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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1915.

JUSTICE TO FRENCH CANADA.

In answer to queries in the House of Commons, General Sam Hughes has paid a many tribute to our French Canadian fellow-countrymen which should put an end to the mischievous campaign of slander that has been so industriously carried on all over Ontario. We will let Hansard tell its own story.

Mr. PROULX: When he, with some military men from Montreal, came on a deputation last fall to see the Prime Minister and the Minister of Militia, did not that deputation ask permission to form a French Canadian Contingent?

Major General HUGHES: I think so, and we gave them permission and they formed a splendid regiment. It is under Colonel Paquet at Amherst.

Mr. PROULX: Was not permission given to form only a regiment?

Major General HUGHES: That was all that was asked for.

Mr. PROULX: Did they not ask permission to organize a brigade?

Major General HUGHES: I have no recollection of their asking permission to organize a brigade. They would have to organize a regiment, because a brigade is composed of regiments. Our French Canadian fellow-countrymen gave splendid service in the first contingent. The Maritime Provinces Regiment, the Quebec Corps, the Montreal Corps, the Northwest Corps and some of the Ontario Corps have a number of our French Canadian fellow-countrymen with them giving good service. Colonel Meighen speaks in high terms of them. Colonel Farquhar spoke in the highest terms of Lieutenant Papineau. Those who have written home from the front all speak in the highest terms of the French Canadian boys. We have the 22nd Regiment; we have another regiment organized under Colonel Archambault, who was given command some days ago. Colonel Paquet is going to form another one. It will only be a few days until it is formed. That will make three regiments composed solely of French Canadians. I venture to predict that they will do splendid service at the front.

Mr. CARVELL: I am very glad to hear the minister make that statement, because there has been a campaign carried on in certain portions of Canada for the last six months alleging that the French-Canadians have not done their duty in this war.

Major General HUGHES: And the English Canadians too.

Mr. Carvell: I have heard it dozens of times. I have read it in the newspapers in the Maritime Provinces friendly to the Government, and it has been the one unpleasant aspect of the discussion of this war in the public press of Canada. In the first place I am glad that the hon. minister makes that statement, and in the second place I congratulate him very highly for having the manhood to stand up and tell the exact truth. I hope that when this war is over, we shall hear no more in Canada about the French-Canadians not having done their duty.

Major General HUGHES: There has been all sorts of tittle-tattle, but we do not pay any attention to it. There are some who say that the British-Canadians have not done their duty. The first regiments which went forward were made up of British-born men who had settled in the West, but they were practically Canadians, having lived in this country for five or six years or more. I can point to many French-Canadians and British-Canadians who have done splendid service. I just want to say that there is nothing whatever in the stories that have been sent out. Every Canadian whether British or French, has done his duty splendidly.

Mr. PROULX: I am glad that the facts have been elicited, and that the hon. minister has acknowledged that the French-Canadians have done their duty as well as those of other nationalities have done. I can corroborate what my hon. friend the member for Carleton has just said. I have read in many English newspapers in this country allegations that the French Canadians have been very remiss in enlisting.

Mr. MARCIL: I desire to ask the Minister of Militia a question for information with regard to the enlisting of French-Canadians. I understand that in the first contingent there was a very large proportion of French-Canadians. What was the number?

Major General HUGHES: We have never made up the statement on the lines of nationality.

Mr. MARCIL: I understand there were fully 2,500.

Major General HUGHES: I do not know. We have not taken the figures that way.

Mr. MARCIL: I understood that three

regiments were being recruited. How many would that represent.

Major General HUGHES: That would mean 3,000 men besides those who went in the first contingent, or with the various artillery corps, the medical corps, the army service corps—oh, they have done splendidly.

Mr. MARCIL: There were many French-Canadians from New Brunswick and a lot from the Northwest.

