

The Weekly Ontario

WHY NEWSPAPERS SHOULD NEVER BE READ.

The editor of "The Canadian," the weekly paper issued by the Ontario School for the Deaf in this city, hands out in this week's issue the following horrible jolt to his brother pen-pushers.

An exchange says that "the people of the United States support as many newspapers as England, France and Germany combined." We presume this is meant as a compliment, but if so, it is a very doubtful one. Most newspapers are devoid of all literary quality. The so-called informative articles are generally of the most superficial and unreliable nature, written by men who "plug up" for the occasion so as to produce articles at so much a column on subjects about which the writers have no special knowledge. The news columns are generally composed of about one part in ten of sure facts, four parts of conjecture and surmise, and five parts of pure invention. Never has this been better illustrated than at the present time in reference to the war. A person may read pages of war reports, cablegrams, articles by special correspondents, despatches from Athens and Amsterdam and a score of other lie-factories, and when he lays the paper down he realizes that he has not read one item that he can positively rely upon as true. Even in their editorial comments on political matters, many party papers are no more reliable than in their news columns. There are millions of people in the United States and Canada that read almost nothing else than newspapers, and the effect cannot fail to be detrimental to all true culture, and must do much to undermine the readers' regard for truth and probity and honor. Half an hour every day is ample time to enable a man to get from the daily papers all that is worth while. The rest of the time at his disposal for reading should be devoted to good books and the best magazines.

Well, there! The truth is out at last! We half suspected it all the time. We have often wondered what the people bought our own crazy sheet for, let alone some of the other tragic jokes that masquerade over this province in the guise of newspapers. We can call some of them out by name that are even worse than that. Why will people spend the good coin of the realm upon these cheap purveyors of shallow falsehoods, superficial half-truths, sonorous platitudes and dull-witted editorials? And, having wasted their cash, why do they send good-time after bad money by sitting down and reading the vile dope so fittingly described by our contemporary.

We don't know. We can't tell you. We only know that there is a considerable market for such goods and we in our total depravity are out to supply the demand.

If people will not or do not read the "good books and the best magazines" referred to by "The Canadian," and they will read and do read the bad newspapers, what is going to be done about it?

The inhabitants of European countries who do not read the papers are commended by "The Canadian" for their good sense as compared with the American and Canadian perverts who do pretty generally peruse the journals of the day.

We know quite a number of people in Belleville and elsewhere who never read newspapers. Theoretically these same people, not being afflicted with the degenerate tastes of the paper fiend, should be storing their minds with useful knowledge gleaned from the good books and the best magazines. Unfortunately such is not the case. We cannot recall a single instance where one of the non-readers of newspapers ever reads a book. As far as our somewhat limited circle of observation goes the man who never reads a newspaper never reads anything at all. And, furthermore, we would state that the great majority of this latter class couldn't read a newspaper if they tried. Their early education along that particular line was neglected.

Does the same rule hold good among the frivulous ones of Europe who are immune from the journalistic germ? Far be it from us to suggest that "The Canadian" is holding illiteracy up as the goal towards which we should bend our admiring gaze. We were just wondering, as Walter Pater would say.

The Canadian tells us that five parts out of ten of the news columns of the papers are "pure invention." Stripped of metaphor and euphemism, "pure invention" means "lies."

We are glad that our contemporary did not include the editorial columns. If it had there might have been trouble. Whatever whoppers are paraded in the news columns, nobody ever need be afraid to take the editorials without first sprinkling them with salt. Precautions are quite unnecessary. Their immaculate candor and innate truthfulness stare out from every line. "Magna est veritas praevalabit" is the motto that every editorial writer must memorise from his spelling book. "Magna est veritas sed rara" is the motto for the news columns.

But if fifty per cent. of falsehood in the news columns makes a good newspaper, why wouldn't one hundred per centum of lies make a better newspaper? Will The Canadian please answer, and, in the meantime, we will consult with the city editor to ascertain if he cannot come a little stronger than he has been doing. Five times out of ten is a pretty fair average, but we believe by strict attention to the business of prevarication that even that excellent record may be exceeded.

