

**THE COURIER**  
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Thursday, Dec. 27th, 1917.

**THE SITUATION.**

The Italians after retaking heights from the Germans in the Asiago region found themselves unable to hold them, and at other points they are also under great pressure from the invaders. The lack of snow in such quantities as usual during this time of year, is favoring the enemy.

There has been another shake-up in the British Admiralty and Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, Vice-Admiral, takes the place of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, First Sea Lord. The last named is given a peerage and goes to the House of Lords. Just what caused the change and the significance of it does not yet appear.

The official record for last week shows a great decrease in the loss of British vessels by submarines. The total was eleven vessels of over 1,600 tons and one smaller than figure. The figures certainly bear out the recent optimism of Lloyd George when he told the public that the menace was getting more and more in hand.

The allies are naturally watching the peace conference between Germany and Russia with a good deal of anxiety. The danger is that the latter country may not only definitely pull out of the war, but in addition aid the Teutons. Berlin promised that pending the outcome of negotiations troops would not be moved from the east to the west front, but this is openly taking place and another German pledge goes into the wastepaper basket as a scrap of paper. Meanwhile the internal affairs of the new republic continue in such a chaotic condition that nothing is certain there for any length of time.

**GUELPH TO VOTE ON TWO IMPORTANT BY-LAWS**

In the approaching municipal elections in Guelph, the ratepayers will be asked to pass their verdict upon a couple of important proposals.

One of the by-laws is a proposed change in the form of civic government. Last year such a measure was endorsed by the ratepayers, but the Municipal Council of the Ontario Legislature objected to its ratification, mainly because of the proviso whereby twelve aldermen elected by the people were to choose four more. The plan in its present form confers power to elect eighteen members of council, six of whom should retire each year. This looks very much like too large a governing body.

The second by-law provides that upon the organization of the new council, as recommended, the Board of Water-Commissioner, the Board of Parks management, the Board of Sewerage and Public Works Commissioners, and the Board of Directors of the Guelph Radial Railway Company shall have no further authority or power, but any officer or employee employed by any of the said boards in or about the construction or management of the said utilities shall be continued in office until removed by the council unless his engagement sooner terminates. The council to be elected shall possess and exercise all the powers and rights of the said several boards and commissions, except the Board of Light and Heat Commissioners; and the members of the council shall be directors of the Guelph Radial Railway Company.

Under this measure, if adopted, the city clerk will become a very important personage. He is to be an ex-officio member of all committees of the council of the city with the right to take part in the discussions thereof, but without the right to vote upon any question, and it shall be the duty of the city clerk to recommend, from time to time, to the various committees of the council for adoption, such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient, and the said clerk shall at all times keep the said committees fully advised as to the financial and other needs of the corporation, and as to all matters pertaining to the work of the said council.

**PROVINCIAL CASES**

The annual report of Supt. Joseph E. Rogers of the Provincial Police, indicates that his department handled 1,930 cases this year, as against 1,193 cases last year. Most of the increase, says Mr. Rogers, is attributable to cases brought about in the enforcement of the Ontario Temperance Act. Under this heading there were 1,543 convictions this year, including 165 sentences to imprisonment.

**AUSTRALIA AND CONSCRIPTION.**

The fact that the people of Australia have again defeated conscription by a majority of 175,000 has come as an unpleasant surprise. The overseas soldier vote may offset this total to some extent but it does not seem likely to be sufficient to effect any complete change.

A year ago when a similar referendum was taken the record read, Nays 1,146,193; Yeas 1,084,918 or an adverse majority of 61,230. After that Premier Hughes went to the country and secured a new lease of power so that it was anticipated, in connection with the recent appeal, that the previous verdict would be reversed. Such unfortunately has not proved to be the case and Hughes is said to may resign.

It is said that the objecting forces have consisted very largely of the labor vote, the Irish vote, the vote of people of German stock, and of course the entire slacker outfit. The leaders of the anti have been very insistent in the assertion that they do not desire Australian effort with reference to the war to be abated one jot, but the result of this second referendum within a few months certainly leaves a very nasty flavor and one in direct contrast to the noble response which Canadians made on December 17th last.

