

Journal of Commerce

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MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1915.

Is the Militia Department Not Up-To-Date?

In connection with the recruiting for the 60th Battalion in Montreal the following appears in the press: "For the purpose of equipping this battalion with everything up-to-date, which means that more money is required than allowed by the Militia Department, a finance committee composed of Messrs W. I. Gear, C. I. Smith, John McKerrow, and W. G. M. Shepherd has been formed."

"This committee has the power to add to their numbers and by their efforts it is expected that the necessary funds for equipping the battalion with field kitchens, etc., will be secured from among them."

The gentlemen who patriotically undertake any work of this kind for the benefit of our soldiers going to the front deserve all sympathy and support. But is not such an appeal to the public a severe reflection on the military authorities of the Dominion? It is important to mark the distinction between luxuries, extra comforts or little gifts, that may properly be added to the soldiers' outfit, and the things that are really necessary parts of his equipment. Not very long ago we had the strange spectacle of societies making pathetic appeals to the citizens for funds to be applied to the purchase of common and necessary articles of clothing for the troops. These appeals, it is pleasing to note, have ceased. Is not this call for private contributions "for the purpose of equipping this Battalion with everything up to date," open to the same criticism that was justly applied to the private supply of necessary clothing? The people of Canada, we are sure, desire that our soldiers shall be supplied with all necessary equipment, "up to date" equipment, through the moneys so promptly and liberally voted by Parliament. If "field kitchens" are the proper "up to date" machinery for supplying the troops with well-cooked food, why should they not be furnished by the Militia Department? Why should the battalions not fortunate enough to have friends like those of the 60th be obliged to submit to kitchen arrangements that are not up to date? It is likely that these differences in the kitchen equipment of the various battalions will make for contentment in our army at the front?

There are in these trying times a hundred calls for contributions to services that can best be provided by private liberality. Surely the burdens of the private citizen should not be increased by his having to supply the soldiers with that which should be furnished by the Government.

Army Clothing Contracts.

General dissatisfaction is being shown by industries in the manner in which this country has been practically disregarded by the Allied Governments in the placing of orders for war munitions. An individual industry is apt to be lost sight of. Such many be the case with various branches of the textile trades. We have in Canada upwards of two hundred factories capable of manufacturing khaki cloth, blankets, under-wear, socks, cotton duck, shirtings, and the many other articles of clothing in great demand by the Allied armies in the field yet at the present time the majority of these mills are on short time, some are closed down, while large contracts for such supplies are being placed in the United States. The demand for these supplies is very urgent. Even in Canada there is a shortage of many lines, but orders from the Allied governments are not to be had, and only a small number have been placed since early in the year.

The Canadian mills are capable of manufacturing goods equal in quality and price to the best produced in the world. Their capacity is much more than sufficient for the supplies required for the Canadian Overseas Forces, and in face of the urgent demand for clothing supplies they should be operating to capacity night and day. There are ample supplies of raw material available, and as ordinary domestic business has fallen off forty to fifty per cent., the manufacturers are eager to cater to the needs of the Allied armies. In every way conditions are most favorable to the placing of army contracts in this field. The contracts placed in Canada by the Allied Governments for such supplies have, however, been very small, while large orders have been and are being placed in the United States.

On the other hand, the business to be obtained in furnishing supplies for the Canadian forces is considerable. Canada now has nearly one hundred and fifty thousand men in the field, and these men, whether in France, England, or Canada, have to be clothed by the Canadian Government. The supplies now on hand are far from sufficient for a winter campaign, but instead of having the mills get busy now on these contracts, the orders have been held up. These contracts have to be placed eventually, while every delay means that when they are finally given out they will have to be rushed, and efficiency will not be obtained. Such was the case last fall, and a repetition of what occurred then appears to be imminent. The action is unbusinesslike, and should be remedied immediately by those in authority. These contracts would have meant activity instead of idleness during the past months, and undoubtedly would have enabled the mills to go after other business with much more confidence. The mills have been forced to hold back in the matter of purchasing raw materials, and in many other ways the industry has suffered.

