

The Toronto World

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 TUESDAY MORNING, OCT. 23.

Drawing Towards the Climax.

It is unlikely that any decisive action is possible on the western front this year. What General Haig has done is to make his position absolutely secure by taking all the high ground in Flanders, so that an attack next spring, when the campaign is renewed, can be launched against the Germans under the most favorable circumstances. If we could expect more than this it would be the capture of Ostend and Zeebrugge, and the consequent curtailment of submarine activity for the winter. This would make everything comparatively snug and safe till spring. We must not be too sanguine about what is possible even though the urgency be very great. The daily expenditure thru an idle winter is a staggering fact to face. Britain's forty millions, poured out every 24 hours, is an inconceivable treasure. France is almost exhausted, but will never give in. Italy is hungry and almost face to face with famine. The condition of Serbia, Belgium, Rumania, Poland, is beyond description. Germany is not worse, and Germany is very straitened. Russia is in a hopeless case, a bad debt, as we said some weeks ago, from which little is to be expected.

What is there to depend upon? What cheer is there in the situation? The answer to that is in the United States. The extraordinary briskness and activity with which the American Government has jumped into the war, once the decision was made, will be a matter for the comment of history. There is a degree of thoroughness about the American national character, an attention to detail, an ingenuity of foresight and provision, a determination and inflexibility of purpose, which promises certain success in all to which Uncle Sam puts his heart and hand.

There appears to be a good reason for this. President Wilson, in all good faith, negotiated with the kaiser for nearly three years. He tried everything that promised to maintain peace and keep the Germans within the bounds of civilized decency. Not only did they flout his notes, and trifle with his negotiations, but they deceived and tricked and juggled and conspired, as Mr. Gerard's remarkable book shows; they plotted in the United States itself, they murdered American citizens, they destroyed American property, they hoped to overthrow the Washington government and raise the standard of a Teutonic rebellion. All this has been traced to kaiserism, to the policy of the Hohenzollerns, and America has resolved that democracy and the Hohenzollerns cannot coexist.

The kaiser has sent his crown and jewels to Amsterdam for safety. He knows the game is up. He shall not need them long. The hand-writing is on the wall. Britain, with her traditions of chivalry and mercy, has been complacent for three years and allowed many things to pass which greatly comforted the Teutonic alliances. Uncle Sam is not going to comfort the kaiser any longer. He has declared war, and it is to be such war as the kaiser himself has waged, minus the brutality. The courtesies of war are at an end. The day of soft things is past. The easy policy is done.

Vast treasures belonging to Germany which have been treated as the held in trust, are to be confiscated. All the nickel which the Germans have hoarded will be dragged into the light of day. Cotton, steel, copper, leather, oil, chemicals, and other war supplies, purchased by German agents in the sure and certain hope of the kaiser that the United States was scared of him and his spies, will be taken over as the spoils of war, and used against those who intended them for other uses. There is said to be a million bales of cotton, worth \$148,000,000, and the Queen of Sheba would have been more astonished at the total of this booty than at Solomon's.

Nor is Uncle Sam going to permit the little neutrals who have been holding the sponge and the towel and the leopards for the kaiser these three years past to continue to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. They will have to come to heel and acknowledge the master of the hunt.

Food now becomes a prime necessity of war. Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Spain have ceased to comfort the enemy of mankind. They sold their food to Germany, and relied on the enemies of Germany to feed them.

Uncle Sam has settled this policy. The neutrals shall have no more food until they have consumed their own. Famines must haunt the neutral board as well as that of the belligerent. A desperate world may see the necessity of uniting with those who wish to end this wretchedness by destroying its author—the kaiser. It is to Washington that Europe looks today. Her money in billions, her men in millions, her great guns, her munitions, her navy, constantly growing; her merchant marine increasing by thousands, her submarines, her aeroplanes, all this mighty host, accumulating its forces, will be ready in the spring to strike the blow for which the British, the French, the Canadians, have been preparing. No wonder the kaiser has sent his crown to Amsterdam. The great war approaches the last act of the drama.

Two-Fifths of a Cent.

One of the Pecksniffian characteristics of modern society is to make a horrible example of one of the glaring successes of the system to which we are all contributory, and having degraded him for his most eminent crime of having been found out, caught in the act, we accept this scapegoat expiation, while all the other goats continue as usual to flourish on the system and commit crimes equal to or greater than that of the discovered culprit.

