

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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W. H. Morton, Business Manager. J. O. Herity, Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1919.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS PACT APPEARS WORTHY OF TRIAL

The official summary of the covenant of the league of nations does not show any great alteration from the outline given some weeks ago by Lord Cecil. Apart from an amendment which specifically exempts the Monroe doctrine from being affected by any conditions of the pact there has been no vital change in the first draft. The main insurance against further war, is an association of nations pledged to unite against aggression and compel arbitration before war can be declared, and this remains unaltered.

For the present the five great powers that won the war, Great Britain, United States, France, Italy and Japan will compose a council which will be in supreme control of the league's affairs. Four other powers will have representatives on the council, and in time the number will be increased. Under the council there will be an assembly made up of three representatives of all member nations which eventually will decide the makeup of the council. Until the world gets back to normal, however, the Allied alliance will continue to hold the balance. In view of the chaos and confusion in Europe it will be generally recognized that any other course would be unsafe for the present.

The covenant is careful not to interfere in the domestic affairs of any member. This will be respected, their personal independence recognized, but all are bound to join hands against an attack of any one member from the outside. All international disputes must go before an arbitration court and war cannot be declared until three months after an award has been made and then it will not be permitted if one of the disputants has accepted the recommendations.

Whatever adverse criticism may be made of the covenant as a whole there are some of its conditions that will be given the widest approval. One of these is the agreement to reduce armaments. Another is the decision to administer the Ottoman territories and German colonies through mandates acting under a general supervision of the league. The members of the league will also assume responsibilities in regard to labor, and white slave and opium traffic and public health, policies that will have a popular appeal.

It was not to be expected that the conference would produce a flawless constitution on which to base a new world, but as it stands it holds strong guarantees for world peace, and the means of adding greatly to the contentment and health of civilized and uncivilized peoples. There is nothing in the covenant to cramp national aspirations providing these do not menace international harmony, and finally, there is sufficient elasticity to permit of revisions as the application of the pact may show these necessary.

RED CHIEFS FALLING OUT.

The old adage, "When thieves fall out honest men get their due," may soon be freshly illustrated by a sensational turn of affairs in Russia. On excellent authority, it is stated the Red leaders are close to a split that may wreck the whole Bolshevik movement. Lenine, it is said, is now convinced that the red revolution cannot be carried across the world, and that the only safe course is to make some pact with the Allied nations. On the other hand, Trotsky and his followers insist that the attempt to sweep the western nations into anarchy's train must be kept up.

According to an American recently returned from Moscow, a dissatisfied peasantry is driving Lenine to cover. The peasants were promised the land in return for their support. Having got it they discovered the Red leaders wanted it for the "state," and proceeded to take it forcibly. The peasant was told to rob the rich landowner, and now the state is robbing him. Trotsky, too, has aroused hostility amongst the masses of the Bolsheviks, by resorting to conscription to keep his ranks full, but he keeps them fairly well lined up by predicting a return of the old regime should the Bolshevik armies weaken and fall.

Lenine has a black record of treachery, murder and general rascality, but he has always been more amenable to reason, less ruthless and arrogant than Trotsky, whose warped soul and mind appears to be ablaze with hatred for all who do not accept his detestable doctrine. If the Allies would furnish starving Russia with food, as Lenine asks, and at the same time convince the people that there will be no restoration of czarism and no interference from outside, it should be a big step towards orderly government in Russia. If Lenine and Trotsky come to a definite, open division and part company, distasteful as it would be, the Allied governments, by taking sides with the Bolshevik premier might speedily end the power of Trotsky.

RURAL POPULATION SHOWN TO BE STILL DECREASING.

Statistics recently issued by the Ontario Bureau of Municipal Affairs show that in 1918 the Province of Ontario had a population of 2,578,177, an increase of 17,724 over the previous year.