There is, however, one point about "The Canadian's" leader to which we must take strong exception. We do not mind shouldering our own lies, and the lies of our news editor, and the lies of reporters and correspondents, but when it comes to having thrust upon us, in addition, the work of the Baron Munchausens and Doc Cooks of Athens and Amsterdam, it is really too much.

Here "The Canadian" comes dangerously close to high treason. All despatches that appear in The Ontario as coming from Europe are sent over British cables and have been duly censored by accredited representatives of the British War Office. The lies about the war therefore in a sense bear the official stamp and approval of the Imperial government.

A NEW KIND OF FUEL.

Manufacturing a high-grade fuel from garbage and other refuse is a new industry that promises to solve the problem of disposing of the waste of towns and cities. A year ago the first experimental plant of a new garbage-disposal process was established in San Antonio, Texas. It has proved so successful that a large plant is to be erected in Austin, Texas.

The promoters have entered into a contract with the city by which they receive 25¢ a ton for all the waste delivered at the plant. This is about 50¢ per ton less than it now costs the city to dispose of its garbage.

The important feature of the new method of handling the waste that comes from the streets and alleys is that it is converted into a fuel that is said to be equal to bituminous coal. This is accomplished in much the same manner that stiff mud-bricks are made. The machinery used is practically the same as that used in making cut mud-bricks.

There is this difference in the process, however—the fuel bricks are not required to be as smooth and perfect as building bricks. The fuel bricks are dried in the sun or open air instead of in kilns. To produce this new fuel from garbage a mixture of equal quantities of coal dust and garbage, with an addition of 7 per cent. of water tar from gas plants or oil refineries, is used.

It takes one thousand of the fuel bricks to make a ton, says a writer in Coal Age. They are clean and dustless and are easy and convenient to handle. In San Antonio the new fuel is being used by many people in their homes. The demand for it is said to be much greater than the supply. It will not slack, no matter how long it is kept in storage; it is impervious to water and burns to ashes without leaving a semblance of clinkers; and it produces no odor and little smoke when being burned.

The remarkable spectacle of seeing old shoes, hats, paper, rags, straw, house garbage and a variety of other waste products being thrown into one machine and emerging from another in the shape of a perfect brick is to be witnessed daily at the plant in operation at San Antonio. The finished product bears no resemblance to the raw materials that enter into its manufacture. The process performs the important work of sanitation, which is considered of the utmost importance in disposing of municipal garbage.

The mechanical arrangement of the garbage-fuel plant is simple. The refuse is unloaded from wagons upon a sorting platform and then sprayed with creosote, not only as a sanitary precaution, but to allow the sorters to work with comfort. Through holes in the platform the garbage is dropped upon conveyers, which carry it to the various departments of the plant.

The iron is carried into storage bins; dead animals are conveyed to the fertilizer department; bottles to the washing tank; ashes, stone and brick to a dump; tin cans to an incinerator, which removes the solder, the remaining tin pieces being baled; and the residue of the garbage is conveyed to the fuel-manufacturing department where it is made into bricks.

The entire plant is tightly enclosed so as to keep dust from escaping. The cost of manufacturing the fuel bricks is about \$1.80 per ton. They sell in San Antonio for \$6.50 per ton.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY.

The inconvenience of entangling alliances was very forcibly illustrated in the debate on the Address at Ottawa. Sir Robert Borden, constrained by the alliance which he made with the Nationalist Party at the last General Election, and which contributed greatly to put him in power, was unable to say a word from his place in parliament, in denunciation of the treasonable utterances of Colonel Armand Lavergne, who boasts that he was offered a portfolio in Sir Robert's cabinet. We repeat that we wish for the sake of the impression which it would make abroad that Sir Robert could have follow-

ed the manly example of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and given expression to the abhorrence which he must feel for the utterances of his quondam lieutenant. Whatever the political expediency to Sir Robert or his party might be, the country expected that he would take the first opportunity to repudiate a man whose speech will be received in Berlin as evidence that Canada is not united in the prosecution of the war. It is altogether unfortunate that Sir Robert was compelled to forego such an excellent opportunity of setting matters right, so far as the Tory Party is concerned. While the exigencies of politics have demanded that Messrs. Bourassa and Lavergne should escape repudiation at the hands of their political allies the country must show the world by its united action in speeding up recruiting that they speak for themselves alone.

