

The Weekly Ontario

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THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1915.

THE SEA OF MARMORA.

The Sea of Marmora suddenly has taken on a thrilling world-importance, for its area may soon witness the last scene of the mighty struggle of centuries for the preservation of Europe from the narcotic effects of Eastern aggression. Nature has been generous in her provisions for guarding this sea between Asia and Europe against hostile power. The Bosphorus, its approach from the Black Sea on the north, as one military reviewer points out, is a deep, water-filled, twisting valley, whose surface almost all the way is at the mercy of the enclosing mountain heights. In the south, the Dardanelles, while of greater breadth than the Bosphorus, form an easily defended channel, forty-seven miles long, and commanded by its shore heights. The Sea of Marmora is a wonderful amphitheatre for a modern naval struggle. An elliptical bowl of bluest water, it is inclosed by a hilly shoreline, which is bold and steep upon the Asiatic side. From east to west, the sea is 175 miles long, while its extreme width is about fifty miles. It has an area of 4,500 square miles.

Constantinople, the objective of the invading fleets, lies tucked away near the northernmost point of Marmora, at the opening of the Bosphorus outlet. In the west and south are several considerable islands, of which the largest, Marmora, has been famous for its alabaster and marbles since the days of Grecian sculptural and architectural glory. The Sea of Marmora is the most famous and important sea of passage in the world. Behind its waters, along the northern shore of the Black Sea, are the most fertile and favored provinces of the Russian Empire, Russia's granary; while on the eastern Black Sea coast lies Russia's greatest oil port and her famous oil-bearing hinterland. This Turk-dominated sea is the most important avenue of Central Asia's raw materials western transport and of the west's manufactures for consumption in the Central East.

The value to the Allies of the opening of the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmora and the Bosphorus to Russian commerce has already been pointed out but further figures will emphasize its importance. In 1913 Russia raised 962,587,000 bushels of wheat and the United States raised but 736,380,000 bushels. In 1912 the United Kingdom imported 203,322,000 bushels of wheat and France 26,131,000 bushels, and Russia exported 96,868,000 bushels of wheat. The black mold belt, which extends across Southern Russia, is one of the most fertile as well as one of the most extensive arable plains on the globe. It stretches in one long band across the whole of European Russia, and notwithstanding its faulty cultivation, like the Mississippi Valley, is one of the world's great producers of grain.

TAX THE "PATRIOTS."

A London despatch of recent date states that suggestions are being made that the Imperial Government should place a super tax on "war profits." It is pointed out that some industries have been ruined by the war, whereas others are making huge profits. The suggestion is, therefore, made unofficially that the Government should specially tax all profits exceeding the average of the last three years.

Without entering seriously into the feasibility of the proposal as applied to the Old Country, the suggestion seems to be worthy of the attention of the Canadian Minister of Finance. Why not place a tax upon the inordinate profits which are being made by the firms which have been furnishing war supplies to the Dominion Government? The Public Accounts Committee has been unearthing, from day to day, startling facts about the

rotten boots supplied to the soldiers at a high price, and the handsome profits which the middlemen have been pocketing from the sale of medical and surgical supplies, bicycles, and so on. All the horde of middlemen who have been waxing rich out of the country's necessities might well be called upon to pay a share of their profits into the public treasury.

Then there are the "horse deals" in which eminent "patriots" have played such a conspicuous part. Why should not the Minister of Finance get a slice of the profits on all the old horses palmed off on the Department of Militia as war chargers?

These are just a few suggestions. There are many others which will readily occur to the public. Why should not the Minister of Finance tap these sources of revenue, instead of boosting the tariff at the expense of the people of Canada, and dealing a deadly blow at British trade, at the time of the Mother Country's greatest need?

FOR THREE REASONS.

A Conservative reader who is a friendly critic of The Ontario has informed us that he has noticed of late a change from the usual moderation of the editorial columns to a tone of unaccustomed severity.

We are free to admit the truth of the criticism, and yet we cannot say that we feel any reproach of conscience because of the fact. And we will state further that, if he will suggest any stronger or more forcible expressions to us, that come within the bounds of decency, we will be glad to employ them to assist in the illumination of our views.

If our Conservative friend examines the line of talk in The Ontario the past few weeks he will ascertain that our philippics were called forth principally by three subjects,—

1. The proposal to hold a general election during the time of war.

2. The attempt to strangle British trade by the Canadian government through the addition of five per cent. duty on British goods coming into Canada.

