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Conscription Talk

The English advocates of conscription, who are numerous and influential, though they are not to be found in the responsible front rank of either of the great political parties, seize upon every opportunity to press their views, and make the most of every scrap of encouragement that falls within their reach. Mr. McNamara, and Lord Haldane, both Ministers, in recent speeches, referred to conscription as something that might some day be possible, but nothing that they advocated or enforced. The system, however, of compulsory service, no one need doubt the patriotic purpose of those who thus strive to keep the idea of conscription in the public mind. Their fault is that they do not estimate as highly as they should the patriotism of the people of the United Kingdom or the value of a voluntary service above one which is compulsory. The advance of such views in time of peace might be harmless. But the continued declarations in a portion of the press, that the voluntary system is a failure, that recruiting for the army is unsuccessful, and that compulsory methods will become necessary, are most regrettable, being unwarranted by the facts, and certainly calculated to give aid and comfort to the enemy. Every statement of the kind that appears is certain to be reproduced in the German press, and will be set up as evidence that Britain is unable to carry on a protracted war. The wisdom of publishing such statements, even if they were well founded, might well be questioned. But they are not well founded. Under the voluntary system Britain has raised a powerful army, which, the Kaiser no longer describes as "England's contemptible little army," and Lord Kitchener has expressed the fullest confidence that all the additional men needed will be found. If in particular places or in particular classes the response to the call has been less than was expected, in other quarters the number has exceeded the estimates, and the general result has been satisfactory. The truth is today that Britain has, so far as numbers are concerned, all the men she needs, and all that she can arm, equip and train, and there is no reason to doubt that, as these are made ready for the battlefield, others will be found to take their places on the training ground. Certainly all must feel that if the voluntary system failed the compulsory one would have to be adopted, for the thing above all others upon which the British Empire is determined, is that this war must be prosecuted to the end at any cost, at any sacrifice. Let that be the clear message that every British journal and every British speaker sends out to Germany and the world. But with it should go the belief that this will be done, not by the compulsory methods of the continent, but by the free-will service of the whole Empire.

The Union Bank

A note of conservative optimism was noticeable in the addresses delivered at the annual meeting of the Union Bank held a few days ago at Winnipeg. The Union Bank has identified itself very largely with the growth and development of the West. From time to time there have come reports from the West that conditions were not all that might be desired, but the addresses made at the annual meeting of the Union Bank do not contain any traces of pessimism. The headquarters of the Union Bank were formerly located at Quebec, but a few years ago the bank came to the conclusion that the future of the country lay in a commercial and economic sense lay west of the Great Lakes. To show their confidence in this belief, the bank moved its headquarters from Quebec to Winnipeg. In his address President Galt announced that the farmers of the Western Provinces had prepared an area of land for crop twenty per cent. greater than during the past year, while the demand for grain, cattle and other foodstuffs promised to remain abnormally great. His conclusion was that "hard work, courage and intelligent economy will undoubtedly bring us safely through the ordeal" will be assented to by all who have followed the trend of affairs in Canada. Mr. Galt has not lost faith in this country. The very satisfactory report of the Union Bank appears elsewhere in this issue.

War and Alcohol

General Alderson has authorized "wet" canteens in the Canadian camp at Salisbury. On the surface it looks like a reversal of the recent policy of the Canadian militia regulations. Some of the thirsty enemies of General Sam Hughes gleefully interpret it as a slap in his face. Certain earnest and enthusiastic temperance workers have published resolutions of protest. The truth of the matter, however, is that these canteens, selling only mild beer, and under strict supervision, are an inoculation against the dives and joints outside the lines. They are meant to promote sobriety, not to facilitate drinking. It is inevitable, besides, that Johnny Canuck, when enlisted in a British army, should be placed on the same level as Tommy Atkins. Moreover, it is the custom for temperance workers in Britain to rely mostly on methods of persuasion, whereas the Canadian custom, for some years back, has been to impose legal restrictions. Let no one think that events during the opening months of the great war have been friendly to the liquor interests. The nations at war with each other are allied in a common war against alcohol. Liquor is being drummed out of four armies. It is nothing less than remarkable that they should transpire such an unanimous testimony to the opinion that strong drink is a destroyer rather than a maker of efficiency. In France and Germany the opposition to the propaganda of temperance has taken the form of an indignant declaration of their usefulness. Beer and manliness, abstinence and the joy of life, it was hotly asserted, belonged together. Nowadays the German