MONEY IN AUTOGRAPHS.

The late John Boyd Thatcher, former mayor of Albany, was a collector of autographs. Last Fall this collection was put up at auction, which has continued through the winter, and up to date more than \$50,000 has been realized from the sale. This does not include the set of signers of the Declaration of Independence, for which \$25,000 is asked. The seventh and last instalment was held in Albany last week and brought \$2,479. Of the sale the Albany Journal says:

"The most interesting item was a letter of the Rev. Charles Wesley to his brother Samuel, dated 'Off Cowes, Nov. 17, 1735,' and franked by Governor James Oglethorpe. It brought \$50. He was starting on the mission to Georgia and describes the work already done by John Wesley, whom he was accompanying. 'Twice a day,' the letter runs, 'he (John Wesley) reads prayers to ye no small mortification of ye Great Cabin.'"

"W. T. Walters paid \$410 for Nathaniel Hawthorne's original manuscript of a part of Time's Portraiture, Being the Carrier's Address to the Patrons of the Salem Gazette for the First of January, 1838. George D. Smith gave \$300 for a letter in French written by Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, prelate of Henry VIII., and dated June 15, 1528. An unpublished letter of Jonathan Swift to Benjamin Motte, publisher of Gulliver's Travels, went to Mr. Smith for \$375. A letter of Sir Richard Steele, editor of the Tatler, brought \$41, and a letter of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Stafford, who was beheaded, went for \$88. A pen drawing by William M. Thackeray was knocked down for \$62.50."

AWAY WITH THE FRILLS.

Canada, like Britain, is now enlisting and enrolling in her armies the best young manhood of the country. It is not an army of professional soldiers, nor an army of men who choose military life by preference. Many of them have been life-long opponents of militarism and earnest advocates of peace. They are gladly enlisting in the ranks, and subjecting themselves to the hardships and dangers of active service, because they realize their duty to themselves, to their country and to humanity demands it. It is, therefore, essential that our army should be organized upon the broadest, democratic principles, compatible with discipline and military efficiency. There are some things traditional to the Army which, we believe, could well be eliminated and ought to be eliminated.

We think that the best opinion of the country will agree that the saluting business has been greatly exaggerated. When soldiers are on duty it is, of course proper and possibly essential to the enforcement of discipline and authority, that they should salute their superior officers, according to the custom which military regulations demand. It is recognition of authority which may, and probably does, serve an excellent purpose, but at the present time in Canada, when the streets of all our larger cities are swarming with youths wearing the uniform of commissioned officers—whose military experience is confined to the few weeks spent at a training school—it seems ridiculous that the men who volunteer for service should be under the necessity of carrying out this saluting custom. We do not think that this sort of thing is likely to promote discipline appreciably or inspire the private soldier with any greater respect for the rank above him. In many cases, the men who enlist in the ranks occupied important and influential positions in the community. They, of course, submit themselves to all the regimen of military life when they enter the army, but it is absurd to require men of this class to be constantly saluting mere striplings whom they pass on the streets, simply because they are temporarily in possession of the uniform of a commissioned officer. So long as soldiers are on duty, let the strictest regulations be observed, but once they are off duty they should be free from the obligation of this antiquated and useless drill sergeants' fetish. Sir Sam Hughes would do well to "cut it out." It will be a relief to officers as well as men.

A WELCOME CHANGE.