3. The revelations brought out by the Public Accounts Committee at Ottawa showing unlimited graft, corruption, and stealing of public money in every branch of the service that has had to do with procuring and furnishing supplies for the present war.

If our young friend can present any argument, that would help to justify any one of these three proposals or proceedings, we will be glad to find space for its publication. If he can present substantial reasons to back up either the holding of a wartime election, the destruction of British trade by Canada, or graft by Canadian "patriots," he will have accomplished more than has been done by all the Conservative newspapers and politicians in the Dominion.

The oily-tongued apologist and the smooth-flowing whitewash have already appeared.

"Too Much Clamor," shouts that ultra-abstract apologist, The Toronto News, in a leading editorial, containing a far higher proportion of whitewash than of logic. Rotten boots it seeks to condone by the strange plea that the Laurier government spent \$200,000,000 to provide Canada with a second transcontinental railway.

Robert Rogers' Weekly of Montreal speaks in a pathetic manner of how "a number of able and public-spirited manufacturers have been held up to scorn and obloquy when called upon at short notice to supply an article which Canadians had never had to supply before." In other words the haste was so great that these "public-spirited manufacturers" had no time to procure real leather, and patriotically supplied the deficiency by filling the soles and heels of the shoes with paper.

Poor benighted, graft-ridden Serbia has lately sentenced several individuals exploiting a similar brand of patriotism, to imprisonment for fifteen years. France has even imposed the death penalty. In Canada, if the performers have sufficient smoothness and suavity we elect them to parliament, and then cabinet positions and even premierships are right along the line of advancement.

Hic jacet Jack Johnson.

The story told by an officer on the Prinz Eitel Friedrich that the German battle cruiser Von der Tann is speeding across the Atlantic to the assistance of the raider at Newport News, is a fine pipe dream for gullible reporters. German cruisers are not likely to take the risk of the open sea, even if they should succeed in

cluding the vigilance of Jellicoe's fleet.

Every Canadian of fighting age and strength should not only be ready to stand to arms for the defence of home and Motherland at the earliest afforded opportunity, but he should see to it that there is no failure of opportunity through any indifference or incapacity on the part of those in authority in the Dominion. The Government of Canada needs to be kept sharply up to the mark by the people, in this great Imperial crisis. Our men are ready. They must insist, and their wives and sisters, must demand that their government shall not be in any degree ineffective or unready.

So far as the probe has gone in the Public Accounts Committee at Ottawa, it has disclosed graft and the operations of the "middlemen" in practically everything that has been purchased by the Government in connection with the war.

The late Principal George M. Grant exclaimed in righteous indignation over the boodling and corruption which prevailed under the last Conservative Administration, "As well defend Sodom!" Were Principal Grant living now what scathing terms would he employ to denounce the horrible revelations of scandal that reach us daily from Ottawa?

Germany's power is practically unbroken, either at sea or on land. That power must be absolutely crushed before we can venture to think of peace. Her forces must be driven merely out of France and Belgium, the Rhine, and back into the very own territory before she is to any terms as the Alliance permanent peace is to be secured. Her efforts and sacrifices which are not to be worse than

Nothing has been in connection with the war of German utterances. Gone is their early confidence, their swaggering assumption of superiority. The Kaiser and that which he represented have sunk together into obscurity. No one has thought it worth while to state or inquire, for months past, where Emperor William is or what he is doing. No one knows or cares whether his son, the Crown Prince, is living or dead. But what does it matter? Greater things than the existence of any princeling or Kaiser are at stake. The fate, not merely of nations but of the world, is in the balance.

How long it may take to bring Germany finally to her knees, and how much in men and material it may cost, can only be conjectured, even should all turn out in the very best possible manner for the Allies. We may hope for the best and pray that some sudden stroke of strategy or good fortune may yield us an early triumph. But we shall do much better if we anticipate and prepare ourselves for a prolonged and bitter struggle, determined that no well-directed efforts which we can possibly put forth shall be lacking to secure as speedy a success as possible for British arms.

This war, it cannot be too often repeated, is, in an especial sense, Canada's war. It is as much our war as it is that of England's, which is only a few miles from its actual centre. But it is greatly to be feared that neither Englishmen nor Canadians realize at all as do the people of Belgium and France that they are actually at war for their very existence, and that no efforts within their power to make can possibly be too great to ensure their own safety from the threatening horrors of German invasion and domination.

