

Journal of Commerce

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MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1915.

The Shifty German.

It is evident that regard for consistency is no part of the German philosophy. Consistency of opinion is not in always the highest virtue, but consistency in statements of fact and in reasons given for any line of action is important if the party concerned hopes to find any confidence in his sincerity.

In the case of the invasion of Belgium, the explanations offered by Germany have been numerous and conflicting. Mr. Alfred Noyes, of the New York Evening Post, sums up these explanations in an effective passage. "We know," he says, "and it is hard to see how the German people should not also know, that the Belgian invasion has been officially explained by German authorities in six separate and mutually contradictory ways: Belgium withheld a cargo of wheat from Germany. Germany knowingly violated international law, but had to do it for her own advantage. French soldiers had entered Germany, though not through Belgium. French soldiers had entered Belgium, though not through Germany. France would have invaded Belgium if Germany had not. Britain would have done it if Germany and France had not."

In the same way we find conflicting statements as to the nation responsible for the war. Just now the German cry everywhere is that England is the great offender. "We have but one enemy, England," is the expression in all German circles. Ernst Lisauer, who wrote the "Chant of Hate," in which all Germans are represented as feeling that the concentrated hatred of their country is directed against England, has been decorated by the Kaiser. But at the beginning of the war, the Germans had a different story. Then it was Russia that deserved the German hatred, for Russia, according to German officialdom, had determined to attack Germany, and had cleverly managed to entangle England and France in her meshes. Forgetting all this, the Germans now represent that Russia and France are responsible only in a minor way, and that England alone is the German enemy.

The latest conflict of German despatches is in relation to food supplies. Hitherto every report from Berlin in relation to Germany's resources has represented that there was such an abundance of food that there was no reason for the slightest anxiety on that score. Now we are finding many references to possible starvation. The blustering proclamation of the German Government, declaring the British coast to be a war zone, is defended on the ground that it is a justifiable retaliation for England's efforts to starve the German people by cutting off supplies. And one of the latest reports contains the statement that if there is to be a scarcity of food, the Germans will take care to see that their prisoners of war—the British, French and Russian—will be the first to starve. The frequent references to the need for economy in the use of bread, and to the possibility of starvation, pretty clearly indicate that, notwithstanding their boasts and bluster, the Germans are feeling the pinch of scarcity, which must press upon them more severely every day, while the British Navy holds the command of the sea.

Will Italy Fight?

The theory is now being held that Italy will be forced into the war because of her poverty. This seems a strange reason, especially when we have seen during the past few months something of the wastage of war. However, in the case of Italy it is said that the situation is somewhat different and that the Italians are going into the fighting in the hope of reimbursing themselves at the expense of Austria.

Ever since the Tripoli War Italy has been practically bankrupt, and at the present time many of the people are finding it extremely difficult to get enough food to keep them from starvation. They believe that a big war would not only provide them with employment and food, but would more than repay them in the amount of loot and territory which they would acquire. There is no doubt at all that Italy greatly desires the Italian provinces which Austria took from her years ago. To her those provinces mean as much as Alsace-Lorraine meant to the French. If Italy goes in, it will mean the speedy collapse of Germany and Austria, as the Italians have a powerful army.

Japan Supplanting German-Made Goods.

Little Japan, which defeated the Germans in Eastern China and took from them their base at Kiau-Chau, is now going out to capture German trade. Previous to the outbreak of the war, the cheap violins in use in the United States were all imported from Germany. These instruments, which can hardly be put in the Stradivarius class, cost from three to eight dollars. Japan is now supplying the needs of the United States. One violin manufacturer at Nagoya has received an order from the United States for ten of thousands of these cheap violins, which has necessitated it doubling its plant.

