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Budapest and Ottawa.

In all the so-called civilized countries there is probably no legislative body in which party warfare is usually more strenuous than in the Hungarian parliament at Budapest. Austria and Hungary are for certain purposes united under Francis Joseph, but in most things they are still separate nations, each having its own parliament. The mixed character of the people, the passions and rivalries of the different races, often make the work of parliamentary government in these countries very difficult. Disorder occasionally occurs in the Austrian parliament at Vienna. But it is at Budapest that the personal and party conflicts appear at the worst. The debates abound in bitter personal attacks; the hard word sometimes is followed by the hard blow; physical assaults are not rare; military and police have sometimes to be called in; legislative sessions have to be suspended because of wild disorder; challenges and duels arising from debates are not unknown. Too often these are the things which characterize the proceedings of the parliament at the Hungarian capital.

Budapest, therefore, is hardly the place to which one would look for light and leading, for good example in the management of public affairs. Nevertheless, even the Hungarian capital is found manifesting a sense of propriety, a high patriotism, that seems to be absent from some influential quarters at the capital of Canada. The Hungarian parliament is soon to expire. An election for a new parliament would in the natural order of things be held very shortly. But the very thought of an election contest in the midst of this war, in which Austria-Hungary is allied with Germany, would shock even the Hungarian politicians. It is announced in recent despatches that by the consent of all parties a measure will be introduced to postpone the election, by extending the term of the present parliament.

And while in our mother country and in the Overseas Dominions the voice of party is being stilled, and when even the turbulent Hungarians sink their differences in a patriotic desire to unite in the service of their country, it is gravely proposed by responsible Ministers of the Crown at Ottawa that Canada—aye and even the Canadian soldiers in the trenches in France and Belgium—shall be plunged into the strife of a general election. The Canadian people, we still believe, will so distinctly manifest their displeasure at the proposal that the contemplated election will be called off. If, unfortunately, such a calamity as this political conflict be imposed on the country by the Dominion Government, the fact that they have done such a thing at this time will be one of the strongest arguments that can be used against them.

Scotland Forever.

The Scotchman, ordinarily a man of peace, is a dangerous individual when his rights are infringed upon. In the present war the Scotch have been badgered around a good deal, first by a penurious government who declared that the cloth entering into the Scotchman's kilts was of too generous proportions, and proposed that it be cut in two. Now they are advocating that the Glengarry bonnet be replaced by some more serviceable form of headgear. The next thing that the Scotch expect is that the bagpipes will be barred from the battlefield.

The suggestion to cut down the kilts to the proportions of a hobble skirt naturally aroused the ire of all lovers of the tartan. Such a drastic movement would cause the Highland costume to lose its picturesque effect, and also prevent those of the race possessing large feet from getting them through their nether garments. Now they would have the "Heelan' man" discard his Glengarry bonnet and substitute for it some form of headgear worn by the Sassenach. It is time that the Burns Society, the Sons of Scotland, and all the other organizatoins from north of the Tweed should band themselves together, sound the pibroch, light the beacon fires, rally the clans and "Up with the Bonnets of Bonnie Dundee." The Empire will come to a surden and inglorious end if the Scottish tartan, the Scottish cap and the Scottish pipes are not allowed their rightful place. Hoot mon!

Anglo-Saxon Trade

Blood is thicker than water, and this may in a measure account for the very friendly attitude shown by the United States towards Great Britain in the present struggle. There may be another reason, however, why Uncle Sam entertains cordial and kindly feelings towards John Bull, viz., trade.

The British Empire purchases over one half of the United States exports. Last year for the eight months ended February, Great Britain and her Overseas Dominions purchased forty-five per cent. of the total American exports; to-day they are purchasing over fifty per cent. France comes second as a purchaser of American goods, Italy third, Holland fourth, Denmark fifth, and Cuba sixth. Then comes Spain, Germany, Japan and Norway. Last year Germany was second to Great Britain as a purchaser of American goods; now she is far down in the list, and for the past two months has been out of the market altogether.

On the other hand, the United States imports from Great Britain and her Dominions one-third of all merchandise imported. Cuba is the second largest exporter to the United States. Total United States exports in the eight months ended February 28th amounted to $1,205,000,000 of which $811,000,000 went to the United Kingdom, $197,000,00 to Canada, $32,000,000 to Australia, etc., etc.

The marked decline in the trade between the United States and Germany is best shown by the totals for the two years. In the eight months of 1913-14 the trade between the two countries amounted to over $390,000,000. In the eight months of 1914-15 the total trade amounted to $103,000,000. Since the end of February Great Britain has put into force her blockade against Germany, with the result that at the present time that country is not doing any business with the United States or with other outside countries.

