

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Von Tirpitz is said to be suffering from remorse. We cannot believe his condition to be the result of meditation over the many murders he has caused to be committed. No doubt it is because he was "canned" by the Kaiser, and does not consider himself compensated by the medals presented him.

The fact that the Kaiser had to order his officers to lead their men in the awful struggle about Verdun recently, is one more step toward the end of militarism, for when the officers get a taste of what the men suffer, they will not be so keen for fighting. Hitherto they have looked upon war as chess students would upon a chess problem, the men being like so many pawns to them. There were more officers killed in the fighting about Verdun last week, because of this change, than there had been for months before. If they could force the Crown Prince in front, it would be a great blessing to the world at large.

It is nearly a year since President Wilson assured Germany that she would be held to strict accountability for the loss of American lives by submarines. Germany, of course, promised to desist in this new form of murder, but has kept merrily at it ever since, the last American victims being on the Sussex, recently torpedoed in the English Channel. There will, of course, be the usual exchange of "humanity notes," but the long-suffering American travelling public must groan, and say, "How long, O Lord, how long?" The shipping interests in the U.S. have been very grateful for the protection of their ships by the British, and Mexican refugees have thanked God for the protection of the Union Jack.

The suggested retirement of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, to be succeeded by the former Chancellor, Von Buelow, is a sign that the Kaiser is hoping for peace. The latter is the most finished diplomat in Germany, and would never have made the blunder the former did in calling a treaty a scrap of paper, nor make such blustering peace proposals. It will be because of the latter that he must go, as he dare not deceive the people by letting them know the true state of affairs. He raised his war loans by arbitrarily taking their savings from the banks and giving them war loan bonds instead, until now the unfortunates find they have about seven billion dollars invested in such securities, and the interest will have to be met by war taxes instead of by indemnities from the countries their armies have overrun, as the Chancellor had promised them. The storm must soon break, and the earlier Bethmann-Hollweg finds a bilious attack forcing him to retire, the better for all concerned.

Success to the boys of the 91st, who are now out on a ten days' campaign throughout the county, in an effort to bring the Elgin battalion up to full strength. Four hundred and fifty recruits are needed to fill the ranks, and it is estimated that there are easily a thousand eligible young fellows without any responsibility who should be willing to wear the khaki. In a way, the honor of the county is at stake. Will Elgin be found wanting in making up a unit to do its share in forever banishing the evils and dangers of militarism from the world? Failure in the present effort will no doubt mean that Elgin will not have a battalion, and that those now in the ranks will be sent to fill up other uncompleted battalions. Six of the boys are now recruiting in Aylmer and vicinity, and we are glad to know with some success. To-night (Thursday) there will be a big recruiting meeting at the Town Hall, to be addressed by officers of the 91st, as announced elsewhere. Let every citizen give assistance in sending from Aylmer a number of which we will not feel ashamed. Your King and Country need you NOW!

Verdun has been compared by the French as of a decisive character in this war, as Gettysburg was in the

Civil War, as it was a turning point in the war. But, O! what a difference in loss of life. Gettysburg was the most important battle the Union forces fought, as it turned the tide from a series of reverses for them. Had it been otherwise, they would have been forced to come to terms of peace. Many of our readers have heard the late Rev. Mr. Kimball's story of it, and he was a participant. When he was asked why the Union forces did not follow up their victory and cut off the retreat of the Confederates, he said they were so thoroughly exhausted, they could not. Yet this battle only lasted from July 1 to 3, 1863, and their total killed was 3,070, the losses of the Southerners being 2,592. Compare that with the awful fighting at Verdun since February 22, night and day, with machine guns and artillery, and what a difference. In 1863, they had some rest at night, but the Germans specialize in attacks in these hours. Up to the end of 1862, the outlook of the Northern States was very dark. The first great battle of the war, fought at Bull's Run, in 1861, was a complete rout of the Federals. George Burton McClellan, who had experience in the Mexican War, was made commander-in-chief in November of that year, and prepared an attack on Richmond, the Confederate capital, which failed. He was then replaced by General Pope, who was defeated in the second battle of Bull's Run, in September, 1862. McClellan was then reinstated and he checked Lee's advance at Antietam, where the bloodiest fighting of the war took place. He was superseded by Burnside, who was crushingly defeated at Fredericksburg, on December 15, 1862. Hooker replaced Burnside, only to be defeated at Chancellorsville, in April 1863. Then Meade was put in Hooker's place, and saved the situation by fighting the drawn battle at Gettysburg. On March 1, 1864, General Grant was appointed commander-in-chief, and with Gen. Meade's assistance, set about to destroy General Lee's brave little army, weakened by disease and lack of provisions, as the blockade had made it impossible to get needed ammunition and supplies, and the impossibility of selling their cotton and other products so depreciated the value of their currency, that it took nearly a cord of bills, and considerable argument, to buy a loaf of bread. In May they engaged Lee in the Battle of the Wilderness, when the North had the largest army during the war. For twelve days the result hung in the balance, when Lee, with his smaller army, realized he might be cut off from his base of supplies, and felt it unwise to continue the unequal struggle longer, and retired. In 1866, he found his supplies completely exhausted, and on April 9 tendered his sword, at Sumpter, to General Grant, who, being in command at the finish, got nearly all the credit for the results of the struggle, at the expense of General McClellan, the first victorious Northern General, Meade, and others. Over 50,000 Canadians joined the Northern army, of which nearly one-half figured in the casualty list. Aylmer had two representatives in this conflict, in the persons of George Leslie and Walter Hoag. William Faulds took part in the Mexican War, in 1847, under General Winfield Scott, and one of his sons is named after that leader. He later became Major in the Elgin Battalion. Two of the opposing generals in the Civil War, McClellan and Lee, were officers with General Scott in the Mexican War, and served with distinction, as military engineers, and helped greatly in the capture of Mexico City.

