

Russia Faces Her Fate in the War

PREMIER KERENSKY SPEAKS PLAINLY BEFORE THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

Continue War to Obtain Peace With Freedom

Supreme Test of Government's Power-Faced by Kerensky in Petrograd Yesterday—Premier Accepts Challenge and Defends His Policy of Action

Petrograd, Sept. 23.—Delayed—Premier Kerensky took the initiative to-day and faced boldly what may be the supreme test of the power of his government. At the very beginning of the Democratic Congress, called by Maximalists and the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates to question his power and perhaps to demand a new government, the Premier accepted the challenge.

SAVED RUSSIA

The Premier told the Congress that his regime had saved Russia in its darkest hours. The Government also indicated its policy of a firm continuation of the war; when General Verkhovsky, the Minister of War, pledged the convention to a final victory over Germany if discipline in the army was restored. The general's reference to return of discipline in the army and his announcement that the officers would be named by their superiors, instead of elected by the soldiers was applauded only mildly, but his address as a whole evoked more cheers than did the Premier's.

DESTROYED REVOLT

"I prevented it, I destroyed it. I was informed from the beginning of its existence," declared the Premier, regarding the revolt of General Korniloff.

When the Premier declared that the good of Russia necessitated the observance of order and discipline, one of the most dramatic heckling incidents which punctuated the address occurred. The Premier had reached a pause in his address when a loud voice in the gallery shouted,

"You are the great mischief-worker of the country."

A HECKLER

From a bedlam of hisses and and applause, voices from the floor challenged the heckler to arise. A common soldier in the back gallery arose and with folded arms across his brown blouse, stood calmly facing a torrent of hisses from the supporters of Premier Kerensky. This was only one of the unusual scenes of the convention in which 800 delegates had seats on the main floor.

The convention was an unusual sight, the sombre colors and the clothes of peasants, workmen and private soldiers predominating. Here and there were the brighter colors of the uniforms of officers. The galleries were jammed with a variegated crowd of spectators, who considered it their right to interrupt the proceedings with questions.

There was an air of tense excitement in the crowd as the result of rumors that the agitator Lenin was in Petrograd and would appear at the convention. This died down however, when he failed to appear.

Crisis To-day.
The applause which greeted Premier Kerensky indicated that he had a small minority with him. The Socialists supporting him contend that he has a majority of the convention. The government ministers had a meeting late to-night to discuss the

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Sept. 23.—A depression is developing over Lake Superior while a tropical storm has now reached Alabama. Rain has been general in eastern Quebec and over the Maritime provinces and a few scattered showers have occurred from Manitoba to Ontario.

Winds becoming strong, southerly, shifting to westerly and northwesterly, mostly fair to-day, showers this evening and to-night. Sunday—Strong west to northwest winds, some scattered showers, but generally fair and cooler.

effect of his appearance, but none of the ministers would talk. A crisis probably will come Saturday, when the work of preliminary organization has been completed and the radical Left presents its extremist program. The Bolsheviks and the Conservatives alike will make an effort to-morrow toward lining up their strength through party conferences.

Cossacks Split.
An instance of a split even in the closest party ranks was given the congress to-day when M. Tchernoff, the spokesman for the Workmen's and Soldiers referred to General Kaledines, the chief of the Cossacks, as "that miserable Kaledines." One of the Cossacks delegates shouted: "You dare not attack General Kaledines." Another Cossack leaped to his feet, shouting, "Go on, Kaledines is a traitor."

Unusual vigilance was observed by the military authorities of Petrograd to-night in connection with the congress. The guards at the Winter Palace were increased and they had many passersby as did the guards at other government buildings. The section of General Verkhovsky's speech concerning the efforts of Germany to obtain peace at the expense of Russia, provoked great applause. "Our brilliant allies," the war minister said, "have replied to the

ardly offer by unconditionally rejecting it, believing, as I believe, that the Russian army still will bare its breast to free the fatherland." The general said he would handle the army without gloves, although it had plenty of good intentions. He pointed out defects, saying, "The Twelfth army before Riga did not refuse to fight and die, but we need men to fight and win victories. The fleet does not refuse to fight, but at the same time it murders its officers. We hear many worthy words about the army and fleet, but we have a great many deserters. The glorious victories on the southwest front in July terminated in a disgraceful retreat."

