

Mentioned in Despatches

HA-RA.—It remains for a journalist to get the real scoop of the war in the matter of wounds. A Japanese journalist by the name of Ha-ra wanted to see what the war was like, so joined a Sikh regiment in India. Later he was transferred to England and joined a Middlesex battalion, where an Irish comrade dubbed him O'hara. Names do not count for much with this fighter, who has been in the hospital six times, and bears seventy wounds in his body. He has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal, and as soon as he gets out of hospital is to be given a commission in the Royal Flying Corps. Ha-ra was a Tokio newspaper man before enlisting.

SIR WALTER CASSELLS, Judge of the Exchequer Court, is one of the best known jurists in the Dominion. He was born in Quebec City in 1845, educated at the University of Toronto, and has since then been prominently identified with legal and judicial work in the Ontario capital. For years he was a member of the well known firm of Blake, Lash, Cassells & Co., was made a K. C. in 1883 and a Judge of the Exchequer Court in 1908. He was a member a few years ago of the Royal Commission appointed to investigate certain alleged irregularities in the civil service.

ALFRED G. MORRISON.—The sudden death of Mr. Alfred G. Morrison, K.C., removes one of the most prominent legal lights in the province of Nova Scotia. For several years he was Crown Prosecutor for Halifax but was even better known as a specialist in Admiralty practice and in Criminal procedure. He was an able platform speaker, a skillful debater, possessed a well-trained and well-informed mind and altogether was a force to be reckoned with in the political life of his native province. Mr. Morrison was the son of a man who in his day was a prominent figure in New Scotia's public affairs. Hon. Thomas F. Morrison represented Colchester County in the House of Assembly for a long time, later was a member of the Legislative Council, and was in his last years a member of the Provincial Cabinet under Mr. Fielding's Premiership. The old gentleman, a retired sea-captain, had great natural ability and was a powerful public speaker. His son inherited his talent of platform oratory. Alfred Sidney Morrison was born at Folliegh Village (now Glenholme) on May 31st, 1854. He was educated at the public school at Londonderry and at Pietou Academy. He started his career at the age of twenty-three as a law student, with Weatherbe and Graham (the late Sir Robert Weatherbe Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, and Sir Wallace Graham, the present Chief Justice). He then studied under Sir John Thompson, then Attorney General of Nova Scotia, and was called to the Bar on December 5th, 1882.

ARTHUR MEE.—In a social sense the two outstanding developments of the war have been the spread of prohibition and the inauguration of a system which approaches state socialism. Russia now enjoys total prohibition, France almost the same, and practically all the warring nations. England alone seems to lag behind in this respect, but there are evidences that the drink problem which Lloyd George describes as a "greater foe than Germany", is at last to be grappled with. The real leader in the movement for prohibition in England is Arthur Mee, a writer and hermit living in a little cottage on a hilltop in Kent. He is known as "Peter the Hermit", but his crusade is fraught with greater possibilities for good than any of the crusades redolent with history. Mee is preaching temperance in powerful daily newspapers as well as weeklies, in season and out of it and at last has secured a petition which has been presented to Lloyd George asking for total prohibition. The petition itself is not the largest ever signed, but it probably bears the names of more influential men than any similar petition ever secured. Altogether, there are 2,400 names, including over 1,000 magistrates and doctors, teachers, professors, bishops, 100 privy councillors and members of Parliament, ambassadors, and what is probably more significant over 100 admirals and generals and 150 military and naval men of lesser rank have signed it. Mee is hopeful that as a result of this petition and his years of arduous labor that the British Government will shortly enact a prohibitory law, at least for the duration of the war.

THE HON. JAMES LEITCH, a judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario, and first chairman of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, has died at his home in Toronto. The late judge was born in Stormont County, Ontario, in 1850, studied law and then practiced his profession in Cornwall. He was an intimate friend of the late Sir James Whitney, and owed his appointment to the Ontario Railway Board to the late premier of the Province.

SIR WILLIAM HOWARD HEARST, who is among the list of men receiving knighthood, is Premier of Ontario, a post he has occupied since the death of Sir James Whitney three years ago. Previous to assuming the premiership of Ontario he was Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines in the Whitney Cabinet. He is fifty-three years of age, was educated at the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall, practiced law at Sault Ste. Marie, and was first elected to the legislature in 1908. Premier Hearst is a prominent Methodist and a great temperance worker, and it is probably due to this combination of circumstances that he enacted a prohibition law in the Province of Ontario.

BARON GRAHAM.—The publisher and proprietor of the Montreal "Star" is now Baron Graham. In the belated New Year honor list just issued, Sir Hugh has been made a Baron, being the first journalist in Canada to receive this title. Baron Graham was born at Huntington, Quebec, in 1848, and as a lad became associated with an uncle in the publishing business. Later he was, for a short time, secretary treasurer of the Montreal "Gazette" Printing Company, but in 1869 embarked a frail canoe on the uncertain sea of Canadian journalism by founding the Montreal Daily and Weekly "Star". He has met with a very large measure of success in his work, has become rich, and built up papers with a very large circulation.