J. P. Morgan, the greatest New York financier, recently returned from Europe much impressed with Britain's strong financial standing, after months of severe strain. His opinion is shown to be correct by the March Bulletin of the National City Bank, which for more than one hundred years has been a leading bank in the United States. It shows that twenty-nine leading London and provincial joint stock banks had on deposit before the war, \$4,220,000,000, and on Dec. 31 last, \$4,985,000,000; cash on hand before the war, \$650,000,000, on Dec. 31, \$950,000,000; investments,

\$740,000,000; Dec. 31, \$1,650,000,000; gold and other securities increased from \$92,500,000 to \$142,500,000 in the same period. The same report gives satisfactory statistics of Canadian affairs as follows: "In the annual budget speech of Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance of Canada, delivered in Parliament a few days ago, he stated that the expenditures of the Dominion to January 1916, on account of the war amounted to \$158,000,000, and that \$150,000,000 had been borrowed on this account. With 250,000 troops now enlisted and 500,000 enlistments authorized, he estimated that \$250,000,000 would be required to finance the war during the fiscal year beginning April 1st. He stated that the war taxes imposed a year ago, which were calculated to yield \$150,000,000 have in fact yielded \$170,000,000. New war taxes, calculated to yield \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 are proposed, the noteworthy feature of these being levies upon business profits. Incorporated companies, except life insurance companies and those engaged in agriculture, are to be taxed one-fourth of their net profits in excess of 7 per cent. on their capital, and individuals and partnerships one-fourth of their profits in excess of 10 per cent. on their capital. These taxes will not apply to firms or companies of less than \$50,000 capital unless they are manufacturing munitions. The Dominion has a revenue surplus for the year now closing of about \$45,000,000, and with the new taxes proposed it is going a long way towards financing the war out of current revenues, which is a very courageous and statesmanlike policy. The Treasury is carrying a gold reserve against the Dominion currency issues of \$115,000,000, or 64.2 per cent. of the currency outstanding, and the Minister pledges that there will be no resort to issues of unsecured paper. The foreign trade situation has shown a remarkable reversal. For the calendar year 1913 there was an adverse balance of \$198,500,000 for 1914 there was an adverse balance of \$70,300,000, and for 1915 there was a favorable balance of \$198,500,000; for 1914 there was wheat crop and the manufacture of war supplies are responsible for this change. The trade balance is sufficient to take care of a full year's Canadian payments on interest account in London, with perhaps \$50,000,000 over, so that both at home and abroad Canada's finances are in good shape. The Canadian Bank of Commerce estimates that 40 per cent of the grain crop is still in the farmers' hands. There is now full employment for labor, and trade and financial conditions are good. Returns from 46 Canadian cities show building permits in 1915 amounting to \$34,500,000 against \$96,000,000 in 1914. The Canadian Government is continuing work upon the Quebec bridge, the Welland Canal, the Hudson Bay railway, and terminals and port works of considerable importance.

HISTORY OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE

(Concluded from last issue.)

The foundations of the present political unity of Germany were laid by Frederick the Great. After he had participated in the first partition of Poland in 1772, and had filled up the gap between Brandenburg and Prussia, Joseph II. made an attempt to restore the ascendancy of the Hapsburgs. As a counterstroke, Frederick rallied most of the smaller states into a league for the defence of the Imperial constitution.