The Purchasing Commission has given poor satisfaction, and has frequently shown itself to be very indifferent judges of existing conditions. Events prove that the war will last for many months longer, and nothing should be spared to assure the Canadian troops of ample clothing and other necessities. What if we have a few thousands of dollars worth of khaki cloth on hand when the war is over. A paltry saving now will do a harm that can never be righted, and would bring about a repetition of last fall's fiasco in the purchasing of clothing supplies. Such a policy would undoubtedly create more bad odor in connection with a phase of Canadian national life that has already been widely advertised. It is to be hoped that wisdom will prevail with those who have to do with the handling of this business.

German and Austrian property in Great Britain is estimated at \$500,000,000. If that were confiscated, it would go at least a little way towards paying for the war.

It is said that the Kaiser shed tears when he saw a lot of his wounded soldiers on the western battle front, while the Kaiserin fainted when a dying German officer told her that he hoped the German Emperor and his family would suffer the agonies that he suffered. The one regrettable feature of the war is that those responsible for it are not suffering as they should, but perhaps their day is coming.

Canadian factories are now turning out forty thousand shells a day, and efforts are being made to increase this to fifty thousand. The United States is turning out at least sixty thousand a day, so that the output from this continent exceeds one hundred thousand daily, giving employment to one hundred thousand men. It is authoritatively stated that it requires a full day's work of one skilled man to machine the parts of a British eighteen pounder or other shell of about the same size.

It is now just a year and a day or two since the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and his wife were assassinated by an obscure Serbian student. This act was responsible for the war which is costing millions of lives and untold treasure. Neither the Archduke nor the fanatical student were worthy of one fraction of the trouble that has been caused. Rulers have been assassinated before without the whole world being plunged into war, and there was no necessity in this case for Germany and Austria going to war.

Count Bernstorff, the German Ambassador to the United States, is quoted as saying "If Germany loses one inch of her possession in Europe, she will at once begin another era of bloated armaments." She has already lost all her overseas colonies, and stands to lose a considerable portion of her own country. The terms of peace will be so drastic, as well as the economic pressure, that she will find herself in the next hundred years unable to begin the construction of another great fleet or the building up of another great army.

In a missionary sense South America has long been spoken of as the "neglected continent." The name is equally applicable in a commercial sense in so far as Canada and the United States is concerned. The bulk of South America's trade has been with Europe; Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy capturing the major portion. Brazil, in South America, has an area of 3,318,000 square miles, and a population of nearly 21,500,000; Argentina, with an area of 1,135,000 square miles, and a population of over 7,100,000, is another important country, while Chile, Peru, Uruguay and other rapidly growing countries present unequalled opportunities for the development of trade.

"NOT MEN—BEASTS."

An officer at the front, who is in a responsible position, writes to a friend—a man of standing in the city of London—a letter which the latter has sent to us. From it we take these passages: "I wish I could chat about—but that is impossible. I can, however, tell you how hospitals full of our wounded have been taken by the Huns, and when retaken by us every wounded man was dead—bayoneted while lying helpless. I may, at least, be allowed to tell you how a certain headquarters hospital of a Canadian contingent was found by the Huns, and every helpless man in it burned to death. I could make your flesh creep with the bare recital of the studied bestiality of the Germans—of crucified wounded nailed to barn doors with bayonets, of women who have handed over young daughters to the British private soldier for protection before they themselves dared to indulge in the luxury of death.

"I tell you here and now Germans are not men. They are beasts, and every man with German blood in his veins should have no place in England now. If ever they are turned out of the country I hope to God they will be kept out for good, so that this war may not have been fought in vain. Forgive me. We feel rather warm on this subject when we see by the papers that German prisoners have pincies; and, by the way, what particular politician is being indemnified by the inmates of Donington Hall?"

WHEAT CROP REPORT.

The greatest crop of wheat ever grown by a nation in the world's history is predicted by the Department of Agriculture. The Washington experts, basing their estimate on figures gathered by federal agents throughout the land, announce that a billion-bushel harvest is indicated. Should that enormous quantity be gathered next fall, the United States would have upward of 385,000,000 bushels of wheat to export during the coming year.