soldier is forbidden his beer, and the French soldier his absinthe. Lord Kitchener is urging total abstinence upon British soldiers. Their friends are implored to send them "comforts" which are non-intoxicating. We are reminded that it is not long since all patients in British public hospitals had their regular allowance of alcoholic drink.

Russia has not only enjoined total abstinence on her soldiers, but has declared that the government manufacture and sale of vodka has forever ceased. It was a monopoly which added seven hundred millions of roubles to the Imperial revenue. Such a price is the Tsar willing to pay for sobriety? It would seem that alcohol must go. The science of medicine has written its doom. Once the art of healing became preventive it discovered that one of the chief causes of bodily ills was intoxicating liquor. The most recent instance of this warfare of the doctors upon liquor is in the report of the Committee on Insanity to the Society of Alienists and Neurologists at their annual meeting in Chicago. The report maintains that the major causes of mental derangement and deficiency are largely, if not wholly eradicable, and that as alcohol is one of these causes, state authorities should be urged to take absolute control of the sale of alcohol "until such time as actual prohibition be enacted." Pateful words! Will the brave defenders of the lost cause of drink please take notice.

An Absurd Practice

A most regrettable accident occurred on the Park Slide on Saturday evening, with the result that a young lady had both arms fractured just below the shoulders, and was badly cut about the face, and now lies in a serious condition at the Royal Victoria Hospital. The accident was clearly due to carelessness on the part of the officials, as the attendant at the top of the slide told the young lady and her escort that they had time for another trip. In the meantime, the attendant at the bottom had placed a bar across the slide, with the result that the young couple crashed into it. Last year, a very serious accident befell two young men under somewhat similar conditions.

We cannot understand why the authorities are so humane. Instead of placing a bar across the slide, they should put barbed wire, barbed teeth and other devices for arresting progress such as is used by the gentle Germans. If the only method they have of stopping people sliding is to catch them at the bottom with bars, they should make a thorough job of it, and impale them on some humane device that would not only put an end to the parties in question, but scare all others for all time from the slide. It is an absurd method of keeping people away. No person should be allowed to get on at the top unless the slide is clear all the way down. Once a person leaves the top, she or he is powerless to stop, and must of necessity crash into any obstruction which may be in the path. The place to stop people getting on is at the top, not at the bottom, or half way down by means of a bar across the slides. Steps should be taken by the authorities at the Park Slide to see that there should be no repetition of such accidents as occurred on Saturday, and that which took place last year.

The foreign trade of Japan, our ally in the Far East, has been affected by the war. Exports from that country in 1914 amounted to \$340,000,000, and imports to \$312,500,000. The total trade is down \$55,000,000 from the record of 1913.

In the period from July 1st, 1900, to March 31st, 1914, 2,906,000 immigrants arrived in Canada. Since the outbreak of the war immigration has fallen to a minimum, but it is confidently expected that following the cessation of hostilities there will be a marked increase in the number of new arrivals.

In Canada there is \$1,266,000,000 of life insurance in force, or \$769 for each of the 1,600,000 families in the country. While this is fairly high, it is still considerably below the \$932 per family carried in the United States. That country has \$20,763,000,000 of insurance in force.

Electricity, which a comparatively few years ago was an almost unknown field, today produces one of our largest budgets. Last year in the United States the gross income of all forms of the electrical industry was \$2,265,000,000, or a per capita expenditure of \$20.

The London Statist, an unusually conservative and well informed journal, announces in a recent issue that "there appear to be unmistakable signs of exhaustion in Germany already, although the first five months of the war have not quite run their course." The belief is growing that economic exhaustion will terminate the conflict.

