

THE COURIER

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Thursday, May 3rd, 1917.

THE SITUATION.

It is the guns on the western front which have lately been doing all the demonstrating, and the British "heavies" are clearly paying the way for another offensive. The foe is none the less busy in preparing to withstand the threatened onslaught. Mr. G. H. Perris, with the French army, states that recent Hun losses have certainly totalled 100,000 men and possibly 200,000.

General Maude reports from Mesopotamia that the Turks have been driven from both banks of the Shatt-el-Adhem. A fortified village and strong trenches were taken and the foe finally forced to retreat to the hills.

The tax on excess profits in the Old Land has been raised from 60 to 80 per cent, tobacco and amusements are to bear heavier burdens. Mr. Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his introduction of the budget containing announcements, was able to state that Great Britain was meeting the financial strain of the war in good style, and was paying a greater share of war expenses from income than any of the other warring nations.

The submarine menace becomes more intensified. The official report for last week shows thirty-eight British vessels sunk of 1,600 tons and over, and 13 of less than 1,600 tons, or a gross total of over 400,000 tons. Translate those figures into train car loads, and their import becomes readily apparent. On the average, a single car carries about 30 tons, so that 400,000 represents 13,500 cars, or, at fifty cars each, 270 freight train loads.

THE RAILWAY REPORT.

The commissioners appointed to look into the railway question of the Dominion have completed their huge task with commendable promptness. They all agree that the C. P. R. should be left alone, and the majority report recommends the three others, the Grand Trunk, Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern should be nationalized. The two last named roads are all the time coming to parliament for more money, and the Grand Trunk Pacific was one of the colossal blunders of the Laurier Government. Instead of a white elephant it has proved to be a herd of them.

There is a quite general impression that as the people have to put up all the time, it would be an excellent thing to have public ownership but politics would have to be kept absolutely out of the administration.

THE SUBWAY AWARD

The decision of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, with reference to the St. Paul Ave. subway, will not go far enough in the estimation of some people, but the fact has to be faced that the G.T.R. had a hard and fast agreement with the city in connection with the closing. A quite general impression exists that the arrangement was part and parcel of the bringing of the main line through here. This is not the case. The mistaken concession was made some two years later, and all that the company conceded in return was to erect two turnstiles on either side of the track in order to permit pedestrians to cross. For this reason, the board holds that the G. T. R. cannot be forced to pay any part of a subway for vehicular traffic, but assesses them \$4,800 in connection with walks for pedestrians. The board also offers twenty per cent of the cost out of the "Railway Grade Crossing Fund," but stipulates that the amount shall not exceed \$5,000. This restriction does not seem fair, in view of the increased cost of labor and material. Twenty per cent, without any set figure, would seem more like it, and the Courier thinks that representations should be made to this end.

A vehicular subway will cost probably \$50,000. Twenty per cent, of the entire outlay would be \$10,000, which added to the order on the G. T. R. for \$4,800, would mean \$55,200 for the city to face.

THE SUGGESTION OF WELLS

Mr. G. H. Wells is in many respects, one of the most noted and largely read of modern writers. Anything which emanates from him is sure of a large audience, notwithstanding the fact that he has often dealt with visionary things. The most recent suggestion of that nature was his declaration that now would be a good time to get rid of the British monarchy. The proposal was on all hands received with a calm amusement which in itself betokened how thoroughly satisfied the people, who owe allegiance to the grand old Union Jack, are with the present arrangement. As a matter of fact the British Empire constitutes the greatest Republic in the world to-day, and is more truly that than even the great nation across the border. Under a limited monarchy, the occupant of Britain's throne has less personal power by far than the President of the United States. The latter selects his cabinet of secretaries of state, and they have no seats in, or responsibilities to Congress. As head of the state, he selects the men and then asks Congress to approve. A British sovereign, on the other hand, does not do any selecting, but it is guided by the recommendations of the Premier for the time being, and the Ministers thus named must have seats in, and be responsible to Parliament. The President, under the constitution, has a veto over the legislation of Congress and it takes a two-thirds majority in both Houses to override any step he may take in that regard. The King cannot take any such course, and he is subjected throughout to such limitations as may be imposed by parliament. So the contrast might be extended.

That there should be public resentment against such oligarchies as that which existed in Russia, and growing discontent in Germany under the iron heel of the Hohenzollerns, is only natural, but no such feelings exist, or have cause to exist, under the British monarchical plan, for it spells the greatest individual liberty, and the most responsive answer to the demands of the people, of which the world has any record. There is small cause for wonder then, that the suggestion of Mr. Wells should have created hilarity instead of challenging serious public attention.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Mr. Balfour is to address both Houses of the U. S. Congress, a distinction never before accorded a Britisher. He will fulfil the task, too, in Number One style.

