

The Philosopher

A Name to be Held in Honor

In addition to the towering summit in the Rockies which has been named Mount Edith Cavell, there is to be Lake Edith Cavell and an Edith Cavell river in this Dominion. That there will be memorials in other parts of the Empire to the heroic English nurse martyred by the Germans in Belgium is certain. Generations yet unborn will honor the memory of Edith Cavell, whose name, through all the years to come, will live in human memory.

German Gullibility

The simple credulity of the German people, their gullibility in obediently swallowing the fictions in regard to the progress of the war prepared for them by their rulers, has been manifested in an extraordinary measure in connection with the falsehoods concocted at Berlin and published in the official statements about the Zeppelin raids. It was announced, for example, after one of the recent raids, that the bombs dropped from the Zeppelins had killed 15,000 persons in England. In a recent issue of the *Magdeburg Zeitung*, a writer professing himself to be a neutral who had visited England this summer, stated that "the Zeppelins were driving the English mad at such a rate that the sanatoriums and lunatic asylums are full to overflowing, so that the wounded from the front can no longer find room in those institutions." The official German reports are almost as fantastic as this. But there are signs that the truth is beginning to penetrate the minds of the German people. When will they realize how they have been duped and gulled by their rulers?

Canada in the War

Our country has raised an army five times as numerous as the whole force which Napoleon had under his command at Waterloo. Canada is spending a million dollars a day for the maintenance of that army. Canadian manhood has given proof of its quality against the best troops of Germany, and Canadian courage, gallantry and efficiency at the front have won for our nation, in the sight of the whole world, a reputation which has made the name "Canadian" one to be proud of. What the Canadian people have done, and are doing, in the war, has been done, and is being done, absolutely of our own free will and determination, and strong as our national spirit was before the war, the response thus made to the call of honor and of duty has made our national spirit stronger and more unquenchable than ever.

Women and the War

"The old argument against giving women the franchise," writes Lord Northcliffe in the *London Daily Mail*, "was that they were useless in war. But now we could not carry on the war without them. They are running many of our industries and their services may justly be compared with those of the soldiers." The conversion of Lord Northcliffe, one of the most powerful men in the Conservative party, owner of the *London Times*, the *London Daily Mail* and many other journals, is highly significant of the great changes now under way in Great Britain. He has been a determined foe to the enfranchisement of women. Among the marvellous transformations which have been wrought in the very fabric of life by the war is the realization of the importance of women's co-operation with man—co-operation which is not merely a help, but a vital necessity and has grown wider in its scope as the war has gone on.

A Great Beneficial Change

Now that the referendum vote on prohibition in British Columbia has resulted in a decision in the affirmative, it will be only a few months before that province actually joins the prohibition column. There can be no doubt as to what the result of the referendum to be held in Saskatchewan on the question of the abolition of the dispensary system will be. So that it is only a matter of months until the sale of intoxicants will be prohibited throughout the whole of Western Canada, to the full limit of the constitutional power of the provinces to prohibit. Under the provisions of the British North America Act, it is unconstitutional for provincial legislation to attempt to interfere with inter-provincial trade; it is thus impossible for any province to prevent individuals from importing for their own use intoxicants from outside the province and having in their residences intoxicants so obtained. The restrictive liquor legislation which is now in operation in Canada is not prohibitive up to the full extent of the provincial jurisdiction. But, to state the matter briefly, in a few months the sale of alcohol in bars, shops or clubs will be illegal anywhere between the Ottawa River and the Pacific Ocean. Two-thirds of the parishes of Quebec (the western boundary of which province is the Ottawa River) are dry, and from the eastern boundary of Quebec prohibition prevails throughout all the rest of Canada—New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia—to the Atlantic Ocean. There are a few who think that there will be some reaction after the war. But the overwhelming weight of informed opinion is that the bar has disappeared never to return.

