

The Charlottetown Guardian

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FRIDAY JANUARY 4th 1918.

BEING AT WAR

We in Canada, and especially in Prince Edward Island, have as yet but a faint conception of what it means to be at war. The war has struck many homes, it is true; many of them with the icy hand, others with separation which leaves room for hope, but over all and with all there is the general feeling of business as usual, necessities, comforts, luxuries as usual.

We are not going to get through this crisis in this matter of fact way; we are not going to wholly escape the monster which is now grinding three fourths of the civilized world under its wheels. We too are in its track and it will be best for us, present and future, to cease worrying over any temporary inconveniences that may fall to us as the prelude to something much heavier that is likely to fall. If our railway and transportation facilities are not just as we would like to have them let us remember that there are causes back of our inconveniences which it is not seemly or even legitimate to discuss, much less to complain of. We are at war, at the outer fringe of it, it is true, but still at war, with our lives, our hopes, our property, our future and that of our children in the balance and dependent upon what we can do in serving, in saving, in encouraging and in carrying on.

The war has touched us but lightly in a material sense; we have not yet denied ourselves many of the luxuries, to say nothing of the necessities—and this while hundreds of thousands of people just as innocent as we as to the cause of the war are starving to death and enduring hardships, such as our wildest dreams could not picture to us.

Things possibly are not as they were in the normal times. We note that in the United States one railway company cancelled over a hundred trains on its lines and that not more than one parlor car will hereafter be permitted on any day train anywhere on the system, which caters to some of the largest and most populous cities in the whole country. These changes were made to clear the lines for freight traffic, traffic abnormally congested and abnormally necessitated because of the war. Similar conditions prevail in Canada although by no means to the same extent. Our necessity may be equally great but we have not, so far at least, been held down to the bare necessities. With the little inconveniences we should not complain. There is only one great thing in sight today—that is to win the war. Nothing else matters. We shall have inconveniences, delays in transportation, delays in mails coming and going. These are trifles in comparison and except when due to mismanagement or neglect, not to be complained of. The best possible is being done and it becomes all good citizens to accept things as they are, to go on helping, saving, enduring till the clouds break and peace returns.

THE WAR

Apart from the heavy fighting on the Italian front there is at present little that is new on the various war fronts. The Italians are holding their own and evidently inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

On the Western front the situation appears to be one of waiting rather than of serious fighting and the news of the past week or two has been merely cursory. According to our despatches of yesterday serious fighting is expected in this sector shortly.

The chief interest at present centres around the changes in the Admiralty. The retirement of Jellicoe is generally admitted to have resulted from the latest disaster in the North Sea when the German ships succeeded in getting away after sinking a number of merchantmen together with their armed convoys. There has been a feeling in England for some time past that the naval policy has not been as aggressive as the naval traditions would demand. Admiral Jellicoe, it is claimed, policed the seas successfully but made few arrests. The appointment of Sir Rosslyn Wemyss as First Sea Lord is expected to mean a more vigorous policy henceforth.

There have been several changes in the British Admiralty since the beginning of the war, each change acclaimed as heralding a more vigorous sea policy. British faith in the Navy is a British inheritance. The man in the street expected when war broke out that the first blow would be struck by the Navy and that that blow meant going into Kiel and smashing the whole German navy. Winston Churchill, it will be remembered, when he was First Lord of the Admiralty made what became the most popular remark in England when he said that if the German fleet would refuse to come out the British Navy would dig it out like rats. This digging out process was expected for some time afterwards. Later there came the attack on the Dardanelles which failed and faith in Winston Churchill failed with it.

When Sir Edward Carson was First Lord of the Admiralty Sir John Jellicoe was First Sea Lord, and the former summed up his own policy with regard to the Admiralty in the statement that he would not interfere with the professional experts, nor would he permit others to interfere with them. That this policy was a brilliant success was attested by Lloyd-George some time ago when he said that it was due to Sir Edward Carson that the submarine problem was being successfully grappled with. In fact, it was because Carson had succeeded in the Admiralty that he was made a member of the War Cabinet. A revival of submarine successes and the recent German raids upon a couple of convoys, and their British protectors, has led to a demand that another shift be made at the Admiralty.