Of the 29,000 miles of railway Germany possesses, 35,000 are state owned, and have been built very largely to facilitate concentration of her troops at frontier points. Russia has 55,000 miles of railway, of which 24,000 are government owned. Austria's railway mileage is 35,000, of which 8,000 are government owned. France has 31,000 miles of road, practically all of which is government owned.

A Hamiltonian, for once, apparently has Sam Wood, of the Globe, beaten a block. Under the heading "First Robin," the Hamilton Spectator publishes the following item:—M. J. Wolfe, proprietor of the City hotel, thinks he saw the last robin of the season this morning. Mr. Wolfe was out for his morning stroll and when near the head of Queen street his attention was attracted to the red-breasted songster.

Farmers who possess large flocks of sheep will undoubtedly make money from their fleeces. It is estimated that the fleeces from 350,000,000 sheep will be needed annually to supply uniforms and overcoats for the ten million men under arms in Europe. Last year the United States produced but 290,000,000 pounds of wool, or 6,000,000 less than in 1913. In Canada there has also been a steady falling off in our output of wool. This tendency is to be regretted.

NOT BUILT UPON FALSEHOOD.

That the whole effort of the German professors to enlist American sympathy has come to nothing is obvious. American opinion remains what it was. Nor was it built upon falsehood. All this mighty attempt to set us right has not produced a single fact, a single document, a single argument, which was not known in the United States from the beginning. The trouble was, as Maximilien Harden now states, not that we did not have the truth, but that we were "unable to think as Germans do."—New York Evening Post.

OUR CROWNED DEMOCRACY.

The editors of the Canadian newspapers are hearing from American newspapers to the effect that the Monroe doctrine is our doctrine instituted for our own protection against threatening monarchy for which we have no use. We do not look upon the British monarchy as anything but a real democracy. —Brooklyn Eagle.

A GLUTTON FOR TROUBLE.

Turkey has the most curious policy that ever governed a nation. It is simple, and has the beauty of simplicity. If you see trouble, get into it; if you don't see it, make it. The Ottomans seem determined to depart from the European continent in a confusion of heroic and fatuous mistakes.

Turkey has no money, no military equipment; has a discouraged and exhausted army; is scarcely rid of a bad war that nearly chased it out of Europe; has no leadership, has no enthusiasm; wanted only rest and toleration, and has only Enver Bey and his lunatic ambitions, and, with all its limitations and disabilities, has been entered in a war which contains no promise of anything beneficial for it. Not only that, but, with Austria, it is doing whatever can be done to make trouble with Italy.

Austrian officers, it is reported, have been found with the tribesmen who are attacking Italian interests in Albania, and Turkey seems indifferent to the affront which it has given Italy. Turkey or Austria may be responsible any day for a declaration of war by Italy, and it is reasonably sure that if the Italians enter they will adopt the cause of the allies in its entirety. German diplomacy which induced Turkey to take part must have hoped for more than has been found in the result. It is hard to be made restless in India and Egypt, the evidence of it has been concealed. The probability is that Mohammedans care nothing for Turkey and Turkey seems to care nothing for anything.—Chicago Tribune.

A LAND OF CIVIL STRIFE.

Colombia, with whom Great Britain has now a serious breach of neutrality grievance, has had enough international troubles during the last fifty years to satisfy Mexico herself. So persistently has she been at war that the population shows the lowest percentage of any civilized nation—about one per cent. per annum. Colombia's troubles spring from her frontiers, of which she has an embarrassing number. When she had settled matters with Venezuela, Brazil was ready for her, and when Brazil went to sleep Peru awoke along with Ecuador. The proud descendants of Spanish conquerors appear to spend their time dodging mobilization in the mountains.—London Chronicle.

TIED HARD AND FAST.

Those bellicose German propagandists who hailed the American protest as a prelude of immediate belligerent action by the United States overlooked the fact that one of Mr. Bryan's "breathing spell" treaties effectively stops the United States from any form of belligerency toward Great Britain.—New York Herald.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Revolution in Paraguay is the worst sort of return to normal conditions.—Wall Street Journal.

Just when the cash runs low the stores are full of bargains.—Cincinnati Commercial.

