

THE COURIER

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Wednesday, July 4th, 1917.

THE SITUATION

Russian renewed activity continues. They have taken many more Teuton prisoners in Galicia and the total since Sunday is nearly 20,000. Their advance has been so rapid that the Austro-Germans are evacuating Brzezany, fifty miles South East of Lemberg, the capital of Galicia, and the place is described as a most important strategic centre at a congress of soldiers, workmen and peasant delegates held in Petrograd, it was decided to send fraternal greetings to the army and to appeal for aid to the soldiers on their resumed offensive. War Minister Kerensky is maintaining an active direction of affairs and has cancelled all leave of absence to soldiers. It is significant that the recent successes have created great evidences of enthusiasm among all classes.

A third contingent of U. S. troops has arrived in France. It is announced that two attacks were made by submarines on the way across but with no success, the American war ship convoys sinking one and probably both of the "U" boats. Figures also show that the scare with regard to the undersea craft has become so mitigated as far as our neighbors are concerned, that traffic in and out of New York ports last week showed a big increase. With regard to still greater safety the statement is made that Japan may send a fleet to the Atlantic.

At Athens, after marching past Premier Venizelos, the officers and troops took an oath of fidelity.

AFFAIRS AT OTTAWA.

The rumor is current at Ottawa that Premier Borden has in contemplation a union government, including Liberals who are in favor of conscription, and representatives of organized labor and the grain growers.

Some such plan as that outlined, would certainly find favor with a large section of the general public.

The fact that Laurier refused to join hands on a union basis should certainly prove no bar to those of his followers who are opposed to his referendum scheme.

CITY TO PURCHASE

Continued from page one. use of the sum on payment of a secretary's salary.

Ald. English considered that the Great War Veterans' could be trusted to administer the money granted judiciously, and that the 1918 council would be willing to continue any support temporarily given by this year's board.

As chairman of the local branch of the soldiers' Aid Commission, Ald. Dowling, long active in caring for the returned soldiers, declared himself in sympathy with the needs of this class; as chairman of the finance committee of the council, he felt the necessity of further discussion and conference before the grant was made. He moved, accordingly, that the finance committee, together with the chairman of the other standing committees, be appointed a committee to confer with representatives of the G. W. V. A., and to make a grant up to the sum of \$500.

Ald. Jones, speaking upon Ald. Dowling's amendment, protested against haggling and hair splitting in a matter where a trivial sum was involved.

He still favored the original motion opposing any delay in making the grant.

Ald. Dowling took exception to Ald. Jones' charge that the matter was being either haggled with or shelved, considering it one of great importance, and meriting the consideration of the special committee named.

Ald. MacBride championed the cause of the returned soldiers, and their right to establish a home if so desired, protesting against such quibbling in the matter.

Ald. Kelly considered the council could trust with \$600 the men whom they have trusted to fight the nation's battles in France.

Capt. H. Boyd addressed the council briefly, requesting action as promptly as possible, that no time might be lost in establishing the home.

Ald. Secord considered the project one along the right line, and queried the need of any further delay in the making of the grant. Ald. Dowling and Wiley agreed to withdraw the amendment they had moved, and recorded, and Ald. MacBride's motion for the grant of \$600 was carried.

Board of Works

Board of Works reported; 1.—Approving of the change of the name of Northumberland St., to East Avenue. 2.—Granting application of J. Nightingale to remove house 130

St. Paul Ave. to a point outside the city. Inability, as requested to grade and improve Water and Wharf streets owing to lack of funds.

4.—That J. W. Watkins be authorized to fill in High St., west of Princess St.

Fire and Light Tenders for construction of a fire engine having been received by the fire and light committee the latter recommended the awarding of the contract to the Waterous Engine Co., whose tender of \$12,685 was the lowest submitted.

Coal Question. The special coal committee reported as follows:— To the Mayor and Aldermen, of the city of Brantford, Your Committee on coal, beg leave to report as follows:—

First—That we have conducted enquiries as to the coal situation, and find that there is the gravest danger of a shortage, particularly of anthracite coal, not only in Brantford, but throughout the whole of Canada. The responsibility for this condition seems to rest more particularly on the railroads, through the lack of sufficient facilities for transportation.

