

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1917.

CANADA'S DAY OF TRIAL

It is a peculiar coincidence that the greatest crisis in the political history of this country should come at the fiftieth milestone of its career, when the whole of Canada should be throbbing with jubilation. Instead of this day being dedicated to the memory of the patriotic men who brought unity out of dissension and order out of chaos, and started the fair young Dominion on the high road to nationhood, it is a day of fear and trembling, racial discord threatening to tear down the foundation pillars which seemed so well and truly built.

Since the moment when confederation became a fact, Canada's composite soul has not had the searching which it is undergoing now. The discords of the past, great as they then appeared, have been mere incidents, out of which the spirit of the country emerged refined and ennobled. The test today is the test of fire lighted by nationalism, fed by antagonism to British institutions and British integrity, brought to a white heat by racial bigotry.

Is the semi-centennial to mark the end of confederation? No individual in the wide Dominion can answer. Only the heart of Canada, as exemplified by the fathers of confederation, as illuminated by fifty years of progress, as illustrated by the heroism of Canada's sons in the trenches, if it comes through the trial triumphant, can tell the tale. Whether it still pulsates with the warm, red life-like blood of the nation, or is a thing seared and inert, time not distant must disclose.

Men in public life are frankly worried. The menace of nationalism has been permitted to gain a foothold which only a united opposition can overcome. Bourassa the mouthpiece of the force which would destroy the spirit of Canada, has become a tower of strength. Today it is Bourassa against Canada and Canada against Bourassa. The government which allowed his propaganda to flourish will answer at the bar of justice with the people as the jury. He it is, and his propaganda, so encouraged, which makes conscription necessary in Canada today. Ontario, Western Canada and the East are to be forced to offer all, not so much because of the war in Europe as the war in Canada, the war on Canada's heritage of freedom of action and respect for duty.

The struggle for confederation is on again. The spirit of Canada militant must wrest Quebec from Bourassa and all that he represents, or must itself be crushed. For fifty years it has maintained a united country, built for itself an important place in the arts, culture and commerce of the world, and for three years has fought for the peace of humanity. It has contributed to all the world's highest traditions. In the day of its greatest triumph, will it succumb to the enemy within; will it present a vulnerable spot? It is a question for the individual, who, according to his manhood, is or is not the embodiment of the spirit which has made Canada. The answer to be given when the time comes will determine the future of the country and of confederation. A united front will save Canada itself; division will strengthen the cause of those committed to its destruction.

THE GROWTH OF CANADA.

The growth of the Dominion formed by the B. N. A. Act, has become one of the marvels of the modern world. It has been, of course, largely a part of the general advance of mankind. The increase in wealth, mechanical equipment of all sorts, manufacture and trade, the progress in new inventions, in education and material comfort, all this is the world's movement, Canada gaining with the rest. Our growth in population has been rather fitful and in artistic and spiritual development perhaps other countries have surpassed us, let us sadly admit. But in some respects Canada has done particularly well, and in the face of enormous difficulties.

For example, our comparatively peaceful political extension has been spectacular. First the great Northwest was acquired, with but little disturbance. The B. N. A. act indeed had explicitly contemplated this development. Next British Columbia, troubled by debt and the activities of a small but vigorous annexationist

faction, languishing in remote isolation and eager for a railway to knit up west and east, as the Union Pacific had a generation earlier done for the United States, with eminent success, came into the Dominion in 1871. Hence the great C. P. R. Prince Edward Island, another poor and honest relation, finally got over its difficulties of dignity, and since 1873 has constituted a symmetrical balance in the east to Vancouver Island in the west.

The filling of the Northwest, the magic rise of cities out of nowhere, the creation of our railway and canal systems, are achievements of which we are reasonably proud. Of late, however, Canada has done higher things than the more material feats. We have developed an imperial and now a cosmopolitan consciousness, Canadians are not as in 1867 a people of rather provincial villagers. The maple leaf is stained a sacred red with the blood of sacrifice in the cause of world freedom and humanity. We have the happiness of giving, of losing, for love and loyalty. We have stopped snarling and snapping at our English brethren as we stand by them in a desperate fight. Canadians are fused with Britons all, with the free peoples of the world, particularly now with the United States. It is pleasurable to consider the growth of better feeling between two nations along whose 3,000-mile peace front no shot has been fired in 50 years. Almost enemies in 1867 we are fast friends in 1917, bound together for ever, as Mr. Balfour said the other day on his return from Washington.

