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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1916

ONE CENT PER COPY

GREAT BRITAIN LIKELY SOON TO TAKE OVER LIQUOR TRADE

Germany's Desire for Peace Due to Waning Strength

New Tactical Methods of the Allies Inflict Greater Losses On the Defenders Than Are Suffered by the Attackers--- Superiority of British Infantry.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Hilaire Belloc, the military critic, in a forthcoming detailed review of the war in 1916, attributes Germany's anxiety for peace to an exhaustion of her effectives, a result of the new tactical method adopted by the Allies, which inflicts by local offensives greater losses upon the defence than are suffered by the attacking Allied troops.

"This exhaustion is the whole cause of the enemy's desire for peace," Mr. Belloc writes. "For every sixty-five men the enemy now has in action, inclusive of field depots and service armies, but exclusive of men in uniform working behind the armies and useless from a military viewpoint, the enemy sees drafts of about twenty to supply the wastage between this season and the late part of next summer. This is grossly insufficient."

"The Allies, on the other hand, see indefinitely larger reserves of human material, and munitions and equipment."

Colonel F. N. Maude, in a review of the war soon to be published, declares that the Allies are in a better position to insist upon their superiority than are the Germans.

Allies' Artillery and Air Power Are Now Regarded as Superior to Those of the Enemy

"Three vital points have been gained by us in our efforts during the past year," he says. They are, first, the definite ascendancy of our artillery and air power, which together enable us to create conditions favorable for infantry attacks. Second, the superior morale of our infantry, which can be relied upon to carry and hold the positions opposed to it. Finally, our staff has now gained experience and seems so thoroughly at home in new conditions that it is to the last degree improbable that we shall ever hear again of reinforcements failing to reach the fighting line at a critical time.

"Certainly we have had to buy our experience at heavy cost, but the consolation remains that it is nothing compared with what the enemy has expended without obtaining equivalent advantages."

The New Emperor of Austria is Reported As Very Eager to Secure a Treaty of Peace

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Recent reports received here from Switzerland have represented the internal conditions in Austria-Hungary as so serious that those governments are prepared to negotiate directly with Great Britain and France, preferring a humiliating peace to what has been termed inevitable bankruptcy and ruin.

The Morning Post's Budapest correspondent, writing Dec. 22, records opinions to the foregoing effect as being prevalent in some quarters in Austria-Hungary, but in no wise confirms the view that they are favored by the Austrian and Hungarian governments. On the contrary, the correspondent contends that however much a separate peace may be desired, it is almost unthinkable and certainly for the present impossible. He concurs with the Swiss reports as far as saying that the young Emperor is eager to work for peace.

"It is generally recognized," says the correspondent, "that the Emperor, after he has been crowned King of Hungary and taken the oath to the constitution in the Austrian parliament, will try to re-establish peace."

LOOKS LIKE AN AIR RAID.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A special despatch from Amsterdam to the Times says: "Heavy firing at Zeebrugge yesterday indicated another air raid on the German submarine base. The Telegraaf's frontier correspondent states that a squadron of airmen appeared above Zeebrugge at 11.30 and remained until past midday. The people in the vicinity heard exploding bombs and observed soldiers subjected to a British bombardment on the coast near Zeebrugge."

BIG ORDERS FOR SHELLS COMING TO CANADA

New York, Dec. 29.—British munition orders amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars are being placed with Canadian manufacturers, according to information obtained in banking quarters yesterday. It was learned that within the last few days an order for shells larger than the biggest contract placed in this country last year, had been lodged with the Montreal Locomotive Co., Ltd. An estimate on this order was between \$175,000,000 and \$200,000,000.

Steel manufacturers have known for several months that few more orders for completed shells would come to the United States, but it was not a matter of general knowledge that Canada was slated to take up a vast part of the work.

WORLDLY WISDOM.

Men grow older with age and sometimes less foolish.

When a husband comes home with a perfectly convincing excuse, he is usually chagrined to discover that his wife can listen so much faster than he can talk that she can tell him the end of the story before he has reached the middle.

Courtship is expensive, marriage is more so, and alimony—well, that's the limit!

MR. F. ST. JOHN BLISS PASSED AWAY EARLY THIS MORNING

Died From Self Inflicted Bullet Wound Shortly After One O'clock---A Shortage of About \$1100 Reported in His Accounts.

Fred St. John Bliss, Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipality of York County, and Judge of Probate, passed away at one o'clock this morning as the result of shooting himself through the head with a revolver shortly after noon yesterday.

Death probably was due to hemorrhage, as it is thought the bullet severed the temporal artery. Appearances indicate that the deceased held the weapon in his left hand when he discharged it. The bullet passed through the front of the skull, emerging at the left temple.

Inquest Tonight.

Dr. B. M. Mullin, coroner, empanelled a jury, Deputy Sheriff Timmins acting as constable. The jury is composed of the following:

John C. Allen, M. L. Stevenson, Peter Farrell, J. Fred Ryan, E. C. Barry, A. C. Fleming, G. F. Wilkes.