Major General HUGHES: Not that I am impressed by the sympathy of my hon. friend from Prescott (Mr. Proulx), but I have always been proud of my fellow-countrymen, the French-Canadians, since the outbreak of this war. They know that I have said behind the scenes what I state openly that I am proud of the splendid way our men have come forward. For the first contingent the country boys all over had no opportunity to enlist, for it was raised very rapidly; the news hardly reached the remote settlements before the regiments were full. I passed a French-Canadian station between here and Valcartier and saw on the platform a lot of fine young men. I asked if any of their men had gone to the front. They said: "No, we can't go." "Why?" "No men are being taken from here." I said: "All you have to do is to enlist." "But they did not know how to enlist. I had the matter brought to the attention of the officers, and inside a week fourteen of those boys joined the corps. There was a splendid response wherever the boys had an opportunity. The same was true of Ontario among the English-speaking population. But they had really no opportunity to get into the first contingent.

Mr. MARCIL: I take it that, from what the minister has said, allowing for the number who volunteered in the first contingent, the French-Canadian regiments that are being formed, the men that are enlisting in the Maritime Provinces and the West, and the men who went with the medical corps and other bodies, close upon 10,000 French Canadians must have enlisted for this war.

Major General HUGHES: I could not give the figures, but there are 3,000 infantry men and 4,000 or 5,000 others and probably more.

Mr. MARCIL: I make this remark in justice to the men who have enlisted and to the province of Quebec. Many things appear in the French Canadian press which are not read in the other provinces, but unfortunately the people of other provinces do not read the French Canadian press of Quebec. They do not get the information which they ought to have. Last night I congratulated the hon. member for Welland (Mr. German) upon the contributions from Port Colborne, in his constituency. But the remarkable fact is that the province of Quebec has contributed \$1,450,000 to the Patriotic Fund, while Ontario, with a population of about a million greater has contributed only \$1,200,000. Taking into account the population and resources of the people, I think Quebec has done magnificently.

Major General HUGHES: I have never brought these questions up; frankly, I have dodged them, as I believe that it is in the public interest to discuss them only when the issue is properly before the people. I would point out that many of the splendid Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen who came to Canada were single men, whose relatives were not with them. They were living on homesteads in the Northwest, working on the railways, in the mines and forests, as laboring men or farmers; as mechanics in the cities and towns. They had no incumbrances, and the moment the call to arms came, they were ready to jump into harness. Our boys on the farms had to think about it. They did come on in splendid numbers, though; the regiment commanded by Colonel Watterson of Quebec, which comes from the eastern part of the province of Ontario was made up entirely of boys from the farms of Ontario; so with other Ontario regiments. Here is another phase of the matter read the Canadian casualty lists and you will be amazed when you observe how many United States-born volunteers are fighting with the Canadian troops. A couple of dozen of persons from the United States have already fallen at the front. There are hundreds of Americans in the service, fighting not for the adventure, but for the principle of liberty. From the outset I have recognized, publicly and privately, that our French Canadian fellow countrymen have done splendid service. We are organizing another French Canadian regiment; another could be filled inside of a week, and still another one immediately afterwards, if it were required. They are doing their duty splendidly.

No worthy or beneficent purpose is to be attained by circulating reports about any of our fellow-Canadians that have no basis in fact.

It is presumable that all these discreditable statements and rumors have been put into motion with a view to damage the prestige of the great Liberal leader, to show that he was disloyal to the British cause and therefore an unsafe man to entrust with the formation of a government.

The only section of French Canada that has not done its duty is the Nationalist wing of the Conservative party. It was from a member of this alliance that the only protest against assisting the Allies has been made in the House of Commons. He was but voicing the sentiments of his leader, Henri Bourassa.

However it was a most creditable thing for the Minister of Militia, himself a prominent member of the Orange order, to arise and refute the falsehoods that have been so widely published.

No good cause needs to be fortified by falsehood.

THE SITUATION.

That Lord Kitchener was speaking words of strict sobriety and wisdom when he said that the war was to begin in May, is becoming more clearly apparent from day to day. When it does begin the struggle is certain to be appalling in magnitude and severity. The events of the last few weeks unmistakably foreshadow this. Unless the Allies can bring up overwhelming forces, or some fortunate circumstance favors them, it is difficult to foresee for them a speedy triumph.