A newspaper has the following headline: "Japanese Envoy insulted by Mexico." We wonder where the Jap has been keeping himself for the past few years that he did not get his "call down" ere this.

Rear-Admiral Robert E. Peary, who discovered the North Pole a few years ago, has just made another discovery almost equally authentic. He announces that the United States will shortly extend from the Panama Canal to the North Pole. The recent heat wave must have affected the explorer, and it is about time that he was taking another trip in order to cool off his fevered brain.

Boston, the home of culture and baken beans, is now recommending that newspaper reading be added to the curriculum of the public schools. The leaders in educational work in that city all advocate the reading of newspapers in the schools. They point out that they are educative, for the most part accurate and keep a boy or girl in constant touch with the developments taking place throughout the world.

John McCormack, who sprained his throat in New York the other night, was probably singing the "Chant of Hate" for the hyphenated Americans. The loyal citizens of Montreal will not regret the non-appearance of the man who has been accused on many occasions of being disloyal to Great Britain. It should also be a lesson for Promoter Veitch, who was responsible for the effort to bring McCormack to this city. His action in this respect has discredited him in the eyes of all right thinking citizens.

The far reaching and unexpected effects of the war are shown by the fact that Brazil match factories, which have formerly been using in the neighborhood of seven million feet of Russian aspen, have been forced to suspend operations pending the finding of a substitute. They are sending representatives to the United States to find if substitute woods can be secured in that country. Here is a chance for Canada to supply these Brazilian manufacturers with a suitable wood. Canada herself manufactures matches, and should be able to export match wood to Brazil.

The purchase of a railroad in Alaska by the United States Government and their determination to operate it as a State road will be watched with a good deal of interest by those advocating the state ownership and operation of railroads. It is just a question whether or not the road will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission. This commission has uniform and somewhat exacting methods of keeping books, which is in striking contrast to the usual slipshod government method of bookkeeping. For example, the Post Office Department never takes into account the cost of its plant. It will be interesting to note what method is adopted in connection with the Alaskan railroad and what success the Government have in operating a State road.

AMERICANS AS COFFEE DRINKERS.

In the matter of the consumption of coffee we, the people of the United States, also lead the world. More than that, the per capita consumption of coffee in this country is increasing all the time. It is now something over ten pounds a year for every man, woman and child. And this makes the adult consumption considerably larger, as children, as a rule, and the younger ones especially, drink very little. In 1894 the per capita consumption was 8.3 pounds; in 1884 it was 7.3 pounds; in 1874, 6.6 pounds, and in 1864, 3.76 pounds.

Germany stands next to the United States among the nations in the list of the world's largest coffee consumers, and the Netherlands, France, Belgium and Austria-Hungary follow in the order named. Some interesting Government statistics concerning the coffee imported into this country follow:

Coffee imported into the United States in the calendar year 1914 exceeded 1,000,000,000 pounds, a record made only twice before in the history of our foreign trade—in 1904, when the total was 1,113,000,000 pounds, and in 1909, 1,140,000,000. The value of last year's coffee imports from foreign countries was $105,000,000, or $25,000,000 less than in 1912, when an unusually high import price, in conjunction with an increase in quantity, brought the total up to the highest value ever recorded.

Brazil is the chief source of supply of the coffee imported into the United States. Out of 1,011,000,000 pounds imported from foreign countries last year, 726,000,000 pounds were from Brazil, 99,000,000 from Colombia, 60,000,000 from Venezuela, 45,000,000 from the Central American States and British Honduras, 44,000,000 from Mexico, and 37,000,000 from other parts of the world, chiefly South America, Java and other Dutch possessions in the East Indies. Brazilian coffee has a little more than held its own in the proportion of the total; Colombian coffee has increased from less than 3,000,000 to nearly 100,000,000 pounds in the last twenty years.—The Oklahoman.

BAGGAGE NOT EXCESSIVE.

Johnny Poe, the former Princeton football player, who loves a scrap and who has fought in all the South American revolutions since 1901, and is now fighting in the trenches in France, recently wanted to get back to the United States from Santo Domingo, because there was no excuse for a fight there and there was promise in Europe. Being unable to secure any ordinary means of getting home, he went to the master of an English freighter soon to sail from that port and asked him: "Will you take me back to the United States?" "Sure I will," answered the captain. "How many pieces of baggage have you?" "Fifty-four," replied Johnny; "a pack of cards and a pair of socks."

The freighter's master refused to accept even passage money.—Wall Street Journal.