It goes without saying that all Canadians are desirous that Canada should assume its proper share of the burden of carrying on the Great War. Canadians, irrespective of party, are not satisfied that the Dominion Government has at all approached their ideals with respect

to Canada's participation in the war. It is only as a result of a repeated prodding by the people that we have at last approximately 120,000 men overseas. A definite, concrete policy has never put before the people by the Dominion Government in respect to this important matter. From time to time as public murmurings became louder, the Government has been compelled to add a battalion or a brigade to the number of troops authorized, and so we have progressed from a division to the 120,000 men, we are now said to have overseas.

The time has come for action, and to some extent Major-General Hughes is endeavoring to meet the public demand and measure up, at least, part of the way to public expectations. The announcement of a radical change in the method of securing efficient officers will undoubtedly assist the standard in this most important branch of the service. We have frequently taken occasion to point out the absolute necessity for competent leadership that we think it is not necessary to repeat our arguments here. There is no good reason why a leader of men in private life should not become a leader of men in military life. There is no reason why a man who has no qualifications but his politics should be appointed to lead a battalion, a company or a platoon. Too many men have been appointed for this reason already. Any change from this system will be welcomed.

The military expert of the London Spectator concludes a review of the war situation as follows: "Meanwhile the British Navy maintains a strangle-hold on German commerce. The squeeze is sensibly felt, although we must not exaggerate the effect. Everything in the coming year will be more difficult for the Germans and easier for the Allies. If during the coming year we do not turn our good hopes into certainties we shall be quite unworthy of our opportunities, which we and our Allies owe to our matchless seamen."

Dr. Michael Clark speaks for the Canadian people as a whole when he demands a full and detailed statement as to what the Government has done and is doing with the public money voted by Parliament. The people of Canada are ready to expend their last dollar in carrying on this war, but they will insist upon this money being honestly and economically expended. We know that there has been much extravagance and waste in the expenditure of public funds, and the results of the investigations in the Public Accounts Committee show that there has been far worse than waste in connection with some of the expenditures. It is well that the Government should be made to understand that the people will hold them to "strict accountability," not in the Wilsonian sense, but as a matter of stern reality.

Mrs. Fawcett, in an article in the January number of the "Englishwoman," headed "Lift Up Your Hearts," ventures to declare the vision she cherishes of at least one good result of the present strife:

Women have not worked as they have during the last seventeen months with any ulterior aim of winning citizenship. They have worked for their country from the strongest of all motives, love for her. But men and women, when the end of the war comes, will feel that each have borne a part in a titanic struggle; they have been "up against the real things," life and death, heroic self-sacrifice for all we hold most dear; and I believe that the nation will realize, as it never has before, that the women of the country are worthy to be recognized as free, self-governing citizens.

In a letter to the New York Times, Hudson Maxim says he believes the war will last from three to five years yet. He points out that the Germans are entrenched in enemies' countries and adds that it requires three times as many men and the expenditure of three times as much ammunition to disentrrench a well-entrenched enemy as it does to hold a strongly entrenched position. Mr. Maxim says that all the talk about starving out Germany is empty vaporizing. He concludes by saying: "England is unassailable Egypt and India, England would yet not be whipped. It is my prediction that the war will last from three to five years yet, and that it is more likely to be seven years than three."

Hon. Arthur Meighen, the official apologist of the Borden Government admitted that if the government had any connection with the Shell Committee it ought to grant an inquiry by parliament. Mr. Kye, the talented member for Richmond, established the connection beyond dispute on the authority of Sir Robert Borden himself. It is now up to Mr. Meighen to join with Dr. Pugsley in demanding a Committee of Inquiry from the government.

If there were any people gullible enough to swallow the story sent out by pro-German agencies and eagerly displayed under "copyrighted" lines, that Montenegro had played traitor to the Allied cause and was secretly linked with the enemy, they know better now. The gallant little nation is going on to fight to the death.

Other Editors' Opinions

PAYING THE WAR COST.

