

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1918

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 21, 1918.

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WAR COMMENT.

The brilliant success of the French tenth army under General Mangin yesterday has been quickly followed up by a spirited British offensive north of the Ancre River. Haig's troops attacked at daybreak this morning along a wide front and it is officially announced that satisfactory progress is being made. To what extent the attack may develop, or what bearing it may have on the whole campaign, it is too early to say, but military critics believe it is Foch's plan to smash the enemy's old line in the Arras area and force a German retreat there on a wide scale.

The particular region where the British began their drive this morning has not seen severe fighting for some time, but those who are in close touch with the battlefield have freely predicted a determined thrust by Haig north of the Ancre so soon as Foch should succeed in consolidating his gains to the south and getting his artillery in position for further heavy attacks on the army of the Crown Prince and that of Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria. This prediction was no doubt based upon inside information as well as upon the increasing aerial activity in the Ancre territory and the concentration of huge forces of infantry. The attack may prove to be a strategic blow of tremendous importance and may well develop into a movement not less sweeping than that by the French south of the Oise. The fighting of the next few days should tell the story in this theatre; it may bring to the Allied arms a glorious victory, or it may be broken down by the savage resistance of a desperate foe. Too much must not be taken for granted at this stage. That is advice which critics most competent to judge have consistently given from the first days of the French and American drive between Soissons and Rheims which turned the tide decisively against the enemy.

But while the positions against which the British are striving today have not yet been clearly defined, there is much fuller information with respect to the progress of the French between the Oise and the Aisne where Foch has captured strong strategic ground and is continuing to drive back the Germans in spite of their dogged resistance. The belief is expressed that he may outflank the enemy at Noyon and force a German retreat on a scale which would shatter all hope of further enemy gains in the west. Reports from the battlefield indicate that the Germans are prepared to go to any length to prevent this, and we must expect desperate and costly fighting before the battle is decided. The number of prisoners and guns already taken is large and more are being brought in as the attack develops. The enemy losses are said to be terrible, but terrible losses are seldom inflicted upon the enemy without our own armies suffering heavily too. The real difference in this struggle lies in the fact that the Allied troops are winning while the German sacrifice is in vain.

It is declared by military observers that the German calculations have been greatly complicated by Foch's sudden attacks at a time when the enemy no doubt expected a lull in the fighting to enable the Allies to move up their artillery. This seems to be where Foch's strategy shines. He is always doing the unexpected. He probably has further surprises in store. The Allied peoples will not underestimate the power of the enemy, but will await the outcome of the present fighting with calmness and will be quick to recognize the growing strength of their armies. For aside from the reports of casualties, the news from the theatre of war these days is most encouraging.

THE HOME BUILDERS.

It is an interesting fact that building and loan associations in the United States have not been adversely affected by the war, but that the work of home building through their agency has steadily progressed. Bradstreet's remarks that "as these associations are not patronized by capitalists but almost wholly by wage earners, the facts as to membership show that the American workingman continues to be a worthy nest builder."

The annual report of the United States League of Building and Loan Associations expresses the view that "instead of being hurt by the emissions of the three Liberty loans, the thrift campaign inaugurated by the government has enhanced the saving habit." Here are some interesting figures: "The assets of the associations mentioned during 1917-18 expanded about \$170,000,000, and they loaned out on mortgage \$182,000,000. There are in the United States 7,269 associations, with aggregate assets of \$1,709,142,175 and a total membership of 3,838,912. This means a gain of 197 associations, 270,189 members, and \$170,514,039 in assets over the report of the year before. The increase in membership was 7.5 per cent, while that in assets was 10.6 per cent. The average amount due each member was \$460.87 as against \$447.98, the amount shown in the preceding year."

