

The Toronto World

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FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 4.

Providence and the Navy

We celebrate today the second anniversary of King George's declaration of war against Germany. Since then the Kaiser has often tried to prove that Great Britain started the war. It is not easy to forget that Austria first declared war on July 28, on Serbia, urged on by Germany, that Germany declared war against Russia on August 1, and invaded France on August 3, and had violated the neutrality of Belgium before Great Britain declared war. Faced with these facts the Kaiser asserts that Britain forced him by her diplomacy to do as he did. He thus credits Sir Edward Grey with more skill than most of Sir Edward's countrymen did, and had the Kaiser yielded to the foreign secretary's proposal for a conference of the powers there need have been no war. This is a patent to most of us, but there are still a few American and pro-Germans, and perhaps Mr. Phillips Thompson, who believe that Britain is responsible for the war.

Polonius had some good advice for fighters. "Beware of entrance to a quarrel, but being in heart that the opponent may beware of thee." This is sound advice. Britain was utterly unready for war, and even as late as June last year, Mr. Lloyd George tells us, we had only a week's ammunition on hand, and would have been beaten had something not blinded the Germans to our weakness, and led them on to attack the Russians. All military critics agree that the retreat from Mons to the Marne was more or less of a miracle. The final blunder of Von Kluck in crossing his own front before Paris was the turning point of the war, and since then it has been merely a question of how long it would take to burn itself out. Lord Kitchener judged it would be three years. Since his death no one in authority has ventured to suggest a shorter period. Taking all things into consideration, we may be thankful that it was not ended in six months, for that would have meant the triumph of German methods and German military policy, the domination of the black eagle over the rest of humanity. Canada and South America would at once have come under German rule. The United States might have waited for a later opportunity, but it is now clear that great reliance was placed upon the 25,000,000 people of German blood, who live under the Stars and Stripes and sing "Deutschland über Alles."

Providence and the British navy stopped this development. Providence could have done it alone, but it is obvious that the British navy was the immediate instrument. It is in fact more obvious than that the Kaiser is supported, as he alleges, by the heavenly powers. The men who are fighting in the trenches understand the great issues. The men who toll by day and by night on the great deep, are strengthened by the thought of divine ideals of truth and justice and freedom. It is fitting that those who are protected at home and exempted from the labors of warfare should acknowledge their debt on such an occasion as this. Those who are thankful neither to Providence nor the men who fight our battles, but who share the protection granted us, need not be considered. They make their own election, and no one owes them. The day seems far spent and it may be that the worst of the heat and burden is over, but as we are grateful for having come so far thru the struggle we must stand ready for any further demands that may be made upon us. We cannot say that the job is done till it is finished, and so completely that it will not have to be done again.

Still a Mystery
Few explanations have been made, and none of them satisfactory, of the happenings at Chicago which resulted

ONLY THIRTEEN DONNED UNIFORM

Yesterday's Recruiting Results Were Smallest of Several Weeks.

MANY REJECTIONS

Twenty-Seven Who Applied Were Pronounced Medically Unfit.

Altho 40 recruits came up for examination at the armories yesterday, only 13 of these were pronounced medically fit and became attested. These results are the smallest of several weeks, the percentage of rejections being unusually high.

The 23rd Battalion secured three recruits, thereby heading the list for the day. The other units increased their strength of the Construction Battalion, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

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Sir Sam Hughes said some time ago that the head headquarters staff would go overseas and most of them have expressed a desire to get on active service, but the custom has been to promote war-tired officers to command brigades of men and to send them to the front, and it is not expected that the plan will be dropped to give preference to Gen. Legie.

The 20th Beaver Battalion, of which Lieut.-Col. W. H. Price is the commanding officer, has now reached a strength of 118 men and it is expected that full strength will be reached in a few days. A platoon of Russians, comprising 60 men, will be added to the strength of this battalion, and as ten Russians have now joined the ranks it is anticipated that no trouble will be experienced in securing the other forty.

A meeting to explain the proposal will be held on Monday evening at 7 o'clock at the corner of Bathurst and Queen streets, to which all Russians and sons of Russian citizens of Toronto—the Rev. Michael Klamak, Russian Orthodox priest, also Dr. S. F. Adalla, a Pole, and others from the Polish Church of Toronto.

A BOOK ON BADGES

"Badges and Their Meaning," is the title of a shining treatise brilliantly illustrated in color, showing every thing of the kind in use in the British military and naval forces. The well-known firm of George Philip & Son, Limited, London, which is responsible for many similar publications, has achieved a special success in this volume. There are 226 colored badges of all kinds depicted, including cap badges, shoulder-straps, cuffs, in all the services, naval, air, military of all arms and various other necessary figures, including officers' uniforms, and the aeroplane insignia, and facings, in peace times. The book is quite up-to-date, showing the badges of the recently formed Welsh Guards, and the aeroplanes distinguishing marks of all the battalions. The Canadian badges are not forgotten. The beaver head of the Mounted Rifles, the black devil of the A.S.C. and "The Black Devil" of the 30th Winnipeg receiving attention in the letter press. A copious index, filling seven columns, renders the store of information fully available.

NEW HOTEL GRANTED FIXED ASSESSMENT

Suggestion That Ratepayers Decide Was Swept Aside.

By a vote of four to one the board of control decided yesterday to grant a fixed assessment on the two million dollar hotel which the York Hotel Corporation proposes erecting on the site of the Yonge Street Arcade. During the three years required to complete the hotel, the assessment will be on the basis of \$740,000, and during the following ten years \$850,000. There was some talk of having the ratepayers vote on the question, but it finally was overridden to allow a decision to go to a special meeting of the council on Thursday of next week.

AT OSGOOD HALL

Action has been entered at Osgood Hall by the attorney-general as trustee for the creditors of the Dominion Trust Company, against the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company, of England, to recover \$100,000 penalty for alleged breach of conditions in a bond of February 19th, 1914, in which the defendants were obligors on behalf of the Dominion Trust Company, and in which the plaintiff is obligee. The action arises out of the non-payment of \$2,175.92 found due by the defendants to the plaintiff, and damages for non-fulfillment of the office of executor of the estate.

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