This is why there is a social ferment in England and everywhere. This is why the system as well as its products must go. This is why the eminent exponents of the system are held so culpable by their equals, because by being too brilliant, too clever, too eminently successful, they only demonstrate the iniquity of the system and all that flourish by it. The theory is that if you take enough not to make it worth bothering about, or if you conceal your operations with reasonable business propriety, the system may last for

ages; but if you run it at high speed, right over the measured mile and give the show away, by compelling everybody else to keep up the same speed, no sympathy is due from your peers any more than from your victims.

We have no wish to anticipate the report of the commission on the bacon trade, but where everybody is commenting it may not be amiss to call attention to some of the facts. It appears to have been a revelation to many people that gigantic aggregate profits were derivable from infinitesimal profits on ultimate units. This, of course, is the secret of all the big businesses. Their profit is actually not as large as used to be taken out of the smaller blocks of business carried on by a very large number of smaller concerns. It is not profit that is the real mischief and the real danger, and we are apt to lose sight of this fact in the enormity of the sums of money piled up on profits of two-fifths of a cent a pound. When you buy half a pound of ham or a cent a pound, you never worry over one-fifth of a cent, nor even over half a cent, if it cannot be split in your favor. If you bought five pounds of ham and were offered a two cent rebate on the transaction, you would probably buy an extra paper, or drop the coppers in the children's aid box. But those are the profits that roll up to \$750,000 in one year in a big business.

Of course not. The high prices are created by the long train of middlemen who toll not, neither do they spin, thru whose multitudinous hands there pass (by proxy) the products of the farm, the fishery, the orchard. Each hand takes its toll and boosts the price a little higher. The last man who gathers all together is satisfied with two-fifths of a cent, and is astounded at his own moderation. But it is the last straw on the camel's back. All the previous middlemen have concealed their tracks. This one has sold his soul for two-fifths of a cent.

The defence of the profiteers is that if they did not do it somebody else would. It is the same defence in principle which the kaiser has pleaded all along. We do not acquit the kaiser. Shall we acquit the profiteers? Not if we do not wish to bring on a revolution which shall be as bad as the French, the Russian and the coming German one all rolled into one.

We have pointed out already how the worst middleman is he who puts unnecessary capital into watered stock, and draws wages in the shape of dividends for doing nothing at all except guarding his scrip. This is the part of the system that is most crafty and malignant, for it enlists in its behalf all kinds of innocent as well as cunning people, who continue to support the system for what they get out of it, and defend the two-fifths of a cent because of their share in it.

The working man is also appealed to, and on much the same principle. If the big business is not carried on, if the market is not raked for material by successful competition, the factory must close up, and the workman will be out of work. The same plea, be it remembered, will ask that this workman be not enlisted for the war, lest there be a scarcity of labor. The Janus system looks both ways.

When all is said and done and the system, with its sleeping partner middlemen, its competition forcing up prices, its grip on the workmen, its monopoly control of distribution, crowding out the small man; its huge turnover, and its two-fifths of a cent net profit, has been seen in all its complex malignity, ruthless as the tornado, irresistible, and heartless, transforming men into money machines; the worst feature about it is the sacrifice of talent, of business ability, of honorable intentions, of moral sensibility, so that men engaged in it can see no wrong about it, can even glory in what ought to be its shame.

There is only one thing that in the future will redeem any organization of this character; its machinery can probably not be improved upon; for the purpose intended it is a success; the post-curing practice by which brine is sold for butter, putting two ounces to the pound when three quarters of an ounce is the proper quantity, and there are other sharp practices which grow up when not service but profits are in view, all equally indefensible. The one thing that can change the character of such an institution is public spirit. To substitute this for the spirit of private gain would work many revolutions. Watered stock would disappear. Middlemen would be tolerated only for services actually rendered. There would be no less efficiency, and perhaps, as some have contended, there would be greater success, wider business, lower prices, and constantly extending patronage. Under such circumstances, it is also contended, profits would continue to accrue with increasing volume. There is no reason, however, why such profits should become private gains as long as there are public channels for their disposal. Instead of adding to the taxation of the people, \$750,000, which is about two mills on the dollar in Toronto, could be turned over to the hospitals and other public charges.

When the head of such an institution becomes so morally blind that he cannot see the evil of the system, of which he may only be the tool or the victim, but of which he may also be the clever manipulator; then it is time for him to take thought, not by his own defective standards, nor by the stultifying comparisons possible with his peers, but by the great ethical standards which dominate the moral world. Verily it is harder for the rich man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven than for the camel to go thru the eye of a needle. And what shall it profit a man if he loses his soul for the sake of two-fifths of a cent?

