

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE AFTER THE WAR

London, Feb. 14.—The Times says it understands that the committee appointed by Premier Asquith last summer to consider Great Britain's commercial and industrial policy after the war has made a preliminary report to the government, unanimously recommending imperial preference as the foundation for the British economic world policy of the future.

The Times adds that the committee is so influential and representative, including men of every school of political and economic thought, that acceptance of its recommendation is virtually assured.

CANADIAN WAR RECORDS OFFICE

Collects Data Necessary to Army's History

No Observer at Front—Haphazard Way in Which News Has Reached the Canadian Press

London, Jan. 23.—(Correspondence)—A report which has just been made by Col. Sir W. Max Aitken on the work of the Canadian War Records Office brings out two facts: (1) That it was not until a year and ten months after the war had taken to the field that a serious effort was made permanently to collect and collate the data necessary to the writing of the army's history; (2) that even now, in the third year of the war, the Dominion of Canada is without a newspaper correspondent at the front to send over news day by day. The Canadian Eye-witness has disappeared, though through the medium of the Canadian War Records Office a weekly communique is issued to the Dominion and English press. It was only one year ago that Sir Max Aitken was able to establish the War Records office on obtaining permission from Premier Borden to spend £5,000. With this grant and the aid of a small group of officers such as Lieut.-Col. R. Manley Sims, D. S. O., Major Charles G. D. Roberts and Captain Holt White, the office has for the past year played an important part in the framing together of Canadian annals. These officers are, in their turn, under obligation to those company commanders who, as the report says, "af-

ter a hard-fought action, sit down by the stump of a candle in a captured dug-out to give a pencilled account of the battle."

The War Records Office is altogether a distinct institution from the Canadian Records Office. The latter deals with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in relation to individual rank, name, number, sickness and death; the former deals with the army as a whole or in units, and with those thrilling exploits which will go down in the history of the Dominion when the names are nothing but names. The office is one which, like the cable offices, is "always open." So far, I have never failed to find someone on the spot, whether on Sunday or a public holiday. Nor is it to be charged with holding back healthy men who might be at the front, for the N. C. O. and men seem to be drawn entirely from convalescent hospitals, and Capt. Holt White is the only officer who can show a respectable avoirdupois.

The Canadian army has been given good publicity in the London and provincial press through the courtesy of the War Records Office in inviting representatives of these papers to various functions; in fact, I have failed to find that the average pressman here knows any other overseas expeditionary force. When it is remembered that all the propaganda work on behalf of the Dominion such as the railway and steamship companies as well as the Commissioner of Emigration, used to carry on, has ceased (owing to military law), it will be seen that the publicity given the expeditionary force will at least serve to compensate somewhat in this respect.

There is little doubt that after the tour of the Canadian-Irish Rangers in Ireland this week, there will be an enhanced interest in the Dominion over there.

For the past two years Capt. R. W. Bean and Capt. Malcolm Ross have been at the front, as journalists, with the Australian and New Zealand forces respectively. While they have been sending over to their press a constant supply of stories with not half so much good material as the Canadian exploits have furnished, our own press has been unrepresented, and in this the third year of the war, there is actually a vacant room, bed and equipment headquarters waiting for a Canadian correspondent! As Sir Max Aitken says in his report, London representatives of Canadian papers are being allowed to take a tour of a few days once in three months, but this merely represents the crumbs that fall off the table, and even then the crumbs are stale. The Gazette correspondent despatched a cable from divisional headquarters on Christmas night (28th December, at 10 p. m.), which appeared in print on Saturday, 30th. Subsequent despatches filed daily apparently arrived in Montreal strong together and very much censored. The ordinary London pressman resident at the front can get his despatches censored and over to London within forty-eight hours. The London representatives of The Gazette, Mail and Empire, the Montreal Star, Toronto Star and Toronto Telegram have for some time past signified their willingness to keep a man at the front by taking monthly turns, placing the despatches at the disposal of those papers which care to pay cable tolls. Sir Max Aitken and Sir George Perley both seem friendly to this arrangement, but it has been held up—and is—by newspaper managers in Canada. By the time the latter have arrived at a decision, found their man and transported him here, there is quite a good chance that peace may be declared.

