

WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

Bright Clippings from Wide-a-woke Contemporaries

OTTAWA CITIZEN, DISCUSSING A FEATURE OF MONTREAL'S WHIRLWIND CAMPAIGN, DRAWS MORAL OF CONFISCATION.

Ottawa, March 3.—Under the heading "Superpatriots," the Ottawa Citizen publishes the following editorial:

Montreal has the honor of heading the Patriotic Fund collections in the campaign just concluded, the metropolis easily beating out Toronto. And an analysis of the Montreal list shows that the people of that city deserve rather more credit in the circumstances than appears on the face of the returns. It has been remarked on several occasions, in the campaigns for funds for the benefit of the dependents of our soldiers, that as most of the great industries profiting by the war were located in Montreal, or were financed from the metropolis the natural thing to expect was that the list of subscriptions from that city would exceed all others in the Dominion. The munition makers were not averse to this impression being widely circulated. Whether it was a knowledge of this circumstance, or merely a matter of better organization, we do not know, but the fact remains that in the recent collection the committee appointed an energetic team to interview the local munition makers and allied concerns benefitting by the war. This committee was known as the "Munition Team," and its report was confidently awaited by the general committee in the closing hours of the campaign, when all were striving to place Montreal in the place of honor in the nation-wide campaign. The following list was turned in:

Canadian Car and Foundry Co.	\$10,000
Canadian Explosives	30,000
Canadian Steel Foundries	5,000
Canadian Vickers	5,000
Dominion Bridge Co.	8,000
Dominion Cartridge Co.	5,000
Dominion Copper Products Co.	5,000
Montreal Ammunition Co.	5,000
Montreal Locomotive Co.	5,000
Steel Co. of Canada	12,000
Peter Lyall and Sons	15,000
Standard Steel Co.	1,000
International Mfg. Co.	1,000

The total of these subscriptions is \$112,000; the number of firms represented is thirteen. Taking out the subscriptions of the Canadian Explosive Co., the total is \$82,000 for twelve firms, or a little over \$7,000 each.

We do not know any more convincing argument for confiscation of war profits than figures like these. All these concerns have made hundreds of thousands out of the war. Many of them have made millions. The Montreal Ammunition Company, be it noted, subscribes \$5,000. This is the organization which was formed when the war broke out, was capitalized at \$300,000, and which at last report had cleared over three million dollars. It cheerfully subscribes \$5,000 for the families and dependents of the Canadian soldiers at the front! Many concerns apparently do not give any of their profits to the fund. There is no mention of Canada Foundry and Forgings, for example—a stock which bounded from obscurity and the non-dividend class overnight, with several million dollars worth of orders for shell forgings.

If the Government is not interested in the success of the Patriotic Fund, or not concerned with the problem of looking after the dependents of our soldiers, the right course for it to pursue would be to continue to ignore the attitude of the profiteers in the matter of voluntarily giving a respectable portion of gains which many are convinced, can only be justified by some such consecration. If, however, the Administration is alive to the growing sentiment in the Dominion,

it will forthwith take steps to appropriate the larger part of the swollen profits of munition makers and other war-time contractors.

A very informative exercise just now would be a comparison of the amounts subscribed by the war material contractors to the war loan funds—returning a sure 5 per cent.—and those given to the Patriotic Fund by these same gentry. Judging by the expressions of the officials and the press on the occasion of the subscriptions of the profiteers to the loan, the latter action was the test of patriotism is a matter of 5 per cent. and plenty of kudos. Why not call the subscriptions of the profiteers to the next Superpatriotic Fund?

WAR CRISIS IS NEAR, THE END'S FAE OFF.

Men, Munitions, and Money Needed in Great Quantities, Declare Government Members.

London, Feb. 19.—Arthur Henderson, member of the War Council, speaking at Manchester, said:

"In Government circles confidence regarding the final close of the war was never so high as now. I believe that our Commander-in Chief and all the leaders of the allied nations will be surprised if during the coming summer they do not strike such a blow as will lead the war to close on lines entirely satisfactory for us and our allies."

The Earl of Derby, Secretary of State for War, speaking at Bolton, expressed the opinion that the critical period of the war would occur in the next few months.

"I would be a false friend," he said, "if I did not warn the country that the war is going to be long-continued and the struggle even more bitter than in the past. It can only be won by every one doing his utmost. The three things most vital are money, men, and munitions. Money and munitions are being supplied in large quantities. Men we want and must have. The nation will have to make greater sacrifices in the way of giving its manhood to fight its battles."

"I am as confident as any one of the eventful results, but do not be led away into the too great optimism of thinking that the end is near."

"I believe we are near to see the critical period of the war in the next few months. We must face it with courage. I confidently predict it will be a successful six months for us, but at the same time I do not think it will be a walk-over."

JOHNDEE USES SUNDAY TO SUB- JECT WORKERS.

(By Call News Service.)

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is the strongest force behind the evangelism of Billy Sunday. He has just visited every capitalist newspaper in New York to urge support of Sunday and his evangelism.

No man able to read a newspaper—or able to read between the lines of the average unfair newspaper—can see the younger Rockefeller using religion without fearing that the claws of the beast are merely hidden behind the velvet of the church.