It is thought that domestic consumption will reach about 535,000,000 bushels for food purposes and about 80,000,000 bushels for seedling. With the foreign demand and the consequent high price as incentives, American farmers last fall sowed the largest area ever planted to winter wheat in this country—40,169,000 acres—and this spring an additional 19,248,000 acres were sown.

This is but one inspiring example of the great natural resources with which this land is blessed. Now let the new Federal Employment Bureau round up harvest hands that the farmers may be able to get through the busy harvest season without trouble!

BELGIUM AS A GERMAN COLONY.

The German Governor-General of Belgium, Baron von Bissing, has now published the Budget for Belgium for 1915. It shows a deficit of \$920,000, and he states that a means of making it up will have to be found later.

BUSINESS CONVALESCENT.

Sentiment in business circles is more cheerful than at any time since the gradual recovery from the war shock started. This cheerfulness is based on facts, not hope, at present.

SPEED.

The gasoline engine, which made possible the flying machine and the automobile, has arisen and come to perfection within the lifetime of men who are still in college. Will there be any other wonders equal to this for the generation who are babies now to see? On day last month, in Indianapolis, a young man moved upon the earth at the rate of ninety miles an hour for several hours. Barring an occasional kirshab of a few minutes on a few miles of railroad, this is the fastest motion of a human being on the surface of the earth. For time measured in hours, this generalization is certainly true. Compared to what the modest young American did, the chariot races of Rome were the awkward playthings of babies. Ralph De Palma's official record on the Mercedes car was 500 miles in 5 hours 33 minutes and 55 1/2 seconds, the average speed being 89.84 miles an hour. The minute mechanical perfection that has been achieved by the automobile makers during the past few years is suggested by the fact that only four years ago, in 1911, the record was 74.89 miles an hour. In the race this year the tenth car beat the fastest car of 1911. Among these ten cars, six were American built. The young man who did this unprecedented thing at Indianapolis is Italian born. He came to America when he was six years old, never drinks alcohol, never smokes, and leads the life of clean restraint which makes his nerves and muscles possible. Compared to him, the fat Nervos who used to plug around the Coliseum were pikers.

EVERY INCH A KING.

King Victor Emmanuel of Italy is another Albert of Belgium. He lives with his soldiers as a comrade, goes into the trenches with them, and eats the same food as they. He is a little fellow physically, but "every inch a king."

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Now that the Germans are making straw hats out of wood the mystery of the blockhead may soon be solved.—Wall Street Journal.

"I have some money to invest and I'd like to take a little flyer. Can you give me a good tip?" "Certainly. Try aviation stock."—Baltimore American.

"I think," said the editor, in a worried tone, "that I will drop journalism and take to astronomy." "Why?" "Because astronomers have more space than they know what to do with."—Herald and Presbyter.

An Irish soldier complained that the soup supplied in his billet was very thin. "Well, now, I'll tell ye how they make it," he said to his sergeant. "They pour in a quart of water, and then they bile it down to a pint to make it strong!"

A Sunday School teacher had been telling her class of little boys about crowns of glory and heavenly rewards for good people. "Now, tell me," she said, at the close of the lesson, "who will get the biggest crown?" "There was silence for a minute or two, then a bright little chap piped out: "His wot's got 't biggest 'ead."—Tit-Bits.

A small henpecked, worried-looking man was about to take an examination for life insurance. "You don't dissipate, do you?" asked the physician, as he made ready for tests. "Not a fast liver, or anything of that sort?" "The little man hesitated a moment, looked a bit frightened, then replied, in a small, piping voice: "I sometimes chew a little gum."