Other People's Opinions

A Soldiers' Home.

Editor World: The Palmer House, which was used as headquarters for the most successful campaign that was ever entered into in the interests of the British Red Cross, is now dismantled of its decorations. I think it would be a most useful place for a soldiers' home for our returned men, many of whom probably will never be able to get into civil employment again. If the public-spirited citizens will come forward in their usual patriotic spirit, raise a sum of money, form a company, with shares of \$1 each, every workman could take a share if they so desired. If the government were approached in a suitable manner, I think it might be arranged with the owner to rent the same, it being conveniently situated to the new union depot, and furnish a comfortable home at a reasonable rate. H. B. Brett, 87 Simcoe street.

The value of others is fully recognized by the Chinese, who train them to fish. A scheme is on foot to take tin ore from Bolivia via the Panama Canal to Jamaica Bay, where the largest European firm of tin smelters has just purchased a tract of some nine acres of land on the northern shore.

THE TORONTO WORLD

CANADA'S NEW PARTY

Draft Coalition Marks End of Conservatives and Rise of Unionists With Many Liberal Members.

By Sir John Willison, Late Publisher of The Toronto News, in The New York Tribune.

Canada has a new government and with its advent the Conservative party will probably disappear. We have had our party names from England. In the days of crown government those who maintained the authority of British officials and recognized the ascendancy of Downing Street were called Tories. This was meliorated to Conservatives as the result of self-government was conceded to the British North American Provinces.

When Conservative and Liberal leaders united to achieve confederation Sir John Macdonald, the first prime minister after the union of the provinces (who belonged to the Conservative party), was Robert Borden, who was described as Liberal Conservative. To this usurpation the Liberal party never assented, and generally the names of the two political parties in Canada were Conservative and Liberal leaders have coalesced for definite objectives. The more energetic prosecution of the war, as at present, has been the result of the office of prime minister, but half of the members of the new cabinet have belonged to the Liberal party.

Naturally unwilling to be described as Conservative or Liberal, the term Unionist becomes necessary. The term Unionist almost suggests itself, and as Unionist is the follower of the new cabinet, it will be known as a Unionist. The name of the new party will be known as the Unionist party of Canada. In the west, particularly, the old name of the party was not favorably regarded. It was said to be distasteful to the American settlers and to the elements of the population. But for the circumstances which have produced coalition the old name would have persisted. It is curious, too, that even if Unionist is adopted we still have the name of the party from Great Britain, where Unionist is the last coinage of the old British party.

For four months Sir Robert Borden struggled to effect a coalition with the parliamentary opposition. When the voluntary system of recruitment became necessary to reinforce the Canadian expeditionary army, the Conservative party government could not easily enforce conscription, particularly in the French Provinces. The prime minister, therefore, made advances to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the opposition. He offered to place half the seats in the cabinet at the disposal of the opposition, and to place the other half at the disposal of the Conservative party. The cabinet should apply the same principle to the necessary reinforcements for the army.

Sir Wilfrid refused to enter a coalition with the Conservative party. He demanded a division in parliament on conscription. The Conservative party was divided into five French members adhered to the government.

Falling to effect a coalition with the official leader of the Liberal party, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he consulted with representative Liberals in favor of the draft. Over and over again the Liberal party was divided. A coalition of Liberals, representing the four provinces, was formed. The coalition adopted a radical fiscal and social program, denounced the Borden government, and pronounced against a union or national conscription. The coalition was formed. Later western Liberal leaders, with whom the Conservative prime minister had been in consultation, admitted the names of four men, two Liberals and two Conservatives, to the coalition. The coalition was formed. The coalition was formed. The coalition was formed.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Offer. In the cabinet the coalition was dissolved and the country stood on the threshold of general election. Day after day, as public opinion in favor of the draft seemed to strengthen, the rift in the coalition widened. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, intimating to his closer party associates that he was ready to resign, desired in the party interest. But he desired in the party interest. But he desired in the party interest. But he desired in the party interest.