The Turks have been driven by General Maude into the hills. That is a small incident alongside of the mountains of trouble in which they have for some time found themselves.

One Alderman in Kitchener is threatening bodily harm to another. Alderman has been bound over to keep the peace. In the London Council they had a tumbler throw episode not long ago. Alongside such things Brantford civic daddies are so well behaved that doves of peace should be located in the City Hall cupola instead of the pigeons which occupy the dome of Brantford's ornate civic pile.

If Miss May doesn't warm up pretty soon to the wooings of Spring cupid will have to get some things on.

German authorities continue to tighten the censorship and the people their belts.

By all means take a speedy vote on the St. Paul Avenue subway and carry the measure. Hill residents have always been good to money by laws for the other sections of the city and the opportunity would be an excellent one to do them a good turn besides helping the Municipality generally.

Maude shattered the Turks at Shatt-el-adhem and also had 'em.

Local News

POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

A meeting of the police commissioners has been summoned for tomorrow afternoon, when the question of a salary increase to the men will be settled. Since the last meeting at which action was deferred, three men have left the force and the staff is as a result in a badly depleted condition.

COUNTY ROADS.

Government Inspector Hubbard, County Roads Superintendent A. J. McVicar, County Engineer Lee, the Warden and members of the Roads and Bridges committee of the County Council, are to-day engaged in making an inspection of the roads in the county, included in the Good Roads system. This morning the party went over the Burford Road.

RUBBER SOCIAL AT MARLBORO CHURCH

Successful Entertainment of Novel Order Held This Week

The Ladies' Aid Society of Marlborough St. Methodist church held a "Rubber" entertainment on Tuesday evening at which one or more pairs of rubbers was accepted for admission. A programme consisting of selections by the orchestra, an instrumental by the Little Misses Smith, solo with piano accompaniment by Mr. Woodley, and a duet solo by Mr. Page was given. The chair was taken by Rev. J. E. Peters, and the feature of the evening was an address given by Mr. J. L. Dixon, manager of the Bell Telephone Co., on the "World of the Telephone." It was illustrated by a large number of lantern slides, through which Mr. Dixon outlined to the goodly number present, the development of the telephone from the date of its birth up to the present state of efficiency. A summary of this lecture has previously appeared in these columns, and those who have heard the lecture and seen the pictures illustrating the same, say it is intensely interesting to Brantfordites, and should be heard to be appreciated. The pastor, on behalf of the ladies, tendered to Mr. Dixon the thanks of the meeting for his part in the entertainment of the evening. The mite boxes, which had been in the hands of the members for some time past were brought in and opened, when it was found a very neat sum had been realized to augment the finances of the church.

SHAKESPEARE DAY.

By Courier Leased Wire. London, May 3.—Shakespeare Day was observed today throughout England and France. All the schools in Great Britain held special exercises. The principal celebration took place in Kings College, London, in the presence of representatives of Great Britain, France and the United States. Ambassador Page made an address on behalf of the latter country.

The observance of the day in the schools partook of the character of a celebration of the new alliance with the United States. Emphasis was laid on the fact that all countries supporting the language of Shakespeare were now united for the first time in a war on behalf of the principles of democracy.

To The Editor

TWO QUESTIONS ANSWERED. Brantford, May 3rd, 1917.

Editor Courier: Dear Sir,—Will you kindly answer the following: First—I see Chief Slenin says men are leaving the force because of lack of sufficient pay. What do they get? Second.—Who were the members of the City Council at the time the closing of St. Paul's Avenue was put through?

Yours truly, SUBSCRIBER.

(1.—Application at the City Treasurer's Department, shows that the following was the police pay sheet for April: Chief of Police, \$179.17; three Sergeants, \$98.25 each; Truant Officer, \$90.00; two men \$78.00 each; one man, \$75.00; four men, \$72.00 each; three men \$67.50 each.

This represents thirty days' pay, and what the men would receive did they work the whole time. In addition to this, uniforms are supplied.

2.—The members of the City Council in the year named were as follows:—

Mayor, C. H. Waterous; Aldermen Lloyd Harris, (Chairman of Finance); Andrew G. Montgomery; Samuel Suddaby (Chairman Buildings and Grounds); William D. Schultz, (Chairman Manufacturers); John P. Pitcher; Samuel Hartley; Robert W. Robertson (Chairman Board of Works); W. Norman Andrews, (Chairman Fire, Light and Sewers); Richard W. Waddington; Thos. L. Lyte, John Muir, Fred. Corey, James C. Watt, Levi Fisher, John A. Leitch.