But when the figures in detail are examined it is found that the cities received an increase greater than the general increase, and that the decrease in townships for the same period is 8,436, and in towns and villages it is 3,214. About the same ratio of decrease is shown for the previous year. The tendency of population is entirely toward the urban community, and is anything but satisfactory.

The present Ontario minister of agriculture must have known these facts when he opposed a movement of the Liberals, started by Mr. Nelson Parliament, M.P.P. in the Legislature the other day to have a searching inquiry as to the causes of rural depopulation. The minister would have the public believe that conditions in the province were not such as to warrant an investigation, but with natural increase on farms completely lost, and a decided trend of country population to the cities, surely it may be said the outlook is not less alarming than during the lean years, when thousands and thousands of Ontario farmers left for the west or sought work in the city.

The facts of the year 1918, as compared with 1917, are scarcely less disheartening, as the whole province showed a decrease of 2,075, as compared with 1916. The year 1917 showed a considerable falling off, but 1918 witnessed an advance in urban population that brings a rather hollow satisfaction when one thinks of the constant dwindling of the farm population.

Unless this influx of country people to the cities can be checked, and the chance is that it will increase in volume under present conditions and continue when the magnet of the west is again applied, Ontario's rural population will steadily fall off, until a startlingly small amount of land remains under cultivation, with the inevitable result to prices of commodities and the unrest inordinate prices cause.

Yet in the face of these facts, the Ontario Legislature does little if anything to check the downward movement. There is no real colonization service, and so far as we can ascertain, no plan to induce the Ontario farmer to remain on his farm. The desirability of farming as a career with the present high tide prices must be largely an hallucination of the city dweller, who pays the shot and believes it all goes into a fat bank account in some of the branch banks. What are we going to do to check the dwindling of our rural population? Small farms for soldiers may answer one question, but even that plan is not well under way, nor is any other solution in sight while our legislators are so short-sighted as to refuse consideration of the most serious problem. The fact is that our rural population should show a positive gain; but first of all the thing to achieve is to check the destructive exodus from the land.

MORE SPEED FOR MOTORS AND THE PUBLIC'S REGRETS

A motorist indifferent of danger to himself or to others has all the potentialities for destruction of a dangerous lunatic armed with a brace of revolvers firing into a crowded street.

The new law permitting a motor car to be driven at twenty miles an hour in the city and twenty-five miles in the country has been passed. It may or may not be justified, for it is certain that it lessens the margin of safety to the public; but the responsibility rests with the driver, and it will be according to the sanity and reasonableness of the man or woman at the wheel that the throngs of pedestrians pass in security or danger. The driver of a car who believes he exhibits dash and daring by rushing madly down the street simply for the sake of a thrill or to attract a reputation for recklessness is not fit to be given charge of an automobile no matter what the speed limit may be. And it may be taken for granted that this class of drivers is now breaking the law. Whether a loosening of the regulations will cause him to run his average speed to 35 or 40 miles an hour rather than keep within the legal limit

it remains to be seen. But the police should be ready to make an example of speeders, who when granted further concessions, merely let out another notch and monopolize the streets with an air of "Clear the road or get knocked over!" Certainly there is a good deal of impertinence toward walkers on the part of a good many drivers, and the walking seven-eighths of the population will do well to stand up for its rights by promptly reporting those entitled to rank as "fool-killer" candidates.

Some motorists not only cram on the speed at every opportunity, but they are loath to sound a warning with their noise devices unless they are directly upon a victim. They let the walker beware, whereas it should be not only the moral but the legal duty of every man entrusted with a motor car to give the passenger every chance. Belleville has been singularly free of fatal motor accidents. But a good many people have saved themselves from death or serious injury by their own ability to scramble to safety, and at the expense of injured dignity, to say the least. It is not short of insolence for a motor car owner to use the road like a Hun, dashing around as though he had taken out a license for juggernaut privileges by means of which he rode to his heart's content and the public crossed the streets at their peril.