SAYING WHAT YOU THINK.

"My father," said Mr. Wilson, "had the risky habit of saying exactly what he thought, a habit which I in part inherited, and of which I have had diligently to cure myself." The President's admirable reply (signed by Mr. Bryan) to Von Bernstorff, evidences that the risky habit is welll broken. The paper is a model of indirect statement, although the meaning is perfectly clear. Mr. Wilson, we should say, is a master of both styles, the direct and the indirect.—Chicago Tribune.

THE LAST WORD.

Count von Bernstorff, German Ambassador at Washington, has been told to keep his hands off the domestic affairs of the United States. Secretary of State Bryan's reply to his note of April 4 last is the final word of the Federal Administration and it must be read in connection with what President Wilson said to the members of the Associated Press earlier in the week. The President has now warned our own jingoes and our foreign guests that the United States is neutral and will make and enforce its own neutrality laws. The Federal administration will not submit to interference or dictation. Its dealings with one Power will not be subject to the advice or approval of a third Power. All will be treated alike and all will be expected to take for granted the good faith of our government. As Mr. Bryan's note clearly states our relations with any one of the belligerents "cannot wisely be made a subject of discussion with a third government."

This note to the German Ambassador is an unusual State paper and the manner of its publication is also out of the ordinary. As soon as it was delivered the text was handed to the newspapers and no chance was given to the German Ambassador to communicate with his government before it was published. This is presumably in requital for the publication of the German Ambassador's note of April 4 before our Department of State had a chance to reply to it. This peculiar interchange of notes therefore marks the abandonment of common diplomatic usages as far as Germany and the United States are concerned.—New York Commercial.

SOME DOOR-FRAME.

As the York Safe and Lock Company was getting its derricks ready to let down the big steel door-frame of the safety deposit vaults in the basement of the Equitable Building, some one ventured to guess aloud as to the weight of the piece. The best guess was 10 tons. An appeal to the manager of the operation brought out the fact that it pulled the scales at just 76,500 pounds, or 38¼ tons. Its dimensions are 10½ by 11 feet and something like a yard in thickness. Such is the door-frame on which will soon be hung the door that will guard billions of intangible wealth.—Wall Street Journal.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

An Irish tenant had unexpectedly paid his rent, and the landlord felt very grateful.

"Now, O'Flaherty," he said, "which would you rather have—a ton of coal or a dozen of whiskey?"

"Ye will have yer joke, sorr," replied the tenant; "yek now Oi burn peat!"

"Where's old Four-Fingered Pete?" asked Alkali Ike, in the wild and woolly West. "I ain't seen him around since I got back."

"Pete?" said the bar-tender. "Oh, he went up to One Tree Gulch and got shot. He saw smoke comin' out of a hotel door, so he put his head in at the window, and hollered 'Fire!' and everybody did."

George Ade once introduced a speaker at a banquet thus: "Two towns in Indiana lay claim to the honor of being Mr. Blank's birthplace. (A pause, during which Mr. Blank tried to look modest.) Warsaw asserts that he was born in Kokomo, and Kokomo insists that the honor rightfully belongs to Warsaw."—Christian Register.

General von Kluck (to officer)—"I want 20,000 Uhlans as quickly as possible.

Officer—"You shall have them."

Officer (returns two days later)—"I have got the 20,000 Uhlans, but they are half an hour's march from here."

Kluck—"Then why don't you bring them. Donner und blitzen!"

Officer—"Well, you see, there are two Dublin Fusiliers hiding 'round a corner, and they won't let us pass."

The handsome young minister of a city congregation always stood at the church door after the service in order to greet his parishioners as they filed out. One Sabbath morning along came a servant lass just from the Highlands, and, with his usual cordiality, the minister grasped her hand, saying, "I am very glad to see you here this morning. Will you not tell me your name and address so that I may call on you soon?"

"Thank ye, sir," replied the maid, withdrawing her hand, "but ye see I've got a sweetheart at hame already, and he wadna like it."

A certain recruit in the New Army was sent recently to the barracks of a large provincial town. Shortly after his arrival there, thinking he would like to see the sights, he asked for a "pass" from a sergeant, which was promptly given him. After wandering round the town he tried to find his way back, but, being unacquainted with the place, this was no easy matter. Eventually he reached barracks some hours late, to be brought before his sergeant for an explanation.

"What is the meaning of your turning up so late?" asked the sergeant.

"I lost my way," said the recruit.

"You lost your way?"

"Yes."

"Well, you had better stay in barracks until you know the town better."

SOLDAT ANGLAIS.