Ed. Courier.)

YOU NEED A TONIC

Hood's Sarsaparilla, as a Spring Medicine, is the Best.

Spring sickness comes in some degree to every man, woman and child in our climate. It is that run-down condition of the system that results from impure, impoverished, devalitized blood. It is marked by loss of appetite and that tired feeling, and in many cases by some form of eruption.

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Get your blood in good condition at once—now. Delay may be dangerous. Be sure to get Hood's Sarsaparilla, nothing else can take its place.

PARIS BOARD OF TRADE TO ASSIST FOOD PRODUCTION

Decision Reached at Special Meeting Held on Tuesday Evening

TOWN COUNCIL MEETS Recommendations For Alterations to Fire System

Paris, May 2.—(From our own correspondent)—A special meeting of the Board of Trade was held Tuesday evening, in the Council Chamber, with a good attendance of farmers, manufacturers and citizens present. The object of the meeting was to discuss ways and means of assisting the farmers in securing help this summer. Addresses were given by Rev. Sel-Adamsen, Rev. J. H. Wells, Messrs. Nunan, David-son, Schuyler and several others, after which a committee was appointed to co-operate with Mr. Schuyler and the farmers in securing the necessary help for the farmers.



W. K. PARKER, Paris, formerly of the 58th Battalion, wounded at the front and returned home, having lost his left arm. He is employed at Penman's and his family reside on Grand River St.

At the monthly meeting of the Town Council the following business was transacted.

Mr. M. Skelly, street and sidewalk inspector, was granted an increase in salary, starting from May 1st.

The ratemakers on Elgin street, sent in a petition for cement walk. Referred to the streets and sidewalks committee.

The Salvation Army was granted \$25.00 to help carry on their work. A communication signed by all the merchants on Grand River St., was read, requesting that the street be kept in a more sanitary condition. Referred to streets and sidewalks committee.

Samuel Robinson, who rings the town bell, sent in his resignation, which was accepted.

The Imperial Oil Co. will supply the oil for the road at \$9.16 per barrel.

The Bell Telephone Co., asked for permission to erect some poles on St. Andrew St. Referred to streets and sidewalks committee. Messrs. Smoke and Smoke, in a communication, stated the town's bill re the sale of the old market property on Main St. for building purposes, had received its three readings in the Legislature. The letter was filed.

The matter of renting the site to use the water power from Mr. Axton, to operate booster pump, pending change in equipment, was passed the sum of \$200 being paid for same.

The committee were also instructed to look into the complaint of certain ratemakers as to the bad drainage along Catharine and Ball Streets.

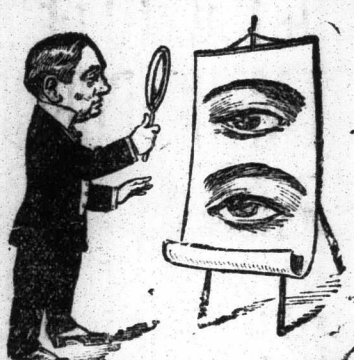
The following report was given by C. E. Walker, chairman of the fire committee:

Your special committee appointed to look into the question of fire protection conditions, beg to report that in so far as the booster pump is concerned they have concluded their investigations and now recommend to the council that the whole system be altered to correspond with the Hydro-Electric, that is to say, the present 60-cycle equipment be replaced with a 25-cycle and that the present motor pump, together with generator be sold. The Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association approves of this change. We would also suggest that the Hydro-Electric Commission be requested to undertake the purchase and installation of this equipment. We would also suggest that some arrangement be entered into with Mr. Axton that we might have the use of the water power until such a time as the new equipment is installed. This committee is not yet in a position to make any recommendations regarding the fire equipment. The report was adopted as read.

The scarcity of houses was also brought up, as it was thought by Councillor Wooler that the council should do something in regard to this matter.

Mayor Robinson promised to look into the matter and see if the council had power to do so.

The meeting then adjourned.



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BURDEN BORNE
WITHOUT STRA

British Finance Can
Heavy War Loan With
out Additional Forces

London, May 3.—Great Brit
war budget for the fiscal year w
Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor
the Exchequer, introduced in
House of Commons yesterday
tained no surprises and few sh
from the existing taxation than
the previous war budget. No