"In the rear we have reinforcements, but the men at the front do not accept them because they bring discord and regiment with historic records cannot accept such men."

General Verkhovsky repeated his announced program of changing the army commanders, educating the troops along free revolutionary lines based on mutual trust, between officers and men and the disbanding of the useless hordes in the rear. The speech contained little comfort for the pacifists in the audience.

The war minister is a young man about the age of Kerensky. He spoke in a low, even voice and referred frequently to notes, gradually working up to the climax when he declared in a ringing voice: "The war must be continued until with certainty we have achieved the peace desired by all—peace with freedom."

TWO HUN RAIDERS WRECKED

British Defense Forces Brought Down Trace of German Planes

RAID MADE LAST NIGHT Bombs Dropped at Two Places in Kent; Also in Essex.

Courier London Wire.
London, Sept. 23.—Two German airplanes which took part in last night's raid over the southeast coast of England, were brought down. It is announced officially. No casualties were caused by the raid.

London, Sept. 23.—A telegram from Kent, referring to last night's air raid, says that three squadrons successfully crossed the coast, flying well below thick black clouds, which obscured the night sky. The first section managed to strike the shore and dropped in the direction of the coast, whose loud explosions of bombs were soon heard. The second section also passed the coast in the same direction. The third squadron is believed to have been driven seaward. The telegram adds that bombs were dropped at two places.

Another despatch describes a small squadron of raiders as going toward London and returning apparently one by one. A telegram from Essex says that two bombs were dropped in that district.

Assessors' Report For Year 1917 is Made Public Today—Total Population of City 27,666, With Total Assessment of \$22,403,595.00—Total of Nearly 6000 School Children in the City

Brantford, October 1st, 1917.
To The Mayor and Council of the City of Brantford, GENTLEMEN:

We have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report of the work of this Department for the year 1917 in reference to the Assessment for the basis of taxation for the year 1918, which we trust will receive your approval.

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| Total Taxable Assessment | \$18,613,845. |
| Total Exempt Assessment | 3,789,750. |
| Grand Total General Assessment | |
| Total Increase in Taxable Property | |
| Total Increase in Business | |
| Total Increase in Income | |
| Total Increase in Taxable Assessment | |
| Total Increase in Exemptions | |
| Total Increase in General Assessment | |
| Total Population | |
| Total Increase in Population | |
| Total Number of Children | |
| Number of children between the ages of 5 years and 16 years Ward 1 | |
| Number of children between the ages of 5 years and 16 years Ward 2 | |
| Number of children between the ages of 5 years and 16 years Ward 3 | |
| Number of children between the ages of 5 years and 16 years Ward 4 | |
| Number of children between the ages of 5 years and 16 years Ward 5 | |
| Total Number of children between 5 and 16 years— | 5347 |

In submitting this Fourteenth Annual Report of the present assessment staff, I have pleasure in testifying to the work performed by the official staff, and to their energy in due the results and arduous year's work as shown in this report. While

our staff has lost one of its members, Mr. Watt, who was compelled to leave on account of his own illness, in the middle of the assessment season, it involved considerable more work on the remaining members of the office. As this work is only accomplished by continued service and diligent application to every detail of the work, naturally it will take new help some time to become efficient. The work in this department is yearly increasing. For instance in 1916 we made 13,071 separate assessments and delivered the notices, and for the year 1917, the amount had increased to 14,041, being an increase of 970 on last year's work and surprising as it may seem the number of poll taxes has increased from 827 in 1916 to 1,073 in 1917. This we did not expect owing to the large number of eligible young men who have gone overseas.