One cloud hovers in our sky. Fused with Great Britain, with the United States and with civilization generally, Canada becomes aware of a rift within herself. Some cure must be found for the sore feeling of Quebec Nationalism. It must not be allowed to divide the Dominion or to hamper our work in the war afterward. In the mighty future now manifestly awaiting this country English and French must stand united and mutually satisfied, both playing a manful part, both aiming to reach higher levels of private welfare and public morality, assisting and contemplating each other in a rare combination of national qualities and ideals. Canada has surmounted great obstacles in the past. In this summer of jubilee we stand amidst anxieties, alarms and some distraction, serenely confident in our national future. We are sure of a glorious 1967, a greatness such as cannot now be even surmised.

WASHINGTON'S SPEED

President Wilson's request that beers and wines be omitted from the list of articles the manufacture of which is prohibited by the food control bill now before the United States Senate does not signify that he is in favor of continuing these industries, but that he believes they will do less harm than the delay which their inclusion would cause in the passing of the bill.

The president's action shows that he is seized with the gravity of the situation and realizes the value of speed in all requisite measures. Having ranged the United States alongside the Entente Allies, he desires to make its weight felt as quickly and effectively as is possible, and in order to do this he is willing to grant certain concessions rather than risk any long-drawn-out discussions.

The promptitude with which the United States has acted since declaring war has been remarkable. Hardly had the policy been settled before aviators and hospital units were landing in France to be greeted by their commander-in-chief already there and busy. These were followed by a contingent, how large is not definitely stated, of fighting troops and within a very short period of time despatches will be telling of their presence in battle.

Canada sent her first contingent away in record time, but she had not the same problems to face. The United States has not only despatched the men and arms, but the food to sustain them and all the auxiliary services, besides providing convoys for the transports. Now in the question of food control the president and his advisers are showing equal eagerness; there is danger of a shortage, therefore they are taking the saving steps while there is yet time to avoid the disaster instead of waiting until it is upon them.

No doubt the Government of the United States has learned much from the experiences of the Allies and thus has an advantage, but it has exhibited a wonderful readiness to absorb and utilize its lessons.

UNLOAD THE CARS

Co-operation between the big consumers of coal and the railways is necessary if trouble in securing the quantities required for the coming winter is to be overcome. This is evident from the complaints made by the railway companies that some factories are keeping cars standing on their sidings much longer than is reasonable, and thus causing a shortage of transportation facilities, which militates against a regular supply reaching the city.

From all points comes the information that the coal supply is largely dependent on the ability to keep cars constantly moving. There is a shortage of rolling stock, and American railways are refusing to send their cars over the border because they claim the demurrage charges in Canada are so slight that consignees do not hurry to unload, and other customers have to be kept waiting because of this lack of consideration. Under these conditions, the Canadian railways are asking the railway commission to amend the rules and have the demurrage charges begin much sooner than at present, so that it will be to the advantage of those receiving the coal to unload it as quickly as possible.

Being a vital necessity, the coal supply is everyone's concern. It should not satisfy one consumer, be he using ten tons or 1,000 tons, that he has obtained his requirements, but he ought to give every assistance to others to enable them to reach a similar happy condition. It may be that the railways should supply more cars, but if they will not or cannot, other means must be taken to better conditions, and this one of quick unloading and constant moving is to hand. Surely no one will be selfish enough to delay when he realizes the trouble he may cause.

THAT THREATENED INVASION

There is considerable evidence to substantiate the statements of Count Max Louden—that there was a well-planned scheme to have five German army corps invade Canada from the United States. The finding of 2,000,000 rounds of ammunition in one house shows that there was some plot of the kind.

The remarkable part of his story is that there were carried on drills in every Turner Hall in the country to fit the invaders for their work. It is surprising that these could continue week after week without the American authorities discovering the fact. Perhaps it was known, and all preparations to deal with it when the attempt was made.