Nobody in his senses expects the British navy to come through the war without some losses; the Germans must score sometime. It is probable that Sir David Beatty, commander of the Grand Fleet, has ideas as to how the navy should be handled that did not commend themselves to his superior, but were approved by Sir Eric Geddes. From the beginning of the war, almost, the British people have considered Beatty their greatest seaman; they will approve any changes that they believe have his sanction. Meanwhile the public will await anxiously the expected more aggressive policy and will hope that aggressiveness will not go beyond the limits of prudence.

PROHIBITION AMENDMENT

The original Order-in-Council prohibiting the importation of liquor into Canada defined the prohibited liquor as "any beverage or liquor containing more than two and one half per cent. of alcohol." It having been represented to the government that this definition, permitting a larger percentage of alcohol than is allowed under the restrictive liquor legislation of the several provinces, might cause difficulty in the administration of the law, the original regulation was amended to make it conform to the provincial legislation. In Prince Edward Island the maximum content of alcohol permitted to be sold was two per cent. This will be the maximum permitted to be imported under the present regulations.

TOLSTOY AND WELHELM

Have you, in your reading, come across Tolstoy's opinion of the kaiser? He called him a "narrow-minded, ill-educated, vain man, with the ideals of a German junker." Tolstoy continued: "When he says the army is to take no prisoners in China, but slaughter everybody he is not in a lunatic asylum, but people shout 'Hoch!' and set sail for China to execute his commands." When these opinions were translated into German the book was seized for lese majeste, and the edition was destroyed.—London Chronicle.

NOTES

Lord Rhondda says that tobacco is not a luxury, but a necessary. More things are necessary than those essential for the keeping of body and soul together.

An officer of the Montreal military staff says that he knows of three thousand men who have failed to report under the Military Service Act, and it is estimated there are 10,000. Montreal's contribution to the new army may be considerably larger than has been expected.

The most humorous development along the Eastern front is the threat of Austro-German prisoners in Russia to join Russian armies and fight the Prussian autocracy unless Russian "democratic" peace terms are accepted. Perhaps the Allies have been worrying too much about the return of Austro-German prisoners to their own countries. The atmosphere of a Russian revolution may be transportable.

BRAVE BELGIAN ARMY CARRIES ON

Don't let us forget Belgium just because we do not hear much about her army. Belgium continues to "carry on," and we are told that her spirit remains the same as it was in 1914. In some respects the case of the Belgian army is almost without parallel. It is said that never before has an army retained its morale with the enemy in possession of practically all its territory. From the beginning of the conflict there has never been a suggestion that Belgium would consent to a separate peace, although more than once Germany proposed that the quarrel between the two nations should be settled without further bloodshed. Occupying one of the worst pieces of the Western front the Belgian army continues doggedly to hold its ground. It is true that for some time there has not been much activity along the Belgian front, the encounters amounting to little more than trench raids. This is because the nature of the ground forbids anything decisive in a military way. The Belgian army can only move forward when the whole Allied line advances; when only give way when the whole line from the North Sea to Switzerland bends.

Against Superior Forces

The Belgian army, which remains about 160,000 strong, is holding in front of it 200,000 Germans. This gallant little army is kept recruited up to full strength. The wastage is made good, or more than made good, by calling to the colors the tens of thousands of Belgians who escaped to England or France in the early days of the war, and by the escape of Belgians through the electric-wire fence on the Holland border. In this connection it is said that the German authorities inflict terrible reprisals on the family of the Belgian who makes his escape, but undaunted by the knowledge, Belgians as they come to fighting age manage to make their way over neutral territory to their own army. Nothing inspires them more than the example set by King Albert. He and the Queen visit the Belgian front every day, and live only a few miles behind it. The devotion and courage of their sovereign has had a marked effect upon German morale from the first days when the country was overrun.

