

WEEKLY SUN

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THE NEW YEAR

We have now entered upon another year, a year, judging by the happenings taking place in Europe, destined to be one of the most important in the world's history.

The British Empire is taking no small part in the war, and according to every present indication, is destined to take a still greater part before it is ended.

One year ago the world was enjoying - if such a term can be used - an uneasy peace; today we are once again where we were hundreds of years ago, with Europe once more ravished by a despoiler of civilization.

While every true Canadian will devoutly pray that the present year will bring a speedy conclusion to the awful conflict in Europe, peace will be desired only after the defeat of the ruthless foe who has ignored every solemn treaty and has drenched Europe with blood.

Canada has shouldered the responsibilities of conflict with the full knowledge of its cause. Months have passed since this Dominion sent her first soldiers to fight for the Motherland, but there has been no change in the resolve to see the fight through, let the cost be what it may.

A COMMENDABLE STAND

Taking the stand that on account of the fact that considerable money and labor has already been expended preparing for the winter fair, and that large numbers of farmers and breeders throughout the West have devoted no small amount of time and trouble in getting their exhibits into shape for the fair, the directors of the Manitoba Winter Fair and Fat Stock Show have decided that the fair must be held this winter, let the result be what it may.

While there will doubtless be many of the opinion that on account of the

war, and the consequent need for money along other lines, the fair should not have been held this year, even those people must admit that the decision arrived at by the directors of the fair is one which should commend itself to every right-thinking person, and one which, had it been the reverse, would have done irreparable injury to the big mid-winter gathering.

In deciding to shoulder the responsibility of holding the fair as usual this year, the directors have displayed their determination to keep their word with the hundreds of exhibitors who make the winter fair one of the most important events of the year. The "business as usual" slogan has been adopted throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire. It has been adopted in order to keep things running along their natural courses. This is evidently the motto of the directors of the winter fair.

FRANCO-BRITISH AVIATORS

A correspondent who has been on the firing line in France and Belgium says that he has seen many British and French aeroplanes which had so many bullet holes in the planes as to make them look more like worn-out targets than wings. He says the British and French airmen have been wonderfully effective, and that their losses have been light when the risks they undergo are considered.

Scouting by means of aeroplanes has, of course, materially changed the character of modern warfare, but this correspondent says that an almost equally important work done by the airmen has been that of directing artillery fire. Even in daylight, colored fire sticks dropped from the left or right side of an aeroplane several thousand feet in the air and midway between the lines, tell the artillerymen whether their shells are going over their target or too short, or too much to the right or left.

The wireless telephone is also used by the flying corps to some extent. The aeroplane, this writer says, can send messages by this means but cannot receive any, as the receiving station is operated by a current from batteries and not from a motor driven by gasoline. He says that the British and French airmen have been remarkably successful in making "low flights" to locate concealed batteries and getting away without being shot down. It is everywhere agreed that the artillery of the British and French has

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From what he saw at the front this correspondent says the German airmen have very fast machines, but are not so enterprising as those of the allies. The English and French attack the enemies' aeroplanes with their own machines as soon as they are within reach, but the Germans depend mainly upon their aero guns rather than on attacking aeroplanes with aeroplanes. The Germans, however, excel in night flying, which the correspondent believes to be due to the fact that they have had more practice at night than the allies. Thus far in the war the most thrilling and effective work in the air has been done by the Royal Flying Corps (British), and if the day comes when the Germans decide to bring a fleet of their large dirigibles into play, the daring and resource of this British corps may be tested to the utmost. It is characteristic of them that they are eager for a test of strength.

