

The Toronto World

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SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 23.

Amateur Diplomacy

President Wilson has made no great impression upon Europe by his ill-advised note, and some United States newspapers believe he has spoiled any chances he may ever have had to become a real ambassador of peace. The whole manner and method of the note was crude and irritating. The tact suggestion that there is no difference between those who invaded Belgium and those who came to her rescue robs Mr. Wilson's "neutrality" of any weight or value. His disclaimer that Germany had anything to do with the issue of the note, is evidently necessary, and he must have felt it to be necessary, for it reads as tho he had just been having a session with Bernstorff. The harsh quality of the note was followed by the rash explanation of Secretary Lansing, which had to be explained in turn. Were it not for the profound gravity of the whole situation, the episode would be the prime joke of diplomatic history.

President Wilson appears to view the European clash of arms as a political move in America might view a faction fight in the party. The "get together" attitude which he assumes towards the great powers would be insulting from a man of European experience. As it is the president's personal influence as the Washington Government is an influence at the international council board. He is as unfamiliar with the methods of diplomacy as the European diplomats may be presumed to be with the methods of the Chicago wheat pit. This would matter little if he did not show himself to be as oblivious of the principles involved in the European struggle. He is evidently merely weary of a war in which he takes no personal interest. No doubt the recent presidential election regarded as a matter of infinitely more moment. The race of Belgium and the Lusitania massacre left him cold. Why should he endeavor then?

One thing is apparent and that is the anxiety of Germany to take advantage of the president's blunder. Germany will obviously go a long way for peace, and President Wilson acts as tho he were aware of it. Germany, like all bullies, is yellow. While she was winning she bragged, and we did not squeal. Perhaps had we squealed, we should have had more of President Wilson's sympathy. Now that Germany is squealing and we are feeling less like losing than we have done for two years, President Wilson uses his ears instead of his imagination and interferes, in fact, if not by intention, on behalf of Germany. There will be a unanimous and identical note from the allies to tell him that the time for peace is not yet.

Publicity in the Making of Tariffs

Whether we have a higher tariff or a lower tariff, or no tariff at all, it is reasonably certain that for some time the Dominion Government will devote the major portion of its revenue from customs duties, and so impose those duties as to protect Canadian industry. Hence, from time to time, we may expect tariff revision, and we may fairly enquire whether these revisions will continue to be made in the same old way.

One need not agree with the extreme free-trade views of the western grain growers in order to see that public opinion is likely to be more critical in the future of the way in which the tariff schedules are made up and maintained. More and more are the consumers likely to organize and insist upon presenting their claims, and having them given consideration.

Following the British precedent our tariff is changed in the twinkling of an eye. The moment the finance minister concludes his budget speech the tariff changes he has proposed come into force as the law of the land. True, the house must concur in these changes, but under our rigid party system the house concurs as a matter of course with whatever the government proposes. The budget debate and the discussion in the committee of ways and means are in the nature of a post-mortem. Those who are disposed to be critical find themselves condemning an accomplished fact.

What makes the situation more peculiar is that all tariff discussion is considered out of order before the budget speech has been delivered. Only a session or two ago some member, on going into supply, moved a resolution in favor of free wheat. He was at once sternly rebuked by Hon. Mr. Rogers, who happened to be leading the house, for anticipating the budget debate. No tariff changes, the minister said, could be discussed until after the delivery of the budget speech. This seemed to be generally accepted as the correct view, but when later on a government supporter spoke in favor of free wheat during the budget debate, he was both privately and publicly rebuked for opposing the

VOCIFEROUS BUT QUITE DEAF

policy of the government. He was told, in effect: "It is too late now for you to discuss the tariff, because the budget speech has been already delivered." Thus, discussion on tariff is almost foreclosed in the house, and there is little opportunity for public discussion of it elsewhere. The tariff bill is framed by the cabinet, and its members are bound by oath not to reveal its contents. What they finally decide upon comes, or is supposed to come, to the house and the country in the nature of a surprise.

In the United States a different policy is pursued. The tariff bill being introduced in the house is referred to the select committee of ways and means. That committee hears all interests, including the consumers' organizations. The latter are often represented by counsel, and, require manufacturers seeking higher duties to be sworn and cross-examined. The hearings are public, and the testimony is printed. The testimony taken before the house committee of ways and means, when the Underwood Act was being framed, occupies no less than six bulky volumes, a record equivalent to the Hansard for a long session of the Dominion Parliament.