The Belgian Front

The Belgian line extends from Neport to Dixmude, a distance of 25 miles. It is a flat, low-lying country criss-crossed with dykes and canals in order to bar the German drive up along these canals were opened, and since then the country has been mostly submerged. The soldiers live like beavers, half under water most of the time; but they console themselves with the reflection that they are better able to support the attending discomforts than the Germans. Instead of trenches they use sandbags, which are brought to the front lines, sometimes by boat and sometimes over bridges, for bridges take the place of roads in this flooded area. Machine-guns and sometimes heavier artillery are placed on those points that rise above the surrounding water. Where the water is deep between the two lines, barbed-wire entanglements are placed. The activity consists chiefly of artillery duels and efforts of the opposing armies to destroy the enemy bridges. There is no room for tanks to work, no opportunity of general infantry advances and hand-to-hand encounters.

A Band of Brothers

Perhaps to no other army in the field do Henry's words, "We few, we faithful," apply so aptly as to the Belgian army.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

OLD-YEAR MEMORIES

Let us forget the things that vexed and tired us.
The worrying things that caused our souls to fret;
The hopes that, cherished long, were still denied us.
Let us forget.
Let us forget the little slights that pained us.
The greater wrongs that rattle sometimes yet;
The pride with which some lofty one disdained us.
Let us forget.
Let us forget our brother's fault and failing.
The yielding to temptation that beset.
That he perchance, through grief he unavailing,
Cannot forget.
But blessings manifold, past deserving.
Kind words and helpful deeds a countless throng.
The fault overcome, the rectitude unswerving.
Let us remember long.
The sacrifice of love, the generous giving.
When friends were few, the hand-clasp warm and strong;
The fragrance of each life of holy living.
Let us remember long.
Whatever things were good and true and gracious,
Whatever of right has triumphed over wrong.
What love of God or man has rendered precious.
Let us remember long.
So pondering well the lesson it has taught us,
We tenderly may bid the year "Good-bye."
Holding in memory the good it brought us,
Letting the evil die.

happy few, we band of brothers," apply more aptly than to Belgian soldiers. Happiness, alas! many of them may taste no more, but they have a mutual bond that other armies cannot claim. There is hardly one of them who has not a near relative, perhaps a mother or wife or children in Belgium, and under the control of the Germans. This constitutes a bond between officers and men that makes the Belgian army distinct from all others. As one writer expressed it: "There are too many ties of grief and the desire for vengeance binding the officer and the private for the two not to love and understand each other. The company and the regiment have become home to the Belgian army and it supplies to them the want which British homes and French homes do to the soldiers of those countries." Some of the Belgian soldiers have given up hope of reconquering their native land, but many of them indeed never expect again to see those dear to them who are now under German rule. Whether they hope or have ceased to hope it makes no difference in their fighting spirit.

Waiting for Vengeance.

Many of the Belgian troops have not been on "urlough" since the beginning of the war. They have no home to go to, and how can they be expected to enjoy themselves in Paris when so many are mourning murdered families, and others are racked with the pangs of dreadful uncertainty? It is said that shortly after the western front had settled down into the lines which it occupies generally speaking, three years and more, the Germans opposite the Belgians used to throw noise into their trenches recording the destruction of Belgian cities, the enslavement of the civilian population and the general destruction that the invading army carried in its train. The object was to discourage the Belgians. The practice had exactly the opposite effect and it was discontinued. Perhaps in no allied army does there exist that burning hatred for the enemy that fires the Belgian soldiers; none looms so passionately for the day to dawn when Germany will be made to drink to the bitter dregs the cup she has forced to the lips of civilization.

WAR MENUS

How to Save Wheat, Beef and Bacon for the men at the front. Issued from the Office of the Food Controller for Canada.