"A New British Habit"

In looking over the latest of his English newspapers to hand, The Philosopher notes in the *Manchester Guardian* an article on "A New British Habit," and is surprised to find that the habit referred to is gum-chewing. It appears that this practice has made great headway in Great Britain since the war began, and that since the beginning of the great advance chewing gum has taken its place among the regular army rations. "Although the Canadians demanded it," says the *Manchester paper*, "we may not put the blame on them. The simple explanation seems to be that munition workers and soldiers on the march and in the trenches wanted something to chew, and gum, being a more or less innocuous commercial commodity, has leaped into an immense popularity." The *Manchester paper* adds that whatever else may be said of it, it "is not a pretty habit." The Philosopher has often found himself drawn into a fascinated study of its manifestations here in Winnipeg, and cannot conscientiously describe any of them as "pretty."

Another "Explanation" from Berlin

General Botha, in command of the South African Union forces, having proclaimed to the world, that the German commander in what used to be German Southwest Africa, poisoned wells as he retreated, the Berlin Government has issued an indignant denial and an "explanation." No German general, it declares, would ever order such a reprehensible thing, and that all he did was to put salt and "sheep dip," and such like chemicals in the wells and water springs, so that the enemy toiling to them across the sun-scorched veldt, would find the water undrinkable. Poison the water holes? Oh, no! But these humane proceedings of that officer of Kultur have not prevented General Botha and the khaki-wearing forces of British and Boers, side by side like brothers, from carrying out vigorously their work of so effectually verminifying Southwest Africa of Prussianism that the water in the wells and water holes in its arid regions will be found drinkable hereafter by all travellers eager to quench their thirst.

A Prophet on "Lesser Places"

Stephen B. Leacock, whose celebrity as our leading Canadian humorist has decidedly eclipsed the fact that he is a lecturer on political economy in McGill University, Montreal, predicts a great influx of immigration into this country after the war, and a great boom, in consequence of that inflowing of population and the impetus it will give to the development of Canada's natural resources. "The boom will be chiefly in the transportation centres—in Montreal, Fort William, Winnipeg and very greatly in Edmonton, the distributing point of the Last West, the land of the sunset; the Peace River Valley, into which settlers will pour in hundreds of thousands," writes Mr. Leacock, in his role of prophet. "The boom will spread by attraction to lesser places, or places in the tideway of the immigration movement—Toronto, Saskatoon and Swift Current." Is it any wonder that a Saskatoon paper enquires scornfully: "Is Mr. Leacock trying to kid us?"

The Population of the Empire

One of the most striking of recent utterances by men holding prominent places in the public life of the Empire has been made by Sir George Foster, who recently visited the West with the Dominions' Commission (of which he is chairman), in the course of the work entrusted by the British Government to that body, of discovering how best to promote trade and commerce within the Empire. Sir George conjures up a vision of the Empire in the years to come, when the population of the overseas Dominions will be greater than the population of Great Britain. But even with a growth greatly exceeding anything heretofore, it will hardly be in the next generation that this vision of Sir George Foster will be realized. It has been calculated that if Canada progresses at the rate she has progressed since Confederation, there will be 20,000,000 Canadians when the first century since Confederation is completed in 1967. This Dominion, whose population was recorded as 7,200,000 by the census of 1911, is now probably close upon the 8,000,000 mark. Australia and New Zealand combined have about 6,500,000 people within their borders. Of course, there are parts of the Empire which, in population, rank ahead of Great Britain. But their population is overwhelmingly of the colored races. The white population of the whole Empire is 60,000,000, of whom 45,878,500 live in Great Britain. The colored population of the Empire numbers 370,000,000, of whom 315,000,000 live in India and Ceylon. The black races make up 40,000,000, the Arabs, 6,000,000, and the Malays a like number; and there are also the Chinese and Polynesian subjects to be taken into account. Of the United Kingdom itself, Scotland and Ireland have not of recent years been growing in population; they lose great numbers by emigration. England, on the other hand, though also losing great numbers by emigration, has actually gained year after year in population. By the census of 1911 England was found to contain 36,070,492 people, out of the total of 45,878,500 people in all Great Britain.

