

## THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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W. E. HOBSON, Business Manager. J. D. HENRY, Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1917.

## UNITED STATES TO SAVE SHIPPING SITUATION

According to a writer in the American Review of Reviews, the German submarine campaign is sinking ships twice as fast as they are being built, and this has reduced England's commercial imports almost two-thirds. As one result of the reduction in the world's shipping, people in Paris are talking of \$150-a-ton coal this winter, and the French government, the other day, paid 375,000 pounds sterling for a ship which ten years ago sold for 32,000 pounds sterling. By all the rules of good shipping conduct, this vessel is now only ready for breaking up, yet this piece of floating junk, which sold for \$160,000 in middle age ten years ago now brings \$1,800,000 so hard pressed are the Allies.

The United States are now looked to as a means of making good submarine depletion, and, in order to meet the situation, a standard type of vessel has been designed so as to render possible the making of parts at different points and assembling these at shipyards constructed for the purpose. The pieces are to be made hither and yon, sent to these assembling yards, put together quickly like dollar watches or Ford cars, which are built more than two to the minute.

It is proposed to draft unskilled labor for the purpose of assisting in the work of construction. Farm labor from the South, largely idle in the winter, is to be drawn upon. It is said that every five farms in the region could release at least three men from November 15 or December 1, to April 1, and next year's food production would be in nowise reduced thereby. If it comes to the worst, the Americans can do as the French have done, and get Chinese. They could, it is believed, get 3,000,000 of these at moderate wages. It is also proposed, as in England, to commandeer the nation's iron supply. In England, steel is going to the three purposes of munitions, warships, merchantships, and the necessary repair-work to keep the nation afloat.

What the Americans can do was shown recently by the launching of a 10,200-ton tanker in three months and three days from the laying of the keel.

## STANDARDIZED AEROPLANES

Standardization as a means of facilitating production, is being applied by the Americans to aeroplane construction as well as shipbuilding. There are in England forty-seven different varieties of aviation engines, about fifty in France, and at least thirty in America. Germany has five. The United States is now seeking to get down to one common type. This means that it must be built according to the most precise specifications as to material, methods of machining, inspection, and dimensions of parts. The cylinders made in Toledo will be exactly like the cylinders made in Hartford; nuts produced in Dayton will fit the threads of bolts produced in Providence.

Speaking of one vast difference between automobile and aeroplane engines, the American Review of Reviews says that an automobile engine is cast in a mold; an airplane engine is machined. A solid block of the finest steel must be tediously bored out hour after hour until at last a cylinder is left with a wall measuring in thickness but a few hundredths of an inch. Thus are lightness and strength secured.

The engine itself is pared down until it weighs scarcely more than three pounds for each horsepower developed. Because the whole structure of a flying machine is so deliberately frail, because no solid foundation can be supplied, the vibration is unendurable. It speaks well for the airplane builder that his engine is not literally shaken to pieces. An automobile manufacturer is not haunted with such mechanical terrors. He can build as heavily and substantially as he pleases. And that he does so please is proven by his engines, which weigh over thirteen pounds to the horsepower. Engines must be saved in the construction of a fighting biplane. The fastest machines thus far built have a wing-spread of about twenty-five feet. Everything is sacrificed to the engine; for in a fight at 20,000 feet, life and vic-

tory depend on speed and maneuvering ability. Hence, we find engines of 160 horsepower on fighting planes, snail-like in size. The factor of safety is reduced to the danger point; the machine is stripped of everything that can be spared. Five thousand dollars is the price of a good engine; yet it must be rebuilt at the end of perhaps seventy hours, although it has been made as painstakingly as the finest Swiss chronometer.

## WHY GERMANS SUBMIT TO THE KAISER.

Two American writers have made statements which render it possible to understand in some measure why it is that the German people have submitted themselves so unreservedly to the rule of a military caste. One of these is the late Andrew D. White, at one time American Minister in Berlin, and the other Mr. Gerard, United States Ambassador to Germany before the entry of the United States into the war. Mr. White says in his book "Seven Great Statesmen," that Bismarck on one occasion informed him that for 300 years all of Bismarck's ancestors on both sides had fought the French. In practically all these wars, too, the Germans were on the defensive, and during the course of the wars practically every square mile of German territory drank German blood drawn by French bayonets.

Evidently with this in mind Ex-Ambassador Gerard, in his "Four Years in Germany," says that Germany was for so many centuries a theatre of devastating wars that fear is bred into the very marrow of their souls. The mass of the Germans, in consenting to the great sacrifice entailed by their enormous preparations for war, have been actuated by fear. I am convinced that the fear of war, induced by hereditary instinct, caused the mass of Germans to become the tools and dupes of those who played upon this very fear in order to create a military autocracy.