When the waiter saw the diner gather up all the change from the plate, leaving not so much as a threepenny bit behind, he bent down and said in a sorrowful voice: "Beg pardon, but haven't you forgotten something, sir?" "The cynical diner sneered at that classic question. "I don't think so," he said, coldly. "Are you sure, sir?" the waiter softly persisted. "Yes," said the diner, "quite sure." Then he frowned, and asked angrily, "Why, what did you think I had forgotten?" The waiter, perceiving his case hopeless, said, cuttingly: "Usually, I believe, sir, you take a soup ladle, a coffee-pot, or a half-dozen fish-knives with you, sir. That's all, sir."

"AND ITS WAR."

A tent that is pitched at the base. A wagon that comes from the night. A stretcher—and on it a "case"—An orderly holding a light; The infantry's bearing the brunt—O hark to the wind-carried cheer! A thunder of guns at the front, A whimper of sobs at the rear.

And its war! "Orderly, hold the light! Lay him down on the table—so! Easily, careful—thanks! You may go, And its War—but the part that is not for show!

A tent with a table athwart, A table laid neatly for one, A waterproof cover and naught But the limp, mangled work of a gun A bottle that's stuck by a pole, A guttering dip in its neck, The flickering light of a soul On the wondering eyes of the wreck.

And its War "Orderly, hold his hand! I'm not going to hurt you—don't be afraid! A splinter of shell (what a mess it has made!) And its War—very unhealthy trade! The clink of a stopper and glass, A sign, as the chloroform drips A trickling stream on the grass, And bluer and bluer the lips, The lashes have hidden the stare; A touch and the clothes fall away, A cut and the wound is laid bare, Another . . . the fact has turned gray.

And its War! "Orderly, take it out! Pretty rough luck on his children and wife; There might have been—sooner—a chance for his life! And its War—And, orderly—clean this knife!" —Edgar Wallace.

A SODDEN NATION.

Great Britain not only feels alarmed over the military successes of Germany, but is keenly humiliated by the fact that the golden opportunity to make a drive in Flanders when the Germans are busily occupied in sweeping the Russians out of Galicia is apparently to be lost because the British forces are not able to keep up with the French in assuming an aggressive offensive. If England had piled up a large enough store of ammunition the war might now be won toward its final determination. This is the prevailing belief in Great Britain. It is one of the greatest disappointments England has endured for a century.

Since the battle of Waterloo the English have been so accustomed to success that it is common to hear that the nation is "drunken with power." Now it finds to its dismay that its workmen are so sodden with alcohol, so benumbed by a low standard of living and so indifferent to the fate of the nation that they are both unable and unwilling to make the sacrifices that are necessary if the nation is to endure. If it were not for the universal fear of Prussian militarism, the neutral nations of the world would look upon the plight of Great Britain without serious regret. A country that cannot do more to build up sober, self-respecting and efficient working people may deserve to have its history come to an inglorious close. It is only the knowledge that its place would be taken by Germany that makes the neutrals hope that the British machine may still be pulled together for an effort to match the splendid sacrifices and achievements of the republic of France.

THE WAR GOES ON.

The war goes on, and it's going to some place, though it is hard to say just where. But it is improving for the Allies none the less. Their organization, their armies, their resources are growing; most of all, their morale improves in every way. Their cause commands the respect of living men and will be justified by history. And that's a lot. The recession has struck for Germany, and it's not a highly religious note—it is a retreat to Hades, with piteous accompaniment. The Kaiser grows more like the devil daily. If we ever forget the devil side of the Kaiser's record we will deserve to run up against him once more. But the great incentive to the allies in this regard is "Never Again!"

Exhaustion of credit is one of the coming features of this war. It will come to Britain last; it has probably already come to Germany, though the proof of it is for the time screened from the eyes of the common enemy. England is finding new sources of income and extending her credit, even negotiating it for her allies. Next to credit is ammunition, and Lloyd George is likely to be a generous provider in this respect. We are getting down to the business; Germany is getting down to the business! The American system of rediscounting in national notes against securities lodged with the new system of national reserve banks is likely to be used to widen the credit of the allies in the States. Why shouldn't we do the same in Canada?

MARRIED MEN AT THE FRONT.

