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J. H. BROWN, Man. Ed.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1ST 1915

AN ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK

Reports from all parts of the country disclose a most satisfactory condition of affairs from a business standpoint, and the outlook is eminently satisfactory. The quick and generous response to the Canadian War Loan appeal, increased earnings by the railway companies, and greatly increased bank deposits are among the indications of prosperity more prominently noticeable just now. Added to them is the steady progress that is being made in moving the western wheat crop.

From all trade sources in Canada come indications of prosperity founded on actual tests of existing conditions. This encouraging manifestation must in time satisfy the public that Canada is weathering the storm in a most satisfactory manner. Although at war, and resolutely committed to the cause, the nation is able to grow in wealth and strength because it is immune from the economic disorganization suffered by the nations located within the area where the guns are to be heard.

In the public mind war is associated with intense economic disorganization. Britons, thanks to the astonishing efficiency of their great fleet, may disabuse their minds of this association of ideas. It is the enemy that is cut off from that healthy participation in international trade which has come to be an essential factor in national stability in modern times. This war is true to its reputation only from the viewpoint of the enemy. Germany's failure and that of her Allies to carry the conflict on to the sea, is her failure to create abnormal conditions in the countries of her enemies, and will be her failure to win the domination of the world.

Canada's geographical position is almost ideal. Markets abroad and in America are open to her, and as a contemporary puts it, "a realization of trade opportunities is compatible with a sturdy support of the cause for economic stability and is one of the prime factors in the present effort to stem the tide of barbarism."

A FOOLISH POLICY

The injudicious and ill-timed criticism on the part of certain prominent public men, and also on part of some portion of the British press, of the Government and its conduct of matters relating to the war, seem to be made on the theory that Great Britain is the master of her Allies, and that she make all their war policies or should do so. These critics would have Britain formulate what they describe as a "strong policy" and say "shall do so and so; see that you carry out instructions."

Such a course would be preposterous. Great Britain's armies are in France and Flanders as the guests of the government of those countries and must work entirely in co-operation with them. Great Britain cannot play a lone hand; and the attempt to fasten on the Asquith Government responsibility for every check that the Allies have sustained is puerile, and is its logical development, a declaration of arrogance that would be highly offensive to other nations.

By virtue of the enormous services she has rendered with her navy, she is entitled to dictate sea policies, but if she pressed her prerogative too far even in the respect she would soon affront France and Italy, both of whom have naval interests in the Mediterranean at least as important as her own. It may appeal to a certain portion of the British public to start a manhunt after some public figure every other week and accuse him of being entirely responsible for the fact that Germany is not already cut up into a series of British dependencies, but it is fools' sport to indulge in at the present perilous juncture.

UNWARRANTED HONOR

The Moncton Transcript still persists in calling the 8th Battery a purely Westmorland or Moncton Battery. We have already drawn the attention of this paper to the matter, but evidently of little use and we say again that the 8th Battery has at least 25 boys from Newcastle and North Shore, or about one sixth was raised here. Therefore, where does the Transcript find a basis for its claim to a purely Moncton Battery?

Enemy Driven From Trenches by Canadians

Demoralized by Canadian Bombardment Germans Quit in Panic and Shot Down in Open

Ottawa, Nov. 28—Major-General Sir Sam Hughes, minister of militia, tonight received the following communication from Sir Max Aitken, the Canadian general representative in France:

Canadian Headquarters in France, Nov. 28—During the period November 12-26, there has been no material change in the situation along the Canadian front. The weather has been cold and at times very foggy. Little rain has fallen, and the ground has been continuously employed, and the condition of our trenches has been considerably improved.

"Advantage was taken of foggy days to carry out careful reconnaissances within our lines of ground normally exposed to the enemy's additional routes to the front trenches were laid out.

"Certain sections of the enemy's trenches and communicating trenches still appear to be in poor condition, and cause him a lot of trouble. Pumping and balling is being continually carried on. Enemy working parties have been unusually numerous. Fog interfered with observations, but on several occasions they were interrupted or dispersed by the fire of our artillery and machine guns.

"During clear weather, at the commencement of the period, enemy aircraft were exceptionally active. In one day twenty-one hostile machines landed in our lines about one front one-half miles behind our front trenches. The machine overturned but was only slightly damaged.

"About dusk on the afternoon of November 19th a German biplane landed in our lines about one front one-half miles behind our front trenches. The machine overturned but was only slightly damaged.