THE PRICE OF PEACE

"The Work of Iron" is the subject of the last of the series of lectures (delivered in 1858 and 1859) which Ruskin collected and published in his book, "The Two Paths." There he says that the first power of a nation consists in knowing how to guide the plough; the second in knowing how to wear the letter; that is, the necessary restraint of law; and the third in knowing how to wear the sword. Referring to the last of these three powers, he has this to say on peace and war:

"Both peace and war are noble or ignoble, according to their kind and occasion. No man has a profounder sense of the horror and guilt of ignoble war than I have; I have personally seen its effects, upon nations, or unmitigated evil, on soul and body, with perhaps as much pity, and as much bitterness of indignation, as any one of those whom you will hear continually declaiming in the cause of peace. But peace may be sought in two ways. One way is as Gideon sought it, when he built his altar in Ophrah, naming it, 'God send peace,' yet sought this peace that he loved, as he was ordered to seek it, and the peace was sent in God's way: 'the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon, and the other way of seeking peace is as Menahem sought it, when he gave the king of Assyria a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him.'"

"That is, you may either win your

peace or buy it; win it, by resistance to evil - buy it, by compromise with the evil. You may buy your peace with silenced consciences - you may buy it, with broken vows - buy it, with lying words - buy it, with base connivances - buy it, with the blood of the slain and the cry of the captive, and the silence of lost souls - over hemispheres of the earth, while you sit smiling at your serene hearths, listening comfortable prayers evening and morning, and counting your pretty Protestant beads (which are not, and of gold, instead of round, and of ebony, as the monks' ones were), and so mutter continually to yourselves, 'Peace, peace, when there is no peace; but only captivity and death, for you, as well as for those you leave unavared; and yours darker than theirs.

"I cannot utter to you what I would do in this matter; we all see too dimly, as yet, what our great world-duties are, to allow any of us to try to outline their enlarging shadow. But think over what I have said, and as you return to your quiet homes to-night, reflect that their peace was not won for you by your own hands, but by theirs who long ago jeopardized their lives for you, their children; and remembered that neither this inherited peace, nor any other, can be kept, but through the same jeopardy. No peace was ever won from 'ally by subterfuge or agreement; no peace is ever in store for any of us but that which we shall win by victory over shame and sin - victory over the sin that oppresses, as well as over that which corrupts.

"For many a year to come the sword of every righteous nation must be whetted to save or subdue; nor will it be by patience of others' suffering, but by the offering of your own; that you will draw ever nearer to the time when the great change shall pass upon the iron of the earth; when men shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; neither shall they learn war any more."

THE CANCER IN WORLD POLITICS

Hon. Arthur Meighen, solicitor-general, has been delivering in Western Canada, and more recently in Ontario, a series of able and powerful addresses on the war. The addresses have greatly enhanced his reputation as a platform speaker. With his keen analytical mind, he exhaustively analyzed the causes of the war, contrasted the ideals of Germany and England, summarized the crowded events leading up to hostilities, and he emphasized the fact that the Borden government

is prepared to do its duty to the utmost.

There have been few speeches delivered in Canada on the war more eloquent or more convincing than that which Mr. Meighen delivered at Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, and more recently before the Toronto Empire Club. His analysis of the philosophy of Germany's leaders, which led to the dominating and overbearing policy of militarism, terminating in the present struggle, was trenchant in the extreme. This historic foundation of the war, Mr. Meighen said, speaking at the Toronto Empire Club, lay in the teaching of the German leaders idealizing power and war. He eloquently said:

"Two schools of thought are in conflict. The German school of Nietzsche, or Bismark, of Treitschke and Jagow; the British school of Bacon, of Burke, of Pitt, of Canning, of Asquith - yes, of Lincoln and of Wilson. But why are they in conflict? Why can't they live side by side? Because if the first is to live and spread there is no room on earth for any other. The world is making its choice."

And again he declared: "It is a conflict of ideals as inevitable as the laws of life and death. We need to understand that and never forget it; otherwise we cannot know all we are fighting for. We cannot see the bigness of the issue."

"Science run mad, 'Kultur,' as they call it, has developed a cancer in world-politics. Success now means its extraction. Defeat, defeat - forgive me for mentioning the word - defeat would mean the desecration of those principles around which our race has rallied in the storms of two thousand years; it would mean the surrender of what to us is the ark of civilization; it would mean the progressive depriving over of humanity to a new-fangled paganism."