(Hardress O'Grady.)

Two words upon an unknown grave,
A cross of wood, a cap to show
The resting place of one more brave—But we, we know.
We British, what those two words mean.
What epitaph could poet write,
What praise can history indite,
More fitting than those words serene?

He was a British soldier—so
In two French words his story runs,
What need of more? The springtide suns
Of future years shall melt the snow,
And winter in its turn shall freeze
The lands through which he fought, but still
His epitaph shall brave the breeze
That blows upon his burial hill
Tended by pious hands his cross
Shall strike the traveller to the heart
With those two words that marked no loss
But glorious gain on Britain's part.
For each plain grave with those two words
Is like the sheath of mystic swords
Whereon the sun of Britain strikes.
A British soldier—'twas his likes
Who carried Britain's honor—here
A British soldier died—revere!

"DIVINE" RIGHT OF CRAZY KINGS.

(From Storier, of the Kaiser and His Ancestors, by Claire Jerrold.)

Frederick the Great was succeeded by his nephew, Frederick William II., a person of weak intellect, who up to the time of the monarch's death was kept under strict surveillance by Frederick the Great.

"Thus in 1784 a French nobleman was the guest of the King at a review in Silesia, and he recorded that the heir presumptive, then in his fortieth year and destined within two years to ascend the throne, was lodged at the house of a brewer in a very mean way; and that he was never allowed to sleep away from home unless he first could show that he had permission from his uncle. To the end of his life this poor thing was under the thumb of some one, his mistress, or his chief minister of state, whom he had raised from a poor priest to that height, and whose Rosicrucian ideas—the transmutation of metals and the philosopher's stone—fascinated him.

Frederick William II. had six children by his second wife, and several of them were afflicted with insanity. Thus William IV. first told his people that he "would never allow to come between this country and Almighty God a blotted parchment to rule us with paragraphs and to replace the ancient, sacred bond of loyalty"; but when his people proposed to shoot, he gave them the constitution which they wanted and wrote a letter to the disgusted Tsar of Russia about "the glorious German revolution." Yet again, when his people offered him the crown of United Germany, he insulted them, saying that he might have accepted such a proposal from the German Princes, but "he would never stoop to pick up a crown from the gutter."

This Hohenzollern drank too much, and in 1857 he became hopelessly insane.—Review in London Clarion.

SUGAR VERSUS TOBACCO.

A London newspaper notes that General Joffre, at the head of the French army, is not much of a smoker but is in the habit of munching sugar, of which he carries a small supply with him. The theory is growing that sweets are a remedy, both prompt and sure, for fatigue. And that is probably the explanation of the rise of the chocolate industry, in which at least several good-sized fortunes have been made in Europe and America. It also explains, in part, the success of the chain candy stores, no doubt. But it opens a wide field for sugar in the capacity of both food and drink. Scientific experiments prove that sugar gives quickly—within a few hours—an increment of physical power ranging from 60 per cent. to 75 per cent. The jam industry of Great Britain, which country consumes so much of the sugar imports, is part of the world's growing desire for sweets in food.—Wall Street Journal.

THE OSLER THEORY IGNORED.

Mayor-elect Canfield, of Warren, Illinois, is a lady and 74 years of age. The Hon. Joseph Gurnet Cannon, 78, was returned to Congress from the Danville district. Age will not be denied in Illinois.—New York Sun.

The Day's Best Editorial

"A PEOPLE'S WAR."

"This is not a war of the Turkish government," says Enver Pasha, "but a war of the Turkish peoples." We shall hear this of other peoples from the various capitals of Europe until we end in believing it. The substantial German who a year ago sat in a restaurant and cheerily said "Prosit" was at that time determined that before the year was out he would be guarding a bridge and his son would be throwing hand grenades into a French trench.

The London merchant when he had tea in the afternoon, this time last year, was devising means of forcing Asquith and his government into a scrap somewhere, the bigger the better. The merchant's sons would go to Flanders and come home in boxes. The merchant himself would join the special constabulary and scout for Zeppelins on fine nights.

The Yorkshire farmer as he came down a lane with the cows was indifferent to the chewink's spring song and to the blossoming thorns, but was thinking of the meeting to be held at night at the factory to consider ways and means of provoking a general European conflict. The Liverpool ship owner, wanting a couple of ships torpedoed in St. George's channel, was writing letters to the Times complaining of the dull and unstirring days which offered him nothing but the cinema for amusement.

