered that expenses could not be figured on a close margin.

The Toronto city council recently made a special grant of \$20,786.30 to care for the overdraft of hospitals there, the decision being that "in view of the abnormal conditions existing at the present time, occasioned by the war, the board feels that the city should undertake the grant." The Hospital for Sick Children labored under an overdraft of \$21,000, and the Toronto city council also made good this amount. The Toronto General Hospital has an average cost per day of \$2.17, while London has a cost of \$2.08.

Mayor Stevenson should sign the check for the \$13,000 overdraft, and those who have sold their goods should be paid. His present attitude is autocratic and indefensible. Surely he would not wilfully injure the prestige and credit of London's home for the sick.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Fifty thousand more men sent overseas will mean 50,000 vacant places to be filled in Canada.

How galling it must be to the German mind when Canadian transports arrive in safety in the old land!

Everything conspires to increase the high cost of living. Paris green to kill the bugs is reported dearer this year.

The Kaiser still takes some comfort in exploiting his zeppelins on the English coast. One supposes this is as good a way as any to get rid of them.

The czarina "rides from the populace." Being a German, she naturally suspects the Russian populace of being as ready as German officials to murder women.

The fact that both upper and lower classes alike in Russia found it necessary to rebel against the existing government makes their action all the more justifiable.

For many years the Jews have been an oppressed people in Russia, but now the war brings democracy and in its trail freedom. And even hints at restoration in the Holy Land.

China will escort the German consuls to her gates, but will not guarantee safety on the highway beyond. They will be subject to the villainous treatment of Great Britain and her allies.

It is not the first time in history that a certain element of tyrannical aristocracy made friends with the nation's enemy. If Russian bureaucrats had not played the German game as traitors, constitutionalism might have had a long and hard road to travel to success in that country.

The Finn regiment at Petrograd stood by the old regime. The Finns, both in Finland and America, are pro-German as a rule. The reason is, badly used by the Russian Government. But a liberal regime with representation for all should gain the goodwill of the Finns, who are politically one of the most progressive of European peoples.

The Advertiser's Hint for City Gardeners.

Information as to Preparation, Planting and Care of Plants That May Be Grown in Backyards.

POTATO.
Planting Table:
Plant Outdoors—April, May.
Plant—1 to 6 inches.
Harvest—July 15.
Varieties for Ontario:
Irish Cobbler, Early Ohio, Delaware, Early Eureka.

The potato is a native of the mountain regions of South America, and should be planted in a light-sandy soil which is well drained and will warm up early in the spring. Great quantities of manure should be applied to it. To obtain a very early crop, potatoes are sometimes sown before planting. From ten to thirty days before it is time to plant outside, the smaller potatoes, weighing not less than four ounces, are set in flats or boxes exposed to the light and heat. They will soon sprout, the sprouts being from one-eighth inch to four inches in length. They should not be allowed to become longer, as then they are apt to break in planting. Avoid keeping them in the dark, for in that case the sprouts will become very long. They are planted out in the best garden soil, with the stem end up and covered with about 2 inches of earth, being set

10 inches apart, with the rows 24 to 30 inches between them. By this method a large crop of early potatoes may be obtained. When planting from sets, the potato is cut so that each piece has two eyes on it. These sets are planted 3 to 4 inches deep and from 9 to 14 inches apart, the rows being 30 inches apart. They may also be planted in hills 30 inches apart. Sets for early potatoes are not planted so deep as for late. The vines usually appear above the ground in 15 days. If there is danger of frost they should be covered with loose earth, through which the young plants will soon push. Cultivation should be kept up once a week to preserve the moisture, loosen up the earth and keep down the weeds. After the plants have become quite tall they are put through a process of mounding; that is, the earth is gradually thrown up around the plant, to insure plenty of covering for the tubers so that they will not tend to become green. This mounding then takes the place of ordinary cultivation.

Potatoes are dug with a digging fork and stored in a cool cellar. It should be borne in mind that few plants require as much attention as the potato.

—THE GIRL WITH THE HOE.

with the stocks and bonds and it was up to me to find you. "Were you pleased to have a wife thrust upon you in so arbitrary a manner—to be forced to marry a girl who, because of the knowledge she would be penniless if you did not?"