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With The Padres At The Front

War Has Eliminated All Discriminational Rivalry IN THE CANADIAN SERVICE

Work of Chaplains Rich in Results by Working Along Broadly Human Lines

Ottawa, Feb. 13.—Writing on the work of the Canadian chaplains in France, Captain Chas. G. D. Roberts sends the following to the minister of militia: "The work of the Canadian chaplain service has been so successful so rich in results, and conducted along such broadly human lines, that it is impossible to do it anything approaching justice within the space of a newspaper article. Only when the full story of it comes to be written will it appear for what it truly is—a thing on which Canada may not less pride herself than on the splendid achievements of her sons in the fighting service."

"There are few things more futile than to attempt to prepare for it a sound foundation. The soaring spire or camp-bell must have the broad and stable base. The chaplain service in France of the Canadian army is a spiritual edifice built upon the foundation of human minute and thorough organization, so suited to an immense extension of the chaplain field of usefulness, and its success has led to a considerable increase in the British expeditionary force in France."

Rivalries Eliminated

"On such a foundation of practical efficiency it is that our 'padres' (every chaplain, whatever his creed is affectionately and familiarly dubbed 'a padre') have based the more spiritual element of their labors. The cement of the whole structure has been a unity of purpose and a harmony in effort which are a constant influence for good among our men, and which may well serve as an example to the churches at large."

"This unity and this harmony, it is to be observed, are to be maintained among our padres without any sacrifice of those particular principles, doctrines and dogmas, as may be, on which each communion bases its distinction from the rest. The representatives of each church or creed are supreme within their own fold. The organization of the Canadian C. C. S. is strictly proportionate to the strength of their membership among the troops. That church, wherever it may be, which sends the smallest number of its adherents into the field, naturally requires the smallest representation among padres. Any form of sectarian propaganda is firmly ruled out, for the whole spirit of the administration of the C. C. S. requires each padre to be as jealous for the rights of his colleagues as for his own. In all matters that do not touch the special concern of their own communion the padres work together in the most loyal and hearty co-operation. In their deliberations there is neither Wesleyan nor Anglican, neither Roman Catholic nor Presbyterian nor Baptist, but only a zealous brotherhood, united in effort for the spiritual and bodily welfare of our Canadian soldiers in the field. To say so much may well sound like an exaggeration, like the expression of a dream rather than the statement of a reality, but from all that I have been able to observe it would be less than justice to say less. It is probably owing to this spirit of harmony, more than to anything else that the influence of the padres is so strong and vital throughout the Canadian forces. It is not by any means matters spiritual alone that the tireless energies of the C. C. S. are devoted. The service looks after the comfort, recreation and entertainment of the troops, by means of highly organized systems of soldiers' institutes, canteens and cinema shows, which keep them out of mischief or boredom during the periods when they come back from the trenches to the rest camps. This system is not only run on a strict business principle, but on a merely nominal margin of profit and the accounts are officially audited by the quartermaster's department. Narrow as is the margin, it yields a handsome profit, which is returned to the men again in whatever form may seem to be most needed. No small part of it goes to the provision of free coffee—hot coffee—at all hours of the day or night, for the men who are entering or leaving the trenches. The coffee stalls are situated, for the most part, close up behind the front lines in a position of imminent

peril, under frequent and often continual shell fire. They are served with a cool courage and devotion ceaselessly adding new heart to the old phrase of the church militant. When the soldier stumbles back from his trench, soaked, half frozen, ready to drop from the long strain of his turn behind the rumbling parapet, by the fitful illumination of star shell and the flashes of the guns, he finds the little coffee stall awaiting him with its warm welcome. The big tin of steaming drink is a God-send to his spent body. No less a God-send it is to his tired spirit to find that those who do not have to share the fighting are there close at hand, ready to share his peril so that they may minister to his needs.

