

Public Opinion

"NO TRUCK WITH THE CANUCKS."

(Ottawa Citizen).

The director general of national service says that we are dependent upon the United States for labor to harvest our crops in the west this year. Unless they are harvested, the situation will be serious for Canada as well as the motherland. But wouldn't it be awful if the United States authorities took us at our word and decided to have "no truck with the Canucks"?

HOW TIME INCREASES COST.

In an eight-hour day you have only 480 minutes. Thus, says a writer in *System*, whenever you waste five minutes you decrease your value 1 per cent. Your stock falls from par to 99 per cent. If you waste fifty minutes, your stock falls to 90, and so on. Few of us ever have a day at par. If you borrow £24,000 at 5 per cent you are paying 2d. a minute. If your accountant makes a mistake, and you borrow it a day too soon he causes you a loss of £4. Many a business man has gone down to bankruptcy because he did not realize this ruthless persistence of interest. Interest is like the tortoise in the well-known fable—it is slow, but it never stops to rest.

THE FIRST V.C.

(East Suffolk (England) Gazette).

The first V.C. was won by a sailor. In the Crimean War it became of the utmost importance to destroy the enemy's stores. With this in view the town of Genitchi was bombarded, and during the course of the action seventy-three vessels were destroyed, with all the stores of corn. When the smoke cleared away, however, it was discovered that several magazines had not caught fire, and three valiant men, Lieutenant Buckley, Lieutenant Burgoyne—who was afterwards to meet his death on the ill-fated *Captain*—and Mr. John Roberts, went ashore, fired the stores with the burning ends of their cigars, and got back to the boat. They were each awarded the Victoria Cross, Lieutenant Buckley being the first to receive that honor.

DOESN'T NEED OUR FLAG.

(Chicago Tribune).

A Chicago flag concern sent out a circular announcing the increase in the price of bunting. One of these circulars reached a Canadian concern. Its reply follows:

QUEBEC, March 2.—Dear Sirs: I have yours of February 26 instant. I note the following remark: "You probably wish to emphasize your patriotism during these critical times by displaying the United States flag." You are in error in assuming that we in Canada wish to display the United States flag during these critical times.

As a matter of fact, we are displaying a flag that means something—a flag that we are fighting for, and a flag that we will not allow any nation to trample upon without having a shot at the nation who does so, and we will not shoot with NOTES. Yours (when you get this), L. BURRAN.

FERTILITY LESSONS FROM THE WAR.

(From the Prairie Farmer).

Dr. Carl Helfrich, the German imperial vice chancellor, says that the great war has settled down to a contest of farming. This is largely true. In this contest German farmers are at a disadvantage because they have been depending largely on commercial fertilizers, the supply of which is now scanty. Labor is scarce in the potash mines, phosphate imports have been cut off, and the cannon compete unceasingly with the farms for the product of the nitrate factories.

Germany's predicament emphasizes the danger of the mixed fertilizer theory of farming. It is the theory of the fertilizer manufacturers that the soil is not to be maintained as a storehouse of plant food, but merely used as a factory, into which fertilizer is put in the spring and from which the finished crops are taken in the fall.

In normal times this plan may work with a fair degree of satisfaction. But when imports are cut off, when transportation is paralyzed, disaster must follow. The farmer is absolutely dependent on the fertilizer factory, and if the fertilizer factory fails there is little that the farmer can do to produce a crop.

BUY A COPY.

(Ottawa Citizen).

Professor Paul Milyukov, the new Russian foreign minister, and leader of the constitutional democrats, is the author of "A Short History of Russia." It is published in English, in the Home University Library series, at the popular price of one shilling.

OUR FIGHTING SHIPS.

(New York World's Work).

In our Navy to date we have in commission at best 14 capital ships, of total fighting value (after the "Jane method" of calculation) of 124 units. Before the beginning of 1916, Germany had completed corresponding capital ships, 21 in number, of total fighting value, figured on the same basis, of 189 units. As a matter of fact, the Michigan and South Carolina are so light, so slow, and so weak in gunpower that they are now ranked as second-line ships by Secretary Daniels—leaving us really only 12 ships in commission.

INTELLECTUAL LEADERS.

(Southern Lumberman).

At a dinner given in his honor in New York City, Bishop Lawrence, of Massachusetts, propounded this inquiry:

"When a bricklayer gets a higher wage than a school teacher, a hotel cook than a professor, and a chauffeur than a clergyman, it looks as if the support of our intellectual leaders were not as strong as the welfare of society requires. The New York policeman gets \$1,300 and a pension, while the average clergyman of the Episcopal Church gets \$1,200 and no pension. No one begrudges the policeman his pay, but does the spiritual leadership get sufficient support to be efficient?"

EVERY OTHER GIRL WORKS.

(Springfield Republican).

