

London Advertiser

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

MORNING EDITION.

City, 10c per week, \$5.00 per year.
Outside City, By Mail, \$3.00 per year.

NOON EDITION.

\$3.00 per year by mail.

City, 10c per week, \$5.00 per year.
Outside City, By Mail, \$3.00 per year.

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Private Branch Exchange

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THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY,
LIMITED.

London, Ont., Friday, Jan. 11.

CHINESE LABOR FOR THE FARMS.

THE proposal that Chinese labor should be employed on the farms of Ontario has, as might have been expected, brought a storm of protest from many quarters. Some trades unions and some farmers have expressed objection. But, thanks to a Government that has spent most of its efforts toward "greater production" in the production of "hot air," the question of farm labor today is a most critical one, and only now is any effort being made to face the problem for 1918.

Just what would the employment of "coolies" mean to this country? In the first place Britain has gladly enlisted the friendly assistance of China, and thousands and thousands of Chinese laborers have gone to the aid of the Allies in France. Their service has taken the place of service by Anglo-Saxon troops, and they are almost, if not quite, the effective equivalent of such labor and construction battalions as have been enlisted in Canada. They are equally able to perform labor service in Canada. Shall we, farmers, city people, trades unionists or any others, say that Chinese labor is unfit for Canada in a great crisis?

It is not proposed here to make out a case for Chinese labor, but simply a case for some kind of labor for the farms next spring. At best it would be a war expedient, a last resort to keep famine from creeping into the country. Neither is it proposed that Chinese labor should be parcelled out to farmers by the individual laborer, but that camps should be maintained by the Government and work done by collective and intelligent action.

Those of us who are secure and fat on the best of the land should surely not be too quick to sniff at the humble Celestial, and draw our skirts about us. Could he do the necessary labor at a time when there are no others to do that labor?—that is the question, rather than "does he offend our sensibilities"? And the average Chinese who has come to Canada has offended little. What a fine opportunity to Christianize thousands of heathens, and to show that we can save our stomachs by an extension of Christian spirit!

Let us examine the question without a hot burst of typical prejudice.

KINGS OF MEN.

LORD BACON in one of his essays on the true strength of kings, says: "They say the goodliest cedars which grow on the high mountains of Libanus thrust their roots between the clefts of hard rocks, the better to bear themselves against the strong storms that blow there. As nature has instructed those kings of trees, so has reason taught the kings of men to root themselves in the hard hearts of their faithful subjects; and as those kings of trees have large tops, so have the kings of men large crowns, whereof, as the first would soon be broken from their bodies, were they not underborne by many branches, so would the other easily totter, were they not fastened on their heads, with the strong chains of civil justice and of martial discipline."

Looking back at the part taken by Lloyd George and President Wilson in the war, the parallel drawn by Lord Bacon between the kings of trees and the kings of men seems plain. Lloyd George seemed to fit into every crisis, and to win and hold the confidence of the British people. President Wilson, under entirely different circumstances, held the confidence of the American people, and was re-elected. They both "rooted themselves in the hard hearts of their faithful subjects." The two speeches, given out this week, containing their terms of peace, in plain, simple English prove that although each nation represented by them views the war from a different standpoint, yet they reached the same conclusion, based on principles held sacred by the two nations. They are kings of men, asking only justice.

CANADA'S YEAR IN FINANCE.

DURING the year just closed, Canada borrowed \$756,851,966. This was by a wide margin the largest sum ever borrowed by the country, comparing with \$316,917,362 in 1916 and \$341,892,871 in 1915. More significant, however, than the fact that the 1917 amount was more than double the borrowing of any other year, is the feature of self-support indicated by the compilations of the Financial Post, the Monetary Times and other members of the technical finance press. Seventy-five per cent of the three-quarters of a billion was contracted for within the dominion itself. The United States supplied 24.4 per cent and Great Britain 0.6 per cent.

The Old Country money markets were long since closed to us; the American market became a doubtful reed upon which to lean in April last. Canada called to its own people and the prosperity of the country was maintained out of its own monetary vitality. New sources of power were developed, and the increase in our borrowings, upon which all business is based, comes wholly from the response to national loans. Of these loans, Fred W. Field, writing on "Retrospect and Prospect" in the Monetary Times' splendid annual review number, has the following to say: "It is important that we should fully realize that the nation's industrial and agricultural activities and prosperity at present depend almost entirely on war orders. Our prosperous conditions cannot continue unless we save and invest every dollar possible in war loans. The loans may then be used to establish the credits which Britain needs in order to continue to make her

large purchases in this country. Canada's prosperity and activities depend almost entirely upon the extent of our ability to save and invest in the war loans.

The Government floated three loans during the year. The first request in March, was for \$150,000,000. About \$250,000,000 was subscribed and \$150,000,000 was allotted. A second loan of \$100,000,000 was floated in the United States, and the third was the Victory loan, which, as allotted, amounted to more than \$400,000,000. In war savings certificates and debenture stock, the Government has sold \$20,250,000.