Japan has gone after trade in an energetic manner. Among other things she is supplying Kamiko or paper clothing, to the Russian soldiers. This pa-

per is made from mulberry bark, and is made into clothing by the insertion of a thin layer of silk wadding between two sheets of paper. The whole is then quilted. The Japanese used this clothing when fighting the Russians ten years ago, and found it more comfortable and warmer than flannel. The garments are made of tough, soft fabric, strong enough to hold buttons sewn on in the ordinary way, and appear to be serviceable and satisfactory, the only drawback being that such cheap clothing is not washable. However, as the clothing is cheap, it can be thrown away and a new supply secured.

This activity on the part of Japan in supplying goods formerly furnished by Germany may mean more than appears on the surface. In the first place, the Japanese are great imitators and specialize in manufacturing cheap articles—a field heretofore controlled by Germany. If at the end of the war Germany finds that she has lost her place as a manufacturer of cheap toys, and cheap articles of commerce, it will be extremely difficult for her to get back this business. Japan's activity is but another nail in Germany's coffin.

Germany's much boasted Zeppelins have not accomplished a great deal. The fleet has cost \$32,000,000 to build and maintain, but up to the present time it has only killed sixty persons, mostly non-combatants.

Expert metallurgists have compiled for the London Times a statement showing that Germany is daily firing 309 tons of copper, or 112,000 tons a year, while her home production is only 40,000 tons. It does not take a mathematician to show that this cannot last indefinitely.

The best explanation given for the exodus from the farms is that furnished by a rural mail carrier from Kansas. After driving through the farming districts of that State for a great many years, and doing a lot of observing and thinking, he says that the reason why so many boys leave the farm is that "Willie's calf grows up to be dad's cow."

Immigration into the United States for the calendar year 1914 amounted to but 688,495, or less than half the number which arrived in that country in 1913, when 1,387,318 newcomers arrived. The average for the past ten years has been approximately 1,000,000 a year. It is expected that after the war there will be a big rush across the Atlantic.

Some surprising results have followed the Safety First campaign which a number of large American railroads and corporations have put into force. In the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company the loss of life and limb has been reduced 70 per cent, the Illinois Steel shows a decrease of 55 per cent, the Illinois Steel 70 per cent, while the United States Steel Corporation estimate that since they adopted the system in 1906 over 11,000 men have been saved from death or serious injury. Safety First pays.

The Chile nitrate mines, which gave employment to 45,000 men, as well as providing the chief traffic for several railways, have practically suspended operations since the outbreak of war. For example in October the shipments amounted to but 68,000 tons, as compared with 310,000 tons for the corresponding month in 1913. Two-thirds of Chile's exports of nitrate went to Germany and Austria, where it was used as a fertilizer for sugar beets. The falling off in the nitrate export has had a serious effect upon the revenues of the country, as Chile ordinarily derived about forty per cent of her revenue from an export tax on nitrate.

There has been an interesting discussion in the English papers respecting the proper attitude of the Quakers—the "Society of Friends"—to the war. We noted some time ago that as evidence of their desire to help where they could they had organized an ambulance corps, with a complete equipment for field service. While doing this the Quakers have adhered to their well known objections to participation in war itself. It appears that notwithstanding the holding of such views by the Friends generally, fifteen young men attending their schools have joined the army. Now the question is being discussed whether these youths should be commended or apologized for.

Ginger used in confectionery, in medicine and as a desert rank second in importance to pepper among spices used by men. Ginger is indigenous to practically all the tropical countries in the world, and flourishes especially in Jamaica. The plant requires heat, a good soil and abundant moisture. It requires a rainfall of from eighty to a hundred inches per annum. The ginger root is planted very much like potatoes, in trenches about a foot apart. Like the potato plant, the flowers wither and die, and then the foliage and stems follow suit, at which time the fruit is fully developed and ready for lifting. When dug the roots are peeled after which the ginger is placed in clean water and very thoroughly washed. After drying it is ready for market.