Any Southern gentleman will tell you that the German aviator who dropped fourteen bombs on Nancy did not show the proper respect for a lady.—Southern Lumberman.

"Tommy," said the Sunday-school teacher, who had been given a lesson on the baptismal covenant, "can you tell me what to enter when the attendant says, 'water and a baby?'"—Western Mail.

The young bride was exchanging her bridal dress for the going-away costume. "Inez," she asked of the rather envious bridesmaid who was assisting her, "did I appear nervous during the ceremony?" "Just a little at first," replied Inez, "but not after Gerald had said 'I do.'"

Edith, the six-year-old member of a poor family, was told by her father that she had a new baby sister. "Isn't that splendid?" he asked. But hard lessons of the "high cost of living in these war times" had taken root in the young lady's mind, and she answered solemnly: "Well, daddy, I suppose it's all right, but it seems to me that there's a lot of things we need more."

Mr. Jones looked up from his paper. "There's more trouble in store for England, Marx. The country is on the eve of a great strike in which thousands of hands will be involved."

"How dreadful. When is it to take place?" asked the unsuspecting wife. "This very night. At midnight thousands of clocks will point to the hour and it will strike 12."

The new attendant stood sentry-go at the door of the local picture-gallery. Presently a visitor stroled up and was about to enter when the attendant stopped him by the arm and asked him for his walking-stick. "My walking-stick?" exclaimed the gentleman, astonished. "I have not got one."

"Then you must go and get one," replied the attendant. "My orders are not to allow any one to enter without leaving his walking-stick with me."—Tit-Bits.

A COMRADE.

"He said, 'She shall be my slave!'" "Lesser in all than I." "Fie! of body and brain." "She shall carry a golden chain." "And dwell until she die." "In the golden cage I gave."

And he found a treacherous creature of hate and fear. With teeth and claws that were ready when he came near.

He said, "She shall be my star!" "I will set her high above." "This dusty world of mine." "I will bow me down at her shrine." "Pray for the light of her love." "And worship her from afar."

And he found that the light of her love had been withdrawn. Leaving only a faint chill pity, a faint chill scorn.

He said, "She shall be my friend!" "Side by side let us stand." "For I need your help and you." "Comrade tried and true." "With my hand in your dear hand." "And shall see out life to the end."

And she turned and her eyes met his; and I think she cried. (But she laughed through her tears) and she came to her place at his side.—Thomas O'Meara.

THE LIGHT THAT FAILS.

Medical examiners of public schools attribute a large share of the backwardness of pupils to lack of sight. Multitudes of poor women find incapacity of earning a livelihood by sewing on account of defective vision. Eyesight is one of the economic assets of the community.

Doctors agree that trachoma, various forms of inflammation and other external diseases of the eyes are caused by dark, unventilated, insanitary and dirty tenements. The prevalence of eye disease among the poor is alarming. If we want to run down the industrial capacity of the race and raise a crop of blind dependents upon charity, one of the surest ways of achieving our end is to permit the tenement conditions to remain as they are.

Fully one-half of the social ills from which people now suffer might be avoided if it were made compulsory upon all men to live up to the enlightenment laws already upon the statute books. But selfishness and greed invent a thousand excuses for evasion, and the verdict of science and humanitarianism is nullified whenever it threatens to reduce the real estate returns even by a fraction.—Philadelphia Evening Ledger.

GERMANY'S TERRIBLE CREED.

Be efficient, be virile, be hard, be bloody, be rulers, worship according to the rites of the religion of valor, adopt the dogma that might makes right, teach the individual that he must sacrifice life, liberty, everything to the state, ride down and trample upon whoever stands in the way of imperial progress along the bloody road—this is the creed of Germany, this is its theory and practice of the state's duty to itself, this is the use made of the power it has by the ruthless sacrifices of finer things built up. To maintain that the power which has adopted in practice that new morality, and in accordance with its precepts promised Austria its support against Serbia, and invaded Belgium and France in hot haste, is not the responsible author of the European war, is to throw away memory, reason, and common sense, in judging the human agencies in current events.—Dr. Charles W. Eliot in New York Times.

TOLERATION.