"The two occupants, a captain and a sergeant, escaped injury and were made prisoners by one of our signal-liner officers and two linesmen who were working in the vicinity. The machine had been engaged in a long distance trial flight. The pilot lost his way owing to thick clouds, and under the impression that he was still behind the German lines descended to earth to secure his bearings. The machine was successfully salvaged.

Enemy Destroys Own Positions in His Excitement

"The use by our troops of an increasing number of rifle grenades and bombs was effective in checking the enemy's activity on our front. Rifle and machine gun fire was normal during the period. Enemy snipers were slightly more active than usual, but our snipers retaliated with good results. Enemy patrols displayed

little activity. Our patrols took advantage of the fog to examine various sections of the enemy's wire entanglements. Useful information was secured. The activity of our patrols at night was well maintained. One of our patrols discovered an unexploded 4.5 shell between the front trenches. The shell was placed under the enemy's wire and detonated with a slab of gun cotton, causing considerable damage.

"In the early morning, of November 29th, a German, who was throwing bombs into our trenches from an old mine crater between the lines, was shot by one of our sentries. After daylight it was seen that this man had been visiting our trenches within 25 yards of the enemy's parapets. Privates J. J. Milne and A. Conner, of the 27th City of Winnipeg Battalion volunteered to investigate and later in the day, although under heavy fire, succeeded in reaching the body of the enemy's parapets for identification purposes were secured and brought in.

"During the period our artillery probably overbalanced that of the enemy. On November 24, with a view to damaging the enemy's defensive works and causing him alarm, a systematic artillery bombardment was undertaken on our front. The bombardment lasted two hours. A large number of shells of all descriptions were used. The firing was exceptionally good and severely damaged sections of the enemy's trenches, as well as many of his fortified places. The wire was cut in order to produce the impression of an impending attack. The bombardment appears to have considerably demoralized the enemy, who in one or two instances bolted from his trenches only to be caught in the open by our shrapnel and machine gun fire.

"In one place, apparently under the belief that an assault had taken place the German artillery opened fire on their own front line trenches and practically destroyed one of their own strong positions. A considerable portion of the enemy front line was evacuated during the bombardment and only re-occupied after dusk with great precaution. During the bombardment the flying corps co-operated with our artillery, directing the fire of our heavy guns and dropping bombs over the German lines. The enemy's retaliation was very weak and ineffectual.

"Brigadier General Grimes Hughes has assumed command of our first infantry brigade, and Brigadier General Renzie, of our fourth infantry brigade.

"The health of our troops remains good."

New Phase of War With Kitchener's Return

Heavy Snowstorms Appear to Have Put an End to Important Movements in Serbia

London, Nov. 29—The campaign in the Near East is about to enter a new phase, upon which the visits of Lord Kitchener to Paris and Emperor William to Vienna, it is believed, will have an important effect.

Lord Kitchener, after visiting the Balkans and Italy, has arrived at Paris for an important series of conferences with the French staff, while the German Emperor has gone to Vienna to see Emperor Joseph and discuss with the Austrian generals what the next move will be. Presumably, it is a question whether the Central Powers will attack the Anglo-French forces in southern Serbia or concentrate in Western Bulgaria to meet the threatened Russian invasion from the east and the possibility of Roumania taking sides against her old enemies, Bulgaria and Turkey.

So far as Serbia is concerned, winter appears virtually to have put an end to any important movements, although the Austrians are proceeding to deal with the Montenegrins, whose frontier they have crossed while the Bulgarians are attempting to advance to Prizren, and Monastir. With heavy and continuous snowstorms, reducing the proportions of a blizzard, these operations must be slow, especially as the Serbians and Montenegrins are still offering stubborn resistance. Monastir, it is admitted, cannot be saved, but the Serbians who are defending the city are determined to resist to the last, and give the civilians a chance to escape. They hold a front some five miles from the town in the direction of Prizren, from which point the Bulgarians, who have crossed the Carasou river, are advancing.

Snow has completely stopped operations on the Anglo-French front in Serbia, the opposing forces, who are separated by a valley a mile across, having lost sight of each other. There are no details of the Greek reply to the collective note of the Entente Powers, demanding facilities for the Anglo-French forces, but a despatch from Athens says it is couched in friendly terms, and is regarded as paving the way for the distressed settlement, which would enable Greece to maintain her neutrality and not interfere with the intentions of the Allies.

Italians Continue Desperate Fighting

Desperate fighting continues on the summits around Gorizia; the Italians claim to have captured more Austrian trenches, but the Austrians declare that the attacks all along the Isonzo have been repulsed.

