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**Walter Rouciman's
Sterile Bill**

Little need be added here to the debate on the Coal Prices Bill in the house of commons last week. It is clear that once more the government has surrendered to the profiteers. We do not know if the government is so convinced that our population "reads" picture papers only that parliamentary reports may be assumed to go unread. But it appears like it.

The revelations, both of intention and of effect of the Coal Bill, which were made and reported last week would otherwise most certainly have been censured as dangerous to the public peace. Mr. Rouciman, in the first instance, naively confessed that the bill had been drafted by the coal-owners themselves. Next he accepted as true the statement that the cost of coal to the nation this year would exceed last year's cost by nearly forty million pounds. Finally he pleaded that the "reduced output" of the mines, consequent upon the enlistment of so many miners, was a proper ground for compensating the coal-owners.

The voice of the profiteer behind the mask of a minister was never more clearly heard than when this astonishing proposition was advanced by Mr. Rouciman. The nation is to consent to pay more for its coal because it is

fighting for its life in Flanders; and the coal-owners are actually to be compensated for allowing their men to die for their country. Words, we feel, are inadequate to convey the comment that must occur to every sane man. We would we could speak daggers. The conclusion can only be that the government are in the fobs of the coal owners and speak but as their clerks. Together they mean to squeeze the nation of its resources while the war is squeezing us of our tears.—The New Age (London).

A Patriotic Stand

"I affirm it with all my power, that it is the duty of Canada to give to Great Britain in this war all the assistance that is in the power of Canada. My confidence in the present Government at Ottawa does not ooze from the soles of my boots, but at the outbreak of the war I considered it my duty to support it in its war policy. I have supported it in that policy ever since and I will support it again. The reason is that this war is a contest between German institutions and British institutions. British institutions mean freedom; German institutions mean despotism. That is why we as Canadians have such a vital interest in this war."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Sherbrooke.

**AMMUNITION
MAKERS LOSE
IN EXPLOSIONS**

Chicago, Sept. 4.—Twenty-five explosions and thirty-seven deaths have been caused in plants in the United States where war munitions are manufactured for the Allies. It is alleged that many of these explosions were the result of German plots:

Aug. 29, 1914.—Du Pont store-house blown up at Pompton, N.J.; one dead.

Dec. 23.—Mixing house at Government arsenal, Picatinny, N.J., set on fire.

Jan. 18, 1915.—Buckthorne plant of John R. Roebing Wire Company at Trenton, used in making chains for French army, destroyed by fire thought caused by bomb; damage, \$1,500,000.

Feb. 13.—Explosion in Du Pont plant at Haskell, N.J.; three hurt.

Mar. 6.—Two explosions in Du Pont powder plant at Haskell; five killed.

April 1.—Explosion in plant of Equitable Powder Company, Alton, Ill.; five dead.

April 30.—Mixing plant of Du Pont plant at Carney Point, N.J., destroyed by explosions; six hurt.

May 12.—Gun-cotton storehouse of Anderson chemical plant at Wellington, N.J., wrecked; three dead.

May 15.—Still house of Du Pont plant at Carney Point destroyed by two explosions.

June 26.—Du Pont mill at Wayne, N.J., demolished by explosion.

July 13.—Building of Safety Powder Company's plant at Jefferson-town, Ky., wrecked by explosion; one dead, three hurt.

July 13.—Two buildings of Du Pont plant at Carney Point wrecked by explosions; one dead, three hurt.

Aug. 3.—Explosion in Frankfort Arsenal, Philadelphia, kills three.

Aug. 16.—Explosion in Simfahoning, Pa., plant of Aetna Explosives Company kills five.

Aug. 25.—Explosion of shell while being tested at Bethlehem Steel Works, South Bethlehem, Pa., kills two.

Aug. 29.—Glazing mill of American Powder Company plant of Acton Mass., destroyed. Two black powder mills owned by Du Pont Powder Company, Wilmington, Del., destroyed, two killed.

Aug. 29.—Explosion of Aetna Powder Mills, Aetna, Ind., three men injured, cause not explained.

Aug. 31.—Powder train with 7,000 pounds dynamite thrown off track at Pinola, Cal., train destroyed, three men killed.

Aug. 31.—Packing house No. 5 of Du Pont works at Pinola blown up, one dead, three missing.

Aug. 31.—Dynamite bomb blown before home of Maurice Coombs, Depew, N.Y., agent for French Government; building a factory for manufacture of aeroplanes on Allies' contract.

**VACANT LOT
GARDENS**

Reports from various cities and towns in Canada as to the cultivation of vacant lots indicate that the campaign inaugurated last spring for greater production and more extensive use of vacant land has been a success. Several cities have handled the vacant lot problem in a systematic manner, and have secured results commensurate to the amount of energy expended. Some, by allowing interest to lag, have been only partially successful. In others, also, circumstances militated against success, in that unemployed men took up the cultivation of vacant lots, and upon securing employment, neglected them. On the whole, however, the movement can be regarded as a distinct success. No estimate of the value of the product is available, but, judging from the vacant lot gardeners, the total value is large.

There is one danger from the vacant lot garden, however, to which attention must be drawn, namely, the growth of noxious weeds in the newly cultivated land. Too often, on the removal of the crop, the ground is given over to the weeds. Organizations handling the vacant lot work should give the matter of weed destruction early attention; otherwise, the lots will not only prove a menace to the land in the vicinity by the spread of weed seeds, but create antagonism to the improvement on the part of the occupiers of the neighbouring land.—Conservation.

