

The Toronto World

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MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 13.

A National Success

All who have been connected with the Canadian National Exhibition this year deserve the thanks and are entitled to the congratulations of the nation. It has been a magnificent success. As a token of the vitality of the people of Canada in times of unexampled stress, it may well be presented to the world at large, the world of enemies as well as friends.

The attendance did not reach a million, but it was more significant of the solidarity and substance of Canada than the million of two years ago, when cheap railway fares and reduced entrance rates increased the crowd.

One thing alone will emphasize the success of the show, and it is a business point. The concessionaires were at first all timid about taking the risk, which the high ticket prices imposed. Those who had faith in the fair have been more than justified in their trust, and have done so much business that the competition to put up deposits for next year's concessions is quite unparalleled.

The attendance was thinned by one factor among others. Last year many more people bought the six for a dollar tickets. When people buy tickets they use them, and visit the fair oftener than when they come up and pay for admission. Had as many tickets been sold this year as last, the attendance would have reached the million. From a financial point of view to the fair the attendance this year will be as satisfactory as that of two years ago. It is much beyond last year's figures and, as we write, probably exceeds 900,000.

The fair was a better fair than has ever before been held in Toronto. This in itself will account for the many repeat visits. There was less of fust and feathers and froth, perhaps, but there was far more of solid interest and educational and business worth. The people who attend the fair like to be amused, undoubtedly, but they do not come for amusement alone.

The war unquestionably heightened the interest and afforded a nucleus of splendid enthusiasm around which the whole proceedings centered. Should it be the good fortune of the empire to see peace brought about on a permanent basis before next year, we may hope that the new tendencies in the management of the fair may be followed up to a still more fortunate consummation. The keynote of a better policy has been struck, and whether it be won or whether it be peace, we shall feel that the Canadian Nation has established a precedent which shall not be rivaled by any other exhibition in America.

They were unfortunate who did not see it in this year of universal stress. It was a source of encouragement and good cheer, and an earnest of the life of peaceful industry for which the world is striving.

A Radical Canadian in Great Britain

Mr. W. D. Gregory of The Weekly Sun has recently returned from England and has given an account of his impressions in an interview, which is of considerable interest as a frank statement of colonial opinion on the war situation as it affects a visitor to Great Britain. There is nothing of material disadvantage to the nation, but there is marked emphasis laid upon certain conditions, sufficiently familiar to us in times of peace, but which now become somewhat embarrassing when events do not stand on ceremony or wait for the tardy unravelment of red tape.

Of the leaders, Mr. Gregory finds nothing but what is complimentary to say. The attack by Lord Northcliffe on Lord Kitchener is the result, he states, of a quarrel which Lord Northcliffe thinks of more importance than the public interest. We are all familiar with this small-minded way of treating public men, not on their record, but upon the miserable ground of a personal spite. It is unfortunate, however, that the public are frequently influenced, thus prejudiced editorial utterances, to misjudge men who are thoroughly capable in their positions, and who do more work than any possible substitute could accomplish.

Mr. Gregory's strictures on the

subordinate officials of the war office and some of the other services, are what might have been expected about a system which in times of peace has been noted for its incompetence and snobbery.

"A very large proportion of them," remarks Mr. Gregory, "seem to be utterly lacking in those qualities which are necessary to a successful business man. The carrying on of the war is, to a large extent, a great business undertaking, and the failures and blunders that have been made are, I believe, largely due to the shortcomings of these officials." The passing of a written examination is no clue to business aptitude, and this is the weak point in the system. If these men could realize that the plans of an outsider are superior to their own dilatory methods, and acquiesce in, even if they did not hasten, their execution, it would help the situation immensely.

English characteristics are blamed for the anxiety Canadian soldiers display to be nursed in their own hospitals. In the English hospitals even the nurses, it is said, succumb to the universal snobbery. The man who is visited by friends in a motor car gets more attention than those who have no "carriage company." Those who have two motors to visit them are called "Mister." The Australians, as well as the Canadians, indulge themselves in democratic protests against these distinctions.

But these are about the worst things that Mr. Gregory has to say of the folks at home. He commits himself to little in the way of prediction, but he shares the general security of conviction towards the goal of victory. As an assurance of this conviction he talks about what may occur after the war.

Of direct interest to Canada is his view of the financial situation. At present, he states, Canada is not in favor with the British investor, who has experienced losses in the last few years. When the British investor comes into the Canadian money market again he will insist that his money shall go into productive enterprises, and this will apply to government as well as to private corporation loans.

Mr. Gregory's review of his visit has many suggestive passages, and will be of interest to those who may differ with his conclusions, as well as those whose experience coincides with his own.

Sitting Tight

Quaintly humorous and always interesting is the sub rosa column contributed to the London Daily News by S. L. Hughes, M.P. He gathers material from all over the world. Only a few days ago we find him quoting from The Ashland Times-Gazette's account of the festivities attendant upon the centenary of Ashland, Ohio. He notes, however, with some surprise that the paper in question contains no reference to the European war, and the same he finds to be true of The Norwood Republican, another small Ohio daily that in some way or another came into his possession.