There are some objections to the U. S. system, and perhaps a better method might be found in the appointment of a tariff board or commission. This was proposed by the Borden Government in 1912, but for some reason defeated by the senate. The tariff will never be taken out of politics in so far as the principle of protection is involved, but many of its schedules ought to be framed in a more or less scientific manner upon sworn testimony, and well-digested statistics. We do not think it likely that for a long time to come Canada will abandon the national policy, but Ontario people will be foolish to shut their eyes to the growing power of the free trade agitation in the west. From the western provinces at the next election, twenty, or perhaps thirty members of parliament will come pledged to attend neither party caucus. They may hold the balance of power in the next house. Will these western members align themselves with Quebec, instead of with Ontario, the motherland and natural ally of the west? Much will depend upon the way in which Ontario people address themselves to the problems of the west, and much will also depend upon the publicity which attends the next revision of the tariff.

A Great Charity

Mrs. Lloyd George has appealed from Downing street in a personal letter on behalf of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society. The cause, she says, is very near her heart, and it voices the empire's gratitude in a variety of ways to our sailors. The society has been entrusted by the authorities with definite responsibility for the immediate welfare of aged mothers, widows and orphans of the heroic seamen who have fallen whilst on active service, and there is no need that appeals more profoundly to the whole empire than the need of the dependents of those without whom the empire could not continue in being.

A sum of \$260,000 is required, not a large sum in comparison with some of the amounts which have been asked for, and those who desire to contribute direct to Mrs. Lloyd George, Downing street, London, S.W., England, she says, would give her "personal pleasure to receive their gifts."

CANARY SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS

The annual meeting of the National Canary Society was held in Occident hall on Thursday night, when Mr. A. N. Smille occupied the chair. Secretary Barber, presented his annual report, which showed the society to be in a flourishing condition, many new fanciers were enrolled as members during the year. The annual show was one of the best and most successful quality shows yet held, the judge, John W. Hinde was at his best and his work was very favorably commented upon.

The following gentlemen were elected for the ensuing year: Hon. President, W. F. Ardagh; hon. vice-president, Central J. O'Neill; president, Frank C. Ward; vice-president, Alvin E. Ward; secretary-treasurer, Victor Barber; delegate to Canadian National Exhibition W. P. Ardagh.

GETTING OUT DEAD.

The serious illness of three of the important witnesses will seriously hinder the investigation of the causes of the Quaker Oats fire at Peterboro, reported E. P. Heaton, fire marshal, who returned from Peterboro yesterday. The attention of the company is now directed to recovering the bodies of those who lost their lives when the factory burned.

SUIT IS DISMISSED.

Judge Winchester in the county court yesterday dismissed the action of J. E. Goldring against the Warren Bituminous Paving Company of Ontario, for \$500 damages sustained when his auto was struck by a motor truck of the company on July 4, at Adelaide and Portland streets.

LAWRENCE SMITH RELEASED.

Lawrence Smith, held by the police on a charge of vagrancy in connection with the sudden death of Mrs. Edith Purcell in a garage at the rear of 12 Admiral road recently, appeared in the court yesterday and was discharged. A post-mortem examination showed the woman's death to be due to heart failure.

FROM BOYS IN TRENCHES.

Six carloads of mail from the soldier boys in Britain and France to the folks at home arrived at the general postoffice yesterday morning. In all there were 240,000 pounds of mail matter, and the cars that conveyed it were packed to the roof. The total postage on the whole is estimated at \$15,000.

VOCIFEROUS BUT QUITE DEAF



SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION SETS REMARKABLE RECORD

Distributes Thirty-Eight Thousand Gifts to Relatives of Fighters.

Only those who were present at one or more of the entertainment given by the Sportsmen's Association, which has framed anything like an adequate idea of the amount of work, planning and preparation not to speak of expense, in connection with the series of concerts and the accompanying distribution of presents to the mothers and children of the men at the front.

HEAVY ARTILLERY DUEL OBTAINS AT MONASTIR

Fire Reaches Great Intensity—Patrols Fight Along Struma.

Paris, Dec. 22.—An artillery duel of great intensity occurred north of Monastir on Thursday, the war office announced in today's statement regarding operations on the Macedonian front.