The old pioneers of Co-operation stood up for liberty and relevance of speech. Some thought toleration meant indifference to what opinion prevailed. This was the mistake which some still make. Toleration means anxiety for the truth; it means ardor for the truth; it means confidence in the truth. It believes that truth, like fire, is excited by collision, and that no truth can be known to be true, save that which has passed through the ordeal of controversy. Toleration means giving new truth fair play. Intolerance, which is prohibition, gives it none. The conditions of truth are now well ascertained to be liberty of expression, and of criticism; it is not he who is tolerant of these, but he who is intolerant of them, who is indifferent to the truth, and upon whom the stigma of looseness and latitudinarianism of mind ought to fall.—George Jacob Holyoake.

CANADA AS A CITIZEN FACTORY.

Since Canada is an English-speaking country, bred to British traditions, trained to British ideals, impregnated with British democracy, of course it is "unprepared," as "unprepared" as the mother country has ever been, an "unprepared" as its neighbor to the south, a country of similar origin and characteristics, proverbially is. And yet, five months after the call came, five months since it was thrown upon its own resources, it is confident in its preparedness. The Dominion of Canada may be taken to-day as a world object lesson in the results of a system that is employed in making of citizens rather than in the training of warriors.—Christian Science Monitor.

The Day's Best Editorial

TITLES AND WORK.

The Toronto News says that Sir Thomas Hamar Greenwood, after bitterly denouncing the House of Lords, and the hereditary principle, has accepted an hereditary title. We have not read the speeches in which he is said to have denounced the aristocracy, and therefore cannot say whether the charge of inconsistency is well-founded. But as to the broader question of the value of these distinctions, the truth remains exactly as it always remained.

The News says that Sir Hamar Greenwood has brought honor to this country by his achievements in England. Upon these achievements, not upon his title, his fame will rest. The Asquith Government has done much to improve the condition of the people of the United Kingdom. We believe that the new baronet had his share in that work and for that he is entitled to credit. The work is the gold. The title is the stamp on the coin. "The rank is but the guinea's stamp, the man's the gold for a' that."

When a man has done great things his title is forgotten. Scott is loved and honored because of his poetry and his romances. Nobody cares a rap about his baronetcy. Tennyson is known as the author of "In Memoriam," and "The Idylls of the King." Nobody cares to remember that he shared the title of Lord with a lot of nonentities, Dickens, Thackeray and Browning had no title, and they are held in as much regard as if they had been dukes.

It is the same with heroes of war. Who worries about the titles of Wellington and Nelson, or Kitchener and French and Joffre? Who imagines that their descendants would necessarily be accepted as great commanders?

In war, as in literature, in science, in legislation, every man must stand upon his own merits. An hereditary legislator is an absurdity. No doubt there are able men in the House of Lords. It is none the less ridiculous that a man should be allowed to make laws or break laws because of the accident of birth.

We are glad to know that Sir Thomas Hamar Greenwood has done good work; we hope he will do more. Upon his work, not upon his title, his fame will rest.—Toronto Daily Star.

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THE HEALTH OF THE TROOPS.

Typhoid, cholera, and other plagues find easier access when bodies have been weakened by impure water, of any sort, or by exposure such as might be caused to troops that admit the wet, or clothes that do not afford adequate shelter against cold winds and rain.

Contractors who supply the soldiers with bad boots, rotten khaki, and leaky, stamped huts also endanger the health of the troops, but through a motive of mistaken generosity, for the sake of gain they aim a deliberate blow at the efficiency of the soldiers and the defence of the realm. In Canada some wretched women of the pavement have been court-martialed for being in the street after sunset in the evening, but so far we have read of no dishonest contractor being summarily dealt with on court-martial. Many of the 30,000 Canadian soldiers encamped on Salisbury Plain have been provided with Canadian contractors with a quality of food and shelter that the contracting leopard does not change his spots either in the colonies or at home. Here is a final picture from Aldershot bearing on the health of soldiers. We read of bed tents almost floating in mud and water; of blankets so saturated with mud that the men preferred to walk about all night naked than risk sleeping in wet bed clothes. The outcasts of some of the men were never dry for a week at a time. This is an excellent method for making soldiers, but hardly so excellent for making soldiers capable soldiers.—London Citizen.