No one wishes to be a crank in regard to motor driving, but the new regulations permitting an increase in speed make necessary a warning to motorists to drive their cars with care, having always in mind the chance of killing people, children and aged people especially. Under the new regulations a motor car will be permitted to move at a speed of more than nine yards a second, or one mile in three minutes. Not so many years ago a three-minute horse was regarded as a speed marvel of the streets. Few horses have ever made that speed over the pavements of Belleville.

NATION'S TRIBUTE TO EDITH CAVELL MEANS REBUKE TO TYRANNY.

London cables announce that the body of Edith Cavell is to be reburied with royal honors. The remains are to be transported from Belgium to England on a warship and on a gun carriage from Dover to Westminster Abbey, where ceremonies will be held.

Few save royalty and those who have performed unusual service to the state are accorded this tribute. In the case of Edith Cavell the desire to confer an especial distinction on her memory is due as much to the British love of decency, chivalry and liberty as to recognition of the unselfishness and patriotism of a noble soul. Behind the slaying of Edith Cavell stood the calculating brutality of Prussianism. Behind the spectacular bestowal of great honors on the heroic nurse lies a nation's condemnation of Prussia's organized devilry. Indeed it may be considered an expression of denunciation by Christian civilization of systematized barbarism. In the minds of millions the sinking of the Lusitania and the execution of Edith Cavell will always be outstanding incidents of the great war. They will be remembered as supreme instances of the arrogance and cruelty of a tyranny which came close to enslaving a world.

The ceremonies over the body of Edith Cavell at Westminster Abbey will be a fresh dedication by the free peoples of the world to justice, generosity and liberty, and a stern rebuke to all that Germany has stood for. If they are wise the Teuton nations will see it that way and act accordingly.

ANDREE AND THE BIG "HOP"

Just twenty-five years ago Andree, with two companions, essayed to reach the North Pole by means of a balloon. Waiting for favorable winds these gallant fellows launched themselves from a subarctic headland. No word has reached civilization as to their fate. The world generally considered the expedition foolish and unnecessary, and quickly forgot it. Today the whole world is on the alert for the "hop" of the Atlantic by aeroplane, not because it involves a spectacular adventure alone, but because its success will mark another great step forward in the conquest of the air which the world now recognizes will so greatly advance the general happiness and prosperity. Andree and his companions, with magnificent selflessness, took a great chance.

The men who will attempt the Atlantic flight will be aided in making a safe passage by everything that public and private interests can supply. Governments helped Andree because his was an interesting adventure, but

they are taking a hand in the coming dashes over the north Atlantic because a vital experiment is involved.

A comparison of the two feats will picture the amazing expansion of aeronautics and its stupendous possibilities.

Those Bolshevik ministers act more like monsters than ministers.

Consider the robin. The price of worms does not change, and last year's nest solves the housing problem for him.

The days of the High Cost of Living are over! The Dominion Government has removed the ban on the importation of unset diamonds! Great is the Union Government! But the price of fresh butter is advancing towards the dollar mark, just the same.

The nature of Lord Northcliffe's illness has not been made public, but after Lloyd George's pointed references to the great publisher's ambitions many people will be convinced that his lordship is sick from disappointment.

The wave of unrest and violent disturbance has now reached India. It was officially stated in the British parliament last week that fatal riots had occurred at two points in India and several Europeans killed. Buildings were also burned. It is part of what is known as the Passive Resistance Movement against recent Indian legislation to combat seditious conspiracy. It started in Bombay. At Lahore there were a few casualties. At Armitzar, 30 miles eastward, two banks were destroyed and three bankers burned to death, the town hall there and telegraph offices destroyed and three Europeans were also killed. At Allahabad two telegraph offices and two government buildings were burned with a few casualties. Business was suspended in nearly all the large towns.

THE BLUFFER

He had no use for women folks,  
He'd proudly have you now,  
And air his views along the line  
If they should vote or no.  
But every little joy of home  
He'd guard with jealous care,  
And got his comforts each and all—  
In fact, more than his share.