Artillery and aerial fighting has marked the progress of events in France, while in Russia an almost complete lull prevails. In the Caucasus a recrudescence of activity, however, is reported. Petrograd recording several scouting expeditions. After clearing the battlefield at Ctesophon, near Bagdad, in Mesopotamia, the British have again withdrawn to the river. The Turks report that the British were forced to retreat by reason of counter-attacks, after suffering very heavy losses.

Artillery engagements, in which the British monitors took a hand, continue in the Tigris peninsula. It is reported from Rome that Austria is seeking a separate peace with Italy. This is not generally credited, although in some quarters the German Emperor's visit to Vienna is believed to lend some color to the rumor.

The recent successes of the Allies in Kamerun are considered likely fore-runners of the complete defeat of the Germans there. They are now concentrated at Jaunde, and, although well supplied with guns, find it difficult owing to the British blockade of the coast, to get munitions. The Allied forces are now converging on Jaunde, while other columns are being sent out to cut off any attempt at retreat from that town.

Petrograd, Nov. 25, via London—The assertion is made by the Peking correspondent of the Novo Vremya, that German and Austrian officers are now being employed in the Chinese army and particularly in the arsenals.

New York may soon forbid pedestrians crossing streets except at regular crossings, as is done in western cities.

After 17 years of divorce George Lord of Aillington, N. I. found life unbearable and re-wed his former wife.

PERSONALS

Mr. Peter Archer of Chatham, was a visitor to town on Monday.

Miss Annette Campbell, of Sussex, has been visiting her aunt, Mrs. W. A. Park.

Miss Cecilia Nowlan of Chatham, has been visiting her sister, Mrs. W. J. Dunn.

Mrs. Thomas Howard has been spending a few days at Mr. Howard's home in Moncton.

Miss Sarah Clark of Hexton, who has been visiting Newcastle friends has returned home.

Mr. Osborne N. Brown, of Wabana, Newfoundland, is visiting his mother, Mrs. George Brown.

S. L. Eddy, of the Bank of Nova Scotia staff, Campbellton, has been transferred to Newcastle.

Mrs. John Crecker and daughter of Nelson, have returned from a visit to friends in Bathurst.

Mr. E. H. Sinclair, the well-known lumberman of Newcastle, was in the city yesterday—Saturday's Transcript.

Mrs. George Blackmore of Whiteville, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Jessiman, at Douglstown.

Mrs. Harry Gray of Douglstown, who underwent a very serious operation in Hotel Dieu recently, is, we are glad to hear, convalescing favorably.

Mr. John Matheson, of Boston, who has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Thomas Matheson, has returned to Boston. James, another son is now visiting his mother.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Lindon announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Isabel Ethel, to Wm. McLaughlin, of Concord, N. H., marriage to take place Dec. 22nd.

Mr. Wm. Masson of Alcorn, Sask., was called home owing to the illness of his mother, Mrs. Frank Masson. Mrs. Masson's friends will be pleased to know she is recovering.

Miss Katherine Wood of Douglstown, who has been on the office staff of the Lonsbury Co., Ltd. here for past two years, has gone to Moncton to take a position with the same company.

Douglstown Boy Writes Letter Home

R. Sterling Wood, of the 26th Battery, Tells of Practise Drill

The following letter was written by R. Sterling Wood, of Douglstown, who is with the 26th Battery, now in England:

Westchanger Sta., England
Nov. 7, 1915.

Dear Father,

I thought perhaps you would like to know a little about our drill and something about an eighteen pound gun. Well in the first place they are called eighteen pounders, as that is the weight of the shell. The length from muzzle to breach is 41 inches, with a three inch bore. We had an examination for gunlayers; I passed alright, although I am a little slow. The lieutenant of our section says "Wood, you are accurate, but d-d slow." He is a fine fellow.

Well as to the sighting of the gun, there are three sights: the open sight, (that is like the sight on a rifle), the telescopic sight, is a telescope with a needle-like indicator in the glass, and you have to have the point of that indicator on the target, or the reference point, as the case may be. Then there is the No. 7 dial sight. You pick up an aiming point anywhere you like—behind if you wish. It is mostly used in indirect firing, that is to say, when you cannot see the target and the range finder and director give the angle and the range at which the enemy are. By means of a looking glass arrangement, the aiming point is reflected in the sight and you set the gun at the angle sent down from that aiming point, and so you get the proper lay. My geometry helps me out quite a bit. I never thought I was learning geometry though to be used in this way. It has its better uses, but at all times it stands me in good stead. One of the instructors was explaining different points to us the other day and when he was through he asked us if we had any question to ask, and I asked him one but he could not answer, and kept us about an hour trying to fathom it out. He said he would figure it out that night and explain it to us again, but he must have forgotten or found it too hard a task as we never had him mention it since. The highest range we can get on the 18 pounder is 6200 yds, that is three miles and a half or a little better.

