

# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

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## Editorial

### "A COSTLY BUT UNDECIDED STRUGGLE"

AS this magazine is put to press, there is let loose from Austria the latest Peace-Kite. In the studied wording of the message reference is made to "the path of negotiation" and to "a costly but undecided struggle." Because at the outset the Central Powers deliberately turned aside from "the path of negotiation" and deliberately planned war, they will now find that their allied opponents are determined that, so far as human agency can make certain of it, the struggle having been "costly" beyond computation in other than material things, shall not be left "undecided".

The thing mostly to be feared now or later is that the Germans, finding they cannot gain their ends by force, may, as the day of reckoning and of invasion of German territory draws near, appeal to or rely upon the exercise by the Allies of that generosity towards a submissive or defeated foe which is of the essence of chivalry.

But nations containing men who will deliberately count on the humanity of their opponents towards the lower creation, and so (as an incident recently reported revealed) place an infernal machine behind a live kitten, nailed to a door—confident that a British or Allied soldier would seek to release the poor creature, and in doing so himself undergo a terrible death—are not fit for the privileges of civilization, and need to be placed under subjection and supervision more than the wildest "savages" of which the world has record.

By this time even Britain must know that to treat the Germans with mistaken leniency at the end would be the next worst thing to letting them win the war.

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### THE OBJECTION TO THE WORD "RELIGIOUS"

Progressive changes in the name of this Monthly have not changed its nature or its ideals of service, and, as we have made clear again and again in the past seven years, in seeking to cover the field of "The Social, Literary and Religious Magazine of the Canadian West," it has laid itself open to serve Church interests, particularly in British Columbia, and had men representing several denominations (outside the R. C. Communion) writing for it. In that connection we have frequently had occasion to consider the qualifications, limitations or restrictions which many folk—business men and others—place on the word "Religious."

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