The Reading Camp Association, of which Mr. Albert Fitzpatrick is superintendent, has been doing a very excellent work in connection with the unemployed in our large cities. Not only have the association provided literature to the men in the mining and lumbering camps in the north country, but lately they have been endeavoring to take the unemployed from the large cities and secure work for them among farmers. In some cases the farmers have been provided with competent help; in other cases, farmers have very kindly provided a billet for a few months to an unemployed man or woman. Such a scheme enables a farmer to receive a certain amount of work, which is given in exchange for lodgings and food. The scheme is of two-fold benefit; it relieves the congestion and lessens the number of unemployed in the cities, and provides the farmers with needed help. It is a practical application of the "Back to the Land" Movement.

SENTIMENT HERE BASED ON FACT.

At the utterly mis-named "neutrality" meeting held in Symphony Hall on Sunday night—a meeting at which an officer of the Government of the United States was hided and the Administration of that Government accused of deliberately playing into the hands of the Allies—the charge was made that the American newspapers were responsible for the general American sympathy with the foes of Germany. Such a statement it is hardly necessary to refute. The newspapers have printed in good faith such news as comes across the ocean. German wireless matter as well as all the rest. As to sentiment of the people of this country, it is overwhelmingly in favor of the Allies, the cause lies in admitted and incontrovertible facts; in clearly understandable official statements; in certain cruel and oppressive results. In other words, the cause is Germany herself. No American newspaper helped perpetrate the Belgian outrage.—The Boston Post.

THE GROUCH.

The Great Creator in His wisdom created many men of many minds and temperaments, knowing that if the sons of men were alike in wishes and desires it would lead to unending strife.

He created, well, for man is the noblest work of God. But in some way there crept into the world a creature God did not create—a thing self-made, by it male or female, that is hated, despised, and abhorred; a thing self-created, self-pitied, and abnormally self-loved.

This self-created creature is the chronic grouch that walks here and there in every town and community searching for happiness—that he may destroy it. Flowers and children, because they represent beauty and love, he detests. He reads as he runs that all men are liars and all women but creatures of evil.

In summer he reviles the bright sunshine and hates the green hills. In winter he reviles the cleansing snow and the purifying frost.

Children flee from him and his wife can be classed among the martyrs. Men shun him and the world hates him. From an early age he walks this earth spreading unhappiness and unbelief—a maker of evil and discord.

Let us throw the X-ray of self-examination into our own hearts and search out the little microbe that has a tendency to multiply and produce, in time, the hated grouch. There is too much love and sunshine in this old world of ours to spoil it with the cancer of selfishness.—From the Rochford Register-Gazette.

INDIVIDUALISM IN THE EXTREME.

The common drinking glass, the roller towel and the finger bowl having been banished, the Kansas Board of Health now decrees that the public holder must go, because some people have a habit of holding the pen in the mouth while sealing a letter, or collecting their thoughts, and thereby disease germs might be transported to the unwary. Why not abolish the common nickel and dime, and have all the "change" made on the "individual" plan to be destroyed as soon as used? Some people have a habit of holding a coin between the lips or teeth.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Out in the country these days it is very easy to get into the drift of things.—Brantford Courier.

Beggar—Won't you give me a nickel for my starving wife, sir?
Pedestrian—Nothing doing; I'm married already.—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Montreal woman hit a suspected criminal with a rolling pin and then stood on him while she telephoned for the police. One admires her pluck, but the other fellow may marry her.—Orillia Racket.

A reporter was interviewing Thomas A. Edison, relates Tit-Bits. "And you, sir," he said to the inventor, "made the first talking machine?" "No," Mr. Edison replied; "the first one was made long before my time—out of a rib."

In an advertisement by a railway company of some uncalculated for goods the letter "L" has been by an accident dropped from the word "Lawful," and it now reads: "People to whom these packages are directed are requested to come forward and pay the awful charges on the same."

At an evening party a very elderly lady was dancing with a young partner. A stranger approached a young man, who was looking on, and said: "Fray, sir, can you tell me who is the young gentleman dancing with that elderly lady?" "One of the Humane Society, I should think," replied the other.