IS LANCE-CORPORAL

Mrs. M. Pemberton Receives Pleasing News From Son  
Mrs. M. Pemberton of 102 Winter street has received an interesting letter from her son, Lance Corporal Peter Pemberton, who is with a Canadian unit. In the letter he told about receiving a stripe, which raised him from the ranks to be a non-commissioned officer, and in addition being sent to England to take a course of instruction. After completing the course he passed his examinations successfully. At time of writing he was at Bramshot Camp in the best of health.

Lance Corporal Pemberton expected to join a concert party in England going on a tour to raise funds for the Red Cross. He is a good dancer and a clever tumbler. He went overseas with the 35th battalion and was wounded during the battle on the Somme. Mrs. Pemberton has a younger son who went overseas but returned home some time ago and received his discharge. She had a brother killed in France and another is convalescent from serious injuries sustained as a result of being buried for several hours.

The Grabateria.  
"At one in one of those new style luncheon today."  
"What new style?"  
"I think they call it a grabateria."—Kansas City Journal

In Ohio the increase in assets was \$51,159,940; in Pennsylvania, \$25,498,226; Massachusetts, \$13,389,180; New Jersey, \$13,088,951; Illinois, \$8,050,122; Nebraska, \$6,627,788; New York, \$6,442,948; Indiana, \$5,818,661; Michigan, \$4,279,988; while in Missouri, California and Wisconsin the increase was over \$3,000,000 in each state. Pennsylvania reports that the associations of that state helped to build or buy 27,808 homes for their members during the year, which was \$4,500 more than in the preceding year.

Ohio has the largest membership in these associations, its total being 767,100, and Pennsylvania comes next with 677,911. New Jersey has 329,068, Massachusetts 247,725, Illinois 246,800, Indiana 202,409, New York 199,671, Nebraska 101,929, and other states smaller numbers. Even Maine has 14,989.

The following table gives membership and total assets of building and loan associations in the United States for a fifteen-year period:

Thus the membership increased 150 per cent in fifteen years, and the assets 206 per cent, and the war did not interfere with the growth of either. It is a notable record.

Premier Massey of New Zealand declares that Germany must eventually be punished for the crimes she has committed in this war. This is a view which is widely shared, but it is difficult to see how it will be possible to inflict upon her any punishment which will cover her atrocities. Indemnities alone will not do it.

Necessarily the casualty list is lengthening as our successes on the battlefield multiply, and St. John's hero roll is growing in proportion. There is grief anew in city homes today, sorrow for gallant soldier husbands and sons who will return no more to their loved ones.

U-BOAT OFFICER IN N. Y. THEATRE

Day or Two Afterwards Was Out 'Sinking Fishermen'

Nantucket, Mass., Aug. 21.—A story indicating that an officer of one of the German submarines operating off the American coast may have attended a New York theatre on the night of Aug. 8 was disclosed today by the wife of a New York playwright and prominent member of the summer colony here. She was among those who rendered assistance to fishermen brought to the island Aug. 11 after a submarine had destroyed their vessels.

One of the fishermen, a member of the crew of the Lena A., told her, she said, that he was questioned by the German petty officer who boarded the schooner. During the conversation they talked of New York and the fishermen asked the German if he had ever been there. The officer, he said, smiled and took from his pocket two seat checks for a Broadway theatre, dated "Thursday evening, Aug. 8," two days before the attack on the fishing fleet.

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POLICE MAGISTRATE MATTER SEPTEMBER 4

At a meeting of the common council yesterday afternoon a letter was read from Premier Foster stating that at a meeting of the government on Sept. 4, the police magistrate matter and the participation of the city in the money collected in fines would be heard. The mayor and city commissioners decided to be present.

The estate of Charles Sorrell claimed \$3,000 for stone taken from the property of the estate in Kennedy street without permission. The letter was referred to the commissioner of public works and the city solicitor.

The St. John Hatcher asked for a renewal of the lease to property at Little River. This was referred to the commissioner of water and sewerage to report back.

The local branch of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters wrote asking if the council intends to take action in its request that the age limit for persons driving teams should be increased from sixteen to eighteen years. This matter was referred to Commissioner McLellan.

