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THE THOUGHTS OF THEOBALD.

A SENSELESS PROCEEDING.

I witnessed a senseless proceeding the other day in the actions of two of the Council's men who were cleaning up one of the principal streets of the city. The day was hot and windy, but these two were brushing up the dust from the street in an endeavour to collect it and cart it away. You can imagine what happened. The dust, as soon as it was disturbed, was caught up by the wind, and made quite a respectable thick cloud, and was carried into all the open doors and windows to the disgust of the householders.

Now I daresay any of the houses would have been glad to furnish a bucket or so of water to sprinkle the dust before it was swept up, and in any case how easy it would have been for a watering cart to go down the street and lay the dust. The proceeding seemed the result, not of wrong thought, but of want of thought, which is, of the two, the worse failing.

THE WAR.

It does us no harm to remind ourselves just where we stand at the close of one year's war. Many writers have devoted attention to the question: "Are we winning?" "Outlets" in the Fortnightly Review answers the question, counting the gains and the probable issue.

He starts with the comforting assurance that the original plans of the German staff have entirely miscarried, but then roughly brings us face to face with the fact that Germany possesses the whole of Belgium with a slight and almost insignificant exception; a good slice of industrial France. She has obtained a sea coast from which she can organise submarine raids; she possesses a Zeppelin fleet of uncertain dimensions by means of which she can seek to terrorise Great Britain; her ships of war are for the most part untouched. So much for the Western side. On the Eastern side she has recently regained practically the whole of Galicia; the menace to Hungary involved in the capture of Carpathian passes is now disappearing; Austria has recovered the exceedingly valuable whole of German territory as it existed before the war is still intact, while German armies in both areas of the war are invading the foe's, not defending their own, territory. As compared with these gains the conquests of the Allies are small indeed.

As against this the Allies have secured the valuable adhesion of Italy and the supremacy of the British Navy, has suppressed Germany's sea-borne commerce, and her Colonies are in the possession of the Allies. And while perhaps Germany is suffering little yet from internal economic elements, (because for one thing, petrol, of which she was getting short, will once more become available owing to the Austrian recapture of her Galician oilfields), yet the stress of war must tell upon her in the long run much more than it is likely to do on the Allies. And now the capture of Warsaw and the wonderful if unsuccessful enveloping movement of the Germans are to be added to the tale.

The Allies have time on their side, but something must soon take place on the fields of Flanders before any vestige of victory can appear in sight. We have to conquer in the West, and it would seem as if it might take all the resources of men, factories, and money to beat down the obstinate resistance of the enemy.

MIGHT OR RIGHT.

Think as you will, the war is going to be won by Might. Our thoughts, our actions, and preparations, our munition problems, all point to the fact that we cannot and do not rely upon the righteousness of our cause, per se, to obtain the victory. It is the might of our arms that will give us the victory. The victory which Right is bound to bring is not brought by force of arms. It is the slower evolution but perhaps a far more lasting victory. Right is won by example, by influence. Might gains its ends, but makes enemies and unwilling servants.

We can only trust that this war will clear the atmosphere of the world's thinking, and that the ordinary individuals of all lands will realize how peaceful, unnecessary, and bad it is to play such a killing game, and resolve not to be influenced by any Kaiser-like whims of conquest.

SILVER BULLETS.

It may be well to preach economy to the daily wage earner, that is, if he can get any closer to Mr. Economy than he is now, but there are those in the scale higher up, who merit much more advice on the spending of money. If the silver bullet is one of our most powerful Allies, then why do we not see more of them being offered for machine guns. Why be satisfied with a moderate subscription in

the hope that the Fund will be completed by the twenty cent pieces of the poor?

It is a question that I cannot get over. The Empire calls for able-bodied men to fight—she also calls for money and munitions. Most people look with surprise if they see a young man, unattached, and able to fight, who does not volunteer. But there are men of means who never think that they owe their money to the Empire just as a volunteer feels that his duty to the Empire is to enlist. And if you get right down to bed rock, why should it be necessary to offer any man interest on his subscription to the war loan? Is his money worth more than the life of a volunteer? If the war, as it must be, is for his interest, should he not be willing to help the Empire freely and fully? I would like some answer to these questions. I know that some subscriptions are large but they represent no sacrifice, and inconvenient the donors not one bit.

What can one think of the man, who, in order to escape the death duty tax, gave away all his money before he died? When you think of the imperative need of machine guns in this war, the mere suggestion should have brought the thirty thousand dollars in a couple of hours. Why should our wealthy men wait to see what other men give?

A QUESTION OF EFFICIENCY.

The question of drink or abstinence from drink is essentially one of efficiency, physical, mental, and moral. When people really begin to realise that the use of alcoholic beverages invariably and under all circumstances limits efficiency and makes them less fit for the daily task, whatever it may be, they will undoubtedly turn from it. The navy going to his work in the street, the miner going to the bowels of the earth, the mason, the carpenter, the engine driver, the tram conductor, and the professional man, whether he is a doctor, lawyer, or clergyman, one and all reduce in measurable degree their efficiency for their particular duties by indulging in strong drink. Vitality is diminished, physical endurance is limited, and alertness of the mind, the power of concentration and memory, are all weakened by imbibing the alcoholic poison just in proportion to the quantity taken. . . . How long are we going to allow this state of affairs to exist?

The insignificant measures that have already been taken against the use of intoxicants have miserably failed and there's only one possible solution, and that is total prohibition of intoxicants, at least for the period of the war. The problem is far more urgent and vital than the man in the street recognizes, and therefore we say again that the time has come for the Government to take a bold stand and to call for total prohibition. We have no doubt as to the answer to such a call, for we believe the people of this nation are ready and willing to make any reasonable sacrifice in order to better second and support the hundreds of thousands of heroic men at the front who are daily risking their lives for King and country. We believe the country is ready for the sacrifice and that it only waits a strong and courageous lead on the part of the Government.—Good Health.