ITALY REACHES FOR AVLONA.

The landing of Italian marines at Avlona is a matter of more than passing moment. It is full of significance for the present and is pregnant with results for the future. The thing happens now for the simple reason that now the time is ripe for it. Two months ago it would have been as easy and as much warranted, but at that time it would have been premature. Two months hence it might have been done with the same facility, but then it might have been too late.

What gives importance to this apparently inconspicuous detail in the long series of disturbances that make up the recent history of Al-

bania, and what makes its occurrence at the present well-timed? To the first of these questions the answer is that Avlona is the key of the Adriatic, upon which both Austria and Italy have looked with covetous eyes for a very long period. Italy has no port in the Adriatic that is suitable as a base for a great navy, whereas Austria has three fine ports on that sea. Austria has really no need for Avlona, but its position on the east shore of the Strait of Otranto gives it command of the very doorway of the Adriatic. Austria would regard the transfer of Avlona to Italy as a misfortune to be averted at almost any cost. So far each of the two powers has been able to keep the other from getting possession of it. Since 1807 they have been under a treaty engagement with each other to keep hands off Avlona. Each has had the satisfaction of knowing that if it could not have the port neither could the other, and that, whereas it would mean war between them if either seized Avlona, both would attack any third power that should meddle with it. It is said that doubt as to Austria's good faith on this point was the cause of Italy's bringing about a renewal of the Triple Alliance in 1912, upwards of a year before the end of the period it still had to run. Though suspicious of the fate which has seized Bosnia and Herzegovina in flagrant violation of the Treaty of Berlin, Italy supported Austria in the latter's resistance to Serbia's efforts to extend her territory to the Adriatic as a result of the victories of the Balkan war. The landing of the Italian marines, the other day, though ostensibly for the purpose of aiding Essad Pasha to preserve order, may be understood to mean the beginning of Italian occupation. It is true Essad Pasha has long had the confidence and support of Italy, but there undoubtedly was another reason for choosing the present moment to send a warship to the Albanian port and land a body of fighting men there.

Why was the present moment chosen for this bold movement? Evidently for the reason that the Italian government is convinced that the power of the German nations is broken. That is, the significance of the move, Italy has no fear of having to face Austria and Germany in the magnitude of their former power. What she is now concerned for is to be in actual possession of Avlona when the time comes for dividing up the fruits of victory. Doubtless she is calculating that her over- stepping of the bounds of neutrality will be ignored by Austria through sheer weakness. There may be protest on Austria's part, and Italy will most probably be drawn into the war, if not against, at least against her will. Some fighting on her part will be necessary to establish her title to Avlona. But if Italy gets Avlona, something will have to be done to ensure Serbia's participation in the war which she shortens it. -Toronto Mail and Empire.

CONSERVATION NEEDED

Everyone knows that trade conditions and commercial enterprise have suffered a very serious and unexpected upheaval during the past year. To this situation the war has, of course, largely contributed; but other causes, including the general financial depression throughout the country, have been operative for some months past. The agricultural industry has, naturally, been very widely affected by these changing conditions and by the varying situation with respect to demand and supply. The rise in the price of grain, together with the corresponding fall to grain production, represents, without doubt, the most outstanding feature of the direction which has been given to agricultural activity.

We need, perhaps above all things else, sane, level judgment in the conduct of our agricultural affairs during the coming year. It is to be expected that grain production will be largely increased. The raw products of the soil are, and will be, in demand at remunerative prices. What then is to be said, what course is to be followed, with respect to the breeding of live stock?