Second—Your Committee have made every possible effort to purchase coal, but regret that the operators and jobbers do not show a disposition to sell to municipalities, many of the large companies claiming that they have no regular dealers. This, we find from conversation with local dealers, to be substantially correct. In this connection, it is only just to say that the local merchants are doing all possible to meet the demand, and are in no way responsible for either the shortage or the high prices. So far as your Committee have been able to ascertain, in no case has more than a legitimate profit been charged.

Third—Your committee were in attendance at Galt, where a gathering representative of a number of Western Ontario Municipalities passed resolutions urging upon the Government prompt action on the following phases of the situation:—

"A" Action in conjunction with the Washington government for a fixed price at the mine.

"B" To ascertain the quantity of coal available.

"C"—To provide facilities for an equitable distribution to all communities.

Your Committee ask the assistance of the Railway Committee in their efforts to have Port Dover opened up as a port for receiving coal from Pennsylvania points, as we believe this is the solution of future coal difficulties so far as Brantford is concerned.

Your Committee further recommend the passing of a By-law at this meeting empowering the Municipality to purchase coal and other necessities as it is important that the Committee should be vested with the power to make purchases if an opportunity is afforded.

Since our meeting in Galt, we observe that the Washington Government have set a fixed price on soft coal at the mine, and your Committee are urging our Government to have the same measure apply to Canada, both as regards Bituminous and Anthracite coal.

Your Committee also recommend that this Council request the local coal dealers to make as equitable a distribution of coal they are now receiving as possible, as we believe the difficulty will be overcome as soon as the machinery of the fuel department recently established under Mr. McGrath gets in operation. The co-operation of all citizens is asked in this connection.

The Railway Committee, in response to a communication from the G. W. V. A., has agreed to a resolution, concurred in the view that government aid to the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific should cease.

Pith of Potato Problem. Ald. Mellen inquired whether a report was yet ready upon the city's recent potato transactions.

Ald. MacBride, chairman of the committee in charge of the matter, replied with some heat, declaring his hands more than full at the present time, and charging that if Ald. Mellen had taken the position first offered him, he might appreciate the difficulties of the position. He promised a report in due time.

Ald. Mellen charged that rumors had arisen as to shortage in the finances of the transaction, and that Ald. MacBride challenged Ald. Mellen or any other member of the council to substantiate any charges against the potato committee.

Ald. Bragg, as a member of the committee, admitted that at the present time there was a shortage in its accounts. Ald. MacBride replied guaranteeing that when the report was submitted no shortage would exist, and declaring that the matter

of the report was being handled by the Mayor and Legislative Council.

Ald. MacBride also warned the council of the gravity of the present situation and of the charges of a fuel and food famine next winter.

Ald. Bragg, doubting the success of such an undertaking, declared himself opposed to the by-law.

Ald. English explained the desire of the coal committee, responsible for the introduction of the by-law, to secure coal as cheaply as possible for private consumers in the city.

Ald. Dowling pointed out that two readings only were to be given the by-law at that session, and that the council was thus safe-guarded against hasty action by having the matter come again before it.

Ald. Kelly inquired whether the action taken was in co-operation with the Board of Trade to obtain coal. Ald. MacBride replied that this was not the case. A vote for the second reading of the by-law showed the Mayor and Ald. Bragg and Mellen in opposition.

Plumbing By-Law. Ald. English introduced a by-law providing for plumbing inspection. Ald. Wiley moved that the by-law be laid over.

T. Harry Jones, City Engineer, addressed the council briefly, explaining the purpose of the by-law, which had been for a long time under contemplation by himself, and the medical health officer and plumbers of the city.

Manufacturers' Committee. Ald. MacBride inquired as to the activities of the manufacturers' committee, desiring to know what had been accomplished by it during its six months of existence. Ald. Mellen replied, giving assurance that his committee was active when any opportunities appeared for the location of new industries here.

Soldiers' Certificates. Ald. MacBride inquired as to the progress made in the distribution of

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should be laid over until the report was duly forthcoming. He stated that every cent received for the civic potatoes was paid through the market clerk, who alone was accountable for any shortage which might exist.

