

## Public Opinion

### CANADA IN THE WAR.

(Colfax (Iowa) Capital).

One thing which England will have to look back upon with pride in the years after the war is over is the loyalty of her vast dominions. For the first time in the history of the Empire the armies have been called from all quarters of the earth to fight under the British flag. On the European battlefields to-day we see the Englishman, the Scotsman, the Irishman, the Canadian, the Australian, the New Zealander, the Newfoundlander, the South African, the Indian and others fighting side by side for a single cause.

In the rush of overwhelming events across the water, Americans have not paused to reflect upon what her neighbor, Canada, is doing in this war. The great dominion, which for a century has developed peacefully by our side with only a political line to mark the boundaries, is actually and earnestly at war; as much at war as if her own government were directly involved in a death struggle with another government.

The people of the United States take pride in the thing Canada has done. They look upon it as an evidence of what the new world is capable of in times of stress. They are vastly pleased in the sturdy loyalty of the Canadian to his Empire.

In the readjustment which the British Empire will make at the close of the war Canada will have plenty of evidence to support any changes which she may desire.

### COPY GERMAN PROTECTIONISM?

(The New Age, London.)

As the world will reappear when the flood of the war has subsided many of the old familiar landmarks will have vanished. However much England may prove to be the same, the world will have altered—and altered for good. Leaving the neutral countries out of account altogether—though several of them have made up as many decades of leeway upon us as there have been months of war—it must not be supposed that Germany, civilly, industrially and commercially, has learned nothing during the war. On the contrary, to an efficiency of organization already formidable Germany has been preparing for some months to add an instrument of efficiency for which, at present, we have no parallel in this country. Worse and worse, all the signs of thought amongst our commercial men point to their adoption of the old skin that Germany is just about to slough off.

### PUT THE UNFAITHFUL IN JAIL.

(The Globe).

Many alarming stories are in circulation as to the quantity of defective war supplies passing inspection in Canada. The Globe hesitates to give circulation to these stories, circumstantial though the evidence seems to be in some cases. Yet if it be true, as alleged, that two firms which, by collusion with Government inspectors, were enabled to ship defective material of great importance are still engaged in the manufacture of similar supplies there is need for a protest.

The only way to prevent fraud upon a large scale in the purchase and handling of army supplies is by putting the unfaithful in jail. The crooked contractor should accompany the corrupt public servant. If the law does not make provision for this it should be changed at the earliest possible moment.

### MENTAL GRASSHOPPERS.

(Exchange.)

Many of us waste fully one-fourth of our time and energy by constantly breaking away from the particular thing we are doing, to do or start something else—to return in a moment or so to finish what we left. We jump—mentally, physically, or both—from one idea to another and back again all day long. In most cases this habit can be corrected, it is nothing more than thoughtlessness. And it should be corrected, for such persons in office or shop are not only inefficient but have a tendency to disturb others. They are nothing more than mental grasshoppers.

### NOT HIS BORDER.

(The Milwaukee Sentinel).

An indignant contemporary remarks that "Mexicans can harry the southern part of the United States as much as they like, for all Henry Ford cares."

Yes, that's the point. Henry's large and profitable factory is comfortably situated in the northern part of the United States, and near the Canadian, instead of the Mexican, boundary.

If Henry Ford's plant were as near to the Rio Grande as it is to be Detroit River it is safe to say that he would not be so confoundedly indifferent about invasion.

The Canadians are good neighbors. But if they ever take to raiding our territory, and cross over from Windsor for that purpose, a great many of Mr. Ford's fellow townsmen would be rather pleased than other wise to see Mr. Ford get what is coming to him as a man who discourages enlistment for the national defense.

Mr. Ford makes a boast of his ignorance of history—an intellectual acquirement that does not run into dollars is beneath his notice, it would seem. But if Mr. Ford would stop counting his money long enough to fertilize his mind with a little American history, say, of the war for independence and of the civil war periods, it might serve to cure him of the crank pacifist notions that are fast making him an object of dislike with his countrymen. For that feeling in itself Mr. Ford may not care a button. But suppose it should indirectly hit his pocket, his solar plexus, by materially impairing the deserved popularity of his excellent cheap car?

By the way, what a boon it would be for the Anglo-hyphenate press if Mr. Ford had a German, instead of a British, patronymic!

### AS TO THE WORD "BLIGHTY."

(Christian Science Monitor).

