

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 28, 1917.

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THE WAR SITUATION

The fear of a May Day demonstration that may shake the empires of Germany and Austro-Hungary lies heavily upon the Central Powers. There have been labor troubles for some time past, and these appear to be growing more serious—which is perfectly natural in view of the general situation.

Today's cables tell of the beginning of another British drive, and predict still heavier fighting along the whole front. The drive has begun successfully, and there will probably be stirring news within the next few days. We can form no conception of the terrible nature of the conflict that has now been waged for many days along the British and French front, but since the losses of the Allies are considerable, as indicated by the Canadian casualty lists, it follows that the German losses must be enormous.

There is a hint in one of today's cables that Japan may soon take a more active part in the war. In Spain the fighting against Germany grows stronger. At Washington the American, British and French representatives in conference are perfecting plans for a vigorous co-operation which will have a powerful effect in dealing with the submarine menace. In Mesopotamia the Turks are being hard pressed by the British. In Russia an army reorganization is in progress that should have good results.

THE PRIME MINISTER

The Guildhall speech of Premier Lloyd George clears the atmosphere to a considerable extent. Speaking for the nation, he tells Germany that her hope of bringing Britain to terms by pursuing a policy of frightfulness is as vain today as it was when the war began; and that for Britain there can be but one end—the complete vindication of the rights of the smaller nations and the triumph of democracy over the military autocracy represented by the Central Powers.

The prime minister is not too optimistic in his utterances. He knows the magnitude of the task yet to be performed, and warns the nation against taking chances. Every nerve must be strained, every energy put forth, every sacrifice made, and every resource utilized to the fullest extent to achieve victory. The submarine menace is very real, but it can be overcome. In the meantime, however, the people must stick to rations, home production must be increased, the shipyards must be kept busy, and the importation of food products and war materials be made the first consideration in regard to the shipping trade.

The prime minister's review of the situation on the western front is very encouraging. The results of the Arras battle, compared with that of the Somme, show clearly that the British armies now have the advantage. The German losses grow heavier, and those of the British lighter by comparison.

Speaking of the future relations of the different states of the British Empire Mr. Lloyd George puts into words what has been in all minds. There must be reconstruction after the war. It will include imperial preference and a voice for the overseas states in the councils of the Empire. It is not necessary at present to go into details, and there will be great differences of opinion as to the exact nature of the new relations. We may be sure that Mr. Lloyd George will not be one of those who would seek to hamper any of the Dominions in its task of giving expression to the genius of its people, or to shake the all the dominions with an imperialist bond that would be mechanical and irksome.

HOW ABOUT IT, NEIGHBOR?

The finance committee of the municipal council decided yesterday that it could not afford this year to give any more financial assistance to the Children's Aid Society, all of whose work outside of the Home in Elliott Row has been done since last July voluntarily and without a cent of remuneration. The secretary, Rev. Mr. Robinson, has sacrificed his time and weakened his health in the work. Of course there must be an end to such a condition of affairs. There is enough work to occupy the whole time of more than one man, and the money expended for salaries would be returned ten times over in improved citizenship. The records of the society for the last six months prove this beyond the shadow of doubt. The situation today is that Mr. Robinson cannot any longer do the work, and the society is without funds to engage an agent to pay the salary of a commissioner who would practically do the work of an agent. The whole machinery of the society is tied up.

Meanwhile there were three serious cases involving children in the police court this morning, and there are hundreds of cases of neglected children crying for the attention of a trained and sympathetic and judicious man, backed by the authority of the Children's Protection Act. What are the citizens going to do about it?

THE FOOD SHORTAGE

The imperative need of greater production, not only for 1917 but for 1918 is strongly emphasized by the Toronto Globe, which says:—

"The crops of wheat, harvested for the most part since December, in Argentina, New Zealand and Australia are only a little over half the amount garnered in the previous year. In the United States condition of winter wheat generally is low; in some of the important wheat-growing states condition is the lowest on record. In Europe, now that open field warfare, with hostile armies moving over large areas, has succeeded stationary trench warfare, the destruction of growing crops is bound to be enormous. Every bushel of wheat that can be produced in Canada will be needed, and will command a high price, even if the war ends before autumn."

But the Globe goes further and points out that reserve stocks of food the world over have been depleted, and "we shall enter 1918 with bare shelves."

"It is imperative, therefore, that in this country our plans for increased production should not be limited to the present. We have, indeed, been too slow in appreciating the condition by which we are faced to render possible such increase in production this year as should have been provided for. It is not too early now to plan for next season. While doing everything possible to recover lost ground in 1917, let us not forget the necessities of 1918. More production this year and still more production next year should be the motto ever in mind."

There is also the question of food control, and this is a matter which lies within the province of the government. The governments of the European countries have long since taken action in this matter, and it is already being taken up in the United States; but in Canada nothing has been or is being done to conserve the supply of food. Neither has any action been taken here to protect the consumer. It is therefore, as the Toronto Globe points out, the duty of federal and provincial governments to co-operate and make plans to deal with a situation that grows daily more acute.

The following paragraph from the Halifax Echo is of local interest:—"Perhaps the most pressing task facing the new board of control is that of housing reform. The scheme to erect a number of model houses and to make them available to the workers at reasonable rentals is well under way. We understand that the plans of the houses have been prepared and we trust that those back of the movement will lose no time in translating them into wood and concrete. The work is so essential to the future of the city that we take it for granted the incoming board will immediately offer all the assistance in its power."

It is estimated that the German losses in recent fighting on the French front amount to over 200,000 men, perhaps as many as 285,000. The loss of 180 guns is also significant. The success of the French armies continues.