This story of the count seems to justify some of the somewhat alarming expectations so general a little while ago. Many there were who fully anticipated some attack on the frontier, and who urged that troops be held ready on this side to repulse it. The situation at Niagara Falls, Ont., where the hydro-electric plant stood open to attack, was pointed out, and the Government was begged to make provision for its protection. Such ideas were laughed to scorn by the powers that be at Ottawa, but extra precautions were taken at Niagara.

What prevented the invasion? It is an interesting subject for thought. Was it that the Germans believed Canada prepared to give them a hot reception, or was it that we are indebted to the Americans for deterring these foes? Perhaps after all, the United States, which some were inclined to revile for not joining the Allies, was really protecting Canada from a serious assault.

CANADIANS CHOSEN

If good work is wanted in any department Canadians seem to have inspired confidence that they can do it. The American Committee of Engineers in London, a body of prominent engineers organized to render advisory and practical assistance to the United States Government and the Entente Allies during the war, has sent to Russia two military railway experts to offer advice and aid in reorganizing the railroads already built. They will give assistance to the American Railroad Commission now in Russia. The experts chosen as the London committee's representatives are Lieut.-Col. J. W. Boyle of the Canadian Militia, and Lt.-Col. J. A. McDonnell of the Canadian Pioneer and Railway Battalions. They are recommended to the British and American Ambassadors, the Provisional Government of Russia and the committee representing the United States in Petrograd. Both Lieutenant-Colonels Boyle and McDonnell have had experience in military railway construction in France since the war began and confidence is expressed that they will be of service to Russia. Canadians generally will hope that this confidence is well placed as it appears to be.

FOR CHURCH UNITY.

Dean Henson of Durham, Eng., is still laboring at his task of drawing the established church and the non-conformists closer together. One of the most liberal of churchmen as to both doctrine and organization, he is also one of the most evangelical. He believes that the time has come for a new Christian reformation based on that of the sixteenth century.

Speaking at the City Temple in London recently, he contended that the principle of the reformation which four hundred years ago divided Christendom should now be the principle to reunite it. That principle was the freedom of private judgment. It has at last

become possible, Dean Henson thinks, for men to co-operate and have fellowship in good works while agreeing to either agree or disagree on points of doctrine.

As Dr. Henson says "the war has forced into universal attention the political impotence of the Churches within Christendom, and also a rift between them, and the best conscience and intelligence of the modern world" which is losing the church its "moral supremacy." Union, then, is the only way back to this "moral supremacy," a union "no smaller than the whole company of Christian people dispersed through the world." The war, while far from strengthening the influence of the churches among the thinking classes, is reviving substitutions of one kind and another. A reunited and revitalized church should check such retrogression and promote a true religious force among the nations.

German radicals give up all hope of reform until after the war. Were it not that the Allies will then insist upon it, the post-war hopes would be doomed to disappointment.

It looks like the resurrection of Russia.

Not since the revolutionary year 1848 has the spirit of revolt been so bold and so vocal in German legislative bodies as it is at present. Already the war has done much to weaken autocracy in Germany.

Philip Scheidemann, the German socialist leader, having made the declaration that the only way to stop the war is through "sweeping democratization of Germany," it now remains to be seen how long it will take for the German people to arm themselves with new brooms.

Daylight saving in Canada is to be postponed until next year. It is realized that to be workable and satisfactory, the arrangement should be continental in scope, and the United States is not yet ready to take it up. So Canada waits. Good news for all sluggards.

Herbert C. Hoover, the head of the food administration service in the United States, is asking people to put themselves on voluntary rations, to eat one wheatless meal a day, to eat beef, mutton or pork not more than once a day, to economize in the use of butter and to cut the amount of sugar in their tea and coffee. Many might act as suggested and improve their health as well as their purse.

The U. S. appointed a food controller in a few hours. It took Borden three years to do so. Meantime the big interests grew fat at the expense of the working classes.

The Manitoba University will not admit to its classes any unmarried men of military age. If all the eligibles were treated in this way, in every walk of life, there would be no need for conscription.

Senator Robertson, a labor man, is said to have been offered a seat in the Borden government. Should the labor party not be consulted about the manner in which it is to be represented thus?

THE DAY'S RESULT.