"But it is when a battle is on that the 'church militant' peculiarly justifies its title. Where the wounded and dead are falling, there you will find the padres. They are by no means confining themselves to their spiritual functions. They are helping and inspiring the stretcher bearers, the ambulance men, the surgeons. Their activities are limited only by the needs of the situation. For instance, during the second battle of Ypres, the padres in different quarters of the battlefield, organized voluntary stretcher bearer parties, guided them up into No Man's Land and worked with them night after night in finding and bringing out the wounded. In this task one of the padres was taken prisoner.

Refuge For Two

Little Bobbie had been unusually naughty. When mother attempted to punish him he crawled under the porch, well out of her reach. There he remained.

When father came home, mother related the whole story. So father started under the porch after his unruly son. Bobbie saw him coming and called out "Is she after you, too, pop?"

Kindergarten Tag Day, Feb. 17.

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CANADA'S ACTIVE AND RESERVE MILITIA TO BE CALLED ON FOR DUTY

Ottawa, Feb. 13.—The calling out of from 25,000 to 30,000 of the members of the active and reserve militia of Canada for training and for home defence under the provisions of the Militia Act, it is understood, now being arranged for by the department of militia. The question has been under consideration by the government for some time, in fact ever since the recruiting for the overseas forces has been urged from many directions to adopt the policy now decided upon. Sir Sam Hughes has advocated it for some months. It was urged in parliament by various members a few days ago, and it has been recommended by

the government by prominent military and recruiting officers.

There are at present in Canada several hundred thousand members of the active militia and of the reserve militia, who have not volunteered for overseas service. A majority of them cannot be taken from the present occupations without interfering with necessary industries or agriculture productions. There are thousands, however, who could be called out for home training, and who would form a potential army, either for home defence or for overseas service, should occasion demand drafting from the home army to overseas army. The national service registration cards will be utilized to determine just what members of the militia could be spared from their present work to serve on the new home defence army in training.

The militia training of the eligible men will enable the government to practically mobilize a new army of about 80,000 men ready at call to meet any exigency of home defence, and it is expected that the majority of the men thus trained during the coming spring and summer will voluntarily enlist for overseas service as the need for more men

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the residence of Miss Rosamond McAvity. The reports of the treasurer and secretary were read, covering the activities of the year, which showed that the chapter was in a most flourishing condition. The maximum number of members permitted in the chapter has heretofore been thirty and at the meeting this number was increased to thirty-five. Two new members were elected. The officers for the ensuing year are as follows: Regent, Doris Sayre; 1st vice regent, Rosamond McAvity; 2nd vice regent, Edith Miller; secretary, Gertrude Fleming; standard bearer, Dorothy Bayard. Five councillors were also elected.

One Drink Cost £90

In Liverpool a women licensee was fined £40 for selling vermouth after hours, and two customers were fined £24 each for aiding and abetting.

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No matter what its price, a McLaughlin car must, and will give the maximum of that service for which it was intended, and must bear its proportion of the responsibility of maintaining that high prestige which has established the McLaughlin as

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See the 1917 McLaughlin Model at Our Showrooms 140-144 Union Street, St. John, N. B.

Canada's Standard Car

Mutt and Jeff—Mutt and Jeff Must Have Thought That "Pew 13" Had an All Night License.

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By "Bud" Fisher

SOREY, SIR, BUT I HAVEN'T A ROOM LEFT IN THE HOTEL—WE'RE DAMNED FULL ON ACCOUNT OF THE "PRETZEL BENDERS CONVENTION"

WE GOTTA SLEEP SOMEPLACE! CAN'T WE SLEEP ON BILLIARD TABLES?

WE BENT OUT THE BILLIARD TABLES ALREADY, BUT I'M THE BRITON IN THE CHURCH ACROSS THE STREET AND I HAVE ONE EMPTY PEW LEFT "PEW 13". YOU CAN HAVE THAT.

YES, BUT SUPPOSE I WANT SERVICE, LIKE WATER, ETC.

FRONT! SHOW THE GENTLEMEN TO "PEW 13"

WELL TAKE IT!

HELLO! HELLO! YES THIS IS THE NIGHT CLERK! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SEND TWO COCKTAILS TO "PEW 13"