The cost of the recent encounter at Neuve Chapelle, in which the British troops were victorious, plainly indicates the price in men and material which will have to be paid for every direct step in advance. The results of the fighting in Champagne are even more significant. The natural conditions there, farther south and farther inland, have been much more favorable to field operations. There, at the base of the triangle formed by the sharp northerly bend of the Aisne River, between the Argonne Forest and Berry-au-Bac, a quarter of a million French troops have been battling day after day, during many weeks, for a gain of ground which, so far as actual distance is concerned can only be measured in yards.

Many more men have been fighting there than took part in the battle of Waterloo, which was decided in a single day. Probably the loss of life has been much greater than at Waterloo. True, the French claim to have secured a number of important strategic positions which will be of material advantage hereafter, but it is abundantly evident that the Germans are as determined as they are well prepared to contest every foot of advancement in that direction. And that is the most promising point of attack for the Allies in the whole 300 mile line of western entrenchments. There they are nearest to the southern German lines of communication which, could they but cut them, would leave the German forces to the West isolated and largely defenceless.

The Germans, it is quite obvious, have not been idle in the enforced time-marking of the so-called winter campaign. They have not only been organizing and marshalling vast new forces, but they have been strengthening with scientific industry every vulnerable point in their lines. From Southern Alsace to the Belgian coast they have with ceaseless energy been entrenching and fortifying, every assailable position. Their holdings in France and Belgium have been converted into one mighty fortress, to dislodge them from which will require the most skilful strategy and the most potent force.

There is still doubt that such strategy and such force will be forthcoming. We expressed the opinion at the beginning of the war that the outcome would depend largely upon generalship. We have had no cause to change that opinion since then. The situation at the very outset was saved by consummate French and British generalship. It was that generalship which led up to and won the all-important victory of the Marne—the turning point of the war, whatever may come hereafter. Had it not been for that victory the Germans would have attained Paris only a little behind their appointed time. France would have been crushed before Britain could have organized her effective support; and Russia's forces would have been shattered while in process of mobilization. It was French and British generalship which saved everything, at the Marne. It was British heroism and British daring in leadership which saved the day at Ypres, the most crucial of all the battles fought since the beginning of the war.

The Germans had no outstanding military figure among them at the beginning of the war. None has since come to light or been developed. A number of plodding and more or less capable generals they undoubtedly have, but no outstanding military leader. For a great occasion, such as this, a Man is always imperatively demanded. The German system almost precludes the possibility of the Man's appearance. The Kaiser occupies his place, and is not to be ousted from it. And the Kaiser has shown himself no more fitted to shine in arms than in diplomacy. This is the most encouraging feature of the whole situation for the Allies. They have real generalship on their side. They have at least equal, and may soon have superior forces with them. Therefore they are assured of ultimate success. But they cannot be at all assured of speedy victory although there is no occasion as yet to abandon hope of it. At the very worst they can continue to hold their own where they are, and compel the Germans to keep the greater part of their available forces facing them in the West, while deprivation, if not starvation, and the ever increasing Russian armies do their work on the farther side of the Rhine.

There are also the possibilities, even the strong probabilities, of further accessories to the strength of the Allies from the ranks of neutral nations. The Germans are not gaining in popularity as the war advances, nor are their ultimate prospects such as to attract prudent neutrals to their support. Germany's generous proffer of Austrian territory to Italy has not aroused noticeable enthusiasm in either Austria or Italy. What Austria might possibly consent to give, and what Italy demands are so absurdly far apart that there is no reasonable possibility of compromise. The case resembles that of a

man with a horse for which he expects to get a thousand dollars at least, and who is met by an offer of thirty cents. Moreover, there are very bright prospects of the Dardanelles being forced within a short time, which would exclude Turkey from further effective European activities, and greatly brighten the whole outlook in the Balkans for the Allies.