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?
 Does anyone remember that you spoke to him to-day?
 This day is almost over and its toiling time is through;
 Is there any one to utter now a kindly word of you?

Did you give a cheerful greeting to the friend who came along?
 Or a churlish sort of "howdy" and then vanish in the throng?
 Were you selfish, pure and simple, as you rushed along the way,
 Or is some one mighty grateful for a deed you did to-day?

Can you say to-night, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,
 That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?
 Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
 Does a man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day or lose it, was it well or poorly spent?
 Did you leave a trail of kindness or a sear of discontent?
 As you close your eyes in slumber do you think that God would say
 You have earned one more to-morrow by the work you did to-day?

—Edgar S. Guest in Detroit Free Press.

CASUALTIES

- Killed in Action**
 H. H. Baker, Prescott
 W. E. Powell, Napanee
- Seriously Ill**
 W. L. Travers, Napanee
- Wounded and Missing**
 Sergt. H. Velley, Trenton
 S. Althouse, Havelock
 J. Kierano, Havelock
- Wounded**
 C. W. Mitz, Stirling
 J. E. Harte, Brockville
 J. J. Cotter, Pembroke
- Wounded, at Duty**
 J. King, Trenton
- Shell Shock**
 A. Richardson, Belleville
- Wounded**
 W. A. Foster, Oshawa
 L. L. Sinclair, Gananoque
 C. Lloyd, Denbigh
 A. Lenney, Cornwall
 P. Cybulski, Renfrew
 H. V. Pellow, Whitby
 J. Pearce, Belleville
 D. Sutton, Brockville
 F. Collins, Pembroke
 J. L. Smith, Perth
 M. Jacko, Madawaska

FUNERAL OF LATE MRS. STRACHAN

The obsequies of the late Elizabeth Strachan, wife of Mr. James K. Strachan, took place this morning from the family residence, Yeomans street, Rev. J. N. Clarry, of Holloway St. Church officiating in the absence of Rev. A. S. Kerr, of St. Andrew's and being assisted by the Rev. A. L. Geen. There were many present to pay their last tribute of respect to a highly esteemed lady. Interment was in the Belleville cemetery, the bearers being Messrs. J. Lang, J. Riggs, N. Jones, C. Cook, E. Brown and R. Anderson.

MANUFACTURERS' BASEBALL

On Saturday afternoon in the manufacturers' league the Rolling Mills baseball team defeated Marsh and Hawthorn's by 5-1, and Wilson's defeated the Lock Works by 15-8, at the Agricultural Park.

The Eyes in Relation to Health.

Dr. George M. Gould, the celebrated Eye Specialist and Author of Philadelphia, in a lecture some time ago before an Association of Teachers in New York City, said many interesting things of great importance to health. We here quote his summing up:

- "There is no eyestrain however slight that is not serious."
- "It is not the high but medium and low refractive errors which cause the greatest suffering."
- "School hygiene is mainly a matter of Ocular Hygiene." History shows that in all walks of life, the survival of the fittest lies in their Ocular Fitness."

Some of the symptoms of Eyestrain:

- 1 The simplest is inability to see.
- 2 Lid and surface diseases.
- 3 Squint, which is always due to eyestrain, and which can always be corrected with lenses in the early years.
- 4 Headaches of which there are over 100 varieties. But 90 per cent. of all of them are due to eyestrain.
- 5 Vomiting and nausea, which the Doctors of a century ago, admitted were symptoms of eyestrain, but which the modern physician seems to ignore.
- 6 Indigestion showing early in the child and recognized by his having no appetite for breakfast.
- 7 Nervousness, so called for lack of more specific term.
- 8 Swooning and fainting spells, one case cited of a woman who had over 1000 attacks, and who was cured with glasses.
- 9 Epilepsy, of which the Dr. had seen many cases directly due to eyestrain, and cured with lenses.
- 10 Langour, tiredness, morbidness and also truancy, because it has been shown that the boys imprisoned at Elmira Reformatory nearly all have refractive errors.
- 11 Tilting of the head due to astigmatism, with oblique axis.
- 12 Spinal curvature, 90 per cent. of which results from bad vision."

We specialize in latent and obscure forms of Eyestrain. Alexander Ray, Opt. D., Exclusive Eyesight Specialist.