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J. H. BROWN, Man. Ed.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1915

THE BALKAN CAMPAIGN

Whatever ideas the German General Staff may have upon the subject, the general opinion among the military authorities of other nations appears to be that Germany and her Allies can gain nothing of a permanent nature by the invasion of Serbia and the possible opening up of a road through that country and Bulgaria to Constantinople. Mr. Asquith, the British Premier, made it quite clear in his speech last week that there is no intention on the part of the Allies to leave Serbia to her fate. Thus the fighting line is extended from its original lines on the Eastern and Western fronts through into the centre of the Balkan States, and perhaps then on in a south easterly direction to and through Turkey. In place therefore of continuing as in the first year of the war, a compact mass, Germany and Austria will find their lines extended to the limit of men and materials.

That the Bulgarians can successfully defend themselves against the Russians, French and British is out of the question. At best Bulgaria is not more than a second or third rate power, with limited resources, and must be backed by German and Austrian troops and war materials. Therefore every mile that Germany extends herself, having ever to be mindful of the British and French on her West front, and Russia on her East, she is weakened by the loss of just so many men, and with with her base of supplies just so many miles further away. At the moment Germany is on the defensive both on the East and West fronts. She is not gaining a yard and is losing here and there, so that it is in no way possible for her to place strong forces in the Balkans without endangering both her other fronts.

So that even though Germany may be able to crush Serbia, she will still find herself opposed by British, French and Russian troops on that point. What then has she gained? Nothing whatever except an extension of her lines to dangerous limits. As for Greece, it is safe to predict that if she does not enter the war on the side of the Allies, she will remain neutral. Indeed she can do nothing else with her unprotected coast line and her people dependent for the very food they consume from day to day upon imports. The Allies could if necessary, starve her to death, not to speak of knocking her cities to pieces by the gun fire of the Allied fleets. So much for the command of the seas.

NORTH SHORE BATTALION

The official announcement received Saturday night that a North Shore battalion, under command of Lt.-Col. Mersereau would be formed was received with general satisfaction, and it is believed that there will be no trouble in raising the battalion to its strength and have them in fighting trim by the time they are wanted at the front.

In Col. Mersereau the battalion will have a capable comander, and a soldier who is familiar with the work he will have to do. His appointment to the command of the 132nd Battalion, by which number the North Shore Battalion will be known, is a merited one, and with a staff of officers from the North Shore this battalion will stand by itself as one of the crack battalions from Canada.

The fact of the 132nd being made up of purely North Shore men who will go together instead of the men being mixed up with strangers will add impetus to recruiting. It will be as one united body of brethren fighting together in the one common cause. It is not necessary to exhort the boys of Northern New Brunswick as to what their duty is—they know, and they will not be slow in coming forward to join the ranks of this battalion. Already a large number have enlisted, whose names appear in another column, and by next issue many more will have joined the ranks. Recruiting will begin at once, and arrangements made for the holding of meetings throughout the three counties of Restigouche, Gloucester and Northumberland.

Lt.-Col. Mersereau is proud of his command, and it is a safe bet that the men of his battalion will do honor to their commander and officers and bring honor back to the counties from which they enlisted.

EDITORIAL NOTES

As a Father of Confederation, the late Sir Charles Tupper is survived by nine promising children, all doing well.

Third Offence Cases Discussed by League

At Thursday Night's Meeting---Dissatisfaction is Shown Because Third Offences Are Not Charged Against Offenders

Newcastle Town Improvement League met on the 11th. 18 of the 37 members of the Executive were present: Jas. M. Troy, chairman; Ald. H. H. Stuart, sec.; Aldermen D. Doyle, C. C. Hayward and Jas. Stables; Revs. P. W. Dixon, S. J. Macarthur, M. S. Richardson and Capt. Forbes; E. O'Donnell, P. Aharan, F. E. Locke, M. McCarron, A. McCabe, J. J. Ander, A. E. Petrie, E. E. Benson and D. W. Stothart.

The minutes of meeting of Sept. 13th were read and approved.

The Secretary reported that the Town Council had ordered the Curfew bell rung at 9 o'clock each night.

Rev. Mr. Macarthur asked if anyone had ascertained if Newcastle officers had the right to search for liquor at railway stations and stop it in transit. According to the press the Moncton and Fredericton officers appeared to have and to exercise that power. What had been seized in Moncton had been ordered destroyed except what belonged to private parties for private use.