Shortly after the reconstruction period began, an old Southern planter met one of his negroes whom he had not seen since the latter's liberation, says Judge. "Well, well!" said the planter. "What are you doing now, Uncle Josh?" "I 's preacin' of de Gospel." "What! You preacin'?" "Yassah, marster, I 's preacin'." "Well, well! Do you use notes?" "Nossah. At de fust I use notes but now I demands de cash."

A Scotchman went to a dentist to have a tooth extracted, and he asked the dentist how much it would cost. "One dollar," was the reply. "And if I have gas, it won't hurt me?" was the next question. "No," said the dentist, "you will be quite unconscious." The Scot put his hand in his pocket and brought out a handful of coins. "Oh, that's quite all right," said the dentist politely, "you need not trouble to pay until you have had the gas." "I wasna going to pay," answered the Scot, shaking his head. "I was just going to count ma money!"

PIBROCH OF DONULL DHU.

(By Sir Walter Scott.)
Pibroch of Donull Dhu,
Pibroch of Donull,
Wake thy wild voice anew,
Summon clan and Conall,
Come away, come away,
Hark to the summons!
Come in your war array,
Gentles and commons.
Come from deep glen, and
From mountain so rocky,
The war-pipe and pennon
Are at Inverlochy,
Come every hill-plaid, and
True heart that wears one,
Come every steel blade, and
Strong hand that bears one.

Come, as the winds come, when
Forests are roused;
Come as the waves come, when
Navies are stranded;
Faster come, faster come,
Faster and faster,
Chief vassal, page and groom,
Tenant and master.
Fast they come, fast they come,
See how they gather!
Wide waves the eagle plume,
Blended with heather.
Cast your plaids, draw your blades,
Forward each man set!
Pibroch of Donull Dhu,
Knell for the onset!

SOME ADVICE TO GERMAN-AMERICANS.

Representative Bartholdt and his associates are doing Germany no good, and they are doing themselves much harm, by their pernicious pro-German propaganda.

When they threaten to carry Germany's case to the polls and make the German cause an issue in American politics they are playing with dynamite. The American people will not tolerate such a campaign of alienism, and the chief sufferers will be the so-called German-Americans who plot it.

Germany is the only country engaged in this war which has officially undertaken to manipulate American opinion. It is the only belligerent which maintains a lobby in the United States to incite public sentiment against other belligerents with which we are friendly. The only foreign element in this country which is assailing the President of the United States and seeking to bulldoze the Government of the United States is the German element, and that sort of thing can be easily overdone.—From the New York World.

GERMANY IS AMERICA'S ENEMY.

"Americans believe further that it is only through the decisive success of the allies that progress can be made toward a general disarmament, through which the peoples of the world can be freed from unnecessary burdens, and some assurance may be secured of continued peace. The success of Germany would involve, of necessity, renewal of war in the near future. I have in my hands a volume prepared by a member of the general staff of the German army. The author presents plans for the invasion and the domination of the United States, and contends that 'Germany is the only great power which is in a position to conquer the United States.' This little book constitutes one further contribution to the conclusion that the Germany of to-day is, like the France under Napoleon, aiming at world domination.—G. H. Putnam, in New York Times.

THE JITNEY.

We are hearing a lot about "jitneys" nowadays and it is likely that we shall hear still more. Some people believe that the jitney is a great improvement; others regard it as a menace.

A jitney is an automobile in the form of an omnibus—in short a "motor bus." It is believed to have originated in Phoenix, Arizona, where one or two cars were put into operation a year and a half ago to relieve a street car tie-up caused by a carmen's strike. The first five-cent motor bus began operating there June 29, 1913.

Four months ago jitney busses made their appearance in Los Angeles and other towns on the Pacific Coast. And now they have spread over the country until an epidemic of jitneys is threatened.—Southern Lumberman.

KITCHENER'S GRIM PREDICTION.