Ten Turks armed with knives attacked and severely wounded two Italians during a war argument in Toronto a few days ago.



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**WEALTHY FORGER
ARRESTED AFTER
16 YEARS SEARCH**

Kansas City Mo., September 2.—James Barnhardt has been arrested in St. Louis by four detectives on charges of big forgeries extending over a long period. His wife was with him at the time, and when taken, Barnhardt said as he followed his captors:

"Well, dear, I guess this is about the end," and followed the officers.

The detectives say that in the arrest of Barnhardt after a search of sixteen years they have captured the most daring, astute and successful criminal in the United States. The prisoner, they assert, has confessed fraudulent transactions which extend over twenty years and which were staged in almost every big city in the country. He has been arrested only three times—once in Kansas City, once in Denver and last January in Waukesha. He is reputed to be wealthy.

For ten years Barnhardt has lived in a fine home in Forest City, Ark., where he was the leading citizen of the town and director in the largest bank.

For years Barnhardt has made periodical trips over the country and returned each time with thousands of dollars. The police charge that on each of these trips he obtained large loans on fraudulent deeds.

As "John W. Kline" Barnhardt is said to have appeared here in 1898 and represented himself as a man of independent means. He got a forgery and Kline was arrested on two charges—forgery and grand larceny. He pleaded guilty to the latter and served two years in state's prison.

Barnhardt sought owners of valuable real estate and told them he wanted to buy property. On the pretence that he wished to investigate the titles, he would obtain the warranty deed. Then a clever forgery of the document would be made, and Barnhardt would appear in a nearby community and negotiate the loan. The system has netted the prisoner more than \$1,000,000, the police say.

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garments, and make
up remnants of
cloth.

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**Russia Needing
Billion And Half**

All Possible Sources of
Revenue Must be Used
To Get It

Petrograd, Sept. 4 (via London).—The finance committee of the Duma presented a bill today extending the rights of the State Bank to issue paper money. The committee report discussed the entire problem of meeting war expenses, stating that the sums needed were so large that all possible sources of revenue must be used—taxation, internal credit operations, an issue of paper money and foreign loans.

"For 1915," the report stated, "the estimated war expenses are 7,242,000,000 roubles (\$3,621,000,000) and other expenses 2,847,000,000 roubles (\$1,423,500,000), making a total of over ten billion roubles (\$5,000,000,000)."

"The revenue from ordinary receipts is estimated at 2,796,000,000 roubles (\$1,398,000,000), while credit operations up to the present time have yielded 4,181,000,000 roubles (\$2,090,500,000), leaving over 3,000,000,000 roubles (\$1,500,000,000) yet to be provided.

"The Government must prepare the ground for another important loan in foreign markets to pay for material purchased abroad, but in view of our agreement with our allies, there is no doubt of our success. In the whole financial history of Russia there never has been a moment's delay in paying creditors."

Regarding the proposed development of the issue of paper money the report said:

"Compared with other nations Russia held the greatest cover in gold for her paper money with the possible exception of Great Britain."

Minister of Finance Bark, supporting the report of the committee, said that in spite of the exploitation of internal credit to a degree hitherto unprecedented, amounting to a total of over three billion roubles, Russia possesses immense reserves of savings of which the Government intends soon to make use. The Government is increasing the number of savings banks, simplifying the facilitating their use by the people.

A Glorious Victory

Among the feats of British valor none will hold a more glorious place in their military history to the world than the landing of the British expeditionary forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula in April last. In this historic achievement, the Army and Navy each played a brilliant and heroic part. Sir Ian Hamilton has already told us, in a report which will live in history, of the part played by the land forces under his command. Now, we have the naval story of the Gallipoli landing, as told by Vice Admiral de Roebek, the officer commanding the naval forces in the Dardanelles, in a despatch recently issued by the Admiralty.

It gives an account, from the naval point of view, of the landing of the expeditionary forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25th and 26th, together with a list of the officers and men recommended for gallantry. The entire business of landing the troops, with their guns and stores, was in the hands of the fleet, and Admiral de Roebek's narrative supplements and completes the story of the historic feat told by Sir Ian Hamilton in his despatch published some two months ago. Like Sir Ian Hamilton's vivid story, it is a record not only of efficient performance of duty but of dauntless bravery and self-sacrificing devotion, all of which is attested by the award of the Victoria Cross to no fewer than five officers and men and decorations for numerous others whose acts gallantly called for special mention in the Vice Admiral's despatch.

Admiral de Roebek is, of course, reporting chiefly the work of the fleet under his command, but he pays a warm and generous tribute to the conduct of all who took part in the landing. He refers to such actions as the storming of the Seddul Bahr position, as "feats which must live in history for ever," and to "innumerable deeds of heroism and daring," and declares that "the gallantry and absolute contempt for death displayed alone made the operations possible."

Concerning the Australian and New Zealand soldiers, the Vice Admiral remarks that "nothing could stop such men. They set a standard in their first battle, as high as that of any army in history, and one of which their countrymen have every reason to be proud."

We cannot rate too highly the magnificent work performed by the British Fleet since the beginning of the war, and Admiral de Roebek's story of the gallantry and heroism of the men of the fleet at the Dardanelles adds another glorious chapter to the history of the Navy.

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