Add Editorial Australia and Conscript in connection with this whole matter the fact should be remembered that with a smaller population, our cousins under the voluntary system have enrolled nearly as many men in khaki as this Dominion and have also manned their own navy and maintained large home defence forces.

**U. S. RAILWAYS UNDER STATE CONTROL.**

Another striking illustration has been afforded across the line, of the seriousness with which the powers that be are regarding this war. President Wilson, in accordance with the wide powers accorded him in connection with necessary war measures, has given formal announcement to the Government possession and operation of all railroads, and associate steamship lines. He did not even await the reassembling of Congress in the matter, and the date of acquisition—Friday, Dec. 28th—constitutes very short notice indeed. It is enough however, in view of the fact that some such step has long been regarded as necessary.

The outcome in the matter of this expeditionary movement of troops, war material, and foodstuffs and supplies for the other Allies, will without any question prove almost immediately beneficial.

The Courier would like to see a similar step in this country. An increase in passenger and freight rates has just been sanctioned by the Dominion Railway board, but the Union Government could do a far more worthy thing than that by inaugurating state control. Under wise administration in this respect very much duplication could be avoided in the general train service, and a great many other advantages accrue all round.

The war is teaching a great many needed lessons and this is one of them.

**FURTHER RESTRICTIONS**

Further regulations restricting the manufacture and sale of package cereals have been issued from the office of the Food Controller, and copies of the order have been received by the local police. In future such cereals shall not be manufactured and sold in original packages of less than twenty pounds, and that only by a license from the food controller. The name and address of the manufacturer of the food and the net weight shall be plainly marked on each package. No premiums, prizes, etc., are to be contained in packages. The wholesaler and retailer of breakfast food shall not require a license to sell it when it is manufactured under a license from the food controller.

**HOME ON SICK LEAVE**

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Lieut.-Col. McCaughey of the 13th Royal Highlanders of Canada, C.E.F., is expected to arrive in this city early to-morrow morning on sick leave and he will be given a warm reception by the local military and friends. He has been more than three years in France and Flanders.

**MONTGOMERY FOR MAYOR.**

That A. G. Montgomery, ex-water commissioner, was to be the field for the mayoralty was a rumor upon many lips this morning. "I never thought of such a thing until so many asked me about it," Mr. Montgomery stated to The Courier. "In view of my municipal experience and my services rendered, I feel that I deserve the office, but I am still undecided. It is possible that I may run, although hardly probable."

**BLIND MEN BATTLED**

New York, Dec. 27.—Two blind men, inmates of the Home of Aged and Infirm on Blackwell's Island, became enraged yesterday during an argument concerning the war and fought to a finish. Gustav Sailor, who came from Germany, took the German end of the discussion against Alexander Buzan, who is 69 and former subject of Russia. Sailor had a cane near his cot. He seized the weapon and deluged the Russian until he was unconscious.

**QUITE A CAREER**

An adventurous career has been that of A. S. Williams, 83 Balfour street, late a member of the C. E. F., and who is leaving shortly to assume the management of a mine in Central America.

For two years and five months prior to the outbreak of the war, Mr. Williams engaged in mining work in Peru, at the Cerro De Pasco mine, seven thousand feet above the sea level. When war was declared he lost no time in returning to his home in Brantford, and here he enlisted with the 25th Brant Dragoons. He was transferred later to the 34th, and when a draft from the 36th was recruited at Niagara-on-the-Lake, he was one of the first to volunteer to proceed immediately overseas. He was in France until March, 1916 when he was wounded at the Battle of St. Elloi. He was invalided home and discharged in August, since which time he has been in the city.

Not only has Private Williams' career been full of adventure but he has also the distinction of being somewhat of a globe trotter. Prior to his service in Peru he was a miner in Victoria, Australia for two years and seven months at the White and Blue mine, probably the largest on that continent.