A still more significant statement in Gerard's book is this:

"From the days when the patricians of Rome forced the people into war whenever the people showed a disposition to demand their rights, autocracies have always turned to war as the best antidote against the spirit of democracy."

## FOR THE HONOR OF CANADA.

It is to be hoped, as the authorities in charge of the military service act believe, that there will soon be a reaction from the present rush to claim exemptions. It is to be understood that a great deal of exemption claiming may have been caused by the force of example. Many men have claimed exemption, never hoping to receive it, but anxious that they shall not be taken when another man with no more just claim has filed his appeal.

The call for men comes just as insistently, and may be answered with quite as fine a sense of duty as before the act came into force. The path of glory lies open to the drafted man today as it lay before the man who rushed to volunteer. The latter has blazed a shining trail for those more tardy, but entering upon it, the men of the chosen army will find the inspiration of the immortal heroes of Ypres, Langemarck, Hill 60, Courcellette and Vimy Ridge.

The drafted man may think of himself as a conscript. Yet if he is free to give his life to the cause, he may enter the service with great honor. The men who are waiving exemption today stand out in heroic contrast to those who simply take the attitude—"My country—to hell with it!"

All true Canadians want the men at the front backed up. The law is now in force and the spirit of it, as well as the letter of it, should be obeyed. Canada owes it to the men from every shop and counting-room to fill the vacant places. In this war to end the curse of war, democracy should pledge its last drop of blood. And Canada has a great score that must be wiped out for the country's sake.

Poor Old Bill he left this place, With smoking gun and smiling face, But Bill won't mind if some good chap Will step right up and fill the gap.

The 10,000 who fell at Ypres are still calling to the boys of the home team. The grim struggle calls all to duty. The man who steps up and waives his exemption claim is answering that call. And if ever men had the joy of an inspired moment, it will be to say, "I'm ready!"

## EXEMPTIONS FOR FARMERS.

The statements by military authorities regarding the service of farmers under the act are not the same statements as those made by political candidates. The general allowance of "man-and-a-half" to a farm statement does not agree with the general exemption promises made at two recent political conventions.

At the meeting of South Essex Conservatives on Wednesday last, John Godfrey, K.C., of Toronto, "took occasion to reassure the agriculturists that the new draft would not be

inimical to their interests."

At the East Middlesex Conservative convention on Saturday last, Mr. S. Frank Glass, Conservative candidate, made the following statement:

"Since the war began 45,000 farmers have gone to the war. That is too great a number. We could use them now and 30,000 more. If there had been military service from the beginning, these farmers would never have gone. The military tribunals can now be appealed to, and they will decide where the farmers are best fitted to serve. You can demand exemption papers without a medical examination."

Any farmer who was worried about the prospect of losing sons through the military service act would no doubt have taken this statement as an assurance that no men employed on farms would be required. Mr. Glass was of the opinion that the country needed not only the 45,000 farmers who have gone to the war, but 30,000 more to supply the agricultural needs of the country. The statement of Mr. Godfrey, while not so sweeping, is calculated to allay the fears of the farmers. Some day when these promises are being made by over-enthusiastic politicians, some farmer may arise and say, "Don't intimate that we are anxious to shirk our duty. We want no exemption excepting that which serves the country's best interests."

The farmer's exemption is not to be made of an all-embracing character. This has been made plain in a statement issued by the military authorities. Each appeal is to be carefully investigated, and a certain standard adopted for the man power required for each hundred acres. The exemption is not to be given simply because a man designates himself as "farmer," and this is as it should be.

## POTATOES AND PROFITS

Prices of potatoes seem none too inclined to shoot downward, in spite of greater production in the towns and cities. Reasons are obvious. Other prices are high. The machinery of food distribution has been developed by profiteers. That was pointed out by this paper in 1911 as a certain result to be expected from a rule by Borden and the Toronto financiers.

The farmers, somewhat isolated and organizing with difficulty, have little chance against the organized market control. The farmers as a rule make poor profits for the amount of hard labor and intelligence which they devote to their calling. Many an amateur "patriot" in the towns is learning this year how much it is worth to him in time and money to grow with his own hands the winter's store of tubers. He dug and hoed, and sprayed for bugs and blight, and in this mean, unusual fall season is experiencing the joys of gathering in the precious spuds from their mudholes, heaving up the rain-sodden, sticky earth, sorting the sound from the rot-touched, and hauling in the bagfuls, none too numerous, to a dark corner of the cellar. The city amateur in this grim game reaches out a horny hand to his country brother, congratulates him on his infinitely greater efforts and wishes him a larger share of the financial proceeds than the sharks have hitherto let him have.