BRANCH RAILWAYS.

The Branch Railways, so the Morris Government said parrot-like to all criticism, were built on a mandate from the people. They were built by the people's money and the idea was that they should serve the people's interest by carrying their freight and taking them as passengers. They have been built, the people's money has been spent, the Reid Company has been paid, the Government's friends have got their arbitration fees, and the people have been duly taxed to pay the interest on it all. After long waits some of the Branches have been put in running order, but Bay du Verde Branch still is unopened. The Heart's Content line is running but I understand that the cars on that branch are about the oldest in the service. In any other country the system would not be permitted. The Railway Company should be forced to put decent accommodation on every Branch, for no railway is going to pay that does not cater to its customers. There is plenty work to be done for the branch lines in the way of rolling stock, as well as for the main line and there is no excuse for the wholesale reduction of men and time that has taken place of late months. I know of men who work now only 7 hours a day and only about 35 hours in some weeks. Is this patriotism? Is this good enough?

Young Man,

If you are thinking about buying a BLUE SERGE SUIT, better see our stock first. We specialize on Blue Serges, and carry a splendid stock of never-fade Indigo Blues from \$20 to \$25. As to fit and style, you 'shouldn't worry.' Leave it to us and you will get the best that's going. SPURRELL BROS., 365 Water Street.—may25,eod,t

At the NICKEL

This will be a great programme—Take it in. Send the children to the big bumper Matinee Saturday.

A Great Big Feature Programme for the Week-End!

"On the Stroke of Five."

A beautiful social drama produced in two parts—a Vitagraph presenting Naomi Childers and Darwin Karr.

"The Hazards of Helen."

Another episode of this thrilling railroad series.

"THE LOST RECEIPT."

A strong melo-drama by the Reliance Players.

"WANTED A NURSE."

Sidney Drew in a Vitagraph comedy.

FORBES LAW DUGUID,

Canada's Foremost Baritone.

Prohibition in Alberta.

(From the Presbyterian Witness.)

The reform party has won a great triumph in Alberta and has set a high example for the rest of the Dominion. By a vote of nearly two to one the people have decided to put an end to the legal sale of intoxicating liquor. All the cities, with the exception of Lethbridge, went dry. Edmonton showing a majority of 3,600 and Calgary about 3,200. By this decision, the act prohibiting the sale of liquor throughout the province will come into operation on the first day of July, 1916. The struggle for deliverance from this great evil has been a keen one. The liquor interests fought hard to retain a hold in the province, but the people were deeply in earnest and cast their votes with a full understanding of the seriousness of the step they were taking. The vote was polled under the newly adopted system of direct legislation, so that the voters were not merely expressing an opinion but enacting a law; and it is significant that the first fruits of this new system should be legislation for the moral reform and uplift of the province in which it is enacted.

A HORRIBLE SPECTACLE.

There was something horrible in the spectacle of these old men dilly-dallying in Parliament, like commercial travellers paid for the job on the special virtues of the varieties of alcohol produced in Ireland, and declaring if there was any limitation in the drink traffic that there would be an end of the Irish nation. We had ultimatums of the Irish publicans warning the representatives of the nation who it was supported them and kept them in power. We had meetings all over the country, with wretched creatures like the Mayor of Limerick telling the young men of Ireland that if they wanted to fight and die the cause of alcohol in Ireland was the noblest cause of any Island of saints and heroes, of fighters for lost causes in every clime, the last cause your children are asked to die for is the right to be drunken as publicans can make them. The Press of Ireland has given up whole pages to dipsomania grown lyrical, while it could hardly devote a column to the far more important problem of food production and the increase of tillage in Ireland. It is the counter demonstration of the Devil to the action of thousands of grave and silent men who during the last few months have shown that they regard the triumph of right in the world as of more importance than their own lives. These disgusting attempts to identify religion and Irish nationality with drink will do more good than harm. The very violence of the demonstration isolates the publicans, and even if they succeed, if they get the politicians to obey the cracking of their whip, they will have appeared in such a light in Ireland, they will have made so clear the power they have, that it will be the beginning of their end. We are told if there is any restriction on drink national revenue will suffer and the State become bankrupt. Does revenue only arise from the vice of men as mushrooms rise out of manure? We recommend those alcoholically anxious about Irish revenue to read Mr. Gladstone's scornful retort to the representatives of drink who waited on him to tell him how much national revenue would suffer if he carried out his policy: "Gentlemen, you need not give yourselves any trouble about the revenue. With a sober population not wasting their earnings, I shall know where to obtain the revenue."

In a country which can afford to spend fourteen millions on alcohol every year, there is ample margin to provide for any depreciation.—The Irish Homestead.

What Are You Doing for that Eczema?

"Nothing; I've about given up trying to cure it."

"That is not wise. Do as I did and you will probably be cured in a short time. I used Zylex and Zylex Soap with it and my Eczema began to improve at once. A couple of boxes cured. You can get Zylex at your druggist's."

Zylex, 50c. a box; Zylex Soap, 25c. a cake.

Zylex, London.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

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GIRLS' HATS,

Worth up to 80 cts. each. For this week end

39 cents.

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Something you will want for the coming Winter.

Table Linens,
Blankets and
Towels.Bed Ticks,
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These are away down under present price and if you miss this opportunity they will cost you **One-third more** later on.

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Mirror on inside, Silk; very chic.

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