**FAKED FOOD CARDS**

Amsterdam, Dec. 27.—The various German food cards are now being issued on a special water-marked paper, as protection against counterfeiting, which had become a profitable business in many parts of the country. The water-mark, a capital B in an octagonal, reaches over the entire card and is easily seen against the light.

**RUSSIANS LIBERATED.**

London, Dec. 27.—The British embassy at Petrograd has announced according to a Petrograd despatch to The Times, the liberation of Tschircher and Petroff, two Russians, who have been under arrest in England, and they will be permitted to return to Russia.

**To The Citizens of Brantford:**

During the last few weeks many ratepayers in the city have approached me asking that I let my name go before the electors as a candidate for the office of Street Railway Commissioner. I believe that this is a time when every one should be prepared to offer his services to his community in whatever field his experience and ability best fit him to serve. Owing to the long experience I have had in the construction of railway lines and railway structures of all kinds, I feel that my experience should be of value to the City of Brantford.

In recent years the firm of which I am head has had considerable practical experience with the local municipal railway and the L. E. & N. Railway, and I have been closely in touch with the whole field of Municipal Street Railway requirements.

Should the citizens of Brantford consider that I am fitted to have them as a Street Railway Commissioner, I shall be pleased to receive their support, and their endorsement at the polls.

With best wishes for a Prosperous New Year, I remain,  
Yours Sincerely,  
P. H. SECORD.

**FEDERAL CONTROL OF RAILWAY IN U.S. IS APPROVED**

Leading Bankers and Financiers Express Satisfaction at Wilson's Course

**BLIND SOLDIERS AT ST. DUNSTAN'S BOX**

Other Senses Scientifically Trained to Substitute Sight

New York, Dec. 27.—Stocks soared at the opening of the Stock Market to-day, denoting the satisfaction of the financial community with the President's decision to take over the railroads.

The advance ranged from two to eight points in the railroad list, all the standard shares being bid up furiously.

Bankers Approve. New York, Dec. 27.—Almost without exception leading bankers and executives of railroads having their headquarters here to-day expressed their approval of the action of President Wilson in taking over the country's railroads lines. The action of the President had been anticipated by railway officials for some time and most of them agreed that the government's program as a whole met their expectations.

In the financial district, bankers expressed relief that the uncertainty over the situation had been ended. The President's statement regarding guarantee of compensation to the railroads will have the effect of reassuring holders of railway securities. It was asserted.

Some bankers at first expressed surprise that Secretary McAdoo should also retain his position in the Treasury, but upon closer examination of the President's plans they gradually agreed that in view of the financial phase of the problem, Mr. McAdoo's retention of the Treasury portfolio was desirable.

**DROPPED DEAD IN WINGS**

New York, Dec. 27.—Just as he was about to appear on the stage during the second act of "The Tallor-made Man," at the Cohan and Harris theatre last night, Theodore Freibus, a member of the cast, dropped dead in the wings. Freibus, who was 38 years of age, responded when the call boy announced the second act, and just as the curtain rose he fell over.

**CASTORIA**

For Infants and Children  
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Pedestal, in mahogany or oak, from \$15 to \$25.00

Jardiner Stands in oak \$2.25

Easy Chairs, in tapestry or imitation leather from \$5.00 to \$30.00

Smoker Sets, \$4.75 in oak, at \$4.75

Library Tables, in fumed oak or walnut at, and upwards \$10

Oak Rockers, in any finish, golden oak or fumed oak, at \$10.00 \$4.50 to

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**M. E. LONG FURNISHING CO. LIMITED**  
83 AND 85 COLBORNE STREET.

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From a Line Like Ours

This good shoe store has this Christmas season secured some of the most beautiful lines of

**Gift Slippers**

for men, women and children that it has been possible to procure. You should lose no time in making a selection. Although the stock is large, previous experience has proven that the best go first. Be early then if you would have a pair or two of these beauties.

**COLES SHOE COY.**

122 Colborne St. Both Phones 474.

**Store Entered**

Goods to the value of approximately \$200 were stolen from the Lyons' clothing and gents' furnishing store when it was entered between the hours of five and half-past six o'clock on Sunday afternoon last. The work was that of two thieves, who gained entrance by forcing a door at the rear.