Englishmen with families agreed some time ago to enlist if their services were needed. The request for such pledges may or may not have been made to test the war spirit of the nation, but the married Englishmen responded, if not with enthusiasm, certainly with a determined purpose to see the thing through, now that the issues are drawn. The unmarried men, however, are not so patriotic. Home-makers who gave their word are being called to the colors, and there is a widespread feeling of contempt for those bachelors who are remaining at home in comfort instead of responding to the general summons. The bachelor usually has none but himself to care for. He can talk war with a feeling that if it comes and he should enlist no women and children will be left in need when he is gone. But no married man with any sense of his responsibilities will urge his nation into war unless there is a grave cause.

THE READING HABIT.

It is a well-known fact that a person may have the reading habit without deriving much benefit from it, says W. F. Purdew, writing in Farm and Home. The indiscriminate devouring of novels, for example, is not a profitable occupation, though a very common one; but the reading of good books, books that are real literature, history, biography, essays, poetry, high-class fiction means an education in itself, and whoever chooses his books well and learns to find pleasure in them need never regret any early deficiencies of school training, for the best results that can come from school is to learn how to read and to like to read.

Someone has said that any man who will read thoroughly four good books a year will be a well-educated man by the time he has read one hundred volumes. A lover of books is reasonably certain to read more than four in a year, so that on this basis the progress of his mental development may be readily estimated.

WHAT DOES MRS. GRUNDE SAY?

(From the Regina, Sask., Province Standard.) The Editor: In regard to the case so fully reported in the papers of Hoppe vs. Grundt, there are some things I want to make clear. In the first place, I was not planning to run away with Mrs. Hoppe, as stated. She asked me to buy her a ticket to a moving picture show, saying she had no money. I was not running away from Hoppe, either, but only to avoid arrest. The black eye on which the reporters commented was not received from the hands of Hoppe, but from an incident while splitting wood. Hoppe and his friends attacked me in the back at the theatre, and some of them were holding me while Hoppe did all the damage he managed to do.

The Day's Best Editorial

GOD'S COUNTRY.

(The Banker Farmer.) When all our roads are good roads; when country schools are good schools; when farms produce larger yields at greater profits; when farmers unite to uphold rural life— Then the children of the farm will scorn to desert this fairest of places for crowded cities; population will be more evenly divided for many who struggle for a crust in the city will find plenty in the country; wealth will be more evenly divided; there will be less of the doctrine of hate and more of the gospel of love; there will be more HAPPINESS. This is the future of God's Country if you and I lend our aid. It means a wonderful future—not in dollars alone—but in a contented, successful people, constituting an industrial and agricultural republic, peaceful and prosperous beyond compare. What an incentive—what an opportunity for the banker! Isn't it worth fighting for?

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THE WAY BACK TO THE LAND.

(Grain Growers' Guide.) We hope that the Toronto News will concentrate its powers of thinking upon this question of getting the people back to the land. If it does so we believe it will eventually come to the same conclusion that the thinking men in the organized farmers' movement came to long ago, namely, that in order to induce more people to go upon the land in Canada and develop the great natural resources of this Dominion, it is not necessary to offer bonuses or grants or special privileges of any kind, but simply to remove the artificial burdens which have been placed upon the producers of the farmers and other producers by the protective tariff, high railway rates, excessive interest charges and the holding of land out of use for speculation.

The progressive farmers of Canada will be delighted to have the co-operation of the Toronto News in their fight for free trade and equality of opportunity.

THE LAND OF PRETTY SOON.

I know a land where the streets are paved with the things we meant to achieve. It is walled with the money we meant to have saved. And the pleasures for which we grieve. The kind words unspoken, the promises broken. And many a coveted boon. Are stowed away there in that land somewhere. The land of Pretty Soon.

There are jewels uncut of possible fame. Lying about in the dust. And many a noble and lofty aim Covered with mould and rust. Is farther away than the moon. And Oh! this place, while it seems so near. Though our purpose is fair, we never get there. The land of Pretty Soon. —Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

STOCK TRADE

LOW EBB IN NEW YORK. Selling Orders Account are on Hand. Not Pressed Today. VOLUME NOT HEAVY.