STATE MONOPOLY OF LIQUOR TRADE.

Another big monopoly which would be better in the hands of the State for obvious reasons is the liquor trade monopoly. The Prohibition Party in this country has made such headway, that the various organs of this monopoly would be glad to take \$25 per acre in debentures for the asset value of their undertakings. Taking this business over, we could probably nearly all of the evils of the trade, and it would yield us about £2,000,000 per annum in profits.—The Payne, M.P., New Zealand.

U. S. NOT SECURE.

There is no reason why the United States should be any more secure than the rest of the world from German attack. On the contrary, a Germany dominating Europe must inevitably seek expansion in the new world. Only by opposing sea power to sea power could the United States hope to maintain the Monroe Doctrine and keep the German fleet from being raised in some of the countries south of us.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

HUNGER A GOOD SAUCE.

Germans are slow to follow their big master in munching war bread, consisting of rye flour and potato flakes. But give them time. Hunger is a good sauce.

STRENGTH OF NEW YORK UNDIMINISHED

Many Orders to Buy Stocks a Level Under The Prevailing Level

MAXWELL MOTOR STRONG

It is Expected That First Preferred Will Begin to Receive Dividends on a 7 per cent. Basis Within a Year.

New York, January 11.—Although traders tried to make a bear argument out of the fact that Great Britain's reply to the shipping protest, while conciliatory, made no important concession to President Wilson's demands, the market at the opening was fairly active with a good tone.

Responding to the unfilled tonnage statement published after the close of business on Saturday, U. S. Steel opened $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 57 $\frac{1}{2}$. Bethlehem opened $\frac{1}{4}$ at 51 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The first sale of Union Pacific was at 118 $\frac{1}{4}$. The first sale of Union Pacific was at 147 $\frac{1}{4}$, changed, while Reading opened $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 147 $\frac{1}{4}$. Lehigh Valley gained $\frac{1}{4}$ by opening at 134.

New York, January 11.—Trading was quiet in afternoon, but the market's strength was undiminished, and brokers reported that a number of customers had put in orders to buy stocks at prices a little under the prevailing level.

Strength in Missouri, Kansas and Texas was assuring. The common stock up to 95, compared with the close on Saturday, and the preferred advanced a point to 27.

These stocks were sold down a couple of weeks ago merely on the ground that \$10,000,000 fall in May, but there is ample time yet remaining concerning the question of how to provide for their future.

Maxwell Motor issues were strong. The first preferred advanced to 52 $\frac{1}{2}$, compared with 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ at the close Saturday, and the second preferred gained by selling at 27 $\frac{1}{2}$.

It is expected that the first preferred will begin to receive dividends on a 7 per cent. basis within a year. Stakeholder advanced sympathetically.

DEATH FOLLOWED THAT OF HIS TWO SOLDIER SONS

Colt, Ont., January 11.—Frederick William F. of London, England, a director of the Mining Corporation of Canada, Casey-Colt Mining Company, other Colt properties, is dead in London, at the age of 70 years.

His last visit to Colt was made some three or four years ago.

His death was accelerated by the loss of his sons, Capt. Donald and Capt. Lancelot Rose, who were killed in action a few weeks ago in North France.

SETTING ASIDE THE ORDER.

Washington, January 11.—Senator La Follette introduced a resolution setting aside the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission in a 5 per cent. advance rate case, and directing that no road in official classification territory may charge its freight rates than those prevailing July 29th last, without submitting proof to the commission in an order bearing that such rates are unreasonable.

BRITAIN'S FLEET TO THE AID OF THE ARMY

(Continued from page 1.)

The British do not lack of such undertakings. No one does not altogether agree with such strict censorship after you have once got in at the enemy with new device.

"As we all know, the determined efforts of the Germans are making to capture both American and Canadian sympathies some counter move should be taken to either checkmate or at all events minimize the talk of and often-wished-for anticipatory victory which the Kaiser and his myrmidons dream of."