

## Public Opinion

### COLD STORAGE AND THE COST OF LIVING.

(Canadian Farm.)

Cold storage is coming in for considerable abuse these days from those who find the cost of food products mounting upward. It looks like a case of barking up the wrong tree. If there is any fault in this connection cold storage in itself is not to blame, but the abuse of cold storage. True, cold storage does give the middleman of means a chance to buy up perishable food products when prices are low, and hold them for higher prices later on. But there is another side to this question. Would consumers in cities like to go back to pre-cold-storage days, when there was a glut of perishable food products when these were ready for market, and almost a famine when the marketing season was over? In those days there were more food products wasted every season than would feed the people of the country for several months of the year. There was no incentive to increase the production of foods that would not keep. Cold storage has remedied this to a marked degree. It has improved the price to the producer, and thus proved an incentive to increased production, and has enabled such products to be distributed in consuming centres over a wider period of time.

### SOULS IN THE TRENCHES.

(Montreal Herald).

In Lieutenant Peckhoff, those who attended the Canadian Club's luncheon recently, saw the personification of the spirit that will animate those who will come back from the battlefield. A Russian, in Italy when the war broke out, he rushed to Paris, and four days later enlisted with the Foreign Legion. He gave his right arm for the cause. He went through the deadly monotony of day after day and night after night in the trenches, and he came through with his vision of what he was fighting for undimmed. Liberty and love of justice against despotic militarism! And through the hell of the carnage he tells us how the soldiers listened to the singing of the birds in the trees, and how even a brigadier of artillery stole off alone to a ruined little village church because the organ had not been entirely put out of commission by the German shells. The boys in the trenches still have their souls.

### REFUSES TO PROFIT OUT OF NATION'S AGONY.

(Literary Digest).

Some of the immense profits made in manufacturing munitions are to be turned back to the bleeding countries. It is announced from Los Angeles that D. A. Clark, Jr., son of the former senator, will return two million dollars made in war stocks to the widows and orphans of France when the war is over. "This war is terrible," Mr. Clark is reported having said. "I want no profit on account of it."

### FRANCE WILL NEVER FORGET.

(Le Gaulois, Paris).

Inspired by a lofty ideal, they are doing wonders on the Somme front. Nothing has been so fine as the enthusiasm of their fighting celebration of "France day" on July 14, and the ardor with which they stormed three of our villages on that glorious day singing the Marseillaise. The same ardor is shown in every battle. Yesterday their heroism shone again finer and more victoriously than ever. Behind the superb and unflinching bravery of these fine troops there is their number, which is growing continually, in spite of daily losses, and constitutes an absolute guarantee for the success of the allied cause and of that of humanity against barbarism. In order to make this military effort and at the same time supply the armies with the necessary equipment, arms, guns and ammunition, Great Britain had to make extraordinary financial and industrial efforts. The devotion and enthusiasm of the British Empire will for ever be one of the wonders of history. France admires and will never forget Great Britain's marvellous effort.

### IS AMERICA AWAKE?

(Chicago Tribune).

The quick rally of British commerce is shown conclusively in the board of trade figures recently published. Exports were practically sliced in two by the coming of the war in August, 1914. However, before the war had been in progress a year British industries had rallied, and August, 1915, showed a 30 per cent gain over the first month of war.

More important, every month since August, 1915, has shown an improvement over the corresponding month a year earlier. Still more important, the months of May, June, and July, 1916, showed a gain not only over the corresponding months of 1915, which were also war months, but even over the same period of 1914, when peace ruled.

The total British exports for the first nine months of 1916 were actually greater than the total for the corresponding months either of 1915 or of 1914.

Will America ignore this warning?

Britain at war is exercising her best talents to conserve her foreign trade. The United States at peace is doing little but develop a munitions trade which will end with the war, while Britain's trade will continue to grow with the advent of peace.

### ENGLAND THE WISEST NATION.

(New York Mail).

England is the wisest nation on earth. She is using her present domination of international shipping to monopolize the peaceful trade of the world. The British factories producing musical instruments for South Africa or cast iron pipe for the Argentine could be transformed into producing the equipment of war. But it is cheaper for England to pay us to make munitions and use her control of ocean carriers to retain and increase her exports of musical instruments and cast iron pipe, for this is the valuable trade, the trade that will endure when the war is long forgotten.

### RUBBER INDUSTRY EXPANSION.

(National Geographical Society.)