What Germany Must Learn

When will the German people come to recognize the perfidy and falseness of the education which they have received from their Prussian masters? The effects of Kultur upon the German mind have been such as to make the German mind incomprehensible to minds that are not German. As one of the outstanding exponents of Kultur has said, none but a German can understand a German. But the time must come when the German mind will understand that its dominating ideas, which have caused this war, are all wrong. The German people will realize that these ideas are wrong, when overwhelming defeat has proved them to be failures. They will then realize that their Prussian masters are not "supermen" destined to establish Teutonic world-dominion, and that ruthless force of cruel, torturing military absolutism makes itself the master of human destiny.

Their Own Blood Revolteth

Through the thoroughness of the British blockade of Germany there came into the hands of the naval authorities recently a document of formal protest to Berlin signed by Director Huber and Professors Niepage, Spieler and Graetner, of the German high school at Aleppo, in regard to Turkey's atrocities against the Christian people under Turkish power, which have been carried on with the sanction of Germany. The document deals specially with the expulsion of the Armenians from their homes, and their wholesale destruction. "Of the 18,000 people driven out of Charput and Sivas, only 350 reached Aleppo," says this document. "Even those lying at the water's edge are not allowed to drink. Europeans are prohibited from distributing bread among them. The Germans, with some laudable exceptions, witness these things quite unperturbed, holding out this excuse: 'We need only the Turks.' It will always remain a terrible stain on Germany's honor, for generations to come." These are not the words of British, or French, or Russian, or even Armenian critics. They are the words of Germans. We may wonder in what form the wrath of Berlin will fall on Director Huber and Professors Niepage, Spieler and Graetner, of the German high school at Aleppo, for this treason of theirs to frightfulness. Away off in their remote corner of the earth, no doubt, the news was kept from them of the example which had been set in Belgium for the Turks to imitate in Armenia.

The Treaty about Birds

The treaty ratified by the Senate at Washington a couple of weeks ago, by which this country and the United States are to act in co-operation for the protection of migratory birds, is the first document of its kind in history. It is an important measure in conservation, both humane and wise, and is destined to be of immense material value to this whole continent. It provides that no bird which is of value to agriculture as an insect-destroyer, shall be shot, or otherwise killed, at any time; also that no open season for any game bird shall extend anywhere in Canada or the United States for more than three months and a half; and, further, that both this country and the United States shall so restrict open seasons for game birds as to prevent their being taken during the breeding season. Heretofore, there had been no uniformity in bird protection laws; varieties of birds protected in some parts of this country were slaughtered indiscriminately in others. The consent of every Province, as of every State, had to be secured to this treaty, and Nova Scotia and British Columbia resisted for a long time. The objections to the treaty came from sportsmen, but the importance of the ends justified the persistence of the efforts on behalf of the treaty as a measure of conservation of natural resources.

What Have We to be Thankful for?

The second Monday of last month was selected by the Dominion Government to be Thanksgiving Day. With the whole world under the shadow of the Great War, which has brought bereavement to many Canadian hearts and grief to every heart that, though not knowing actual bereavement, pulses in sympathy with human agonies and human sorrows, we Canadians can truly feel, as a nation, we have many things to be thankful for. While our own land has not known what invasion by hostile armies means, Canada's sons have proved their manhood by their rallying to the cause of humanity and freedom and acquitting themselves in battle with a spirit that has won the admiration of all the world. Our land is blessed with abundance of all good things; but the lesson of this war-time Thanksgiving Day to us is surely not to associate our giving of thanks with material blessings. The real blessings of life are not what the hands may grasp, but what the heart may hold. These are the greatest and deepest things of life—the joys of children, the happiness of youth and love, the privileges and duties of parenthood, of bringing up healthy boys and girls to be noble men and women, the serene influences of home life, the aspirations of manhood and of womanhood, and our national ideals and our duty to our country and to ourselves to do our part to let nothing destroy those ideals and high purposes for which true Canadianism stands.