

THE CANADIAN FORWARD

To Our Contributors—

The columns of The Canadian Forward are open to contributions from all friends of the cause. Though we can by no means undertake to publish all we may receive, everything, by whomsoever written, will receive careful attention.

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"The ignorance of the so-called educated classes is colossal."—Thomas Huxley.



LORD BACON-FLAVELLE.

According to Mr. O'Connor's report (re cost of foodstuffs), a firm in Lindsay, Ont. (given in the list as Flavell's Limited), has much to be thankful for in being on the Conservative patronage list. The report states that this firm has been subsidized to the extent of \$15,900. We recommend that Flavelle be counted in the next honor list, with the above caption as a handle. This suggestion came to us while reviewing the exhibition pigs, and the succinct rejoinder of an attendant at the pig pen who, when asked what is the name of that extraordinary large sized pig over there? replied, "Oh, that kind is popularly known as the Flavelle specie." Mr. Flavelle is one of the highest stars in the patriotic firmament of Capitalism. We submit that this suggestion would be perfectly in harmony with Capitalist "morals and ethics," and certainly with Borden tradition, that this hog meat specialist should be honorably rewarded. A firm that can control 28,100,000 pounds, against 16,630,000 pounds of all other competitors in the trade certainly deserves recognition.

BACKWARD—"DEMOCRACY."

The Military Service Bill has received the Royal Democratic signature. It would be interesting to have Premier Borden's interpretation of democracy. He is apparently a harmonizer of contradictions and cannot perceive any difference between that much-vaunted term "Democracy," and "despotism." We perceive the same difference between these terms that exists between the Premier Borden administration and "Government by the People." However, Borden is the political boss and it remains to be seen whether Borden or the people will rule in this matter. The time for words is past; the time for action has now arrived.

PAYING THE PRICE.

An interesting letter by a returned soldier, signing himself "Yours in hope," is contained in Jack Canuck, issue of July 28th, which reads in part as follows: "When I was leaving Shorncliffe for Canada our paymaster asked me for my paybook, which he promptly lost. The following morn-

ing I was bundled on a train for Liverpool with his promise that my pay would be alright. On arrival at Quebec I found I had been 'short-changed' to the extent of \$122.00, and having no paybook to verify the account I am still minus that amount. In the year that I have been home I have had four letters from Ottawa, all promising to look into the matter, but nothing has come of it."

"It is no wonder that the Canadian mis-Government had to resort to conscription."

Yours in hope.

It would be quite in keeping with the logic of "Hope," forlorn hope, to unite with the G.W.V.A. and be used by the same branch of politicians that are according him such generous treatment, in order that objectors with foresight and letters that she sent to the press, shall receive the same dose by being conscripted.

A MILITARY BARBARIAN.

According to a report given publicly by an unnamed Canadian officer, the Germans have invented a new gas that is so deadly that one good sniff is sufficient to necessitate a post-mortem examination. The noble-minded gentleman says: "It would be a good thing if all pacifists and objectors to military service were lined up in cages along the whole front and forced to do the sniffing for the whole army!"

It would be interesting to know the name of this form of "human specie." He is probably trying to make a reputation for himself as the man who tried to out-Bosche the Hun. The statement only serves to demonstrate the logic of our position. Let those who voted for capitalism take their medicine. This form of Gas being an effect of capitalist government, which necessitates "War," it is quite logical that those who did the voting shall also do the sniffing. We are not noisier parties, and under no reasonable regulation should be called upon to pay the penalty for the criminal acts of others. It is significant that the Toronto Telegram, which gives publicity to this statement, should conceal the name of this prospective candidate for the Senate.

No doubt, such an act would occasion gratification to the jingo element, but it can only confirm the objector in his belief, viz.: That militar-

ism is a monster, not only associated with Germany, but with every country that endorses it—and is destructive of the noblest virtues of the human race.

INTERPRETATIONS.

One of the chief tasks nowadays of politicians and newspapers is to "interpret" inconvenient phrases. The Entente had declared that it was not pursuing conquests and that it desired a democratic settlement of the war; hence, when there was promulgated the Russian formula, which—seemed clear enough on the face of it—proposed a peace in accord with the Entente's professions, but which the Entente did not wish to accept, Mr. Asquith, Lord R. Cecil, M. Ribot, and others addressed themselves to the task of "interpreting" it.

Of course, they said, we accept it, but it must be interpreted properly.

In the United States the officials and the newspapers now have the task of "interpreting" the free speech which the Constitution proclaims. As an example of the manner in which the task is being met, the comments of the "Boston Evening Transcript" on the break-up by soldiers of the Boston peace parade on 1st July may be noted.

