

Besides the wooden vessels there are scores of steam boats being launched at the larger shipbuilding plants throughout the Dominion. Even cement is being pressed into use as a material for shipbuilding, a cement boat having been launched in Montreal a few days ago.

In the United States shipbuilding has been taken up as the most serious and important duty confronting that country. This was done at the request of Great Britain and the other Allied nations who early in the year saw that if the United States was to transport and maintain an army in Europe and the Allied nations be kept supplied with food and munitions a tremendous increase must be made in the world's shipping tonnage. It is estimated that by the end of 1918 the United States will have constructed four million tons of new ships. This added to what Canada, Japan, Great Britain, France, Italy and other Allied countries are doing, as well as what can be pressed into service through neutral countries, will more than make good the losses sustained by the submarines. The end of all this shipbuilding activity may be the creation of a new industry in the Dominion. There is no reason why this country should not resume its former place among the maritime nations of the world. It is to be hoped that development will take place along such satisfactory lines that the industry will be revived in the Dominion.

### What the Mark Tells

**D**ESPITE Germany's protests that she is in a sound financial condition her mark tells a different story. Her economic condition is being reflected in the quotations of her foreign exchange. At the end of 1915 the German mark was at a 20 per cent discount. A year later it had dropped to 30 per cent. In June of this year it was 44 per cent below normal; in August 50 per cent; and in September 54 per cent. Germany's neighbors, who are in the best position to judge of the condition of her financial standing, will only take German money at over a 50 per cent reduction. In other words, those who are in a position to know her the best show by their actions that they believe her to be only half solvent.

The world knows that Germany has followed a vicious circle in financing her war expenditures. She kept her printing presses going and issued paper money which later was discounted by the banks and thus formed the basis for additional credits. Things have gone on in this way until a huge pyramid of paper has been piled up with very little gold foundation as a basis. Just as long as the German Government can force their people to accept the paper money they issue and do not have to go out of the country to any extent matters may go along in a fairly satisfactory manner. A different tale is told when Germany crosses her border and buys from her neighbors. There they will only accept her money at a discount of over 50 per cent.

What will happen after peace is declared is not hard to foretell. Germany, with her huge accumulation of paper and her depleted stocks of gold, will then be forced to go out into the world's markets and buy raw material to start her factories going. Where she is to get her cotton, wool and the thousand and one other commodities she formerly imported with no better security than her inflated paper pyramid passes comprehension. Germany's financial structure and her trade are likely to crumble in a manner suggestive of the proverbial house of cards. The German mark at 54 per cent discount and the Austrian krona at a discount of 58 per cent tell their own story of internal conditions in the Central Kingdoms.

### A Worthy Work

**W**ERE it not for the efforts of a few public spirited citizens the Great White Plague would be allowed to continue its ravages unchecked, at least in so far as this Province is concerned. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. D. Lorne McGibbon, President of the Laurentian Society, for the Treatment and Control of Tuberculosis, and Dr. Hugh Kinghorn, of Saranac Lake for the splendid services they and their associates have rendered to those suffering from this disease. For years a few faithful men and women have carried the whole of the very heavy financial and administrative burden associated with the maintenance of the Sanitarium at Ste. Agathe. It is high time that their work in preventing and curing tuberculosis received a large measure of government support.

Tuberculosis can be cured. It can also be prevented. In its case prevention is a million times better than cure. A huge publicity campaign of an educational nature carried on by the Governments, both Federal and Provincial, would do untold good. There is no disease so prevalent in this province as tuberculosis, and scarcely any that gets the same scant attention. We act as if the disease were a dispensation sent by Providence, fold our hands in resignation and do little or nothing to help ourselves or our fellow sufferers. If we acted the same way with smallpox or cholera the whole race would be wiped out with the first epidemic.

That the disease presents serious dangers is shown by the wholehearted way in which many provinces and states on this continent have grappled with the problem. In addition some of our largest life insurance companies have set aside large sums of money in an effort to combat and stamp out the menace. The economic loss resulting from tuberculosis probably surpasses that of any three or four other diseases put together, while the danger of contagion due to the ignorance of the sufferer and those with whom he lives make it a most insidious menace to the health of the nation.

The Sanitarium at Ste. Agathe is doing excellent work, both for our returned soldiers and for civilians, but it is in need of more generous support. The provincial government could well afford to do what so many states in the Union are doing. As a matter of fact nearly every state in the neighboring republic has a state sanitarium, the most famous and most successful being the one at Saranac Lake where Dr. Kinghorn is located. This Canadian-American has never severed his connection with his old home, but on the other hand has continued to assist Mr. McGibbon in the financing of the Laurentian Society and the Sanitarium at Ste. Agathe.

These men and their associates have done nobly. It is now up to the Government to "carry on" and "do its bit."

### Prussianism in Canada

**A**CCORDING to a report published in the Montreal Star a few days ago a most unusual request was made to an exemption tribunal on St. Catherine Street West. This was to the effect that a German father sought exemption for his son, who is registered as a German citizen and who renewed his allegiance to the Kaiser no farther back than 1912. The young man himself in appearing before the tribunal, "Did not hesitate to express his pro-

German sympathies and had little use for British claims in the present war." He claimed exemption on the grounds that his services were required by his employers. If this be true, and we have no reason to doubt either the accuracy of the Star's report or the colossal nerve of any subject of the Kaiser, it is a most astounding situation. The military authorities should lose no time in having that loyal subject of the Kaiser lodged in an internment camp; we have shown far too great a laxity throughout this whole war. There has been a feeling everywhere that men of German or Austrian origin were not Anti-British in their sympathies. The recent demonstration in Kitchener showed that the leopard cannot change his spots. The German citizens of that town showed where their sympathies were, and there is not the slightest doubt but that 99 per cent of the remainder of the Germans and Austrians living in the country have similar views. The colossal nerve of a German subject of military age to appear before a tribunal and express pro-German sympathies is on a par with the best the Kaiser could do. Evidently the young man is a fine product of Prussian militarism and should be treated in exactly the same manner as any other Prussian. It is sincerely hoped that the military authorities will take prompt and vigorous action in regard to this outspoken Hun and either lodge him in an internment camp or have him face a firing squad. It is not hard to imagine what would happen if a Britisher of military age appeared before a military board in Berlin, Germany, and expressed anti-German views and announced that his sympathies were with Great Britain. It is surely time that we appraised Prussianism at its true value. That young man should be taught a very salutary lesson.

### Partially Loaded Cars

**T**RANSPORTATION plays a very important part in the war, not only in the countries where war is being waged, but in the lands from which the supplies come. For some months there has been a growing agitation on the part of railroad men, government officials and the more wide awake shippers to secure more heavily loaded cars. Some of the leading transportation men on the continent have pointed out that the sending out of a car insufficiently loaded is a serious economic loss. When this is duplicated in the case of thousands of cars it means an almost unbelievable shrinkage and wastage.

The situation is made more serious owing to the fact that there is an acute car shortage in the United States and Canada. For the two or three years before the outbreak of war business on this continent allowed their rolling stock to become seriously depleted. The war has caused a tremendous demand for all kinds of rolling stock in order that munitions, clothing, foodstuffs and the thousand and one other commodities used by Mars might be transported to the sea coast. When the thousands of cars necessary to transport these supplies are only partially loaded it is very evident that severe losses are entailed. It would be well for shippers to give very careful attention to this important matter, and in cases where a man has not sufficient to load a car arrangements might often be made with another shipper sending goods in the same direction, so that instead of a car going out half loaded it could go forward loaded to capacity. In this way shippers would be "doing their bit."