Store Take Two. Two good overcoats, two raincoats, two pair of trousers and the balance in furnishings comprise the haul. The thieves were evidently frightened by the approach of Manager Stewart, who returned to the store at half past six. The police had been notified a week previous to watch the building, as tracks in the rear were discovered one morning recently. The police are working on the case, and have some interesting clues.

**PRUSSIAN POSSED AS PRIEST.**

Paris, Dec. 13.—(By mail).—A young German newspaperman who made his escape from a prison camp in the south of France, has been captured after two weeks' liberty. He was wearing a long black beard and a long cloak like that worn by some of the French religious orders.

In his hand he carried a French prayer book, on the fly leaf of which he had written in perfect French that he was a priest of a pilgrimage of Lourdes, and that he had vowed to make the journey on foot and without speaking a word. He then asked that he be given bread to eat and water to drink and a lodging at night time. The German had shown this soiled prayer book everywhere along his way, and the simple-minded peasants, believing him to be a priest, had fed and sheltered him without suspicion.

**WOODEN SHIP'S A FAILURE.**

Washington, Dec. 27.—The wooden ship building program was pictured as an almost complete failure to-day by Rear Admiral F. A. Bowles, assistant general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, testifying at the Senate commerce commission's investigation of ship-building.

**CONFIDENT OF ELECTION.**

W. J. Bragg is confident of the result of the municipal election in Ward Four insofar as he himself is concerned. He aptly expresses his attitude in the words of the old song, "Let 'em all come, here we are, here we are, here we are again." "I don't care if a hundred come out, I'll stand my chance with any of them," replied Aid. Bragg when spoken to last night.

**OUT OF CITY.**

Ald. J. S. Dowling left the city last afternoon on a business trip and will be unable to be present at this evening's session of the City Council.

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**Royal Loan & Savings Co.**

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1 table and 2 chairs \$2.25, \$2.50

**WHEEL BARROWS**  
75c to \$2.00

**ROCKING CHAIRS**  
75c, \$1.60

**DOLL CABS**  
\$1.35 Up

**ROCKING HORSES**  
\$1.00 Up

**BOY SCOUT AND KOASTER WAGONS**

**SLEIGHS**  
All kinds—All Prices

Dolls, Drums, Brooms, Snow Shovels, Granite Dishes, Copper Tea Pots, Carpet Sweepers, Cutlery of all kinds.

**KIDDIE-KAR**  
\$1.50, \$2.00

**W. S. STERNE**  
120 MARKET ST. Open Evenings. Bell 1857

**LOCAL**

**FOR ALDERMAN.**  
It is understood that Elliott will run for the alderman in Ward 3.

**BOYS' DEPARTMENT OF**  
During the holidays Christmas and New Year's department of the local remains open throughout for the convenience of the boys.

**FOR FLYING COPIES.**  
With a recommendation local Recruiting Committee Staunton of Paris left for the headquarters of Flying Corps, Toronto, with that unit.

**NUPTIAL NOTE**  
A quiet wedding took Christmas Day at 20s 2d when the Rev. W. E. Etor of Calvary Baptist church in marriage Jas. A. Mac Beatrice A. Fear.

**MAY BRING INCREASE**  
The proposed fifteen per cent increase in freight rates yesterday from Ottawa will affect local firms engaged in the city trade, is the opinion of the shippers. While some of the opinion that it is necessitate a corresponding increase in the price of all goods affected by transportation, care that only certain items raised. Generally the viewed with resignation shortages and consequent cost of coal, cost of laborials have merely bro the inevitable

**C.N.R. TIME UP NEXT**  
It is expected that the arbitration named to its of the 600,000 shares of Northern Railway stock over by the Government not to exceed ten million will commence its labor is the representative of ment on the board, Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., the stockholders and Canadian Northern Rail W. N. Tilley, K.C., is the Government and Mr. Smith for the Canadian Railway. The railway named its representative board. The arbitration structured to have their for Parliament by March

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