Ald. Stuart said he thought Newcastle had the same right of seizure as other places had.

Father Dixon said that those who brought in liquor had to give their names and state what they needed it for.

Ald. Stuart said that last Council meeting had given the two Scott Act Inspectors one month longer to show a marked improvement in Scott Act enforcement if they wished to retain their positions. He had heard reports of a better enforcement since. Would Ald. Hayward, chairman of the Police Committee, tell what improvement, if any, had resulted?

Ald. Hayward replied that he had brought the matter up in two meetings of the Police Committee, recommending that both Inspectors be dismissed, as he was entirely of the opinion that both were incapable of enforcing the Scott Act. The Committee had agreed with him. He then brought the matter up in Committee of the Whole, making the same recommendation, in which he had been strongly supported by two of the Aldermen, but the majority favored a month's extension of time. If there were any improvement it was not due to the Policemen's efforts. He still believed them incapable. He did not see any improvement. He wished the League would come to the Council next meeting. He had tried hard to get work out of the two policemen but they did not seem to know how to do it. He would like someone to tell him what they had done since last Council. They seemed to think that the public was behind them in not enforcing the law. They were not men who fully appreciated the evil of liquor.

Rev. Mr. Macarthur mentioned having been accosted by a drunken man that day. Was he arrested?

Ald. Hayward—I don't know.

Father Dixon protested against Hotel Miramichi being convicted for a first offence following a second. Why wasn't the third charge brought, the penalty of which was jail? If the Chief of Police brought such first offence case of his own free will, he should be dismissed. If he were instructed to do it, then who instructed him? The Police Magistrate, who could imprison for first offence if he wished, was bound to imprison for the third when brought before him. He was also informed that much bootlegging liquor selling was going on around the streets. It was strange, too, that liquor sellers would go away a little while and not be molested on their return.

Ald. Stuart explained that, while for most crimes, the criminal might be taken any time, it was different for liquor sellers. They must be taken within a certain time or not at all.

Ald. Hayward said that the Scott Act was strong enough to be enforced. The Chief had been instructed to go ahead and fully enforce the law, but he had told him (Hayward) that he had his own opinions on enforcing the Act. The recent raid was allowed to go as a first offence—perhaps better so. But that did not prevent the Inspector making a third charge next day. He had no orders to not bring third cases.

Father Dixon said he had spoken to the Police Magistrate about not imprisoning offenders, and had been told, Let the Inspectors bring charges for third offence and give him a chance to send them up.

Ald. Hayward said that a 3rd offence case was very hard to conduct, and he did not think that the present officers could do it.

Father Dixon—Why difficult?

Ald. Hayward—Because it is very hard to get witnesses to tell the truth in 3rd cases. Lately, even in a second offence case here, only one of a dozen witnesses gave valuable evidence. However, a conviction for 3rd can be got if the officers know how.

Father Dixon—Witnesses can be made tell the truth. Make them kiss the Bible of their own church, and hold the penalty of prejury, both spiritual and legal, before their eyes. Witnesses are sometimes let off too easy by the lawyers. Perjury is common but can be prevented.

Rev. Mr. Macarthur said the fear of imprisonment 14 years for perjury would prevent it if the witness were informed.

Rev. M. S. Richardson—The Chief must be a Temperance man to enforce the Scott Act.

Ald. Stables said Rev. Mr. Richardson was right. When the T. I. L. started there was a large membership, but with no quorum last month it looked as if the people were not anxious. When he (Stables) had heard of this first offence he had gone to the Chief and told him to carry out the law. The Chief had replied that a first offense was good enough—that he had been advised to make it so. Why did not the Police Magistrate attend the T. I. L. meetings since taking office? He (Stables) wished to state where he stood. In the recent Police Committee meetings all four members of the Committee had pronounced the Inspectors no good. But the Council did not favor immediate dismissal, as he did. The Council gave the Inspectors one more month. One of the Inspectors was now off on a vacation, which did not look as if he cared whether he should show an improved enforcement or not. He would favor getting a good Inspector and helping out his salary privately. The Act could be enforced. Ex-Chief Chamberlain had done such good work the first three months of his term that a certain man whom he had convicted and his friends refused to speak to him for a year.

Ald. Hayward said he wanted to dismiss the Inspectors right away, but the Council voted otherwise. No member of the T. I. L. was at the Council.