The high price of feed, on the one hand, and relatively low prices for market stock, on the other, have resulted in very heavy marketing throughout Canada, particularly in the western provinces, of stock suitable for breeding purposes. Perhaps this was inevitable, but will these conditions continue? Feed grain will, without a doubt, be high in price, but it may never be overlooked that the country can maintain very large numbers of live stock on the enormous quantity of rough fodder which it can produce. To waste this, for the sake of the grain which can be grown, would under the present circumstance be criminal neglect. It is clear, then, that the country should conserve its breeding stock. If grain is to be grown for sale it is recommended that plans should be carefully thought out to the manner in which the great quantity of rough fodder may be

Wire Fence Prices

FOR MONTH OF JANUARY ONLY

Table with columns: No. of wires, Height in inches, Distance Between Stays, Size of Wire, Price per rod, Size of Gate, Price. Lists prices for various types of wire fences and gates.

TERMS - Strictly cash before goods leave warehouse. On account of increase in cost of wire the price of fence will advance on February 1st.

Secure your fence at the reduced price and get it home before the spring rush. We can also give you very attractive prices on Cedar Posts in car lots only. Special discount on fences in car loads. All material guaranteed to be the best. The high quality of "Safe-Lock" is maintained. Prices only are altered. Make it a point to call early.

The Safe-Lock Fence Co.

Corner Fifth street and C.N. Ry. BRANDON, MAN.

come available for feeding purposes and as to the means by which this otherwise waste product, together with the screenings and unsaleable grain, may be utilized to the best possible advantage. In other words, eliminate waste. Do it by feeding live stock.

The present low prices for stock cannot last long. A careful review of the world situation makes it clear that there will be a shortage next year. Europe is becoming seriously depleted in both breeding and feeding stock. The United States, for ten months of the current year, at its leading markets, is short 146,045 cattle, 208,000 sheep and 1,884,939 hogs. Canada has, as before stated, heavily marketed her breeding animals and, while it may be possible to maintain a certain number of cattle and sheep, it is doubtful if more than 25 per cent of the number of hogs will find their way to market in 1915, as compared with the current year. It is, therefore, a time for livestock men to stay with their trade. The present tendency is, of course, all the other way. A safe harvest is likely to be reaped by those who have stock for sale next year. Even bankers and business men are of this opinion.

One word of advice is to be given. Avoid marketing so far as it is at all possible to do so, during the period of October 15th to December 15th. This is a time of the year when everybody else has stock for sale. It is a period when packers know that they can fill their cellars with cheap meat. These are the months when the surplus of the whole country finds its way to the packing centres. It is invariably the period of low prices, uncertain markets and disappointing returns to the producers. Breeders, therefore, should have their stock available for sale at some other time of the year and should take care to provide sufficient winter feed that they may not be forced to sell when the cold weather comes.

INVOKING THE LAW

Great Britain is still considering the protest made by the United States regarding the interference with American shipping of which British warships have been guilty. That the matter will be given a fair and square hearing and that the decision reached by Great Britain will be in every sense of the word the proper one under the circumstances, even the most ardent supporter of the American cause will concede. During the one hundred years of peace, celebrated but a few days ago, Great Britain and the United States have discussed several important issues, and in every instance the solution to them has been arrived at by calm and judicious reasoning. The same course will undoubtedly be pursued in the present controversy.

There is, however, another side to the question now before Great Britain for settlement, and one which has been dealt with by the Montreal Mail in concise but outspoken fashion. In making its protest to Great Britain the United States has invoked international law, the violation of which has practically been responsible for the important part Britain is playing in the war. In dealing with this phase of the problem the Montreal Mail says:

When Germany violated the neutrality of Belgium which she, with

other nations, had guaranteed to respect, she pleaded a "national necessity." She urged that, by the unwritten law, she was not bound by past pledges given not to take any specific action which more recent considerations of national interest, conceived by her to be vital, demanded that she should take.

At the same time, by violating the neutrality of Belgium, Germany created an "international necessity." The nations which had agreed, with her, to respect the neutrality of Belgium, were compelled to resent the action of Germany as a reflection upon that intangible mass of agreements known as "international law." It is important to note that only Germany in defense of her guarantee

of Belgium's neutrality. History, ancient and recent, shows that the world has not yet reached the stage at which "international necessities" are invoked as "national necessities." Each nation habitually takes recognition of international law only when it is personally affected. Nations watch other nations being brutally and illegally treated without concern, and call on the police only when they themselves suffer, or imagine they suffer, injury.