Our drill this week consisted mostly of route marches in which we took up open positions. We were in full marching order. Our great coats are strapped in front of the saddles and our blankets behind, our horse feed on the off-side and our mess tin on the near side. That is for those with one horse. The gunners ride on the liners of the guns and the ammunition wagons with their blankets from rubber sheets strapped on the seats and their mess tins on the guard irons of the wagons. They all carry their bandolier water bottle and haversack on them. When a fellow is in the saddle he is pretty well loaded up. We are kept on the move from morning until night. We had a little excitement the night of the raid. We can say that we have been under German fire now but it is pretty hard to get wiped out before one gets there. If those five bombs had made the mark, there would have been very few out of the six hundred of us to tell the tale.

Your boy,
STERL.

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CANADA IN EXCELLENT SHAPE FINANCIALLY

The strong financial position of the Dominion after a year of war following upon a period of general trade depression, is not the result of chance. It is the result of prudent and satisfactory administration of the affairs of the Dominion upon a well thought-out plan rigidly adhered to.

The Dominion Government has succeeded in making two blades of grass grow where one grew before. It has stimulated the revenue and cut down the expenditure. It has carried to successful fruition a campaign for increased production of natural products, and this increase, as stated recently by the Minister of Finance, far outweighs the cost of the war, enormous as that cost is likely to be. Canada is rich in proportion to its production. In this there has been an extraordinary expansion which will be permanent. That means a richer country, a bigger buying power, the ability of the Canadian people to carry easily the burden which the war has imposed upon them.

Making Good

Official statistics show that the special revenue measures taken by the Finance Minister, are producing all that was expected of them. In other words, enough money is coming in to close the gap which, upon the old tariff basis, would have occurred this year between revenue and expenditure.

Official statistics also show that the expenditure has been reduced materially without the sacrifice of necessary national undertakings placed previously under contract. This reduction has been effected in spite of the heavy payments which the present Government has had to make on the completion of works undertaken by the former Ministry, the National Transcontinental Railway, the Quebec Bridge, the Hudson's Bay Railway, etc.

How It Was Financed

The method adopted by Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance in providing for the war expenditure, has been far-sighted, to a degree which is only now becoming apparent to most Canadians. During the first period of the war Mr. White paid for the organization and equipment of the Canadian army with money borrowed in England. That was sound finance under the conditions then existing. Those conditions, however, changed. The trade balance which formerly was adverse to Canada, swung in the opposite direction. Canada began to produce more and sell more. The exports of the Dominion began to exceed the imports. It became possible to borrow on this side of the ocean and Mr. White went to New York. He succeeded in borrowing \$45,000,000 there under exceptionally favorable terms. That was before the British and French commissioners entered the New York money market.

Effect on Exchange

Just how much was really accomplished when the Canadian loan was issued in New York in August was little understood at the time, but the wisdom of the step has been amply shown in recent developments. The loan, and the sale in New York of sterling bills, drawn against shipments of Canadian wheat to Great Britain and Europe, have restored the rate of exchange on New York practically to par. This is of very material importance to Canada. Three months ago exchange between this country and the United States was unfavorable to Canada, a premium of one half to one per cent. having to be paid on Canadian money to obtain funds in New York. In other words, the American dollar was worth more than the Canadian dollar. The Canadian loan at once ameliorated this situation. The proceeds of the loan were not brought to Canada at once but were withdrawn gradually so as to stabilize the exchange and gradually reduce it. Upon the transfer of the proceeds of this loan to Canada the Finance Department made over \$36,000 in exchange.

What Was Accomplished

Financial developments since the loan was issued show that it accomplished the following purposes:

It reduced and stabilized exchange between Canada and the United States, then unfavorable to Canada.

It assisted the sterling exchange situation by giving Canada funds which otherwise would have been obtained in London.

It conserved the gold reserves of the Dominion.

It paved the way for the Anglo-French loan.

The Finance Minister has latterly been able to take care of the war outlay of the Canadian Government and also to make heavy advances in payment for munitions, etc., purchased by Great Britain.

The next loan will be "made in Canada." It is announced that the domestic issue will not take place till after the end of the year, when the amount and terms of the loan will be announced. It is going to be in allotments to suit all persons and all purposes, and there is to be no underwriting—no ground floor.

The whole financial situation is thus one which inspires confidence and justifies optimism. Canada is in good shape financially.

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