Mr. Barry was elected foreman, and the remains were viewed in the Sheriff's office at the Court House, in which the deceased was when he attempted his life. Coroner Mullin announced that an inquest would be held at eight o'clock tonight in the Court House.

Motive for the Deed.

In ascribing a motive for the desperate deed of the late County Secretary-Treasurer, rumor has touched upon various things. Financial trouble has been one.

Warden E. W. Stairs, who arrived from Southampton at noon today, was asked by a reporter of the Mail concerning this report.

Warden Stairs had just been in conference with Mr. George E. Armstrong, County Auditor, and replied that a shortage amounting to something less than \$1,100 had been found in the accounts of the deceased. The shortage had appeared in a very recent period, and had been discovered by the County Auditor.

The late Mr. Bliss had become aware of the discovery of Mr. Armstrong. This evidently prompted him to self-destruction.

To Secure Assistant.

Coun. Alex. Brewer, of Douglas, also came to the city today in connection with the tragedy at the Court House. The committee on the Secretary-Treasurer's Accounts, which is the committee of the Municipal Council dealing with matters of finance, is meeting this afternoon for the purpose of considering what action is to be taken.

An acting secretary-treasurer, who will assist the County Auditor in preparing the accounts for the meeting of the Municipal Council next week, is to be appointed. Mrs. W. G. Glenn, who was deputy secretary-treasurer for a number of years, is mentioned as the probable appointee.

Warden Stairs interviewed her today in connection with the matter.

The deceased secretary-treasurer was bonded with a guarantee company which will be called upon to make good whatever shortage exists.

Profound Shock to Community.

The attempt of the late Mr. Bliss upon his life caused a profound shock in both city and county when it became known last evening, as he was a man who through his official position was widely known.

Almost up to the time that he committed the deed he seemed to attend to the routine of his office in the ordinary manner. One of his last acts was to forward to the press for publication a notice that the meeting of the Municipal Council would not open (Continued on page 5.)

THINKS THE ALLIES SHOULD PUT FORTH A GREATER EFFORT

Military Correspondent of the London Times Makes a Plea---Changes Must Be Affected Before the Allies Can Say They are Winning the War.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Times military correspondent today makes a plea for greater effort in the war. He contends that although the French are still strong, their reserves are less numerous than could be wished for. Russia, he adds, will bring new armies into the field in 1917, but their usefulness depends on their being provided with heavy guns, airplanes and mechanical transports, while Russia's poor railway systems and other causes point to the necessity of not exaggerating what Russia can do.

Italy, says the correspondent, cannot easily increase her forces appreciably. After admitting that Great Britain has done a big share in the work at sea and financed and equipped the Entente Allies, the correspondent continues:

Germany's Reserves Enabled Her to Conduct Roumanian War Without Disaster in West

"There are a number of changes to be effected before we can say we are winning the war. Germany met us in the autumn with twenty-seven new divisions, and thereby secured a strategic reserve which enabled her to conduct the campaign in Roumania without disaster in the west."

"We must not only counter dispositions of this character in time, but must be beforehand in the future. The reserves of manhood in the British Isles and the Dominions are ample for thirty divisions, to expand munition works and to meet all the legitimate demands of the navy, the home defence and air services. Nearly 4,000,000 men of military age are still in civil life. The limit of age liability is still far below the German standard, and no answer has yet been made to the German auxiliary service act."

No Longer Possible to Think of Winning The Great Struggle by Half Measures

"What is needed is vigor in the government, and a single-minded determination to win the war. We have a larger reserve of manhood than Germany and the annual contingents of youths in France and England together are greater than the annual contingents in Germany."

"It is no longer possible to think of winning the war by half measures. The new Premier should state to the country the measures necessary for victory, and stand or fall by them with the courage we know him to possess."

GREAT BRITAIN MAY TAKE OVER DRINK TRADE

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The purchase of the drink trade in Great Britain by the state is believed to be imminent, says the Daily Express today. "The matter has been closely considered by the liquor control board during the past fortnight," continued the newspaper. "Several members of the board have long advocated the purchase and the change in the government has brought a renewal of the argument."

Lloyd George Favors It.

The Express quotes Sir Thomas Whittaker, member of parliament, as saying that David Lloyd George, the Premier, is known to favor the step, while several of the Unionist ministers are understood to agree with him. Sir Thomas says he believes a bill calling for the purchase would pass the Houses without difficulty.

Sir Thomas Whittaker was chairman of the committee that advocated purchase in 1915, when the cost of the plan was estimated at between £250,000,000 and £300,000,000.

Since then, however, the government has interfered drastically with the production of spirits.

The Daily Express asserts that further great restrictions in the manufacture and sale of alcohols are certain in the immediate future, whether or not the purchase plan is put into effect.