When the word "blighty" is used by the boys at the front few stop to seek its origin. It is a newly-coined word and one that has come into general use not only in the army but in civilian circles. The word "blighty" for "home" sounds somewhat of a mystery. There are many opinions as to how the British Tommy picked it up, but the most accepted theory is that the word is of Indian origin. Britain, or the land far distant from India, is "Bilat" and "Bilati," meaning British. When a soldier is leaving India for home he says he is off to Bilati land. And if Bilati is said quickly enough it becomes "blighty." The word, then is Indian, and the Tommies have picked it up from their Indian comrades in France and Flanders.

### SOLVING THE WAGE PROBLEM.

(Saskatoon Phoenix.)

By removing all taxes from production, and placing them on land values there will be no advantage in holding land idle. Profit can be had only by using it. And since there is very much more land in the world than man can use, the ever-increasing demand for labor will force wages upward until they represent the full product of the laborers' toil. The Single Tax on land values will compel the use of all valuable land. This is as absolute as the law of gravity, or the conservation of energy. It will solve the wage problem universally as certainly as eating will assuage hunger.

### UNFOUNDED FEARS.

(New York Commercial).

When prominent business men become calamity howlers for political purposes they should oversee the literature that the corporations with which they are identified put out. An annual report or a prospectus describing the prosperity and financial strength of a corporation and predicting still better results in coming years does not harmonize well with a political speech or interview foretelling tremendous business depression. If business is to be bad it is hardly ethical to induce investors to put their money into a concern whose high officials see ruin ahead.

### THE TREND OF BUSINESS.

(Bradstreet's).

The rank and file in Canada's industrial world is earning more money at the present time than ever before in the history of the country. This is evidenced in a variety of ways, in the volume of mercantile business which is now transacted with prices at levels that would be considered prohibitive in less prosperous times, and in the relative paucity of financial distress. Another sign of the times that proves the average Canadian has money to lay by for future needs is the remarkable increase in business which insurance companies are enjoying. For the last eighteen months insurance company business has shown marked increases in the volume of business and this has been particularly marked since the beginning. From this it would appear that higher wages give employees an opportunity to save more money than usual even with the prices of commodities considerably above ante-war levels.

Increases in business have amounted to as much as 100 per cent., as shown by comparisons of the first nine months of 1915 and 1916. Policy loans are still not infrequent, but they are not so common as they have been previously, indicating that holders of insurance policies do not now find it so necessary to yield to the temptation of realizing cash on their premiums.

### PEACEFUL LITTLE WILLIE.

(London Mirror).

We have ceased to be astonished at most things in this world, but the spectacle of Little Willie posing as the Crown Prince of Peace, "beats the band." Mr. Ford and other peacebuds must look to their laurels.

As a matter of fact, the Crown Prince has never struck us in England as much of a fighter. Do you remember the occasion in one of those old-fashioned outbursts of boyish rowdiness which used to break out in Piccadilly after an Oxford and Cambridge boat-race, how he was involved in a fracas?

Some young man who had dined not wisely but too well, hustled Little Willie, in ignorance of his identity. A British peer who was with the Prince settled matters by promptly knocking the ringleader down. The Prince stood aside, and never put up his hands.

### A MECHANICAL WAR.

(Ottawa Citizen).

As the Allies press in upon the Germans the war is certain to take a more mechanical turn. The Teutons have discovered that one machine gun is worth a hundred men and if their losses are to be measured in hundreds of men, their strength is to be maintained by additional mechanical weapons. So Hindenburg sends back men to the Krupp works at Essen to make stronger the fighting strength of those that remain. In the closing days of the war we shall probably see fewer men on the firing line and tremendously increased forces at the furnaces and the forges. The real battle may be fought out in the munitions foundries, while the spectacular end is confined to the field.

And this brings us to a realization of the sorry part Canada will play, and has played, in this department of the struggle. If the war is to turn on the mechanical efficiency of the nations it would seem that our best service would be rendered by employing all our national resources in the making of what material we are capable. We may not be able to make huge guns—or even smaller guns—but we can release for such work many thousands of British workers by turning out war munitions such as shells and like material. To be of any practical help, however, such work must be nationalized; it cannot be allowed to remain the field of profiteers.

### THE LAST HOPE OF GERMANY.

(New York Times).

When Russia, instead of suing for a separate peace, rebuilt her resistance and turned it into an offensive, the German hope turned to France; Verdun was to do the trick. Verdun did not do the trick, and now the German hope, fainter but still living, turns to Russia again. It is fainter, but it must live, for it is the last of the German hopes, and when one gives up his last hope there is only despair. These desperate trial balloons, alternating between peace feelers and threats, indicate nothing but the state of the German mind; from the solid wall around them there comes not even a whisper of reply.