This time last year the French populace was restless, particularly about Belfort and Verdun, and in Lille and Rheims, in the valley of the Meuse and the Aisne. Prayers were offered in the cathedrals for the speedy restoration of a pleasant condition of war. Paris, with its customary volatility threatened an uprising against an indolent, war at no price government. The Socialists and workmen generally were violent and the storekeepers but little more moderate in their tone. Students, cab drivers and waiters filled the streets every night with processions.

In Russia the peasants threatened to drown themselves in vodka unless the tedium of milking cows and raising cabbages were broken immediately by a zestful war. Ivan wanted to spend the winter in the trenches before Warsaw or in the snow filed Carpathian passes or in the Mazurian lake region.

Belgium was restless and wanted the boom times of military operations.

We are prepared to learn, therefore, from Enver Pasha that the Turkish people joined in the revolt against ennui and forced the government to give them a pastime. It is a people's war. They conspired, Ivan and Hans, John and Jacques, and got it. The people are fighting it and, inasmuch as now they are fighting it with determination and resolution, with willingness to make sacrifices to save their countries from injury and humiliation, it must follow logically that they began it.—Chicago Tribune.

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DRINK AND EFFICIENCY.

It was said, a generation ago, by a minister of the crown, without apparently any conception of the significance of his own words, that the country had once more drunk itself out of debt. The present chancellor of the exchequer sees, no doubt, through the shallowness of such reasoning, the concrete fact that countries can only drink themselves out of the debt they have drunk themselves into. The indirect effect of drink in the Russian empire was the acceptance of Monday as a dies non, with the consequence of reducing the working week to five days, at the expense of both capital and labor. The indirect effect of absinthe in France was the phenomenon known as the Apache.

If it is true, and there is no reason to doubt the statement, that the combination of gin and whisky has reduced the capacity of the stevedores of Liverpool and the riveters of Newcastle beyond that on the Tyne and on the Mersey there is a custom much more to be honored in the breach than in the observance than any that may ever have been prevalent upon the sound. Having made up his mind what the real enemy is, the chancellor of the exchequer is not likely to hesitate in striking at it without more ado. Cowardiice has never been charged to Mr. Lloyd-George's account. He will make no more of the loss to the revenue than of any other difficulty which he may be called upon to face in the matter. "We have got," he said, in addressing the ship owners, "to settle with Austria and Germany, but in order to do this we shall have first to settle with drink."—Christian Science Monitor.

"BERTIE" IN THE TRENCHES.

"In this great war, this holy war, we are fighting for the liberties of the world," said Will Crooks, M.P., at a Hull recruiting meeting. "We are all in it—the man from the field, from the factory, from the foundry, from the ship, from the railway, and 'Bertie' from Rotten Row. You perhaps don't know Bertie. I have often made fun of him, with his eye-glass, diamond pin, and white spats. He tells me I drop my 'h's,' and I tell him he drops his 'r's,' and that between us we might as well drop the alphabet. Yes, I have made fun of Bertie—but where is he to-night?—in the trenches. He has given up wealth and luxury and idleness, and to-night you will find him in the trenches side by side with your pals and mine. We are all members of the same family, and we are getting to understand one another better."—Newcastle Chronicle.

TWO GREAT MEN.

Abraham Lincoln reunited this country. His memory formed the bond that drew the states together. All recognized in him the common friend and benefactor, and the distracted South realized that the greatest calamity of the war was the shot that killed him fifty years ago. The works of Washington and Lincoln have lived after them to a degree rare in the annals of the world. The one set a weak, new-born nation on its feet; the other lost his life in welding it into a harmonious whole, one and indivisible, we may believe until the end of time. Both were builders, whereas most of the other great figures in history were destroyers. As the years go by time adds constantly to the luster of their fame.—New York Commercial.

MACAULAY AND HIS RAZOR.

Macaulay was a self-shaver—though not with a safety—and the woeful results are recorded in his biography. When he sailed for India and his chambers were cleared, there were found between fifty and sixty strops, hacked into strips and splinters, and innumerable razors in every stage of disrepair. At one time he hurt his hand and had to go to the barber. After the operation he asked the charge. "Oh, whatever you usually give the person who shaves you," was the answer. "In that case," said Macaulay, "I should give you a great gash on either cheek."—London Chronicle.

GRAPE JUICE DIPLOMACY.

Secretary of State Bryan recently sent a sharp note to the Turkish Government demanding protection for Americans within the sphere of Turkish influence.

The Turkish Ambassador a few days afterwards called at the State Department and presented a peremptory demand of his government that the United States should stop the abuse of Ottomans in Mexico.—Boston Commercial.

English statisticians have calculated that 52,237,627 bushels of malt were used in brewing their beer in the last year.

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