Lectured on Pensions

Representatives from the various patriotic societies had the pleasure of listening to an excellent address by Major Buchanan yesterday afternoon in Stone church school house. Mrs. G. A. Kuhnberg was in the chair. The subject of his address was the arrangements that were being made for the distribution of war pensions in Canada, the number of which has now reached 11,000.

Moncton has been badly infected with the tussock moth and, owing to the prompt measures of the government, some 6,500,000 eggs have been stamped out. It is understood that a campaign will be started in Chatham next.

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"I would advise anyone with heart trouble to use them."

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LIGHTER VEIN

For six years a bitter feud had existed between the Browns and Robinsons, next door neighbors. The trouble had originated through the depredations of Brown's cat and had grown so fixed an affair that neither party ever dreamt of "making up."

One day, however, Brown sent his servant with a peace-making note for Mr. Robinson, which read:

"Mr. Brown sends his compliments to Mr. Robinson, and begs to state that his old cat died this morning."

Robinson's reply was bitter: "Mr. Robinson is sorry to hear of Mr. Brown's trouble, but he had not heard that Mrs. Brown was ill."

In no other household except that of a doctor could this mistake so plausible have occurred.

"Get my bag for me at once," boomed the doctor. "Some fellow says in a dying voice that he can't live without me."

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County Grant to Local Branches

\$4,500 to St. John Society and \$1,500 to Lancaster—Recommend Appointment of Children's Aid Agent Next Year

A recommendation providing for the payment of the \$6,000 grant for Red Cross work, recently made by the municipal council, to the local instead of the provincial Red Cross Society, and another to be presented at the January meeting of the council, asking that an appropriation be made for the salary of an agent for child welfare work in the city and county were passed together with routine matters at a meeting of the finance committee of the municipal council, held in the office of the secretary, J. King Kelley, K. C., yesterday afternoon. Delegations from the Children's Aid Society, asking for the appointment of a commissioner for child welfare work, and from the St. John Red Cross Society, asking that the \$6,000 grant for such work be given to the local instead of the provincial organization, were heard.

The committee was in session for more than two hours, and passed a large number of monthly and routine bills. Owing to the deficit that already stares the council in the face, it was felt that it could not comply with the request of the Children's Aid Society to appropriate \$2,000 as a salary for Rev. W. R. Robinson, whose appointment they advocated under the Children's Protection Act. It was decided to grant the request of the local Red Cross Society. R. W. Wigmore, chairman of the committee, was in the chair. The other members of the committee present were Councillors Dean, Golding, Shanklin, Fisher, Russell, Carson and Secretary Kelley.

A. M. Belding, president of the Children's Aid Society, T. H. Estabrooks, Rev. J. C. B. Apple, M. E. Agar and Rev. J. H. A. Anderson made up a delegation that presented the appeal of the society.

Mrs. John A. McAvity, president of the local Red Cross Society, and Mrs. George F. Smith, appeared before the committee and asked that the grant of \$6,000, recently made by the council for Red Cross work, revert to the local rather than the provincial Red Cross.

In considering the appeal of the societies it was felt that the funds would not permit the appointment of a salary for a commissioner this year, but it was decided to recommend at the first meeting in 1918 an appropriation for a salary for an agent, who would not have the powers to sit as judge as a commissioner naturally would.

The committee voted to pay the original grant to the local Red Cross, with \$4,500 going to the St. John workers and \$1,500 to the Lancaster branch.

It was decided to move the county treasurer's office from its present location in the Barnhill building to rooms in the Walker building, in Prince William street, on the same floor with the county secretary's office. Provisions will be made here for rooms necessary for committee meetings. The committee adjourned about 5 o'clock.

The London Financier and Bullionist of April 10, has a long article which pays a splendid tribute to the energy and activity of the Board of Trade here.

CASH SPECIALS AT CHEYNE'S
For Saturday, April 28, and Monday, April 30.

FLOUR
98 lb. bag King's Quality.....\$6.90
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SUGAR WITH ORDERS
11 lbs. Best Granulated Sugar.....\$1.00
Sifted bag Sugar.....92c.
5 lb. pkgs. Sugar.....47c.
Red Clover Salmon (1/2 lb.).....15c.
Purity of Mayflower Milk.....15c.
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Libby's Asparagus Tips.....30c.
Sunkist Luncheon Asparagus.....25c.
Jersey Cream Baking Powder.....25c.
Two Lipton's Jelly.....25c.
Four Bee Jelly.....25c.
Reinder Cond. Coffee.....27c.
Two Aunt Jemima Pancake Flour.....25c.
Heaton's 20 oz. Pickles.....32c.
Heaton's 20 oz. Chow.....32c.
Lazenby's High-grade Pickles.....22c.
Sliced and Grated Pineapple.....23c.
Hunt's High-grade Peaches.....20c.
Large size Beans, Tomato Sauce, 18c.
Large size Tomatoes, per can.....20c.
30c. bottle Marmalade.....25c.

CLEANERS
5 Gold Soap.....25c.
5 Napha Soap.....25c.
5 Babbitt's Soap Powder.....25c.
5 Babbitt's Cleanser.....22c.
3 Dutch Cleanser.....25c.
2 tins Lye (100 pc.).....18c.
3 pkgs. Borax.....25c.
2 cakes Bon Ami.....25c.
3 Smoky City Cleanser.....22c.
3 bottles Ammonia.....25c.
Ammonia Powder.....3 for 15c.
Express Metal Polish.....22c.
Bee Metal Polish.....18c.
Mathless Silver Cream.....25c.

4 lbs. Western Grey Buckwheat.....25c.
4 lbs. Farina.....25c.
4 lbs. Oatmeal.....22c.
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4 lbs. Barley.....30c.
Seedless California Oranges, 30c., 40c., 50c.; excellent value.
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