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The Mail and Advocate

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CANADA IS MENACED

SINCE the destruction of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, followed by the blowing-up of a munition plant at Hespeler, Ontario, the Dominion authorities have redoubled their vigilance in making preparations for future eventualities. There seems to be a far-reaching plot to cripple Canadian activities; and the latest discoveries point to a plot to destroy the Canadian Canal system so as to prevent the transportation of wheat to the Allies when navigation opens.

Another important development is found in the statement of an American munition manufacturer who says that nearly one-third of the munition contracts entered into by the Allies with American manufacturers actually have been let to Germans under assumed names, and that the munitions have been stored away in places not yet discovered by Canadian Secret Service agents.

A raid has been planned upon Canadian territory evidently. According to a statement made by one who is conversant with the situation—the manager of a leading munition plant—not a single rifle contracted for by the Allies in 1915 was shipped to Europe prior to last November. What became of these rifles the Canadian authorities are bending their best efforts to learn, but so far it is admitted every effort to get reliable information has met with failure.

Extra guards have been placed along the Canals; and Secret Service agents and deputies are guarding the border line between Canada and the United States, and every newcomer across the border is closely watched.

It is known that within the last three months a number of German officers with falsified passports have been coming into the United States as Belgians and Scandinavians, being carried across by Scandinavian and Norwegian vessels. This will in a measure explain the reason why the "Ontaneda" was refused coal by the Admiralty. We have not learned the precise reason for this refusal; but we know that the Admiralty must have had sufficient reasons for refusing. This should make us cautious as to the future movements of so-called neutral vessels. That we have been over lax in the past

MOSDELL'S BOOMERANGS!

THE attitude of the F.P.U. on the great public question of the day is CLEARLY DEFINED IN THE PLATFORM ADOPTED AT THE BONAVISTA CONVENTION OF THE UNION LAST YEAR. The policy is outlined in the MOST PROGRESSIVE EVER ADOPTED IN THIS COUNTRY. It is remarkable for the absence of all "Wild Cat" schemes. It takes into consideration the most pressing needs of the Country and of the People and advocates Safe, Sane and Economical methods for meeting these needs.

FROM the direct way in which it (the F.P.U. position) enunciates popular needs, department failures and administrative necessities, it proves conclusively that COAKER, THE MAN CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUTLINING THIS F.P.U. POLICY, has given the question of the day the most careful thought and has BRAINS, COURAGE AND INITIATIVE ENOUGH TO EVOLVE A CURE FOR THE ILLS OF OUR BODY POLITICS.—MOSDELL, in The Fishermen's Advocate, Dec. 20, 1913.

GERMANIC CANT

ON the occasion of Wilhelm the Butcher's birthday, religious services were celebrated throughout the German Empire; and obsequious ministers sent His Imperial Majesty bushels of congratulatory messages. In acknowledging some of these congratulatory messages, Wilhelm wrote:

"Trusting in God, in the determination of our heroic troops to win the victory, and in the self-sacrifice of the entire German nation, we can look forward with confidence to a victorious end of the bloodiest struggle in history. All hostile assaults will break to pieces upon the power of a clean conscience (it would need another washing!) with which Germany, together with her faithful allies, is waging war for existence, honor and liberty."

We wonder if Wilhelm had any bad evil dreams on the occasion and if visions of the slaughtered thousands of helpless women and suckling babes arose before his befuddled vision.

The Burgomaster of Berlin in a public speech on the occasion declared that peace under existing circumstances was out of the question, and he said:

"It is peculiar to this world war that whenever the enemy abandons an effort on account of defeat he claims an immortal place of honor in history. Whenever the Central Powers conquer new territory our enemies seek to explain it by our despondency and our weakness. Therefore our country does not talk of peace, does not earn for peace, but fights and works for peace."

The Berlin newspapers reminded the people that their Emperor had maintained peace for twenty-five years. "Now," they say, that war has come attempts are being made to present the Emperor in the false light of calumny." They express the hope that, as in the case of Abraham Lincoln, the truth will finally be recognized by the world.