"This nation," it says, "is indeed built on the right of free speech. That right must ever be defended. Is this to say that no difference lies between free speech and treasonable speech? Between the two there yawns a chasm as wide as these United States are broad. . . . It is impossible to maintain that the right of free speech is not limited by one's national duty." That is to say: if one's opinions happen to be inconvenient to "the authorities," or if they happen to conflict with "one's national duty," as such duty is conceived by officials or by what the newspapers are pleased to call "public opinion," all that is called for is to dub such opinions "treasonable" or "seditionous," and, lo! the right of free speech has gone.

To-day the world is full of reactionary "interpretations" of liberal doctrines. Indeed, the chief intellectual activity of politicians, newspapers, clergymen, and other "leaders of opinion" throughout the whole course of the war has been, while rendering to them lip-service, to impose illiberal and reactionary interpretations, in harmony with the passions and exigencies of war time, upon all the liberal and hopeful ideas that mankind has cherished; to deny, in truth, the ideals of democracy and freedom which, nominally, they profess.

War time is inevitably a time when reaction acquires seven-league boots. The spirit of reaction, which is always so considerable an element in the make-up of the "safe" men "in authority," and is even in normal times held in check only with difficulty, finds itself in war time almost entirely unrestrained. In a hundred and one ways we are flung back to the middle ages. Respect for moral and intellectual freedom and for liberty of conscience is little greater to-day than it was at the time when people were tried for witchcraft and sorcery. The same spirit of intolerance and the same narrowness and failure of imagination which, in the middle ages, led to the use of the "constructive" offence, associated particularly with the name of the notorious Judge Jeffreys, is abroad to-day. (Enpassant: it is essentially a similar failure of imaginative sympathy which allows men to cherish the hope of advancing an idea—democracy, say—by engaging in war in order to coerce others into agreement with it.)

In the debate on the Conscription Bill in the Senate on 31st July, Sir James Loughheed introduced the idea of "constructive" reason. In the course of a speech, which states so unambiguously that theoretical fallacies in the conscriptionist and military position that I propose to undertake a critical

examination of it for the "Forward," the leader of the Senate, arguing that the State can and should compel its members to take up arms in its defence (the Conscription Bill is officially "For the defence of Canada"), said "No offence in the category of human crimes looms so odious as treason, the offence of betraying one's country to the enemy. And yet treason to country may have many definitions. It may be active; it may be constructive. . . . To my mind it is difficult to draw any substantial difference between treason and non-resistance."

G. Stafford Whitby.

SUPERMEN IN THE MODERN SENSE.

In the early days of the war we were solemnly informed that the Kaiser and the German military party were disciples of the philosopher Nietzsche. And now, we gather from a recent Associated Press message, the idea of the superman can claim further distinguished, intellectual converts—"British military authorities are convinced that the day of the superman has arrived."

The message goes on to tell us that the British are not confining their vision to the immediate future, but are preparing to fit the British youth "for any and all eventualities which may arise in the coming years." "Use your eyes and ears" is the new British watchword which is being instilled into the British youth with all the force at the command of his superiors. If, in accord with this admirable, if not entirely novel watchword, the British youth is to become a superman, to what heights must not "his superiors" ascend in the democratic progress?

The item of the first importance in the training of the British supermen is, one gathers, instruction in "the three B's"—the bullet, the bayonet and bomb. "The message of the British to their American allies," says this elegant dispatch, is "Make your young men supermen in the modern sense, and the world will be safe for democracy."

G. Stafford Whitby.

"We good Europeans . . . are not German to take delight in the national blood-poisoning which sets up quarantines between the nations of Europe. . . . We are too diverse and mixed in race to be patriots. We are, in a word, good Europeans—the rich heirs of millenniums of European thought."—Nietzsche.

SECRETARIAN NOTES

(Continued from Page 3)

Convention Referendum—Referendum ballots returned show decidedly in favor of convention.

"GEORGE STIRLING" ORGANIZATION.

The D.E.C. has instructed Comrade Stirling of Salmon Arm, B.C., to commence his tour at once, money and supply being shipped. A general appeal for voluntary assistance was intended to be inserted in this issue but must be deferred owing to the Dominion Secretary leaving for Pt. Arthur early next week. The subscription form is inserted and those who see the necessity of organization are requested "Organizer's Maintenance Fund." Stirling's route ahead—susceptible to modification—is as follows: Salmon Arm, Vancouver, Nicola, Valley 6, Penticton, Phoenix, Greencourt, Grand Forks, Castleyard, Rossland, Trail, Slocan, Silverton, New Denver, Rosebery, Sandon, Keslo, Nelson, Cross Nest, McLeod, Calgary and Edmonton. More next issue. Get busy!

I. Bainbridge,
Secretary.