Lord Kitchener is quoted as saying that he "didn't know when the war would end, but he did know that it would begin next May." That's a grim observation enough and it sounds like the old soldier who is credited with making it. Kitchener with 2,000,000 men and Roumania with 600,000 will be ready then. Nobody can guess how many Russia will have by that time, but unquestionably more than ever before. Perhaps Italy, with a million and a half or thereabouts, will have taken her place in the ranks of the allies. On both sides the winter will be more or less devoted to preparation of the titanic activities of the spring campaign.—New York Press.

A LAUDABLE WISH.

"I cherish the hope that the Journal I projected and established will live and flourish long after I shall have wandered into forgotten dust, being guided by a larger wisdom, a more unerring capacity to discern the right, though not by a more unflinching readiness to embrace and defend it to whatsoever personal cost."—Horace Greeley, 1872.

HYPHENISM AT ITS WORST.

The hyphenism in the citizenship of the United States appears at its worst in the apparently systematized movement of "German-American Leagues" to coerce our statesmen in Washington into doing unwise and essentially unneutral things, on penalty of losing the support of German-American voters.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Day's Best Editorial

THE FIRING LINE.

There are two firing lines. There is one in which men stand face to face with death, and what to the soldier seems even worse, permanent disability. A large percentage of the finest specimens of Canadian manhood have offered their services on this line and some of them are already there. All cannot do this. For those who cannot there is another field of patriotic endeavor. They can keep the wheels of industry moving at home. They can seize the opportunities for the development of new business. They can use their wealth and their energy to furnish employment to those who perform most remain at home. They can do what in them lies to make the country worthy of the sacrifices which its youth have so freely made. This is the second "firing line." Are you in it? Or are you holding back until others have won the victory? If you have money and refuse to use it for the benefit of your country, how will you stand in comparison with the brave young fellow who in the strength of his manhood goes forth to die, if need be, that you in the ease and comfort of your home may enjoy the fruits of your wealth and energy surrounded by all the blessings of freedom? There may be many excellent reasons why you are not in the first-named firing line. Can you give a single good reason why you are not in the second?—Victoria Colonist.

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UNION BANK OF CANADA

DIVIDEND No. 112

NOTICE is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of eight per cent, per annum upon the Paid-up Capital Stock of the UNION BANK OF CANADA has been declared for the current quarter, and that the same will be payable at its Banking House in the City of Winnipeg and at its Branches on and after Monday, the 1st day of March next.

A bonus of 1 per cent, approved by the shareholders at the last Annual General Meeting will be paid at the same time and places to shareholders of record at the close of business on the thirteenth day of February next.

The transfer books will be closed from the 15th to the 27th of February, 1915, both days inclusive. By Order of the Board. G. H. BALFOUR, General Manager. Winnipeg, 22nd January, 1915.

ESTABLISHED 1864

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THE MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA

A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

MAKING SCRAPS HELP THE FARMER.

Although much has been said of the loss the fertilizer concerns in this country would suffer through inability to secure potash from Germany during the war, little has been heard of the lack of other valuable ingredients usually secured from various European countries, but now unobtainable. Belgium, for instance, is the home of the manufacture of cheap combs, hairpins and so forth, made by melting down the hoofs of animals. The clippings from such factories are shipped to this country by the ton where they are incorporated into fertilizer. It is an axiom among chemical fertilizer makers that anything pertaining to an animal can be made into fertilizer, including the hair of the animal's back. A few years ago one of the large fertilizer companies employed a man to devote his energies to discovering waste products, cheaply obtainable, which could be advantageously used by his concern. One of his first investigations was as to the disposal of the clippings from the wadding used by cartridge makers, as such wadding is largely made of hair. The cartridge people thought he was crazy; they used such scraps for fuel. He volunteered to buy it and pay scrap for each ton to purchase several tons of buckwheat coal. Certain the man was mentally unbalanced, the cartridge company wired the company he claimed to represent to know if he was an authorized agent. The reply was affirmative, and a contract was quickly made on the basis of \$13 a ton for scraps. It now brings something like \$17 a ton.—Wall Street Journal.