One-half of all the girls between sixteen and twenty years old in New York state work for wages, according to the annual report of the Consumers' League of the city of New York. One of the most important pieces of work still to be done, according to the league, is the message of a wage law, so that the minimum wage in each trade shall be fixed by a wage commission, and so that the minimum wage shall be also a living wage. It is pointed out that this is the only hope for the lowest paid women workers, since an employer cannot be expected to pay more than his competitors, and there is little effective organization among these \$6-a-week women.

WOMEN HARDIER THAN MEN.

(San Francisco Chronicle).

It is well known to mothers that boys are more difficult to rear than girls, the fact being generally ascribed to the greater amount of "original sin" inherent in the male.

But probably it is not realized that no fewer than four boys die to each three girls who succumb to the adverse conditions of life during the first three months. This is the startling fact which the figures for England and Wales bring out. We can find only one sufficient explanation for it—namely, that girls are born with more vitality, that boys are less resistant to disease.

The male mortality excess begins at the moment of birth, when 130 boys die to every 145 girls. Then in-born physical defects seem to be more prevalent among boys, for seven deaths among boys are ascribed to this cause, as compared with six among girls. And boys do not thrive so well as girls, for the wasting diseases of early infancy carry off fifty boys for every forty-one girls.

As soon as the infectious diseases begin their attacks boys yield to them far more readily than girls, with the single exception of whooping cough. Tubercular diseases, convulsions, intestinal troubles, bronchitis and pneumonia and other maladies all kill more boys than girls in their first year. The figures are surprising.

All through life the death rate from nearly every disease is greater among males than among females—no fewer than fifteen men die of tubercular diseases to eleven women, twelve from pneumonia to eight women, five from typhoid fever to three women, eight from appendicitis to six women, and so on.

THE AWFUL GREED OF MAN.

(Southern Lumberman).

Shoe manufacturers and dealers declare that if women's skirts are lengthened it will result in a loss of \$10,000,000 an inch to them. Still if the shoemen have been making \$10,000,000 for each inch lacking, they ought to be well fixed by this time.

ON GUARD.

(Boston News Bureau).

Even the serious and elaborate system of guarding Washington's government departments has its lighter sides. One of the scientific bureaus has stationed at the main entrance, to examine the identification passes carried by all employees, an aged negro watchman. The watchman can neither read nor write.

THE COST OF HIGH LIVING.

(Victoria Colonist).

Out of a single issue of a contemporary we pick out the following tit-bits of news: The Economic Club of New York met at a dinner, costing \$5 a plate, to discuss the high cost of living. The Benjamin Franklin Club of Philadelphia had a "Poor Richard" dinner at \$8 a plate. The governor of Pennsylvania charged the cost of his bridal tour up to the state, but as it only amounted to \$301, the cause of complaint was not very large. He also charged the expenses of his golfing to the state. Both bills were paid.

THE TERM "COLONIES."

(Christian Science Monitor).

It is interesting to note that, on the much-vexed question of the application of the term "colonies" to the British Dominions, there is by no means a consensus of opinion amongst Dominion statesmen. Indeed, it is an interesting coincidence that in speeches made on the same night in London, a short time ago, two such authorities as Mr. Andrew Fisher, High Commissioner for Australia, and Mr. Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand, should have taken opposite views of the matter. Mr. Fisher, on behalf of the Australian, the Canadian and the New Zealander, "as he had known them," utterly repudiated the designation, while Mr. Massey declared that he personally had no objection to it.

As a matter of fact, it does seem a pity that a term which, in its original meaning, so exactly expresses the relationship of the Dominions to the mother country, should be abandoned, simply because it has come to have a signification which never ought to have been attached to it. The word, of course, comes from the Latin "colonia," and, with the Romans, the "colonia" was, as a recent writer has expressed it, a free offshoot of the parent nation, as opposed to the "provincia," the area held by right of conquest.

DIAMOND DRILLING.

(Wall Street Journal).

Diamond drilling is largely responsible for development of some of the largest copper deposits being mined today. It has in many cases proven correct the keen judgment of mine managers and convinced their companies that a wonderful copper deposit actually contained the valuable ore that his technical knowledge, experience and judgment caused him to believe existed, and vice-versa where it proved that valuable deposits of ore did not exist where surface indications were favorable.

Although resorted to for many purposes, the greatest field of operation for diamond drilling is exploring mineral lands, locating ore veins and ore deposits. When conducted by specialists and expert crews it is the most economical and satisfactory method of prospecting.

The drilling and cutting is done by a rotating, hollow drill bit or tube, in which are usually set eight pieces of carbon at its face, or end four carbons slightly protruding from the inside of the bit, and four slightly protruding from the outside surface.

The carbon used is one of the hardest of known substances, being harder even than the "brilliant" or crystallized diamond. It is found in one or two small districts in Brazil and in late years has advanced in value until now it is one of the principal items of cost in drilling operations. As the carbon varies greatly in size and quality, it makes selection of perfect stones very difficult.

Diamond drilling with reference to mining produces a core of the formation drilled which can be assayed to determine the nature of the ground. Drillers explore the most remote districts, moving their outfits by primitive methods and as a result of their exploration, thriving villages and cities and industrial plants grow up.