The increase in the assessment of \$462,065 is larger than we expected at the beginning of the season. There was no attempt to make a general increase this year. However in adopting the new system of computing values on buildings which we did not complete last year, it was necessary to make some changes, and until the whole city is assessed under the new plan we will have to make adjustments. There is not the slightest doubt that our system of computing the value of buildings is proving satisfactory, both to the department and to the

ratepayers as well. This is borne out by the fact that for this year there were only 7 appeals against a total of 14,041 assessments, aggregating a total amount of \$22,403,595. This system, which is original with this department, consists in grouping houses into classes, according to quality, finish and conveniences, and the buildings are valued by the factor of the class to which they belong, of which we have several, thereby enabling the Assessor to place the value equitable on each class of building, avoiding any guess work by him, as it is only a matter of simple multiplication and addition to arrive at the proper assessed value of each building.

The increase on assessable income is due principally to personal earnings derived from the manufacturing of ammunition of which no doubt there will be some absentees when the time arrives in 1918 for them to pay their taxes. In my opinion the taxes on all personal earnings should be collected the same year as they are assessed. This, I think, could be accomplished by making application to our Provincial Legislature. In connection with this work Mr. O'Han has had a very busy season, as the whole of this work falls on him.

In our last report we drew your attention to the fact that there were a number of houses without numbers, and in a great many instances the numbers were wrong. As you have seen in your wisdom to place this work in this department, we have corrected a great many errors and have asked the Board of Works to have the names of some streets changed, as they are at present very confusing to the citizens, especially to strangers and merchants. For instance, Ross Street is a continuation of Buffalo street; Scarle street of Gilmison street; Beaudry Ave. of Brunswick street; and Dundas extension from West street to West. High street to be named Nelles St., as this is an extension of Nelles street and would avoid numbering Dundas St. from end to end. Also the new roadway along River front, between Church and Colborne streets is to be named River Drive or River Road. It will require several months this winter to complete this work and as we are anxious to have it done as soon as possible so as not to conflict with the City Directory for 1918, we would ask for whatever extra assistance we require in order to have it completed in time.

We have the honor to be, gentlemen,
Your Obedient servants,
A. G. LIDLAW,
Assessment Commissioner
J. H. OLDHAM,
Clerk.

CHILDREN WINNERS OF THE COURIER CONTEST

Many Young Artists of More Than Average Ability Revealed by Great Coloring Competitions' Results.

THE WINNERS.
First Prize—Eleanor Parker, 10 William Street, City.
Second Prize—Alice Howard, 202 Nelson St., City.
Third Prize—Roy Gedge, 264 Union Street, Simcoe.

On Saturday last The Courier published a special advertising page, with illustrations, and offered three prizes to children whose parents are subscribers, for the best coloring of the illustrations.

To-day The Courier takes pleasure in announcing the names of the winners. At the same time, regret is felt that there are not more prizes to be distributed. Certainly the work of the school children is more than just creditable. In nearly every case unusual attention was given to detail, while the coloring, in every case, showed an intimate knowledge of the subjects illustrated.

To the prize winners The Courier extends congratulations, while at the same time, according special mention to the following for very praiseworthy efforts:
Fred McCabe, 135 Albion Street.
Norma Squire, 126 West Street.
Mary Frank, 158 Park Avenue.
Margaret Reid, 242 Darling Street.
William Hartwell, 11 Bedford St.
Marion McIntyre, 73 Palace Street.
Chester Brown, 48 Palmerston Ave.
Claude Valentine, 53 Victoria St.
Mary Smith, Simcoe, Ont.
Claire Hawkins, Paris, Ont.
Carrie Hudson, Paris, Ont.
June Lyle, 233 Drummond Street.
C. Laborde, 132 West Street.
W. Payne, 125 Dundas Street.
Elsie Wray, Simcoe, Ont.

Many other efforts were made, but those above mentioned were especially worthy, though falling of winning a prize in this instance.



MILITARY SERVICE APPLICANTS AT TORONTO.
From two hundred to three hundred men stand in line daily at the Armories in Toronto waiting to pass medical examination. They come from all parts of Ontario and some from the United States.