Soldiers Return in Time to Spend Christmas With Friends

Arrangements have been made for the party of invalided soldiers who arrived on the "Northland" to return to Toronto tomorrow, Sunday morning, thus giving them the opportunity to spend Christmas with their relatives. In the party of 30 are 28 Toronto men. They are: Pte. B. Arthur, 28 Edwin; Pte. A. Ashleigh, 28 Deliver; Sgt. M. Jarvis, 604 Long street; Pte. S. M. McKinnon, 27 Orchard View Boulevard; Pte. C. Davies, 27 Baltic avenue east; Pte. G. Dick, 24 St. Clare's; Pte. G. Cox, 11 Worts avenue; Corp. G. S. Freeman, 15 Ashbridge Pte. D. H. Hulbert, 325 Jarvis street; Pte. W. T. Jemmett, 44 West Ford street; Pte. H. Jones, 113 River street; Corp. L. H. Mansell, 487 Main street; Pte. C. Matthews, 25 Galley avenue; Bombardier J. Oliver, 23 Pickering; Pte. T. Polton, 455 Dundas; Pte. E. Freese, General Delivery; Pte. E. Perry, 797 Euclid avenue; Sgt. J. Samson, 334 Oiler avenue; Sgt. F. P. Simpson, 399 King E.; Pte. G. Smith, 185 Kendall avenue; Pte. G. Smith, 355 Church; Pte. J. H. Rothwell, 234 Sinclair; Pte. J. Thomas, General Delivery; Pte. G. Ward, 1714 Spadina avenue; Pte. A. C. White, 297 Vaughan road; Pte. H. G. Williams, 776 Dufferin; Pte. R. Williams, 72 Haydon street.

TREAT FOR ITALIAN KINDERGARTEN.

The kindergarten of the Casa Methodist Italians at 66 Elm street, together with their mothers, were given a Christmas treat under the direction of Miss Martin. The children sang patriotic songs after which the gifts which had been given by Sunday school classes and others interested were distributed.

GIFTS FOR PATIENTS.

Beautiful fancy baskets trimmed with holly were filled with choice fruit by Miss Mary Ryan, convener of the hospital committee of the Rotary Hall Guild, and her assistants, and made ready for distribution to the General Hospital, St. Michael's, the Western, Grace, Sick Children's Hospital and the Hospital for Incurables.

MONEY GOES TO POOR FOUND IN CONGREGATION

Mr. Justice Hodgins Construes Will of Late Mary McGregor.

At Osgoode Hall yesterday Mr. Justice Hodgins construed the will of Miss Mary McGregor, of the township of North Elmsley, Lanark, who bequeathed a share of her estate amounting to about \$1,800, to "the poor in Baptist churches, poor in this world's goods, and the Home Mission in equal shares." The executors found difficulty in saying who were the "poor" in this world's goods, in Baptist churches, and a suggestion was made that the money should be devoted to the superannuation fund of ministers and their families. His lordship found against this suggestion and the money is to be paid to the poor found as members of the congregations.

Action of A. T. Hill Against Grand Trunk is Dismissed

The suit of A. T. Hill against the G. T. R. for \$500 damages in respect to injuries alleged to have been caused by the negligence of one of the company's engineers was dismissed with costs by Judge Winchester and a jury in the county court yesterday. On June 30th last, the plaintiff was crossing the track on Ontario street, Burlington, in an auto when he was struck by a locomotive which he claims was going faster than ten miles an hour. He also alleged that the crossing should have been guarded. The G. T. R. denied all negligence.

The Record Long Distance Wireless Communication

The longest stretch over which commercial wireless messages have ever been sent extends from Hawaii to Tokyo, a distance of 3,355 miles. Wireless communication was established between the United States and Japan November 15, via this route, when the president sent greetings to the Japanese emperor.

CHESTERFIELD SAID "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well." This principle has been applied to the manufacture of "Winged Wheel" Watch Cases for more than 30 years. This trade mark is never placed upon any case that we cannot fully warrant as to quality and workmanship. THE AMERICAN WATCH CASE CO. OF TORONTO, LIMITED. The largest makers of Watch Cases in the British Empire.

REQUESTS WILSON TO OBTAIN PEACE

Letter of Bertrand Russell, English Pacifist, Reaches United States.

GIRL BRINGS MESSAGE

Recipients Conceal Identity of Bearer—Will Send It to Washington.

New York, Dec. 22.—A girl who came to America as a messenger from Bertrand Russell, a British pacifist writer, delivered to the American Neutral Conference today an open letter from Mr. Russell addressed to President Wilson, appealing to him to "bring peace to Europe." The letter was sent by messenger to evade the British censor. The name of its bearer was not disclosed thru fear of making trouble for her should she return to England.

Three members of the conference committee, George Post, Pease, Paul Kellogg and Miss Emily Greene Balch, were selected to carry the letter to President Wilson, and left here tonight for Washington. Mr. Russell, who is the heir of Earl Russell, and was a lecturer and fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, recently was fined \$500 for having written a pamphlet opposing conscription in England. He also was prohibited from coming to the U. S. to lecture at Harvard, and was forbidden to enter any prohibited area in London.

HUNS DENOUNCED AT BALTIMORE MEETING

President of Princeton University Strongly Condemns Belgian Deportations.