At the outbreak of the French revolution (1790-1792) Germany ranged itself on the side of the King of France. This policy involved the Ger-

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man race in the life and death struggle between France and the rest of Europe, which ended at Waterloo in 1815.

Napoleon shifted boundaries and sundered nationalities with the sword. He humiliated and dismembered Germany, made Austria an object of ridicule, and gave the finishing blow to the Holy Roman Empire. After the formation of the Confederation of the Rhine, under the protection of Napoleon, Francis II. (1792-1835) laid down the Imperial crown as a bauble rendered contemptible by the Corsican conqueror, taking instead the title of Emperor of Austria.

When the Napoleonic storm blew over, a confederation of thirty-nine states was formed by Germany, and expressed itself on all matters of common concern through a diet sitting at Frankfurt, and presided over by the Austrian delegate. The period that followed the fall of Napoleon was marked in Germany by the slow growth of constitutionalism in the face of determined opposition of the ruling princes.

Germany came a perceptible step nearer to a federation by the completion, in 1833, of a Zollverein, or customs union, which included all the German states except Austria. Constitutionalism in Prussia was suddenly made a dominant issue by the revolutionists of 1848, who marched to the palace in Berlin, bearing the bodies of comrades who had been killed in street fighting with the troops. Frederick William IV. (1840-1861), conceded the organization of a national assembly. Throughout the states, with the exception of Austria, reforms were applied, including the freedom of the press, trial by jury, national military service, and national representation.

A dominant force in the affairs of Germany and Europe arose upon the horizon of events when Otto von Bismarck was made premier of Prussia by William I, brother of Frederick William, who had relinquished the throne because of a mental affliction. At the outset of his career as a statesman, Bismarck set before him two problems—the elimination of Austria

as a controlling factor in the German world, and the creation of a centralized federation under the hegemony of Prussia.

The first of these objects was accomplished by the Seven Weeks' War in 1866, when Bismarck, after having formed an alliance with Italy, offering the Austrian possession of Venetia as an inducement for Italian participation in a possible war against Austria, awaited the moment to strike. That moment arrived in the same year, when the latter undertook to establish the permanency of its occupation of Holstein, the Danish province which two years earlier had been seized by Austria and Prussia acting jointly.

Austria was driven out and excluded from German affairs, and Bismarck formed a new group of states under the leadership of Prussia, and under Prussian domination, as France was to discover in the near future.

The second of Bismarck's aims was accomplished in the conflict that fol-

lowed four years later—the Franco-Prussian War. The struggle was precipitated by Napoleon III, the quarrel arising from his intervention against the election of Prince Leopold, a Hohenzollern of the Sigmaringen branch as King of Spain. Napoleon III. was captured, and Paris besieged and taken. Under the Treaty of Frankfurt, signed on May 10, 1871, Prussia exacted the cession of Alsace and the eastern part of Lorraine, and imposed upon France an indemnity of five thousand million francs.

The next dramatic struggle directed by Bismarck was a trial of strength with the Papacy, which ended in the imposition of a decree of state control upon the Catholic clergy in Germany. It was another great issue, the question of the increasing power of Socialism, and the method of combating it, that finally brought about the fall of the Chancellor who had made Germany possible. Accustomed to force in solution of political puzzles, Bismarck favored direct and simple means of suppressing the discontent among the laboring classes. The young Emperor, William II, did not accept this view, and the result was

(Continued on page 5.)

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ROUSING I ME

Prominent O Take Part.

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The campaig been conducted day, has ahead nent young me are E. L. Haig W. W. Wilson.

The 91st Bat mobilized in S rounding into considered by r of the finest t Officers confid complement of goes under ca training.

DEATH OF IN.

The passing o his home in S. day morning la tically every h 32 years he had filled the positio spector, and al sman, and child k him a friend- schools in the higher standard County, and for the late Inspect ible. He asked necessary, the teacher, and the or unwilling to standard did not gin County.

He knew by n pupil, and his a was the worthy anxiety. Never i neglect his du Justice is done h there was no mo painstaking insp

Some three ye suffered a sever from which he n ered. During the been fast growi sisted in doing l end, and only last the Aylmer scho

Deceased, who of the late Isaac A son) Atkin, was township in 1856 early education in a faithful and apt age of sixteen beg 23, Bayham. He a St. Thomas, and t later became ter of the St. Ca In 1884 he was a specter of Elgin same year was mar Graham, who sury with one son, M rister, and a mem Sault Ste. Marie, Hearst is the head ters, Miss Edith, te in Toronto, and M Thomas.

The funeral took and was attende from the county, closed as a tribute