In contrast with the enormously increased volume of Dominion financing, the provinces have disposed of a comparatively small amount of bonds, the total lying between five and six million dollars' worth. The eastern provinces have done little permanent financing, and Manitoba's \$2,000,000 issue was the largest among other provinces.

Municipalities brought about a 50 per cent reduction in financing. During 1916, municipal borrowings amounted to \$50,905,975, while in 1917 they ran to only \$28,375,000. While economy had a bearing on the situation, a poor market was at the root of the showing, it being estimated by the Financial Post that probably as much as \$50,000,000 of bonds remained unsold at the end of the year. Some cities refrained from offering bonds, many others having to offer 6 per cent.

Finance, like all other forces, has been directed toward war measures. The cities and provinces wait upon the country.

CONTROL IS REQUIRED.

ALTHOUGH our ally, in the fullest sense of the word, the United States is exercising strict supervision of all exports to Canada, especially of fuel and varieties of foodstuffs of which there is no great surplus. What excuse has the Canadian Government to offer for its failure to take similar precautionary measures?

The Advertiser has protested for many months against the wholesale, unrestricted export of cattle to the United States, but the business continues along the old lines without any restraint. Canadians are besought to economize in beef; except in private homes, a measure of compulsion has been introduced to enforce some decrease in its consumption. Is the amount thus saved going to the soldiers overseas or across the line to the United States?

There is no desire on the part of any good Canadian to refuse the United States anything the Dominion can supply without injuring her own and her allies' forces in Europe, but there should be a desire, even a demand, that some thoroughness be shown in dealing with the food question, and that business methods be introduced to regulate the imports and exports. There is no question of taking unfriendly action: we do not consider it unfriendly when the United States limits its coal or pig iron exports to Canada, or its corn sales, or when it takes other steps towards conservation. It would be no less friendly on Canada's part to control beef or pork exports.

In dealing with the food question here, there has been too much general suggestion with too little considered and authoritative action. The responsibility has been put on the people to relieve the Government. Ottawa must be awakened to its duties, and made to shoulder them. If necessary action is unpopular in certain quarters, necessity must outweigh popularity. Winning the war is declared to be the great problem of the day. Nothing which hinders the solution of this problem should be endured.

GERMAN DISTORTION.

READING the comment of the German press on Premier Lloyd George's speech one is moved to wonder what distorted report was handed out for publication in that land. Did it bear any resemblance to the truth?

The Berlin Vossische Zeitung says: "Peace terms offering the return of our colonies in exchange for reinforcements of the British position in Asia" are not acceptable. There was no such offer made. There was no hint of such conditions, and no basis for believing that the colonies would be returned. It was plainly stated that a conference would decide the future of the colonies, with special regard to the wishes of the natives.

If the rest of the report was as misleading as this portion, the Germans have been given no idea of what Lloyd George said, but have simply read what the Berlin Government wished them to believe he said.

Deceit and treachery have been Germany's weapons throughout the war, and will be used to the end. Force of arms alone can be trusted to break a way through to the German people, so that they may reach an understanding of the Allies' terms and aims.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Tudor period in Australia was short.

The policy of the general staff in Canada: Keep it dark.

Burning of street lights in parts of the city at 4 o'clock in the afternoon is not conducive to saving electricity.

Reduction of street lighting is apt to lead to increase in crime. Police will have to be extra vigilant in the semi-darkness.

When Germans talk about a peace acceptable to the world, it must be remembered that their world is populated by Germans.

Italy cannot have heard of the salaries paid baseball stars in the United States, or it would never term bats and balls "useless toys."

The ministers of agriculture and immigration and colonization confer on the problem of labor shortage. Of course, the minister of labor is not interested.

To the making of Canadian knights there is no end, but it should be noted that Sir Frank Baillie did not get his title in recognition of his profiteering abilities.

Germany has pledged herself to help Austria hold what she has won in the war. It is to be hoped that Austria's experience may not be likened to the Belgian scrap of paper.

In introducing the war-times election act the Government broke faith with the people of Canada. Would such a Government hesitate to do so again in dealing with the military service act?

Bits of Byplay

by Luke McLuke

Copyright, 1917.

Good Dope!

Cheer up, old scout! Let's have a song! Don't look so grim, gee whizz! Don't think the whole blame world is wrong Because your liver is.

The Reason.

"I wonder why they spend so much time and trouble on beautiful engravings for our paper currency?" asked the Old Fogey.

"I suppose they have to do something to make money popular," replied the Grinch.

Boo-Hoo!

She sent her waist to have it dyed. The bill set her to crying:

"The cost of living's high," she sighed. "So is the cost of dying."

Giddy!

"That's the worst thing going," said the angry autoist who stood on the road beside his machine.

"What is it?" asked the farmer.

"An automobile engine that isn't," replied the autoist.