On the whole, therefore, well-founded hopes may be entertained of an early termination of the war, even if the military strength of Germany's present position in France and Belgium is fully admitted. The final outcome of the struggle is in no doubt, and never has been since the battle of the Marne. But no member of the world-wide British Union can yet afford to relax in aught its efforts for the common cause. The demand for energy on the part of Canada is quite as urgent now as it has ever been. Let all our people respond to it with a will, and with all their might.

The new central commission for dealing with the liquor business doesn't take the liquor business out of politics. The liquor business shouldn't be taken out of politics. We are living in Canada, not in Germany. It is the people's business to deal with the liquor business.

Lord Kitchener is reported to be landing 15,000 troops a day on French soil. Kitchener is the great administrator of the Army, and we may have every confidence that when the Allies commence the great forward movement in May, they will lack neither men nor materials, to achieve the "decisive and definite victory" which Sir John French predicts.

Mr. Bourassa has been described by his friends. Of him L'Action Sociale, the ultramontane daily of Quebec says: "Mr. Bourassa does not support cheerfully and fully any contradiction, and he has even gross and plentiful injuries for any who dare to contradict him. Unhappily for a man of his talent, in his frequent moments of irritation he takes liberties with the truth. He has the habit of exaggeration."

The most expensive pigeons that have ever been purchased or sold in Belleville were those contributed by Jimmy Gill as his donation to the Patriotic Campaign and which were auctioned off last night for the very satisfactory total of twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents for the four pairs. One pair cost the purchaser \$11.50. This was rather expensive live stock to be sure, but in another way the buyer got off cheap. All things considered Jimmy Gill's contribution came very near to being the handsomest on the list.

The new soldier who went into this war must have undergone a profound disillusionment if he lived long enough after he reached the front to undergo any thing but wounding or death. Doubtless he pictured war as something glorious and immensely uplifting—a splendid jumble of crash and clamor, winning charges and splendid victories—and then, at the last, a triumphal return with bands playing and flags floating. What he found was physical filth and physical discomfort; a pigsty to live in and pig's food to live on—the customary cooked ration is apt to look and smell exceedingly like swill; a dreary, weary, unending round of day labor to be pursued without any glamour or any cheer to it; tremendous fatigue for a reward; small chance for individual achievement, and a constantly enlarging chance of being mangled or destroyed outright by an enemy whom he never saw and who never saw him.—Irvin S. Cobb, in Saturday Evening Post.

Charles Francis Adams, who died in Washington on Saturday, was in his eightieth year. He was a great-grandson of President John Adams, a grandson of President John Quincy Adams, and a son of Charles Francis Adams, Minister to Great Britain in the Civil War period, and of Abigail Brown (Brooks) Adams. A biography of his father, which included a review of the diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Great Britain over Civil War problems, was one of Mr. Adams' most notable publications. Born in Boston May 27, 1835, and graduated from Harvard in 1856, Mr. Adams was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar two years after leaving college. Mr. Adams was a strong champion of the Allied cause in this war, and a letter which he wrote to a friend in England, printed in the London Nation and subsequently reprinted in The Daily Chronicle, was perhaps the strongest expression of sympathy and support from an American source which Britain has received.

A TOUCH OF KINDNESS.

If you were toiling up a weary hill,
Bearing a load beyond your strength to bear,
Straining each nerve untiringly, and still
Stumbling and losing foothold here and there,
And each one passing by would not so much
As give one upward lift and go their way,
Would not the slight reiterated touch
Of help and kindness lighten all the day?
—Susan Coolidge.

Other Editors' Opinions

IRELAND'S RECONCILIATION.

If the war has opened many fresh wounds it has, let us hope, closed some festering old ones. One that has bled long, whose sundered edges it seemed impossible to knit together was the Irish question. Men who were thought to be magicians in politics labored again and again to heal it, but always to no purpose. The two elements in the population of Ireland seemed to be irreconcilable.