MENU FOR SATURDAY

Breakfast: Buckwheat Griddle Cakes, Syrup, Cornbread, Coffee.
Dinner: Baked Beans, Brown Bread, Baked Potato.
Supper: Scalloped Tomato, Bread, Tea, Stewed Prunes.
The recipes for Baked Beans, Brown Bread and Barley Bread, mentioned above, are as follows:
Brown Bread—2 cups Graham flour, 1 cup white flour, 2 cup molasses, 1 1/2 cups sweet milk, 3/4 teaspoon soda, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt.
Sift the flour, salt and soda. Add the molasses and the milk. Pour into well greased moulds and steam about three hours.
Barley Bread—4 1/2 cups wheat flour, 2 1/2 cups barley flour, 2 cups milk and water, or water, 1 cake compressed yeast, 2 tablespoons sugar, 2 tablespoons fat, 2 teaspoons salt.
Soften the yeast in part of the liquid. Combine all the ingredients, and mix into a dough. Knead and let rise to double its bulk. Knead again. Put into the pan, and when double its bulk bake about 3/4 of an hour. This recipe makes two loaves.

Baked Beans—Pick over the beans, cover with cold water and soak over night. In morning, drain, cover with fresh water, heat slowly (keeping water below boiling-point), and cook until skins burst. Drain beans, throwing out the water. Put into a bean pot a few pieces of salt pork cut into cubes. Cover with the beans, and add 1 tablespoon of salt, 1 tablespoon of molasses, 2 tablespoons of sugar. For every quart of dry beans used, add 1 cup of boiling water, and as they cook add more boiling water to cover. Cover the bean pot, put it in the oven and bake slowly six or eight hours, or cook in a fireless cooker. Some prefer to add a little mustard.
Wheat and most saving recipes by Domestic Science Experts of the Canadian Food Controller's Office)

Clearance Sale of Winter Goods

Boys' Tweed Suits—In Brown and Dark Grey, 97¢ for \$8.75
Boys' Pants—Grey Tweed, \$1.00 for 85¢
A'lo boys' Brown Corduroy of the very best quality less 20 p. c.
Sweaters—All kinds less 15 p. c.
Flanellette—Yard wide 22c for 18¢
Ladies' Cloth Coats—All left in stock to clear less 20 p. c.
Child's Waterproof Capes—\$3.75 and \$4.00 clearing price..... \$2.85
Furs—Some real good sets left will sell at a big discount.
Boys' Overcoats—Colors Mixed Tweed and Grey \$9.00 for..... \$6.75
Boys' and Men's Overalls—Boys, black only; Men's, blue, Stripe, less 15 p. c.
Men's Black Socks—Good weight 35c for..... 25¢
Men's working Pants—Heavy Mixed Tweed all wool double and twisted \$4.50 for \$3.90
Dark Grey all wool \$3.50 for \$3.00
Very best in Corduroy \$4.50 for \$3.85
Flanellette Remnants—White and Grey, worth 20c selling at 16c
Overstocked in Table Linen—Will sell part of stock now on hand at less than present wholesale price.
We trust our customers and those who are not as yet Customers may have a happy and prosperous New Year.

L. J. REDDIN

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The Army and Navy Veterans In Canada

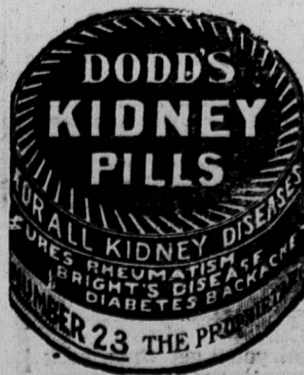
A meeting of all officers, N.C.O's and men, belonging to or who have belonged to any of the Naval and Military Forces of the Empire is called to meet on January 4th, at 1 p.m. in the City Court Room, for the purpose of organizing a branch of "The Army and Navy Veterans in Canada" for P. E. I.

We would request that as many as possible returned men and old Militiamen attend this meeting.

Militiamen with six years Militia Service are eligible for membership

D. STEWART, Lt.-Col.
C. LEIGH, Major
F. McRAE, Major
J. W. STANLEY, Major

1917-13-3M21.



COLD WEATHER FOOT-WEAR

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