Young Rockefeller is the heir to his father's methods. He is the greatest private employer on the face of the earth, and he pays the lowest wages of any employer on the face of the earth. The awful story of Trinidad and of Bayonne need no repetition here. The blood of too many workers, their wives and their children, has been the ink to transcribe these tales of murder and exploitation and mere print is useless.

Now Rockefeller is behind Billy Sunday and all that power which Billy Sunday can wield upon the emotional and the unschooled worker can be transformed into profits by the diabolical cleverness of this billionaire. Billy Sunday has high influence over men and women easily ruled by their natures. He can put into their hearts the terror of a mythical hell and make them contented with starvation on earth by promising them the reward of a fictitious heaven.

The worker must be protected. Religion used as Billy Sunday uses it and as John D. Rockefeller wants it to be used is a menace. It is the plan to bring the rank and file of the working class under the subjection of his own fears, and John D. Rockefeller has the power to attain his object.

BILLIONAIRES.

By Scott Nearing.

We are billionaires!
The United States is the richest nation on earth.

When the war broke out the wealth of the British Isles, Germany, and France combined was a little greater than the total wealth of the United States. After two years and a half of conflict the wealth of the United States has mounted to astounding proportions. To-day the wealth of the United States is probably equal to the total wealth of Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia combined.

POTATOES.

"Twenty-one carloads of Canadian potatoes comprising about 15,000 bushels, which were intended for shipment to Cuba aboard the steamer San Jose, were placed on the Boston market today. The potatoes arrived here in bond for export, and it is understood that dealers preferred not to take any chances on shipping them because of the insurrection in Cuba. For some time past about forty carloads of potatoes have been coming to Boston each week for shipment to Cuba. The steamer Esparta, which sailed on Feb. 9th, carried fifty-seven carloads, and the Limon, which sailed a week later, carried thirty-five carloads. Canadian potatoes intended for domestic consumption are subject to duty of ten per cent. ad valorem, and must pass Government inspection." — Boston Transcript.

Is Sir William Hearst, Premier of Ontario, sincere when he preaches economy and persists in squandering \$25,000 a year in gratuities to the license commissioners whose usefulness went out of existence with the incoming of the Ontario Temperance Act?

"OPEN LETTER."

To the Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor:

Sir,—If our recollection serves us aright, you were appointed some time ago to take hold of the "H. C. of L." and to prevent it becoming more 'ellish than it is. You started out with a great blare of trumpets and everybody thought that in the space of a very short time you would grapple with the profiteers, the cold storage robbers, and the grab-all combinesters, and strangle them into fair and honest dealing and reasonable profits. The figures published by your own department show how miserably you have failed. The cost of living is not going down. Since January, 1916, till January, 1917, the cost of twenty-nine staple foods, weighted according to family consumption, has increased from \$8.28 to \$10.27. If this is the best you can do, can't you advise Sir Robert Borden to get you a peerage and let some person with brains, courage and good intentions, try their hand at grappling with the robbers.

JACK CANUCK.

WOMEN'S COLUMN

WHAT WOMEN DEMAND.

Are men never going to recognize the fact that at least half of the people of the world are women, and that no true democracy is possible while that large section of the community is enslaved?

That as the other workers are, stirring in their sleep, and awakening to the fact that if they desire their business to be properly conducted they must look after it themselves, so are the women also becoming wide awake to their own exploitation?

Together men and women have made the world as it relates to humanity, and together they must go on producing the world conditions under which men and women are to live. How can it be right that only half of the responsible population of the earth shall have any part in the making of the rules which equally concern all the world?

Women have a right to be individuals—neither sexes slaves nor pampered poodles.

We have a right to say whether we will do this or that work; and, where we prove ourselves capable of equal work with man, that we shall be paid an equal wage for that work.

We have a right to demand that if the world wants babies the world shall see that the mothers who bear the babies receive a "living wage" for such service.

We have a right to demand that, if the world employs the majority of women as cooks, waitresses, cleaners, and washerwomen in the homes belonging to men, then those men shall be compelled by law to pay a "living wage" to the women so employed.

We have a right to demand that home life be taken off the list of non-reproductive works, and put upon an economic basis as on the paying concerns of the nation.

How men, even half-trained in democracy, can refuse to acknowledge not merely the justice but the inevitableness of such demands is astonishing.

But few men will admit the woman's claim to political and economic equality in actual practice.

We have again and again the spectacle of "citizens' meetings" where only the man's voice and the man's view is either heard or invited.

We have commissions, committees, Houses of Parliament, Senates, judgeships, and governorships all filled by the assertive males, who have elected themselves as the brains as well as the brawn of the community.

And I claim that most of the present political muddle is the result of the fact that the people have let a one-eyed driver try to guide the loaded wagon of state up the hill of progress with the hind wheels locked.

To force women into a separate party, and to make them fight the men for political freedom is as short-sighted on the part of men as is the refusal of a business concern to pay its employees adequate wages.

We are but parts of the whole, and our interests cannot be separated.

The refusal of men to admit women freely into the political life of the country is forcing the formation of all sorts of organizations and associations among women, and though women's power may seem negligible now, the wise men in the different parties are those who do not mistake our reluctance in claiming our own for any constitutional inability to recognize what is due to us.—Jennie Scott Griffiths, in Australian Worker.

The ruling class may from time to time change their method of exploiting the working class, but never will they of their own accord cease exploiting them. That's a little job the working class must attend to themselves.

Trade unions are on the defensive. When will they take the offensive?