In the light of these facts, the crime of our unthinking pacifists, who would leave the highest interests of the nation at the mercy of the essentially selfish international spirit which pervades the world, becomes an enormity.

The United States comes into the international court to demand redress when her own material interests are affected. The same door as the United States opens to come in was slammed in Belgium's face, and the United States stood by without a protest.

In this case, however, there will be no door slammed. Great Britain, who is trying to open the door for Belgium, will open it freely to the United States, and justice will be done because this matter will be handled by sane and responsible statesmen, unaffected by ruthless ambitions for world-domination.

TOMMY IN THE TRENCHES.

War teaches many things. One of them is the inestimable value of training and discipline, not on the battlefield only, but in every phase of life. Some time ago there appeared in an American magazine a story entitled "Hell, Hull and Halifax," and it was intended to show how men could be taken from all grades of society and by training and discipline be made into the best soldiers in the world. It was a fine tribute to the British army. Daily there is to be seen abundant evidence of what sort of men are the product of the British system of training and discipline. They are men who are to be seen that develops splendid fighting men, obedient, faithful and courageous, and yet strong in self-reliance and self-respect. We reprint a letter from a non-commissioned officer of the Royal Artillery Company written from the trenches last November. It is full of food for thought. In a homely way it sets out great truths. We shall not indicate what they are, but leave each reader to draw his or her own conclusions only observing that the letter bears eloquent testimony to the value of training and self-reliance.

Buy goods made in Canada or in Great Britain, and thus employ Canadian and British workmen.

"We were relieved from the trenches about 6:30 p.m. and I am glad to say all got out (in bright moonlight) without a single casualty.

One never takes off one's clothes, except perhaps once a fortnight one can get a wash. Still at present I'm quite clean and not worried with unwelcome guests - the state of quite 50 per cent of all troops.

It is very curious to note the different way men adapt themselves to these conditions. The average Tommy is splendid; he keeps his self-respect, and the moment he is able, cleans up and looks like a soldier. In the trench you get filthy, covered with mud, unshaven, and often under great mental stress (we've been lucky).

know him and realize you are of the same stock. They are singularly unselfish and extend a comradeship to us which is very pleasant.

There is no doubt that method and training and being used to do things for yourself, stand one in wonderful stead in a situation like this. Method in getting up, shaving, washing, putting things away, add to one's comfort and all who are unmethodical add to everyone's discomfort.

Whatever you do, old girl, make the children do things for themselves - clear up rooms, make their own beds, wash up, and in fact let them be accustomed to do all the business of keeping themselves alive for themselves. It is tragic sometimes to see our fellows' helplessness, when it comes to making a dirty billet habitable, expecting it done for them by someone.

Make them (the children) hardy and self-reliant at all costs, because they, being self-helpful, can more easily do things for others.

It is training more than anything else because the average Tommy does it, and he comes from a class that has to do it for itself.

I wish I could tell you more of things but really the only transcendental thing is the conduct of the British Tommy. I feel absolutely proud to be doing the same work, carrying the same weight and sharing the same grub as they do. They are awfully nice with the Belgians and French people and behave like gentlemen. No, the Germans have forgotten the human factor and they won't win. I hope I shall see the end of it, but at any rate, I feel that Germany cannot win now and if she does, a raid she will put the tin lid on herself.

This billeting is great fun. We arrived last night on a countryside and were told to find cottages. Some of our chaps slept in pigsties and were very comfy plenty of straw. Then each little party cooks for itself and the grub is distributed. All has to be done and men looked after. That is largely my job. We are now in reserve and are only wanted in case of heavy attack, but I don't think the Germans have much attack left in them, though we are near where heavy fighting has been. Lovely here. It is full of food for thought. In a homely way it sets out great truths. We shall not indicate what they are, but leave each reader to draw his or her own conclusions only observing that the letter bears eloquent testimony to the value of training and self-reliance.