By increasing the import duty on liquors without any corresponding increase in the excise duties, the Borden Government in its latest tariff measure has put seventy cents a gallon into the pockets of the Canadian distiller. The production of liquors in Canada is stated to be 9,000,000 gallons per year; therefore the distillers will profit as a result of the Government's kindly interest, to the tune of \$6,300,000 during this year alone. This sum would be sufficient to recruit, equip, transport, pay and maintain 10,000 men or one half of an army division at the front for one year with something left over besides. We make bold to say that the money would have been infinitely better expended in this manner than in the way proposed by the Borden Government.

The London Advertiser makes the statement that there is a British paymaster down in Montreal at present who is buying supplies at the rate of \$10,000,000 a week, but that he is buying the most of his supplies in the United States, because the Canadian manufacturers do not get together and help one another to get the contracts. Instead of that theyicker and haggle among themselves for parts of the contract while along comes an American manufacturer

and takes the whole contract. The Advertiser adds: "Many of the manufacturers of this great country are cutting their own throats, to use a strong metaphor, because they do not want to see 'the other fellow' get anything. In every line of trade there should be a centralized body for the handling of contracts. The brains and ability to handle every contract are not lacking."

TEN NEW COMMANDMENTS.

The Brooklyn Tenement House Committee has published as commandments, ten points bearing on the duty of householders to their neighborhood, themselves and their families:

- 1—Thou shalt honor thy neighborhood and keep it clean.
- 2—Remember thy cleaning day and keep it wholly.
- 3—Thou shalt take care of thy rubbish heap, else thy neighbor will bear witness against thee.
- 4—Thou shalt keep in order thy alley, thy back yard, thy hall, and thy stairway.
- 5—Thou shalt not let the wicked fly breed.
- 6—Thou shalt not kill thy neighbor by ignoring fire menaces or by poisoning the air with rubbish and garbage.
- 7—Thou shalt not keep thy windows closed day and night.
- 8—Thou shalt covet all the air and sunlight thou canst obtain.
- 9—Because of the love thou bearest thy children thou shalt provide clean home.

She heard the marching step below That seemed to echo: Love, I go!

And, as a statue still and pale, Wide-eyed, where tears could not avail, Lip-locked she sat through hours alone, In her dumb sorrow turned to stone.

She did not mark the morning hours Slow striking from the tall gray towers, Nor heed the city's gathering hum That told another day had come.

But with her soul's prophetic eyes She saw another scene arise; Afar, a cruel bloody plain, And knew he would not come again!

O, little window! Through the years Of bitter loneliness and tears, Is it not strange, in spite of fate, She still will pray and watch and wait! —Gordon Rogers in The Civilian.

THE BREAKING POINT.

I had a tooth, a rag-bag, an offense, A splintered horror, an abiding woe, And after shameful months of diffidence I brought it to the dentist, saying, "Lo! Here's a defaulter in my squad of fangs; Deal with him, please, and spare me needless [pangs.]"

"Ah, yes," he said, and jammed that rubber thing (Does your man use it?) round the guilty [tooth], And having gagged me, started gossiping, About the Germans' disregard for truth. "Did you observe," he asked, "that last report?" "Urrup!" said I, or something of the sort.

"How one admires our English troops!" said he, "Such hardy chaps!" (A leetle wider, please), And isn't it a shameful thing to see So many slackers lounging at their ease— Young men who can and ought to go and serve? Shirkers?" he added, gouging at a nerve.

Then he waxed wroth. "As for that Yarmouth [job]— Why do such brutes exist, sir? Tell me why! They maim and mutilate, they burn and rob! Kultur be blowed!" said he, (Gug-gug!" said I, "My word, I'd like to have a Uhlan now, Here, in this chair!" "Woo-oosh!" I answered ["Ow!"])

Thus for a dreadful hour he prattled on And quarried, rooting in the sorest place, Then he announced: "This tooth is too far gone; Only extraction now can meet the case, I'm sure you'd love to show your British pluck, And here's your chance; some chaps have all [the luck!]"

Yes, he said that, and I could stand no more, Crushed as I was and anguished half-dead, I wrenched his gag out, kicked it round the floor, And threw the tattered remnant at his head; And seeking barbed words, I found but one That summed him up. "You are," I said, "a Hun." —Anonymous, in London Punch.