On last St. Patrick's Day everybody thought that nothing but a miracle could prevent bloody war between these elements—war in which the people of the whole United Kingdom if not of the whole British Empire would be aligned. Something like a miracle it was that turned this imminent fratricidal strife into brotherly co-operation for the common defence. Between the two coalitions of the great Continental powers the most tremendous war that was ever waged broke out. It had long been foreboded. That it was timed when it was may in part be a consequence of the very-critical stage at which the Irish question has then arrived. Among the many miscalculations of the Kaiser and his General Staff was this one, that the Home Rule party of Ireland would welcome the opportunity of a foreign war to drive the dagger into England's heart. The moment that war became inevitable it was seen how wrong and how wrong was the assumption. Mr. John Redmond was able to tell the large audience he addressed in Manchester on Sunday night that official agents covering the period up to February 15 showed that 99,700 Irishmen had joined the colors in Ireland, that 115,000 Irishmen had joined the colors from other parts of the United Kingdom, and that altogether the Irish recruits in that six-month period amounted to a quarter of a million. Irishmen by side with Irishmen from the South. Protestant Irishmen and Roman Catholic Irishmen, serving heroically against the enemy. But when did Irishmen of any sect or any section ever serve otherwise than heroically in wars for the defence of Britain and of the British Empire?

Ireland has many sons like the brilliant O'Leary, V.C. Kuno Meyer, a German scholar who had made himself beloved in Ireland by his study of the language and literature of the Irish race has just been deprived of the freedom of Dublin because of the anti-British campaign he has been conducting in the United States. Meyer's exposed spy service throughout the period of nineteen years in which he occupied a chair in a Liverpool university, and his recent proposal that Irish prisoners in Germany be used against Britain, produced the deepest indignation among the Irishmen for whom he presumed to speak.

This war is tightening all the joints of the British Empire. Map each St. Patrick's Day find Ireland more happy, more harmonious, and in closer bonds with the rest of the United Kingdom.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

GET THEM AT WORK.

The unemployment problem is too serious to be settled by the Government's expedient of taxation. Canada has money. Canada can afford to give doles for three or four months each year to men thrown out of work by the incidence of climate. This is an easy method of postponing the inevitable. The Dominion cannot afford to build up within its borders a large class of unemployables. A little leisure is every man's due. Three or four months of leisure, particularly when coupled with anxiety and insufficient nourishment, will rob a man of zest for work.

Periods of idleness recurring at stated intervals sap mental and physical vigor and unfailingly deplete the best of human material. So it is that year by year we are adding steadily to a class that must remain a burden on the community; men who have lost the gift of anxiety, who seek charity and know to a nicety how much can be coaxed from the various institutions; men who know just how long a report of their trouble will take to filter through the central organizations; men who can judge the passer-by with reasonable accuracy and tell at a glance what sort of story to offer as bait for money.—Toronto News.

WHAT MOTHERS SAY OF BABY'S OWN TABLETS

Once a mother has used Baby's Own Tablets for her little ones she will use no other medicine. She quickly realizes the Tablets are an absolutely safe remedy and one that will give sure results. Concerning them Mrs. R. L. Wright, Pennabill, Sask. writes: "I have used Baby's Own Tablets for my three babies, and I always keep them in the house. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont."

Splendid Year's Work

The Thirty-Fourth City Mission, Dpn commemorated on the March 11th by a Tea and their friends at Anniversary Meeting.

Reports was presented various departments which we append her Mr. Clapp, Supt. of School was chairman of the Baptist Church and gave us a very interesting which all applied views and hymns on the screen from the presented to the School Mrs. R. J. Graham, views in Switzerland, by Miss Anning, school extensively in E. We missed Mrs. Scence, she being absent, visit to her son in Pitt A Sewing School had on once a week all Mothers' Meeting, Miss being superintendent, School and Miss Ed superintendent of the line.

Mr. C. Elvins has Sunday and week night The following is a list of the Sunday School Mr. C. S. Clapp, Supt. Supt. Primary Dept.; Mrs. Lucas, Miss Reeves, Miss Gailley, M. Richards. Sec.-Treas. of S.S. Reeves.

Librarian—Miss Pe Pianists—Miss An Lucas. The workers are gifts of friends during hope for increased work during the year have entered.

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