He laughed. "I had seen you several times and the picture did not look desirable. But you gave me no chance to make good. That was unfair. As for the money, I don't want it, but I do want you. I want the opportunity to make you care. Will you give it to me?"

She hesitated long before she replied and then it was with visible reluctance. "If I did not feel like a bundle of sold certificates, I—perhaps—"

"Damn the money," he said roughly. "I can take care of you without it. But you are a little mixed. The certificates were mine, and I turned them over to the trustees the morning I met you."

"Stuck to the possibilities," a pleasant voice said behind her. "When the weeds are cut and a few nails are driven into missing palms you will not know it."

The girl turned with a start, her eyes cold. She had not realized she had spoken aloud.

"It does look uncared for," the man continued, critically examining the cottage and its surroundings. "but I know its possibilities. If you wish, I will have it put in order at once."

"Are you the owner?"

"I was born here. Strange how one lacks the years pass without coming back. I have to come meant to come, but never did. I think," he said reflectively, "that I have been waiting for just this." He turned and looked at her for the first time. "You are a stranger to the place."

She nodded toward the big house across the way. "I am visiting friend, but I would like to remain all summer if the cottage is practicable."

"It will be ready when you are ready—and that will be?" he ended inquiringly.

She laughed delightedly. "Are you the maker of dreams come true, that you so easily say it will be ready? I would move in tonight if that were possible."

"Dreams?"

"Why? When one has been a cliff dweller for two years this little, weather-beaten cottage, with its clambering vines and clumps of smug and moss and orange and lilac looks like the entrance to paradise."

At the dinner table that night she told of what she had done. Margaret Alden listened with troubled face.

"How could you, Nan?" she said at last. "You know how we want you with us."

"I know," Nan answered soberly. "but I must lead my own life. Margaret. Over there will be home, across the way will be you, my dearest friends, to call upon when—"

"Did he say what brought him?" Tom Alden interrupted.

"Who?"

"The doctor—your prospective landlord. Then he chuckled. 'I saw him in Washington ten days ago, but he said nothing about coming out. I wonder—yes, I did tell him you were staying with us. He seemed interested.'"

"Why, I never before saw the man."

"Perhaps he has seen you, and Nan, when once seen some women are not forgotten."

She regarded him thoughtfully. "It is surprising," she said at last. "how very silly a really clever man can be at times."

II.

She had been in her home a month when the accident occurred that materially altered her outlook upon life. Up to that time she had been absorbed in her work as an illustrator and had succeeded beyond her utmost expectations. Then the seemingly impossible happened. She fell and broke her right arm and wrist—slipped upon the topmost step of the little stairway and fell to the bottom. Her mammy found her crumpled heap on the floor, and picked her up as Wallace Irwin knocked at the open door. The old colored woman looked at him distractedly.

"I don't know what to do with her," she said. "Miss Margrit hab gone away an' I don't know what to do."

He did not hesitate. With skillful fingers and a sure knowledge as to what he was about he made the child comfortable. As he put the finishing touches to the bandages she opened her eyes and looked straight into the keen grey ones above her. Even in her pain their expression puzzled her. She had seen that look in the eyes of other men, but that it should be in Wallace Irwin's caused her wonderment and annoyance. She had met him but once since she had told him she would take the house. And now? He held her eyes steadily until a slow, painful flush crimsoned her face and she moved restlessly.

"I don't know you," she said, resentfully.

"Not yet," he returned whimsically. "but from now on I devote myself to furthering acquaintance."

"No. I—have—my—work—to—do. There—will—be—no—time." She tried to steady her voice, failed, and, to her shame, began to cry.

For a moment he stood looking down upon her, then turned and left the house.

I knew you would not come to me as long as I held them. Now, will you give me my chance?"

"If you really want it," she answered slowly. "I think I am glad to give it."

"You dear," he said under his breath as he leaned forward. Then they both laughed for they heard mammy say: "Fo' the land's sake, what am de doctor doin' ter mah honey chil'?"

Wait a Minute!

By J. M. F.

The Russians certainly put the off into the Romanoff dynasty.