By kid-gloved people farmers are accused of stinginess. They don't give good wages for hired men and fruit-pickers. Doubtless if they could see their way to more profit by giving high wages, they would pay with a will. But if the profits of increased production are to be largely filched away from them, or if the prices set by the food ring for the consumers are to be such as to diminish consumption, why produce more?

So population has drifted away from the farms in this province because more money could be made in the towns for less labor. The time is more than ripe for a change. If farmers and consumers do not rise in a concerted

fury against the buccaneers, the Canadian electorate will be as flabby as a wet dishcloth. It will be "pigeon-livered and lack gall to make oppression bitter." If it tamely endures the whips and scorns of profiteering. But it won't.

Is Sir Sam's driving power to be utilized to drive Borden out of power?

Ontario has again sent a message full of hope and cheer to the British Red Cross.

German cities along the Rhine are expecting reprisal air raids, and it would be a pity to disappoint them.

German children must go to bed at 4 p.m. and not rise before 10 a.m. Some Canadians will fail to see any hardship in that.

Would it not be permissible to allow Sir Joseph Flavelle to deduct the amount of campaign subscription from the profits of the William Davies Company?

Possibly those people in Buffalo who had a million pounds of sugar cached were loudest in their cry of: "To hell with war profits," adding, "and the consuming public" to the phrase.

Sidney Low, writing in the London Chronicle in the light of the Italian disaster, says: "Russia may soon be virtually out of the war, and if Italy were to go out too, America's help may come too late to prevent that drawn or negotiated peace which for us means defeat. If Cadorna cannot stay the rush he may be compelled to withdraw across the Po and leave all Lombardy and Piedmont to the mercy of the invader. That, however, will not happen, for the reason that before this stage is reached Italy will have made peace. It is well to speak plainly."

Writing in this month's American Review of Reviews, Frank H. Simonds, considered one of the leading military authorities of the United States, mentioned the fact that Gen. Cadorna, alone of all the national commanders who entered the war, remained at the head of a national army, and declared that Joffre of the Marne and Petain of Verdun. Last week's disaster may, however, send Cadorna into retirement along with Grand Duke Nicholas, von Kluk, French and Joffre and the disaster, occurring almost in a night, may overshadow achievements that come as the result of long months of unwarlike effort.

## THE MAN OF MONS.

Alf is old as a soldier goes. With hair that is rapidly turning grey. Ever since Mons he has strayed our toes. In his cool, calm, methodical way. He learned to shoot on a Surrey range. His aim is steady and quick and true. "Bombs," says Alf, "are good for a change. But it's the rifle will pull you through."

Lads who have scarcely been out a year. These are to Alf but as untrained boys. The name of Mills to their hearts is dear. And they won't be happy without their toys. "Not," says Alf, "that they're much to blame, Bred in a trench, as one might say. But when it comes to the open game. It's the well-aimed bullet that wins the day."

With his cheek to the stock he will cuddle down. While the swatches of the Hun as grass are mown; At a burst of rapid into the brown. Alf is a Lewis gun on his own. "Clean her and oil her and keep her neat. She's a wonder," says Alf, "when she gets her chance. She stood by our boys in the great retreat; She will do the same in the great advance."

—Touchstone.

in the Province. But we know now that it was none of them. It was what do you suppose? Nothing less than a "nest of" pro-German French priests who had come to Lower Canada upon their expulsion from France! Yes, sir, pro-German French priests! How the late lamented Mr. Barnum would have liked to secure a specimen! It would have been the star attraction of the greatest show on earth. Who has ever seen one? Who, but for Sir Sam's opportune disclosure, could have imagined he was even possible? The French priests that we know in actual life, who came to Canada when their own Government drove them forth from their homes, almost scandalized us here by their alacrity in responding to the call of that Government to take up arms in its defence. The spectacle of a priest engaged in slaughter is so repulsive to the Catholic mind that, despite the release from the positive law of the church granted them, many of us thought they should have availed themselves of the freedom which their cruel expulsion had given them. But they did not. They rushed back to France, fought in the trenches and died in great numbers for the land that they loved so dearly. All the world but Sir Sam Hughes, who assures us that all the while they were a nest of pro-Germans, and that it was they that contaminated Quebec! By all means let us have a library of startling disclosures by Sir Sam!—Catholics Register, Toronto.