A letter was read from the N. B. Power Company regarding the action of W. E. Scully in fencing off a section of the city in advancing the New Brunswick Power Company the sum of \$14,119.14 during the recent strike.

Notice of motion of the issuing of twenty-year bonds at six per cent. for \$65,000 for the extension of the water system to East St. John was given before the council by the commissioner of finance.

Tenders for the repairing of the piling at the west side ferry boats were opened as follows: S. Herbert Mayes, \$460; R. R. Lee, \$800; Robert Roberts & Son, \$770. The council awarded the contract to S. Herbert Mayes, he having submitted the lowest tender.

The report of the commissioner of harbors, ferries and public lands was read and adopted as follows: Your commissioner recommends that leases be renewed as follows, upon the common clerk being satisfied that the several persons named are entitled thereto, namely:

Lot No. 24, Block D, Lancaster, to Jane McHarg for seven years from May 1, 1918, at \$10.50 per annum.  
Lot No. 25, Block D, Lancaster, to Charles Mullin for seven years from May 1, 1918, at \$10.50 per annum.  
Lot No. 23, Block D, Lancaster, to Charles Mullin for seven years from May 1, 1918, at \$10.50 per annum.

Your commissioner also recommends that the fee simple in Lot A adjoining Lot No. 601 in Guys Ward be sold to Miles E. Asar for the sum of \$250 and that deed be given him under the common seal.

Fell into Hozer Killed.

Quebec, Aug. 20.—W. Henderson, an electrical engineer, who came here from Toronto, last spring, died at the Jeffrey Hale's Hospital today as a result of an accident with which he met on the ship "War Mohawk." While crossing the harbor of the vessel he slipped and fell into the hold, a depth of thirty-one feet.

WANTED TO SEE IF ALCOHOL WOULD BURN

His Curiosity Caused \$112,000 Fire Destroying G. T. R. Property.

Ottawa, Aug. 20.—Inquisitiveness on the part of an employee of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, who applied a lighted match to a pool of alcohol "to see if it would burn" was responsible for the conflagration which occurred on Thursday last and wiped out the freight cars, offices and twenty-eight loaded and unloaded cars of the company with a total loss of \$112,000. This was brought out at the fire inquest conducted today. The inquest was adjourned till tomorrow afternoon.

RECENT DEATHS

Mrs. Sarah Flanagan of Richibucto died in Montreal last week. The body was brought from Montreal and interred in the Catholic cemetery in Richibucto.

The death of Miss Edith Long of Richibucto occurred on Sunday morning. Mrs. T. Longon of St. John is a sister.

W. J. Poupore of Montreal, ex-M. L. A., and ex-M. P. for Pontiac, died at his home yesterday. He was seventy-one years old. He was a large contractor.

Body in River.

Quebec, Aug. 20.—The body of an unknown man in working clothes was picked up from the river at Matane (Que.) and interred there. It was in an advanced state of decomposition.

The Back Aches

Possibly you do not realize that this indicates derangement of the kidneys. Neglect usually means the development of Bright's disease. You know how dreadfully painful and fatal that is. There is quick relief for the kidneys in the use of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. This medicine is known in the great majority of homes as the greatest of regulators.

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WANTED TO PURCHASE—GENTLEMEN'S cast off clothing, boots, musical instruments, jewelry, bicycles, guns, revolvers, tools, etc. Highest cash prices paid. Call or write L. Williams, 16 Dock street, St. John, N. B. Telephone 838-21.

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T. J. BROWN AGAIN HEAD OF NOVA SCOTIA STEEL

Sydney, N. S., Aug. 20.—T. J. Brown has been appointed to his former position of general superintendent of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company's operations at Sydney Mines. Notice to this effect signed by President D. H. McDougall were posted at the works today. Mr. Brown's position involves the superintendency of several large collieries and a steel plant.