The rubber gatherers in jungles of the Amazon, the Orinoco and the Congo, make incisions an inch and a half long, three-eighths of an inch wide and a half inch deep in the bark of the tropical trees which sometimes attain a height of 60 feet and a circumference of 8 feet. Beneath these cuts the natives attach small cups to catch the rubber milk, which is not the sap of the tree. The average Para rubber tree yields two ounces of milk a day. By coagulation in the smoke of a wood and palm nut fire, the milk yields one-third its weight of the prized rubber, the normal annual production of a tree being ten pounds of rubber, and the flow continues fairly constant for a number of years.

One of the by-products of rubber harvesting, and one which promises extensive development, since plantations of these trees have been successful in Sumatra, Ceylon and the Straits Settlement, is the rubber seed, which yields almost half its weight of an oil closely resembling linseed oil, and adapted to the same uses.

There are many varieties of rubber producing trees, vines and shrubs, the most valuable species being that which yields the standard "para," and which grows over an area of a million square miles in Brazil alone. The whole production during the year preceding the European war was 151,000 tons, her nearest competitor, the Dutch East Indies, yielding 8,000 tons. The United States in that year imported more than twice as much of the raw products as Great Britain, which stood second as buyer.

### EDWARD GREY AND THE NEUTRALS.

(Toronto Globe).

Of all the men who stood near the centre of the world-storm when it broke in August, 1914, the British Foreign Secretary has survived the shock with more enduring credit than any other in the whole circle of European diplomacy. When all the facts are known, and all the cross-lights lifted, the world will see that no man worked more seriously or more strenuously for the world's peace, and so worked that those who care for peace shall not need to be ashamed.

### HUNTING THE SUBMARINE.

(Wall Street Journal).

Hunting the submarine has become quite a sport among the British naval officers in the waters adjacent to the British Isles and now it would appear that British activities must be extended overseas.

According to a Britisher in this country in a position to know, Great Britain has probably on the way here a fleet of fast light cruisers bearing on board a number of the famous 50-foot motor launches which are used for hunting the big game and that this country may yet see how the British capture or sink the undersea boats.

There is no more popular arm of the naval service that assignment to these fast motor boats, which midshipmen are frequently given the job of commanding. However, the luck is not always with the motor boats which are armed with small guns, and there are many instances of submarines sinking these little vessels with their deck guns. But the launches cost only \$40,000 while a cruising submarine costs from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000.

### GIVE THE BIBLE A CHANCE!

(Life).

What a pity it is that the Bible cannot be removed from the influence of the church, so that everybody could feel like reading it as if it were a best-seller. The colleges have practically ruined the classics by making the study of them so perfunctory and distasteful that they are rarely read and almost never appreciated by those who have been through college. How many college graduates are there who are re-reading them?

From a literary standpoint there is nothing more beautiful than the Psalms of David. To have them galloped through Sunday after Sunday by a lot of indifferent people standing together in a church, or droned out by an adenoid curate, is to rob them of all their power.

The Bible is really the best book we have, more interesting than the most interesting novel, more perfect in its form than any other literary monument, more beautiful than words, more genuinely inspiring than anything else in the world. It is the fountain-head of our English speech. In it lies our chief hope of preserving that speech.

### CANADIAN SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

(Canadian Co-operator).

The Toronto Mail and Empire announces that Liberal Leader Rowell has been to Europe to study social problems, but hopes he has not brought any back with him. If the editor were to take a walk through the area immediately north and east of his office he will find substantial evidence that they have already arrived. We create social problems on this continent, as we do almost everything else, in great haste. The social deterioration it took Britain a century to develop, Canada has permitted to grow within a generation.

### THE MOOD OF A WILD BEAST.

(New York Tribune).

It is an altogether vicious idea to imagine that one can deal with the German government of the hour and the German people in its present mood in the manner in which one might deal with an individual or a nation chiefly concerned with nice questions of honor or humanity. Germany is in the mood of a wild beast and she has broken over every restraint which civilization and honor impose. She can be restrained only by fear of gaining a new enemy, whose actual opposition would be more useful to her enemies than the submarine campaign would be costly to Germany.

### THE ONE EXCEPTION.

(New York Evening Sun).

His heart bleeds for them, the Kaiser assures his people. This sympathy must be of great support to the Germans, reeling in the red dance of death. But is there another family of six sons except the Hohenzollern family in all Germany which has not lost one of them in battle since August 1, 1914?