Rev. Mr. Macarthur said he had no objection to giving the officers another month. If the officers were not obedient to the constituted representatives of the citizens they should be dismissed. If the officers wanted to enforce the law he thought they could. If men were going round town setting fires they would soon be rounded up. So could the bootleggers be discovered. They must be known to the police. It was the policeman's place to be a detective. Bootlegging was far too open to be difficult to run down. When intemperance stalked as openly as it does it was time to take notice. When an officer does not do his duty this League and the Council should act. He did not believe that the citizens as a body wanted things run so loosely. He believed that temperance sentiment was stronger than ever. If soldiers were to be quartered here that was all the more reason that the town should be sober.

Father Dixon—The only people against the Scott Act are those who are personally interested, directly or indirectly, in the sale of liquor.

Ald. Stables said there were many people cursed by liquor who yet did not appear anxious to have it put down.

Capt. Forbes said that he had recently talked with women whose husbands or sons were adicted to the drink curse and they had told often with eyes full of tears, that it was very easy for anyone to get liquor. He was of the opinion that according to evidence around, the law was not very strictly enforced by those who had the responsibility of so doing.

Rev. Mr. Richardson asked if there was not a move to raise a fund to supplement the salary of a good Scott Act Inspector.

Ald. Hayward said such a fund was very necessary.

Father Dixon said that a policeman could almost be done without if it was not for drunkenness.

Rev. Mr. Macarthur said he lived four months in a town of 4000 people where there was no liquor sold and one policeman was plenty.

Ald. Stuart said he was heartily in sympathy with the Police Committee's endeavors to have the C. T. Act enforced and they could count upon his support.

The chairman said it was not easy to enforce the law just now. For years past things had been going on as loosely as to-day. So it was difficult now for the Police Committee to carry out the law. He advised the Police Committee not to weaken but, if they found an officer lax, to report to the Council to have him dismissed. Ex-Mayor Morrissy had claimed that people did not attend Council during his time. Such lack of interest gave the Council a free hand. Some members of the League should attend Council meeting each month. He himself could not possibly spare the time. But some members should be there at next meeting. He advised the passing of a motion backing up the Council in the resolution they had made at last meeting. When an officer deliberately sets the Police Committee aside he should be dismissed. Good men ought to be procurable at $1000 a year. There was probably less than one-twentieth of the citizens getting as much.

Ald. Stuart thought it was unnecessary to raise a private fund to pay a man for doing public business. Only Temperance men should be appointed Scott Act Inspectors. The right kind of man could live on the $900 to $1200 income of an Inspector.

Ald. Doyle said that the Police Committee were doing all they could to enforce the Act. And so did last year's committee. They instructed the two Inspectors to enforce the Act. If people were setting fires the whole public would be after them assisting the officers, but it was not so with the Scott Act. In its enforcement the public gave very little help.

Mr. Troy still claimed that past Councils had been remiss in their duty.

Ald. Stuart said that the chairman should make some exceptions in such a sweeping statement. The council of two years ago, among others, should be given some credit for good intentions at least and also for some actual good accomplished.

Council Endorsed

It was moved by Rev. Father Dixon, seconded by Peter Aharan, and carried unanimously:

Resolved that this Town Improvement League express its approval of the action taken by the Town Council at its last meeting in its determination to have a better enforcement of the Canad Temperance Act on the part of the present Inspectors or have them dismissed.

Education to be Considered Next

Ald. Stuart gave notice of his intention to move at next meeting of the League a resolution favoring the introduction into Newcastle schools of instruction in Manual Training, Domestic Science and Canadian Civics.

Rev. Mr. Macarthur welcomed the notice as timely. The question of public education should be taken up. Also the methods of conducting school, home study and night work, etc., were good topics for general discussion.

Adjourned to meet again Thursday evening, Dec. 9th.

Canadian Soldiers Tried and Fearless

(Continued from page 1)

and some candy, from Sterling night before last. Only the memory of these things are left with us now. The weather is rainy and cold and the mud deep and slippery as grease.