COUNT VON BERNSTORFF, the German ambassador to the United States, has been a storm centre ever since the outbreak of hostilities two and a half years ago. He has continually interfered in state matters, and through plots and intrigue has carried on a most active propaganda in favor of the Germans. Bernstorff was born in London in 1862 when his father was ambassador to the Court of St. James. Being born in England, however, does not mean that he is possessed of any pro-English sentiments. He has been one of the most bitter and implacable foes of England during the war, Bernstorff's diplomatic career is a lengthy one, including services in Cairo, Belgrade, Constantinople, Petrograd, and Washington. He has now been dismissed from the United States, and returns to his own country in safety through the kind permission of the British Government, which he has reviled for a lifetime.

PRINCE ALEXANDER, OF SERBIA.—One of the movements for the re-construction of the Balkan States is now under way and includes the amalgamation of Serbia and Montenegro as one kingdom under Prince Alexander of Serbia. The young prince is a grandson of King Nicholas of Montenegro, so that there would be no breach in the hereditary laws if he were to succeed to the throne. The big Allied nations such as Britain, France, Italy and Russia, feel that the existence of the numerous small Balkan States is conducive to strife, and that the union of two such small states as Serbia and Montenegro would make for peace and also for strength. King Nicholas of Montenegro has been a thorn in the flesh of the Allies ever since he was chased from his throne by the Austrians. He visited his daughter, who is Queen of Italy, but was not welcomed by his son-in-law, the king, and passed on to France, where he was given a villa in the city of Lyons, and a pension. The King, who is seventy-six years old, says that the climate of South France is injurious to his health, and also that the pension allowed him is inadequate. He finally got permission to visit the front line trenches. On his return he visited Paris, where he found life very pleasant and refused to leave it, and now he and his staff are quartered in two very fine houses in the French capital. The old king is an inveterate gambler and finds the very liberal pension granted him by the Allied Governments totally inadequate. Perhaps this may be one reason why the Allies are anxious to have him abdicate the throne in favor of his grandson, who, by the way, has rendered splendid service in the field ever since the outbreak of hostilities.

SIR MORTIMER DAVIS, president of the Imperial Tobacco Company, Montreal, and a director of a half score other financial and industrial corporations, has been knighted. The new knight was born in Montreal in 1866 and went into the tobacco business, in which he amassed a fortune. Sir Mortimer Davis is active in Jewish philanthropic circles, being regarded as one of the leaders of that race.

E. R. WOOD, president of the Dominion Securities Corporation, Toronto, director of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and a score of other financial and industrial corporations, has recently undergone a serious operation at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Mr. Wood is one of Canada's most prominent financial man. He got his start in life through the late Senator Cox, who decided that the young Peterboro telegraph operator would be a good man to bring to Toronto and have associated with the many Cox interests. Mr. E. R. Wood, in addition to his wide financial and commercial interests, manages to take an equally keen interest in social and philanthropic work. For years he has been president of the Y.M.C.A. in Toronto and one of its most active workers. E. R. Wood is one of the many men in Canada who has climbed to a high position through the telegrapher's key. That his hand has not lost its cunning is illustrated by the following: A few years ago the engineer of the Muskoka express found the semaphore set against him at a little wayside station. The station agent had gone home for the night and could not be located. In a little while E. R. Wood emerged from his berth, talked the matter over with the train officials, climbed through the transom over the door of the station, and called the divisional superintendent. In a little while authorization was secured and the train proceeded on its journey, all because E. R. Wood had not forgotten how to operate a key.

A BUSINESS TRIBUNAL FOR CANADA.

Commercial Interests Ask Government to Act

At an enthusiastic meeting of the Canadian Association of Retailers, Wholesalers and Manufacturers, held in the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, on Tuesday afternoon, February 6, 1917—with about 100 members present—the following resolution was passed.

"That it is the unanimous opinion of this joint meeting, consisting of manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, here assembled, that the present channels of trade through which manufacturers' products are distributed, namely the wholesale and retail trade to the consumer, are the most economic and safest, and afford the greatest convenience, and are altogether in the best interests of the public.

"In order to demonstrate the correctness of this view, we recommend that a Commission of Inland Trade be appointed by the Dominion Government with authority to investigate and wherever necessary, regulate the same.

"And that one or more persons who will make quick decisions, which will inspire the confidence of the public, be appointed thereon."—Carried unanimously.

Later a delegation of about fifty members, introduced by Senator Stanton, of Hamilton, waited upon Sir Robert Borden and Sir George Foster, and asked the Government to appoint a commission of Inland Trade for the settlement of business questions. What is wanted is the establishment of a tribunal, somewhat after the plan of the Railway Commission, before which the producing and distributing interests of the country would have a right to go to answer charges affecting their own business, a court where questions relative to price raising, formation of combines, etc., could be trashed out instead of being brought into the common courts of the country as is the case at present. Such a tribunal as is proposed would report to the Government the merits of cases brought before it and that report could be sent to the Attorney General of the province concerned, who would thus have before him the results of capable preliminary examination as a guide to prosecutions. Under our present system, important business details are frequently made public, and in some cases unwarranted odium thus attaches to the merchants involved.

The delegation also opposed the methods at present adopted in the investigation of the high cost of living.

Sir George Foster, replying, asked that practical suggestions be submitted.