"And now," declared Ald. MacBride, "when the matter has been so far opened, I shall go into it further."

"You had better wait," cautioned Mayor Bowly.

"I shall not wait," declared Ald. MacBride, who went on to submit evidence that his express orders that no potatoes should change hands until the money was paid, had been disobeyed by the market clerk. He cited a purchase by Ald. Bragg without payment until two days later as an instance. This Ald. Bragg denied, stating that he had paid by cheque for the potatoes which he had bought.

The atmosphere was tense and further fireworks impinged when Mayor Bowly intervened and put an end to the discussion.

Assessment Clerk. A by-law introduced by Ald. Dowling, was passed providing for the appointment of a clerk in the assessment department of the city.

Ald. Wiley regarded the matter as one of considerable importance, deserving of more ample consideration, and urged that the by-law should be given over. A compromise was reached by giving the by-law its first reading only.

Street Oiling. A by-law, introduced by Ald. English, was passed providing for the watering and oiling of Sheridan from Bruce to Rawdon streets, and Huron from Erie to Port streets.

Ald. English introduced a by-law authorizing the purchase and sale by the municipality of food and fuel. The Mayor declared himself opposed to the principle of the measure, calling for the yeas and nays and declaring himself for the latter. Upon a request by Ald. Jones he refused to allow the latter to speak.

"I protest against your ruling," declared Ald. Jones. "I appeal to the council against the ruling of the chair, for I have a right to be heard, and will speak, whether you refuse to hear me or not."

Mayor Bowly denied the right to Ald. Jones to speak after a call for the yeas and nays. Ald. Jones challenged the privilege of cutting off discussion by a call for the yeas and nays.

Ald. MacBride supported the demands of Ald. Jones for further information upon the by-law, as did also Ald. Jones. Put to a vote, Ald. Jones' appeal against the ruling of the Mayor carried by a vote of 15 to 1. Ald. Jones then inquired whether the by-law had been before the city solicitor for his opinion upon its principle.

Ald. MacBride replied that the by-law now introduced had been prepared by the city solicitor, to enable the city to establish a fuel yard and to deal in real foodstuffs as necessary, and legal subject to approval by the Ontario Municipal and Highway Board and also of the Lieuten-

ant Governor and Legislative Council.

Ald. MacBride also warned the council of the gravity of the present situation and of the charges of a fuel and food famine next winter.

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LOCAL NEWS

VETERANS' CLUB HOUSE.

Under the auspices of the Veterans' Association, a tag day was held on Saturday, July 7th, a night a concert will be given in the hall, the program to be furnished by returned men, including some in Toronto and Hamilton. The proceeds will go towards the establishment of a Soldiers' Club House in this city.

CAR HIT WAGON.

At noon to-day, when the driver of an automobile on Dalhousie street opposite the Fire Hall, looked the other way for a moment, his car swerved toward the curbing and struck a lumber wagon, and near bisected it, the few heavy boards of the conveyance dropping heavily on the pavement. The horse harnessed to the wagon, was being measured to harness, and broke away when the accident occurred, but was stopped by the harness maker, who in doing so, was cut more or less severely on the chin.

IN HIGH REGARD.

The high regard in which Mr. C. H. Williamson, who is to assume his duties as general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. here, is held by his fellow citizens of Fort William, was demonstrated recently at a gathering of representative citizens, when ten years of faithful and earnest service to the Y.M.C.A. and to the city of Fort William, were recognized. He was made the recipient of an illuminated address, and a purse of \$500 while his wife received a gift of silver mesh bag. The addresses, delivered by prominent citizens, congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Williamson on the work achieved by them during their residence in Fort William, and while regretting sincerely their departure, extended best wishes for a successful career in this city.

THE FIRST BAPTIST.

Sunday at the First Baptist was an excellent day for attendance and spirit. The audiences, despite the rain, were large and the music, under the direction of Mr. J. T. Schofield, left nothing to be desired. In the morning the pastor spoke on Mic. 6:2—taking for his theme, "Confederation and British Ideals." In the evening Mr. W. P. Cocksatt, M.P., gave a stirring patriotic message which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The work of Mrs. Secord, of the quartette and choir, was exceptionally good, and all in all the day was one not soon to be forgotten.

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