Our first introduction to the trenches was in a cold, dreary rain which kept up for three nights and two days. Owing to our ignorance of the trench routine we ran out of rations and water, but the men were magnificent. Even in cold and wet and hunger I never heard a grumble from one of them. When out in billets and in comparative comfort, a soldier's favorite amusement is grumbling. I myself lived on bully beef and tea for two days and kept in good condition but I have not eaten any bully beef since. We have lots of rations. The difficulty was in our misunderstanding of what was required in the trenches when we first went in. We always take plenty now.

Comfort is largely a comparative condition and so is suffering. A wounded man here does not seem one-tenth as horrible as a man injured to the same extent in a sawmill at home. If one can get in a cow barn or pig-sty that will shed the rain and has his stomach full and if he can keep warm, he has attained the acme of comfort in this desolated country. The peasantry continue to occupy their farms even in front of our artillery. This morning a German shell burst in the gable end of a house less than half mile from here and in which a family are living. They will plow in the fields with shrapnel bursting over their heads and will not even look up. Some are killed but it is the hand of an unchangeable Fate to them and the ones that are left keep right on. There are graves and wooden crosses in almost every field, a large number of which are unidentified. If French "Victime inconnu" is on the cross. In English it is "Unidentified Dead." When our patrols go out at night to reconnoitre the German trenches they come upon skeletons and half decayed corpses. When extending or digging new trenches they sometimes unearth unmarked graves of English, French and German soldiers. After the battle of the Marne the Germans were driven back over this country. In digging a trench in the reserve line about a mile back of the firing line, and when near a ruined house, our men came upon the body of a woman buried about a foot below the surface of the ground. Such is war and war is Hell. However, healthy men have buoyant spirits and they find lots to laugh at. There is some comedians among the men. They will raise a laugh at anything. If the Germans start shelling at meal time, some wag will shout across "Eh you Baches cut that out, you're throwing mud in our jam." Plum or strawberry jam is the part of the rations most appreciated by the ordinary soldier. It greases the edges of the hardtack so it will not tear his throat as it goes down.

I am, when out in billets, continually meeting men from N. B. who came out with the 1st Contingent. It is a pleasure to meet old friends that way and hear their experiences. I have met both Atkinson and Crocker formerly of your Bank. I did not see Bate, and McInerney of course is in England.

We saw an interesting aeroplane battle this morning in which the German got the worst of it. It planed down however and was able to land inside its own lines, where it still is in sight of our trenches. The English aeroplane planed down after it like a hawk after a sparrow until it saw the fate of its foe. Then it turned sharply to the right behind a small wood and made back to its landing place.

Kindly remember me to all friends in Newcastle and surrounding country.

Trusting this finds all well I am,
Yours sincerely,
W. H. BELYEA.

REPORTED STEADILY SINKING

Hon. George J. Colter, who has been ill at his home in St. Marys, for some weeks, is reported to be steadily sinking.

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Telephone Directory

Subscribers will please make the following changes in their telephone directory.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Wm. L. Taylor, South Esk.....107-2
James Sheasgreen, South Esk.107-3
Wm. Taylor, South Esk.....107-4
Neil McIvor, Jr., South Esk ..107-5
H. S. Tozer, South Esk, ...107-11
Wm. Sheasgreen, South Esk..107-12
E. W. Goodfellow, South Esk..107-13
Neil McIver, Sr., South Esk ..107-14
J. D. Goodfellow, South Esk ..107-21
E. J. Goodfellow, South Esk..107-22
Jas. Sheasgreen, South Esk...107-23
D. M. Goodfellow, South Esk.107-24

REMOVED

R. W. Crocker, Newcastle 83-11
E. A. McCurdy, Newcastle.....122

CHANGED

J. D. Volckmann, Millerton, ... 84-3 to 101-23
Miller Tanning Extract Co., Millerton, ...107-3 to 84-3
B. N. Call, Newcastle .107-2 to 84-2

W. LEWIS,
Exchange Manager.
Newcastle, N. B., Nov. 10th, 1915
42-1yr.

MAIL CONTRACT

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until Noon, on Friday, the 17th December 1915, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, 3 and 2 times per week each way, between Chatham and No. 1 Rural Mail Route, from the 1st January next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Chatham and route offices, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office.
St. John, N. B., Nov. 6th, 1915.
N. R. COLTER,
46-3 P. O. Superintendent

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Yours sincerely,
his
MATTHEW x BAINES,
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is making collection of accounts, please call and settle same. Accounts that we have been unable to collect will be given to the Town Officer for collection.

MACMILLAN'S SHOE STORE

47-