## BLIGHTY CORNER

I have spent an afternoon in Blighty Corner in the heart of Paris, a place where Canadian, Australian and New Zealand soldiers who cannot return to the real Blighty for their ten days' leave from the trench find a warm welcome, "mother's teas" served by the wives of their colonels, majors and captains, bright music, healthy amusement and the facilities of an excellent club. And all for nothing.

This Foyer du Soldat Anglais is conducted by Miss Butler, Corner of Blighty, A.P.O. S.S. B.E.F. is supported by voluntary contributions and requires assistance; and so highly is it appreciated by the men from overseas that in addition to their voluntary contributions when they visit the place, they are making a collection in the trenches.

"My visit has given me much pleasure," wrote the Prince of Wales, who signed his name alongside the names of private; and when the Duke of Connaught turned up one afternoon, the cheers of the Canadian soldiers who fought on Vimy Ridge were so lusty as to offend the delicate ears of some of the residents of a fashionable hotel in the Place Vendôme. There was a complaint, "You are authorized to make as much noise as you please," was the reply of the police officer. "The British were not told to make less noise when they blew up the mines at Messines."—London Daily News.

## THE SINN FEIN PRIESTS

Owing to the fact that hundreds of the younger Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland are Sinn Féiners, it has been found impossible to get the number of Roman Catholic chaplains that are required for the soldiers of the faith in France and Salonika.

Cardinal Logue has written a letter to the Irish Catholic, a Dublin newspaper, stating that there is a deficiency of 93 chaplains in France and that 80 are needed in Salonika. He says that while this is the state of affairs he is helpless to apply a remedy, and regrets that he is not young enough to perform a chaplain's duties himself.

This reflection upon the loyalty of the young Roman Catholic priests in Ireland, comes not from an Orangeman, but from a Roman Catholic cardinal, whose position makes him an authority on such a question. It is illuminating of the situation in Ireland. The young priests would rather stay at home and incite rebellion than go to the front and relieve what Cardinal Logue describes as the "moral destitution of the Roman Catholic troops."

In any case it is undoubtedly the fact that these young clergymen of the Roman Catholic church, by fermenting and keeping alive the rebelious spirit among the Roman Catholics of Ireland, are rendering a service of great value to the enemy. One result of their activity is to keep a force of English and Scotch soldiers in Ireland numbering somewhere between 150,000 and 200,000 men. If Ireland were loyal, these men would be released for service at the front, but the treasonable activity of a few hundred priests in Ireland, makes it impossible for Britain to throw her whole weight against the Germans. Their anxiety for the salvation of the souls of the Roman Catholic troops does not equal their anxiety to give aid and comfort to the enemy.—Orange Sentinel.

## Opinions From Our Contemporaries

## SIR SAM MAKES DISCLOSURES

It is devoutly to be hoped that Sir Sam Hughes will put at the disposal of a waiting world the vast store of inside information of which he is the sole and secret repository. A few occasional tidbits from the vast store invariably whets the public appetite. Through the columns of a newspaper in his old home town of Lindsay, a few days ago, he drew aside for a moment the veil that hides the treasures of his knowledge from ordinary mortals; and as usual, he has made us keenly apprehensive of the calamity that would overtake our Dominion if the Angel of Death were inconsiderately to bear him away with all his secrets untold. Can not the tens and tens of thousands

of people who, according to himself, have been vainly appealing to him to put himself at the head of affairs in Canada and save this great Dominion—especially the Conservative party—from the bow-wows, make an effort and prevail upon him to write, in the brief space that will be his in the ordinary course of nature, a few score volumes on the secret history of Canada?

It is true that some of the most secret facts might, in the event of his too sudden taking off, be laboriously gathered from the membership of the whole rural Orange Lodges to which tradition says, the future King of Canada was wont to whisper them as the imperative needs of prospective polling might from time to time demand. The world might possibly

even in that sad event, be saved from the danger of never ascertaining the fact that Canada once narrowly escaped the sword of fate or having the Pope settled upon the banks of the Rideau canal. But the prospect of picking these facts from oral tradition would be long and laborious. Will not the ex-minister of militia see that Canadians are spared the alternative of so wearisome a search or so startling a loss of information?

But for his fortunate decision to enlighten us in the present instance, how should we ever have known what had gone wrong with Quebec? The unenlightened might continue to believe that among the complex causes of that situation there were to be found such circumstances as the neglect of a certain incomparable military genius, and some of his predecessors, to promote the Militia in that Province, his personal hostility to the chief military man among the French-Canadians, and such adroitness as the selection of a Methodist minister for chief recruiting officer