The Germans might follow the example of the Russians, much to the benefit of the universe.

"Safety First" is the Turks' motto along that Berlin-Bagdad railway. Back to that dead old Constantinople for them.

France, Russia, China, U. S. A., Portugal, republics. The list is growing rapidly. Next?

It took Philadelphia six weeks to find out that H. Knut Thaw was crazy. It took New York some years, and then they did not find out exactly. Most folks knew it in ten minutes.

A Boston paper is trying to distinguish between a fighting preacher and a blowhard. We never thought of that.

A Detroit couple married nearly 50 years want a divorce. Sound sense does not always come with years. Both kids need a spanking.

Villa has double pneumonia. Most folks expect this will be sufficient, but it is not enough, slam a triple dose on him.

The Turks are making a partial stand, a report says, meaning perhaps that the part that cannot run away is standing.

His name is Maude, and he has got

a fearful kick in his system, as the unmentionable Turk is discovering.

An eastern gentleman, aged 95, is cutting another set of teeth. He will probably want to get another wife, if he has cut his eye teeth.

A balloonist lady has been arrested for having three husbands all live and healthy. Now they are up in the air about it. She should have tied the matrimonial parachute to these birds before making other flights.

The Russian situation is now in the hands of the puzzle editor. Just what is going on nobody knows.

One thing the war will certainly do, and that is prevent the exportation of German princesses to other countries. These girls have done more effective work for Germany than all the spies.

It is probable that it is better to have been a czar and lost than never to have been a czar at all, but the game after all is not worth the scandal.

It will soon be the fashion for every family with an income over \$5,000 a year to have some royalty attached to the establishment. There are going to be a lot of crowns in hock before 1920.

Hogs are high, says a market page dispatch. They're worse than that, although we dare not use the real language here.

Not that we care much, but we would not change jobs with the King of Greece just now. We might get shot for what we do, but this is a peaceful country, and it does not much look like it.

PREACHER CALLS AMERICANS "MORAL SLACKERS."

Declaring that Americans of today are "moral slackers," Dr. Charles Aubrey Eaton, rector of the Madison Avenue Church, told the men at his Bible class that the "red-blooded men of the country" divided by wild-eyed nationalities, deceived by wild-eyed

than be a north by south jolly fish." women and beset by "poor pussy," could be excused if they indulged in profanity. He even declared that there was a time when he indulged in profanity, but he had the reputation of being "a fairly artistic cuss."

"You can't follow Christ unless you are a good citizen," he said. "You can't be a neutral. I had rather have a man in the wrong and stand up to it than to be a neutral."

There were food riots in Petrograd, and the people immediately ate the beans, so to speak.

THE POET BILL.
Oh! Bill has not been overlooked. Yet many people wonder why. In times so stirring, far and near. Bill's found of genius has gone dry.

Perhaps it was the temperance wave. That cooled, well, lots of froth and bubble. Or, in Bill's case, it may have been Some serious inward trouble.

We know that poets are thinking men. With lots of sense and feeling keen. But all these things we cannot know, From scattered lines that may be seen.

Then poets little care to compete, They're sensitive, sometimes in doubt. Maybe when "The Old 'Un" struck in," Bill thought it was time to strike out.

J. SMILLIE, Brussels.
If Adam and Eve were living

today the dear lady would never have passed the apple at the present high cost of the fruit.

Spring may be a great cleanser, but it is pretty well off on the cleansing process in London as yet. Our streets do not look very pretty and bright these dull days.

A Chicago paper says that American ships furnish good sport for German submarines. No hunter, a real hunter that is, likes to shoot a quail sitting on a log. Send the boats out, and hear something.

Traction Company
CHANGE OF TIME.

Cars leave London: 6:15, 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.; 1:00, 1:30, 3:00, 5:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 p.m.
Sunday cars at 11:00 a.m., 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 p.m.
Cars at 6:15, 7:30 a.m., 1:30, 6:15 p.m. are accommodation cars only.

London and Port Stanley Railway
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1.

To Port Stanley—6:20, 8:20, 10:20 a.m., 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20 p.m.
To Port Stanley—6:20, 8:20, 10:20 a.m., 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20 p.m.
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