We venture to think that a great many papers in the United States are studiously avoiding all reference to the tremendous conflict now going on in Europe. The big dailies of course report the progress of the war, and many comment upon it, but in many parts of the United States the war is being viewed in the same detached way in which the people viewed the Russo-Japanese war. They knew it was going on and that was about all.

This may seem incredible to us who are so keenly interested, but letters received from intelligent people living nearly as close to us as Ashland, Ohio, indicate that of much more attention is being paid to the present war in some quarters. No doubt the subject is often avoided in conversation as one likely to cause controversy in communities where there are many people of British and German descent.

That the people of the United States should be keenly interested in the result of the war The World has repeatedly pointed out. Their traditions and history should impel them to resent the raid upon Belgium, the invasion of France and the menace to free institutions everywhere, directly resulting from the Kaiser's mad ambition to conquer the world. Moreover, if Germany became the master of Europe the United States would have to fight, perhaps with no great success, not only for the Monroe Doctrine but for her own existence. Nevertheless, it is well for those who criticize President Wilson harshly to remember that the public opinion behind him may not alone be that which we see reflected in nearly all the New York papers and in most of the big dailies throughout the country. A great number of his fellow-citizens are giving little thought to the war. Probably they take it for

granted that the allies are bound to win, and that Germany will be so exhausted after the war as to guarantee to America peace for many years to come.

That Uncle Sam is sitting tight when he ought to be in the game may be due to cowardice on the part of some and to ignorance and indifference on the part of many people who do not follow the history of the war and do not think or talk about it for days or weeks at a time.

The D. A. Thomas Interests Have

Commenced Active Development Operations in the North Country

Three Large Steamers To Be Built at Peace River Crossing—Ship Carpenters Have Been Brought From Vancouver—Three Test Holes for Oil Being Drilled at the Chutes Below Fort Vermilion—Coal Deposit Located.

Red Cross Contributions

From The Edmonton Bulletin, Sept. 7: The D. A. Thomas interest, who for the past three years have undertaken reconnaissance and prospecting work in the vast district to the north of Edmonton, have at last begun active construction and development work, and are spending a large amount of money at the present time in this connection.

C. F. Law, of Vancouver, who is the personal representative of Mr. Thomas in this country, left Peace River Crossing on Thursday last for The Chutes, near Fort Vermilion, where three test holes for oil are being drilled at the present time, and before leaving, told a Bulletin reporter, at the Crossing, that the time of the development work that is being carried on.

Three Large Steamers. In the first place, three large steamboats are to be placed in commission north of Edmonton, so as to maintain an adequate transportation service on 2400 miles of the northern waterways, including the Athabasca, north of Fort McMurray. Work already has been started on the first boat, which is being built at Peace River Crossing. A crew of ship carpenters arrived from Vancouver on Saturday, and it is expected that the boat will be finished in time for the first open water next year. It will be 175 feet long, with a 35 foot beam and will be capable of carrying 400 tons and towing another two thousand tons. There will be cabin accommodation for 110. The boat will be fitted with boilers and engines for development of 750 horse power, which will enable a speed of 16 miles per hour to be maintained up stream, on the basis of a load of two thousand tons.

To Be Elaborately Fitted. Thirty men are working on the boat last Saturday. The boat will be fitted with electric searchlight and electric appliances, and every convenience that can be devised. In addition, the boat is to be fitted with large oil tanks, so that it will be able to run on oil. It will be found that the company will be in a position to handle the output.

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long ago as 1874, his report being published in the biological survey of Canada. Near this spot, Mr. Law states that for a long time there has been a continuous flow of oil, which has been analyzed and found to be of very high-grade quality.

Two other boats to be built. Two other boats, Mr. Law says, are to be built by the company—one for the waterways below the Chutes, and another for the Mackenzie River. The latter boat will be the largest of all, he states.

At the present time, Mr. Law says, that the Thomas interests have over 50 men exploring the north country. Considerable investigation has been made of the tar sands, eight billion tons of which are estimated to be in sight from the northern rivers. Mr. Law says the company are paying no attention at all to the asphalt, which they consider a waste product that will not pay for transportation, but from analyses that have been made it is expected that a tremendous revenue will be derived at no distant date from the by-products of tar sands, such as ammonia, nitrogen, fertilizers, aniline dyes, gasoline, kerosene and lubricating oil.

Bituminous Coal. In the Peace Pass, above Hudson's Hope, Mr. Law says his men have located seams of high-grade bituminous coal, such as exist in the Peace Pass, and in the Omicron district prospectors have discovered a lead of gold-bearing sulphide ore.

Accompanying Mr. Law to Fort Vermilion was Dr. T. O. Bosworth, the prominent geologist and petroleum mining engineer, who some time ago gave an address before the Industrial Association in Edmonton, and who has spent many months in the north on behalf of private capitalists. Dr. Bosworth, who is not connected with the Thomas interests, says that had it not been for the war, a great deal of capital would have been available for the development of northern resources, but he still has hopes that in the near future some of the work he has long hoped for will be undertaken.

To Lecture in London. After his investigations this season, Dr. Bosworth will lecture in London, England, before the Institute of Petroleum Technologists. He has explored every other northern waterway but it was for the purpose of completing his work that he undertook the present trip.

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