Exclusive Leased Wire to Journal. New York, June 30.—Volume of business in the stock market was smaller than in the past, and stocks as a rule were quiet. A disappointing although not a cause of liquidation for foreign investors were fairly well taken. Steel opened 1/4 off, at 60 1/4 and closed 1/4 lower.

Can opened unchanged at 4 1/2 and so there were rumors that the Can Cor. would start large war order. Missouri Pacific opened 1/2 off at 6 1/2. Started with sales at 9 1/4 and 9 1/2. 1 1/2 at the close on Tuesday.

Canadian Pacific lost 1/2 over night. New York, June 30.—Stock was not a little decline at the opening and the pool in some industrials to renew the result of this was a fairly brisk. At 10:30 o'clock prices generally were up and trading was on a fairly good volume, however, seemed to meet stock. Crucible Steel advanced 1 1/2 to 32 1/2. appeared to be the basis of the buying. There was good volume of activity in Rubber and the stock advanced 1 1/2 to 4 1/2. appeared to be large short interest and indicated that there would be either a cash 4 for 4 per cent. basis, or a declaration of 4 per cent. but with payment in scrip. There was a large volume of activity in American Smelting and Refining advanced 1/2 to 10 1/2. Close observers said there had been accumulation of that stock and it was an increase in the dividend was not far off.

New York, June 30.—Activity was sparse all the hour and the market was thin both times when a little buying sufficed up and periods when stocks declined on sales. There was a disinclination to commitments on account of the approach of recess. The Street taking it for granted Exchange would close on Saturday and was almost entirely in the hands of professional account. Foreign transactions being put through on the Exchange represented part of the foreign liquidation in securities as a great deal of business is being private negotiation.

New York, June 30.—No definite tendency to the market in the second hour but up and the volume of business was could be expected in view of the approach of recess.

New York Central showed some strengthening of a favorable statement of earnings for month of May which will probably be Thursday.

It was asserted that over 90 per cent. of those convertibles have been deposited for new issue, and it was estimated that when this would be released out of the street about \$2,000,000.

Weakness in exchange accentuated the foreign liquidation of stocks and bonds not in this market and reconciled the Street to although it was admitted that prices could advance much while it continued.

New York, June 30.—Trading was at the early afternoon and prices showed a slight improvement as a result of neglect than of stock.

The selling for foreign account was not through great many selling orders have been produced no effect on the market. It was thought that the cotton report to be published on the case in monthly report on other commodities a week later.

Missouri, Kansas and Texas issues were on the 24. Selling was said to be largely for A. Baldwin Locomotive sold off rather easily. A banker in close touch with the situation in Europe, but that volume has not been estimated 25,000 to 50,000 shares were sold off in June, a small amount when it is considered. Great Britain alone holds close to 75 per cent. of the common.

The fact that the corporation is now open to 85 and 90 per cent. capacity with many prospects for resumption of dividends, has encouraged holders on. The banker added a partial resumption of dividends on Steel would check a great deal of foreign selling and was going on. This belief may result in a dividend and then expected three months ago. Earnings have been running at rate of 7 per cent. and 5 per cent. on common for three months. Third quarter is expected to be of more than 8 per cent. on the common.

MONTREAL CURB TRANSACTION. Tram Power—50 at 43 1/2, 300 at 43 1/2, 150 at 44. 150 at 44 1/2, 175 at 44 1/2, 225 at 44 1/2, 125 at 44 1/2, 280 at 44 1/2, 250 at 44 1/2, 125 at 44 1/2, 115 at 44 1/2, 50 at 44 1/2, 410 at 44 1/2, 18 at 44 1/2, 115 at 44 1/2, 4.50 at 44 1/2. Can. Pacific Notes—\$800 at 103 1/2, \$900 at 103 1/2, \$1,000 at 103 1/2. Carriage Factors, prd.—25 at 75.

BANK OF ENGLAND GOLD. London, June 30.—Bank of England bought 400 bar gold and set aside \$50,000 gold in so for miscellaneous purposes.