LONDON STOCKS STEADY.

London, February 10.—The market in ordinary stocks, but inactive. Consols 68 9/16

New York Feb. 10.—Curb market: 351d. Anglo Am. Oil 122 3/4 118 1/2

British Am. Tobacco new 18 7 1/2

Canadian Pacific 122 3/4 118 1/2

London Stocks Steady. Consols 68 9/16

New York Curb. Feb. 10.—Curb market: 351d.

N.Y. STOCKS SHOWN INCREASED FIRMLY

Volume of Business in and Issues in Afternoon Light

C.P.R. MADE A RECORD

Particular Pressure was Exerted in Issues—New York Central Advanceburg Coal Common Active.

New York, February 10.—There was a volume of activity at the opening of the market, a general showing a hardening tendency, the remarkable showing made in the country's foreign trade for the week ending 6th was favorably commented upon, and exports over imports being \$1,000,000, which, if the returns were completely increased to well over \$400,000,000 probably never equalled in any of our history.

The first sale of Reading was at 144, the stock recovered to 145 1/2 on the next day. Union Pacific opened 3/4 up at 119 1/2 and by opening at 4 1/2.

New York Central opened 3/4 off at 84, the stock rallied to 85. This was a good day's work.

Canadian Pacific, which started unchanged at 157, Bethlehem Steel, which had been called to 157, but sagged to 156 1/2, and the next few transactions.

New York, February 10.—Shortly after the market was rallied vigorously with pressure on anthracite coal issues, but the weakness in these was availed of covering elsewhere in the list.

Large interests, while not aggressive, seemed to be quietly accumulating in the market.

Lehigh Valley sold down to 131 1/2, closed at 132 1/2 on Tuesday's close, and Reading fell to 145.

There was a reiteration of the familiar reduction of the Reading dividend, but not that, although some of the traders regarded it as a reduction of the rate on Lehigh Valley, it was not.

In well-informed circles, however, it was even in the case of Lehigh Valley present maintained.

New York, February 10.—From the early bear rally, the general market rallied fairly at the end of the first hour there was a narrow area of activity with prices up a good deal from the low.

Close observers said there was a large short interest in trading stocks. Firmness of United States Steel gave indications that the tonnage figures due in an hour would be more favorable than expected. Previous forecasts indicated an increase of 100,000 tons in the volume of unfilled orders.

New York, February 10.—In the early a stock market showed increased firmness, some of business in the standard issues were large interests were not inclined to encourage activity for the time being.

Pittsburg Coal common became one of the favorite stocks. The rise was based on the report that in the opinion of the directors was an auspicious time to bring out the stock back dividends on the preferred.

This will be done in preferred stock (to be) but the dividend basis of the preferred changed from 7 per cent, cumulative to non-cumulative.

The increase of 411,928 tons in the volume of orders on the books of the United States Steel Corporation was more than double the highest and it helped the whole market, Bethlehem Steel made better response to the stock of the Steel Corporation itself.

CHICAGO GRAIN MARK

Chicago, February 10.—The wheat market today was the undertone steady. Trading within a narrow range. Export demand was the time was easier at the opening, but encouraged a moderate commission house Corn was firm at the opening on good cash tender, which prompted short covering, but later the market showed a tendency to reports of clear weather.

The oats market was quiet and steady. Range: Wheat—Open High Low 2 p.m. Feb. 10 162 1/2 162 1/2 162 1/2 16 1/2

Feb. 9 138 1/2 139 138 13 1/2

Feb. 8 81 81 1/2 80 1/2 8

Feb. 7 82 1/2 82 1/2 82 1/2 8 1/2

Feb. 6 61 1/2 61 1/2 61 1/2 6

Feb. 5 58 1/2 58 1/2 58 1/2 5 1/2

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