A correspondent asks whether, in Canada, the rich or the poor are paying the war cost. We understand that no one, whether rich or poor, is paying, payment being deferred till after the war, if not till the arrival of the next generation. In that, we are not like the British, who are taking, we are told, for the war cost, a fifth and in some cases as much as a third of all incomes. Powerful influences would go farther, as we have noted, and conscript capital as well as income. In Canada, we borrow the war cost and impose so-called war taxes for the protection of manufacturing industries and to provide public works for unemployment and employment for a vast civil service. Strange as it may seem, our system strikes no opposition. The word passes that Mr. White will again raise the tariff and there is no dissent; but, at most, a partisan growl that the taxes are not well spent.

When the war is over, there is no prospect that the manufacturers will export more than they do now. Industrial labor, if it will not return to the land, will probably emigrate. In any event, the war cost will be mainly paid by the farmers. Some hope vainly that a period of construction may be inaugurated again involving great foreign loans from which the government may reap a huge revenue such as built the National Transcontinental. Others hope for a large farm immigration, no matter what the quality, which would distribute the debt widely. In the way of immigration, however, will stand the tariff and the handicap of which the farmer now complains and also the war cost.—Toronto Weekly Sun (Ind.)

RESTLESSNESS IN THE LAND.

The opinion of Grenville county might possibly be taken as fairly representative of Conservative opinion elsewhere in Ontario. But the lack of backbone, or thickness of skull, of the present Dominion administration—made apparent in the failure to enlist the Dominion Government shops into the Imperial munitions service, in the failure to stop the expenditure over such a national blunder as the Hudson Bay railway scheme, in the failure to suspend the extravagant outlay over Halifax terminals and other non-productive public works, in the failure to provide totally disabled soldiers with a pension sufficient to exist upon—such tender regard for privileged interests has helped to produce a certain restlessness throughout the country. In addition to the weakness of the administration, naturally coupled with it, there is a trail of corruption and political profiteering drawn right across Canada—from Victoria to Halifax—and people are not in the mood to stand for political corruption much longer.—Ottawa Citizen (Ind.)

A GROWING COMPLAINT.

On the other side of the line, they are becoming impatient of the agencies of promoting farm production, including education and exhortation. The other day an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture complained that the practical results were not satisfactory. Now we have Governor-elect Brumbaugh, of Pennsylvania, saying that "the funds for the advancement of our agricultural interests, ought to express themselves much more largely in wheat and corn and potatoes and less in clerical and other forms of routine service." Similar complaint is made here, which may lead to a review of the utility of our expenditure under the head of agriculture. It would be invaluable, if the government were to take charge of two or three Ontario farms and work them on the same conditions as those on which the owners worked them.—Toronto Weekly Sun (Ind.)

State of Ohio, City of Toledo,

Lucas County, ss.  
Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that the firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE, FRANK J. CHENEY.  
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A.D. 1886. A. W. GLEASON, (Seal) Notary Public.  
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts through the blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System. Sent for testimonials free.  
F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O.  
Sold by all druggists, 75c.  
Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

POWER

Wonderful Healey and Its Belleville Popularity Before Looks

The outstanding feature of the new waterway between the United States and Ontario, not that of surpassing the possibilities for the towns and cities by boat are to great fresh-water and shippers, a considerable trouble we have a mess away from our Valley canal with these important people, but it is a tender and is another service all the others.

Every gallon from Lake St. Clair, the other great of the Trent, is quite not only a hundred miles travels it descends hundred feet. Every pound from a higher and energy and possibility to be ed into the electric turn become our factories and the illumine homes.

Not navigable therefore but important gutta development of social waterway. The Trent a. In contrast to the steady, non-varying Spring's floods, winter's frosts, the swampy fast reservoirs that cent stream its source.

When construction commenced some ago, electric power dreamed of Grand Trunk r.

The idea was a waterway betw Ontario back away from the ferocious Yankee scheme was not tary. At Chisholm points along the seen the remain ed an ambitious shallow stretch bitious pioneers can bogey b scheme was ter

Useful as We said "ten every general 1886 the Trent rived and resur noble services to ticians. In the

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