Liberalism Strongly Represented. In the new cabinet there is a strong representation of the Liberal party. Ontario sends N. Y. Rowell, M.C., Liberal leader of the provincial, or state, legislature, one of the very best platform speakers in the country, and a fine member of the Liberal party. From the east come F. B. Carvell of New Brunswick and George H. Murray of Nova Scotia. Mr. Carvell was the most influential Liberal member from his province in the last parliament, while Mr. Murray was Premier of Nova Scotia, when the Liberal party held office continuously for a generation. From the west come H. C. Crerar, president of the Grain Growers' Company of Manitoba; J. H. Calder, who was a member of the provincial government of Saskatchewan; and A. L. Sifton, who was Premier of Alberta.

All these have been aggressive advocates of low tariff. They were vigorous supporters of the reciprocity agreement with the United States, which was rejected in 1911, when the Conservative leaders overthrew the Laurier administration. The grain growers, of whom Mr. Crerar is one of the most influential leaders, are in favor of a wide measure of free trade with the United States, and ultimate free trade between Great Britain and Canada. The organization of the members is not a political party, but a definite political program. Indeed, the great majority of the members are embraced within the western Liberal party. It is remarkable that these western radicals should have coalesced with the Conservative party, and that the trade agreement with Washington six years ago. Still, one does not have to go far for the explanation. It is said that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier, opposing conscription, should carry it, the country, any government that he could form would depend upon Quebec and the groups opposed to the war, and that his success in the elec-



SUSPECTED SPIES LEAVE KINGSTON IN A HURRY

Men Making Repairs to Organs in Churches Feared to Be Importers.

Kingston, Oct. 22.—Two men who posed here as organ experts, and who were engaged in making repairs to organs in St. Mary's Cathedral, St. George's Cathedral and Queen Street Methodist Church, representing themselves to be connected with a prominent Montreal firm, were found to be importers, and left the city suddenly following an investigation. It is thought they are German spies, who are of foreign extraction. It is recalled that German spies in England secured work as organ repairers and placed bombs in churches.

AROUSES ANGER OF NORWEGIAN

Conduct of Hun Raiders in Convoy Action Denounced in Norway.

Christiania, Oct. 22.—The Norwegian newspapers bitterly denounce the "murderous attack" of the Germans in the convoy action last week in the North Sea. The newspapers in Bergen where survivors of the attack were taken, demand the deportation from Norway of all Germans employed by the German General Purchasing Agency. These journals call the attention of the authorities to the danger to Norwegian trade from "this German gang, not only now, when many of them are common spies, but also in the future."

General Newburn May Disband Military Hospitals Commission

Kingston, Oct. 22.—In military circles there is an apparently well founded rumor that Major-Gen. S. C. Newburn, the new minister of militia, is to disband the military hospitals commission and turn over all that work to the medical service of the militia department.

ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FOILED.

Kingston, Oct. 22.—William Duchschno, brought down from Parry Sound to serve seven years for forgery, while in the police cells awaiting his removal to the Portsmouth prison, attempted to escape from his cell, and was trying off bars when caught by the police. He was afterwards shackled and later landed safely in the pen.

FEW WILLING TO SERVE.

Kingston, Oct. 22.—The district registrar under the Military Service Act has received 878 certificates of registration from men in this district, and of this number 18 were willing to don the uniform.

"NO SUGAR" SIGNS ALL OVER NEW YORK

Purchasers Limited to Pound or Two, Official Price Being Eleven Cents.

New York, Oct. 22.—With many more stores displaying "no sugar" signs, plans to insure an equitable distribution of the remaining supply available here were made at a meeting today of sugar refiners, wholesalers and retailers. Commissioner of Markets Moskowitz fixed ten to eleven cents as the maximum retail price for sugar by agreement of those attending the meeting. Dealers charging more than this figure will be cut off from further supplies. This provision is calculated to curb profiteering. Further details of the plan will be worked out at a meeting in the local offices of the federal food administration tomorrow. It is to be made operative as soon as completely drafted. Patrons of most retail dealers today were unable to secure more than a pound or two of sugar, purchases being limited to this amount so as to discourage hoarding.

COMBINE IN TRIBUTE TO LATE MAJOR REDMOND

Americans, Irishmen, French and Belgians Attend Memorial Service at Graveside of Irish Officer.

British Front in France and Belgium, Oct. 22.—(By the Associated Press.) Representatives of the American army yesterday joined heads of Ireland and fighting men of the allied nations in paying tribute to the memory of Major William H. K. Redmond, brother of John Redmond, the Irish leader, who was killed in battle last summer and is buried in the garden of a convent not far from the battle line.

Imperial Stout is excellent for convalescents.

The healthful principles of hops and malt are embodied in this O'Keefe brew, making a delicious beverage for the table or the sick room.

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