Baltimore, Dec. 22.—The deportation of Belgians by Germany was strongly denounced at a mass meeting here tonight, called to protest against the action. Dr. John Grier Hibben, president of Princeton University, declaring it to be a "crime against the progressive civilization of the world," and insisting that there should not even be a discussion of the possibility of peace until Germany has given to Belgium and the world some assurance that the undesired wrongs of that stricken country are to be righted.

"You're a Colonel," Wire Said "I'm Not," Bury Wire Back

Montreal, Dec. 22.—There is at least one man in Canada who had the courage to resist military decoration. Some time ago when the ex-minister was creating colonels by the dozen, he wired George Bury, vice-president of the C. P. R., simply that he was a colonel, but Bury could not see matters in this ridiculous light and replied to Sir John Mark Irish with "More Mutilations," Archbishop McNeill on "Co-operation," and President Falconer on "Victorious New Year." An informal dance will follow.

FAIR EXECUTIVE MEETS.

The members of the executive of the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, met in the secretary's office, parliament buildings, yesterday. The following recommendations were made: That the classes for shepherds, weavers and grade helpers be eliminated from the prize list, and that breeding pens of the leading varieties of poultry be added to the 1917 list, with an entry fee of \$4.00.

HUBBY'S TROUBLES.

Rose—Does anything make you husband unhappier than having your relatives for a visit? Lily—Yes, having his own—Life.

New Banqueting Table is Suspended From Chandelier

A Milwaukee restaurant keeper has constructed a legless banqueting table. It has no supports beneath it, but is firmly in position by two pipes which are fastened to chandeliers immediately above it. The inventor claims many advantages for this sort of banqueting board. By merely unscrewing the pipes from the chandeliers the table can be removed after a meal, and the floor thus cleared for dancing, or entirely occupied by banquettes and others who wish to listen to after-dinner speaking. The advantages of tables like this when the floor is to be cleaned is obvious.

REV. ROBT. WHILLANS DEAD.

Special to The Toronto World. Toronto, Alta, Dec. 22.—Rev. Robt. Whillans, retired Presbyterian clergyman, formerly of Ottawa, died this afternoon, aged 75.

EDDY'S MATCHES

Although somewhat increased in price owing to the continued high prices of potash, glue and other raw material, are of the usual high standard of quality which has made them famous for two-thirds of a century.

ALWAYS ASK FOR EDDY'S MATCHES

LAST CHANCE TODAY TO SEE GREAT FILM "King's Visit to Armies" in Many Ways Best War Picture Yet Seen.

AUSTRIANS BOMBARD HOSPITAL AT GORIZIA

Italians Make Surprise Advances on Carso Plateau, Occupying Hollows.

Rome, Dec. 22, via London.—The war office communication today says: "Along the whole front there have been desultory artillery actions. The military hospital in Gorizia was again shelled despite its protection by visible Red Crosses. Of the sanitary personnel two were killed and four wounded. "On the Carso our troops by surprise advances occupied several crater-like hollows in the limestone and put them in state of defence. "Hostile aircraft attempted to make raids over our lines, but promptly were driven off by anti-aircraft batteries. A few bombs were dropped on Grigno, in the Sugana Valley, on Caluso and Otten in the valley of Piave, and on Verotico, southeast of Gorizia, causing no casualties or damage."

GERMAN LINE MAY PAY UP.

Special to The Toronto World. Montreal, Dec. 22.—The Hamburg-American Line have not yet paid their rental here amounting to \$12,000 which they owe at the beginning of the war, consequently the American Express Co., their landlords, are glad to learn that the German steamship line are going into business again, as there may be a possibility of payment.

PLAYERS

Richard, lined him, utilizes him, witness "The Bird Tontaker Flame," which tabulated a season. It is a play for in "The offering Theatre for Monday night. He plays a—in fact he interpretation personal as different w "HER "Psychiat to the whi in its plac the soup," a band's W will present Christmas fine Mond is apt to b in a wonderl discrimina further tha for psychia about whic rental here amounting to \$12,000 which they owe at the beginning of the war, consequently the American Express Co., their landlords, are glad to learn that the German steamship line are going into business again, as there may be a possibility of payment.

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O'Keefe's AS GOOD AS EVER! Continue to enjoy the same wholesome brews you have always favoured. The O'Keefe quality is strictly maintained in the same bottles with the same labels. Pilsener Lager Special Extra Mild Ale Special Extra Mild Stout Old Stock Ale ORDER BY THE CASE FROM THE CONSUMERS' IMPORT CO. 245 Notre Dame St. East MONTREAL. Price List on application.