Other Editors' Opinions

THE NEW TAXES.

The extraordinary proposals which Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, announced in his Budget speech recently, make it clear that the people of Canada will be called upon to bear a very heavy burden of taxation. That fact may as well be squarely faced at once.

The Finance Minister finds himself in serious difficulties. The revenue for the current year has fallen one-third, and the Minister estimates will not exceed \$130,000,000 at the end of March. The expenditures of the government, on the other hand, has not been curtailed. It is still piling up and will amount to \$190,000,000 at the end of the fiscal year, leaving a deficit of Sixty Million Dollars, which will have to be met by borrowing. To this must be added the Fifty Million Dollars borrowed from the Imperial Government expressly for war purposes, so that the total addition to the national debt of Canada during the present fiscal year will be \$110,000,000.

The outlook for the finances of the next fiscal year is still more disturbing. Trade fell off during the nine months 140 Million Dollars, and the Finance Minister anticipates a still decline next year. His estimate of revenue is \$120,000,000, and expenditure \$140,000,000. Expenditures "will be other expenditures" will bring the fiscal year up to over Three Millions Dollars, over and above the estimated revenue of this amount \$100,000,000 is specially earmarked for war purposes, and it is to be noted that every dollar of our expenditure for troops and defence generally is to be provided for by a loan from the Imperial Government, just as every dollar of the Fifty Millions voted last August for our overseas forces and other war purposes has come from the same source. In short, Canada's whole expenditure of \$150,000,000 for war purposes is financed by the Imperial Government.

There still remains to be provided for the ordinary expenditures of the Government. The Government need not be said, in its deep water and it proposes to extricate itself by resort to new taxation. First of all, it imposes stamp taxes upon practically every form of financial transaction, upon letters, telegrams, money orders and railway and steamship tickets. —Halifax Chronicle.

THE OLD BOYS' REUNION.

We learn, from unofficial sources, that it is the intention of the Old Boys' Reunion Association of Belleville to pass up the reunion until 1916 on account of the European war, engaging the attention of the people of home. We believe this a very wise idea, if it really has been decided upon. From comments we have heard it seems to be generally believed that a reunion this year would not meet with the glorious success that it should meet and which the reunions in preceding years have. I added to the great war abroad, business conditions at home, and in this country have been far from normal and as a consequence many who would in normal times make the journey homeward will be prevented this year through financial stringency from doing. In all probability the war will be settled before 1916, the gallant soldier lads will be back from the fields of honor and 1916 will be ideal for a glorious reunion of the soldiers of the king and the soldiers of the commonwealth. We feel that the reunion association would take a wise and greatly appreciated step if it does postpone the festivities until a later time, when all may journey in peace and comfort to the scenes of early days and happy hours. —Chicago Belleville News.

HOW'S THIS!

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm. NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Thief Was Caught by Fingers

Last week the theft of a junk dealer in Smith the arrest and conviction of the thief, was reported. The thief was reported to have been a man named Phillips who had been arrested by the Commissioner of Police and sent to the workhouse. Phillips had been convicted of burglary at Kingston and sentenced to six months under the name of Karl Anderson. Phillips had been in Toronto, under the name of Karl Anderson, and sent down term. The Commissioner had his finger prints on Phillips and identified the prints sent by Sir Kingston Standard.

Narrow Escape Being Thrown

That we are not called week to record a tragedy owing to the presence of our villagers to be in the vicinity which happened just north of Thursday afternoon. Two ladies and a little cupants of a buggy from town and when the two feet deep instead suddenly stopped, with ent cause for fright, back towards the river driving tried her utmost the animal to go ahead, but she stubbornly kept on backing, went over the river. Fortunately it tipped shore where the water was still frantically back, took it by the br to safety. Our informant know the names of the he had rescued from the position. He was of opinion that the count the public at this Tweed Advocate.

Letters to the

SHOULD REMEMBER To the Editor of The Sir—Saturday morning were troubled because concerning the volunteer. A sympathetic Christian listening to a recital the previous night, at of the present condition street two boyish app whom she questioned things she had heard. "I wonder if you would one to go down" when "No." She intended to if you would like some and talk to the men. citizens, Y.M.C.A. workers of the city." Business men have things, so have the men at the Y.M.C.A. and the Doctors of the various