He'd talk about their uselessness,  
The leisure that they had,  
That all they ever thought about  
Was fussing up to gad.  
But just the same, three times a day,  
In spite of all his blow,  
He ate three healthy, hearty meals,  
A woman cooked you know.

He'd laugh about their cunning ways,  
The gossip that they'd hear,  
But if he thought he'd get some news  
He quickly cocked his ear.  
Was so afraid of missing things,  
Would make himself absurd,  
To find excuse to listen  
To any secret word.

He sneered at women pampering,  
Each trifling ache or pain,  
That if they'd think less of themselves,  
Their health would quickly gain;  
But when he got a little cold,  
He turned into a bear,  
And every woman in the house  
Made him her special care.

—Amy E. Campbell.

BE GLAD.

What does the lark in the meadow sing?  
What is the robin caroling?  
What are the words that the breezes bring  
Over the hills, and what is the thing  
That is sung by the rushes beside the spring?  
Listen! the song of the breeze and birds  
Is the song of joy that has two brave words:  
"Be glad."

What do the waves to the pebbles say?  
What are the words of the thrush's lay?  
Why is the thorn with its blossoms gay?  
Why are the orchards a-bloom to-day?  
Why are the lambs in the fields at play?  
God is teaching the world again  
To picture His love and to say to men:  
"Be glad."

—S. E. Kliser.

province or district has a right to dictate to the rest of the nation and by its action nullify the good laws the others seek to have both provincially and nationally—Pioneer.

A MISERABLE EXHIBITION

After pussy-footing on the question of titles for more than a year, the Government is faced with the problem of voting on a resolution presented by one of its followers.

The Government almost goes down, and there are a number who bolt from the party, while many more, playing the artful dodger, sneak out of the Commons' chamber and will not face their manifest duty.

Titles are condemned in general terms by almost every newspaper and parliamentarian in Canada. But it is evident that another crop of civilian honors is on the way, for the acting premier succeeded in having the question shelved by referring the matter to a committee. Crofts will greet the importation into Canada of the next batch of Borden-made knights. The people will not look with favor upon that spectacle paraded in a country that gave its sons for the cause of human equality. The Bolshevik element will, issue more of its inflaming propaganda. The crowd at Ottawa will continue to trim on such issues and to handle the affairs of Canada in a miserable fashion of side-stepping and scurrying to the rat-holes of the corridors. —London Advertiser.

LABOR GETS LION'S SHARE

It is the popular idea today that labor should have more and capital less out of industry. Wise employers are considering the most practical solutions of this problem; with them it is not so much a question of what labor is entitled to as how much they can give labor and still remain in business. Employees on the other hand, encouraged by those mirrors of mass ideas, the editorial pages of the daily newspapers, increase their demands without considering whether or not it is a business or economic possibility to fill them.

As a matter of fact, industrial progress, which eventually adds so much to the prosperity of labor, is the result of the reinvestment of capital's share of the profits of operation. The efficient institution which increases its profits and uses such profits for expansion usually leads in setting wage standards. The inefficient institution which does not make profits not only fails to progress, but goes to the scrap-heap. There is only one manufacturer who is more unpopular than the so-called profiteer and that is the manufacturer who makes no profits.

If the present tendency continues there will not only be less available for reinvestment from profits, but the investment of savings in industry will also be discouraged. The result of such tendency, combined with demands for shorter hours, would be to restrict output and curtail industrial progress. In a few years the position of labor would not be more favorable, but less favorable than it is today; there would not be available enough goods to go round and prices would continue to rise, while at the same time opportunities for labor to earn wages would be restricted.

It is evident that the newspapers do not intend to tell labor anything of this side of the great industrial problem. If the manufacturers want their employees to appreciate anything of their difficulties they will have to tell them about themselves. Therefore, we would advise employers to endeavor to get closer to their workmen; to get down to the basis of business discussion; to take them into their confidence and talk "brass tacks." —Financial Post.