Foey!

A big-mouthed bird is Oswald Sand. We hate to hear him blowing.

He's had too many cocktails, and That's why the boob is crowing.

Ouch!

"How long has your clerk worked for you?" asked the caller.

"About four hours," replied the boss.

"I thought he had been here longer than that," said the caller.

"He has," said the boss. "He has been here for four months."

My very fond,

dear,

Who says he'd like To choke the Kaiser.

The Old-Fashioned Courtship-Book.

In a bunch of old papers stored away in a cellar at Parkersburg, W.Va., and thrown out as rubbish the other day, a reader picked up the following letter dated Kingwood, Preston County, West Virginia, July 10, 1862: "Mr. George Brinkman, Please send me a Courtship-Book. I will pay well for it. I want to court a girl, Lewis Graham, Grafton, West Virginia."

We wonder what success Lewis had with his courting, and whether any grandchildren are alive today as a result.

Watch Us Grow!

The Columbus (Ind.) branch of the Club has admitted the following members: Cary Clutch, Carrie Pool, John B. Green, C. Jane Hunter, Carrie Moore, Iva Post, Ella Mae Rush, Iva Swin, Mae Turtle, and Hazel Trout.

Oh, Thank!

Here's to Luke, the famous sage. Wisest of the present age.

The past years have brought him fame. May the future bring the same.

He has good friends by the score. May he have a million more.

His bright "Bits" have brought great cheer. To the millions far and near.

In the year Nineteen Eighteen May his wits be ever keen. Let us wish him lots of wealth.

One and all we'll drink his health. —K. J. S., Covington, Ky.

Our Joe Miller Contest.

Charley Bigger claims that the oldest joke is the one about the Irishman who landed at Kingston, Jamaica.

In Jamaica there are many negroes descended from slaves of English and Irish adventurers who were early settlers, and these negroes in many cases cling to the broad English and Irish accents of their ancestors. One of these, a big

black with an Irish accent, accosted the Irishman as he left the ship. "The lot uv th' marning abt you, sor," said the black. "An' wud ye be after buyin' a bit o' fruit, sor?" The Irishman gazed at the black in amazement and said, "And how long have you been here?" The black was from an inland village, and thought the Irishman meant how long had he been in Kingston. "Och, about three months, yer honor," replied the black. "Three months, is it?" exclaimed the Irishman. "Only three months, an' as black as that! Faith, I'll not land here."

Notice!

If Blanche Ketchum of Cincinnati will join the Club, we will use her as our female detective.

As to Eve.

Eve was a wonder, hully gee! To this fact I'll attest: She never turned around to see How other dames were dressed. —Luke McLuke.

She was a wonder, true enough. Yet you'll admit, mayhap, She couldn't shell a mess of peas For dinner in her lap. —Macon (Ga.) Telegraph.

Names Is Names.

Tell Taylor lives in Chicago, Ill.

Our Daily Special.

If You Can't Profit By Your Mistakes, Don't Make Any.

Wait a Minute!

By J. H. F.

The Government is interested in the food problem now. It looks as if it will have to eat its election words, so to speak.

Judging from the number of deputations headed Ottawa way, the popularity of the Government is such that it will have to double the passenger service to the capital to allow people to express their grouches at first hand.

Some editors have been writing essays on sleep. All right; they know.

An editor asks: "Who could take Lloyd George's place?" He has probably never heard of Lord Northcliffe or John M. Godfrey or Arthur Hawkes.

A Chicago woman wants to find the meanest boy in the country. She is going to have an awful time getting parents to agree with that definition of their boy.

The United States is to appoint an

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oil controller. Page Bill Hanna.

"You are the slowest thing, J. H. Believe me, if I only knew where all those frost-kissed pumpkins that you are always singing about are, we would very soon have some mighty good pumpkin pies."

That is, if you would contract to make the pastry—here's hoping that your culinary education was not neglected in the days of your tender and impressionable youth.

"SOME PERSON."

"P.S.—Don't you think 'frost-kissed' is a much more euphonious term than 'frost-bitten'? Anyway, who wouldn't

rather have a kiss than a bite—even from John Frost, Esq.?"

S. P.

When'er you look at a pretty girl As on the street you pass her by, You're sure to give a wicked wink When a snowflake dances into your eye.

—H. Helpus.

Wilfrid, the galley boy, says "they should not have peace till they make them Germans spell their names differently, and name their papers so you can say them."

H. H.

Some newspapers will have nothing to say now that Sir Wilfrid will remain with the party. That's an awful thing the old chief did to them.

"S. P." wants us to make pastry. Our disposition needs shortening, so folks say. Awful thing that.

Frost-kissed, is it? Our ears were not frost-kissed the other day, not by a doggone sight.

We are waiting for some gent to boost the Union Government. Every body is taking a lively wallop at these days.

Some newspapers will have nothing to say now that Sir Wilfrid will remain with the party. That's an awful