NOT DANGEROUS

Archdeacon Cody, whose speeches at the inception of his political career aroused fear of radical changes, turns out to be a moderate reformer and also a prudent politician. His amendment of the public schools law is mainly in respect of consolidated schools, which are made permissive and not compulsory. He provides the machinery for these schools in the localities in which there is a demand for them, and in which it is thought that they may succeed. In all other localities anxiety is allayed. In the explanation of the bill it showed a just consideration for the interest of the people. He would simplify the curriculum, and he resisted as unwise and impracticable a noisy proposal of labor to raise the school age. An Adolescents Education Bill, which will not doubt become a dead letter, he left to the Prime Minister to make what political capital there may be in it. The public will not be persuaded that Dr. Cody is not dangerous. —Toronto Sun, (Ind.)

SITTING

Sitting tight and that is the position ment after Parliament session two months unasily but Pand enough until the E over, when those loose to do their v

Their worst, hopes, will not be pected, because the bers of Parliament, resigned to let sleep the voters at home a lively sense of ta come which keeps bers quiet; while the chloroform of puts members of side asleep in the as have three years to don't stir things up do not expect to e next election this enough. But for t pect to get a nomin er sedatives have to

Even at that, t pended which thro this drugged slumbe Maharg became ful a few minutes, p into words and almo House. It would h House if the other Green Chamber had oughly under the was, they tossed a their dreams, and l Next morning they Maharg. They said been lying on his ba have screamed out

Then there was t olution. There was this was done de wakeful Opposition cided to see what a ter would do to the red out of their rep sleepers complained party trick—which pretty good one at ers muttered that would do it. "Ple let us sleep; don't bers deep"—that wa ment amounted to, by trick, so they sa toward the wall, to head with a name be mentioned until be done about it. T poor unfortunate ta is considered disgra ing is to be gained it in public.

But human natur ure, and if you tell mustn't do a thing thing they'll do—as well knows—if you something else to pl Government has gon ness of providing to chievous fatten—p will keep Satan awa

One of these toys ing. They gave it take their minds of sick looking toy it is ty to the quarrel with an arm and a le are a great deal me I take them to be, if kind of green chess for tariff reform. to show what the Union Government t lie intelligence.

Another diverting partment of Public by Mr. Rowell but rumor is true, on M step, now that Mr. interest in it. Mr. R est in it because the what Dr. Godfrey w criminal classes—tha lized it. The bill garded by the Hou friend Social Welfare disguise.

There was one on it which would have partment of Public H thing to anybody shing with the law of House snuffed in th erie in which Mr. E greatest delight and ing by reducing it to in the preamble. So visualized by Mr. R mirers, is a conge ideas, pauperizing p by the junkers to h es. Instead of fair w treatment. Old age ployment, insurance, bonuses are, as I rec features of a progr to keep the workin employer's thumb by enough sop to keep poorhouse. Of cour to mend the workin is to give him longe er hours, the two to margin of thrift an

**OTHER EDITORS' OPINIONS**  
CORRECTED BY QUEBEC  
Canada has gone dry. Every Pro-  
vince in Canada passed a law prohibiting the liquor traffic to the limit of its power. The Dominion Government passed an order supplementing the Provincial laws and made a clean-up of the whole situation by prohibiting the manufacture and importation of liquor and the shipment of liquor into dry territory.  
Quebec now seeks to step out of this combination. For the Dominion authorities to modify their law so as to allow the manufacture and importation of alcoholic beverages of the strength which she wishes to sell would be to allow Quebec to impose her conditions upon the rest of Canada.  
For the Dominion Government to stand firmly by its present Dominion law and allow no relaxation of its provisions, will not be to coerce Quebec. It will simply be taking the strong, safe ground that no one