The world has already recognized some very patent truths in connection with Wilhelm; and it will be a long time before humanity will recover from the stunning blows which his "blood and iron" campaign has dealt to civilization.

DRY ONTARIO AGENT CONFRONTED WITH GUN

London, Ont., Feb. 6.—Charles small, a "dry Ontario" canvasser, reports that he and a co-worker were driven out of a Chesley Avenue home at the point of a revolver in the hands of the owner of the house, who is a bitter anti-temperance man. The Prohibition Committee have decided to take no action in the case.

goes without saying, and it is now an open secret that these neutrals have been the means of affording Germany a medium of getting supplies from the United States and other neutral countries

THE HARVEST OF THE SEA

INTERESTING AND USEFUL TO THE FISHERMEN OF THE COLONY

THE LOBSTER FISHERY

THE shortage in the lobster fishery for the past two or three years should cause our fishermen, especially those living along the South Coast, to consider if it is actually worth while to waste so much valuable time and money on what is now but a very precarious venture. This fishery has taken up a good deal of the fishermen's time which might have been more profitably employed in cod fishing, and there seems to be no doubt that a good deal of injury has been wrought to other fisheries by the large quantities of gear set and the continual hauling of traps. Then, the greatest of all our fisheries has been neglected. We have heard of fishermen who spent nearly a fortnight trying to gather up a case of lobsters, while in the same vicinity many fishermen had caught in the meanwhile from six to eight quintals of fish.

Too many people have been devoting their time to the lobster fishery, and with consequently slim results. Now that the former lobster grounds have been apparently fished out, we would strongly advise them to devote their attention to the more profitable cod. The outfit costs less, and the results are more certain.

There was much ado some two three years ago about replenishing our lobster areas; and the Government spent a good deal of money experimenting with lobster pounds. It was pointed out at the time that this *modus operandi* would have no practical results; and we now state briefly the reasons: (a) Lobster fry hatched out (if they were hatched at all) are in uncongenial and unnatural surroundings, and distant from suitable food, which occurs abundantly in the open sea; (b) shore fish are great destroyers of small shell fish such as newly hatched lobster fry; (c) the expense of operation is out of proportion to the benefits that accrue from it. There are other objections to this process, which we need not enumerate.

People do not seem to realize that the lobster differs from many other edible marine animals in important characters such as the following:—

1. Lobsters are not of rapid growth, and take from four to five years to reach mature breeding size.

2. The rate of reproduction is not as is often supposed, enormous, and does not compare with that of most sea fish. The lobster produces from 10,000 to 30,000 eggs instead of from 40,000 to 60,000 as in the case of the herring, or many millions as in the case of the codfish.

3. Not all the eggs of a lobster are matured or hatched at the same time, often only a few eggs

THE PASTURE BARS.

By H. Beers, in Yale Review.

TO-NIGHT beside the pasture bars

I heard the whippoorwill,
While, one by one, the early stars
Came out above the hill.

I heard the tinkle of the spring,
I heard the cattle pass
Slow through the dark, and lingering
To crop the wayside grass.

O weary world of fret and strife,
O noisy years and vain,
What have you paid me for my life
Since last along this lane.

A barefooted boy, I drove the cows
In summer twilight still,
And passed beneath the orchard boughs
To list the whippoorwill?

Come, peace of God, that passeth
all
Our understanding's sight:
Fall on me with the dews that fall,
And with the falling night.

Among these native hills and plains,
By these baptismal streams,
Wash off the city's fever stains,
Bring back my boyhood's dreams.

Beside the doors where life began
Here let it find its close;
And be its brief, remaining span
All given to repose.

emerge at a time.

4. The growth of the adult lobster is not gradual as in most fish; but it suddenly increases from one size to the next by a rapid expansion in bulk. A 6-inch lobster at one step becomes 7½ inches; a 9-inch becomes 10½ inches; and a 11-inch becomes 12 inches, and so on. Each stage of growth being a time of helplessness and peril. The molting act is perilous; but the soft shell state which follows is no less perilous to safety.

5. Lobsters are local; they do not wander widely and are not migratory over long distances. A travelling lobster is an exception; hence a particular area can be cleaned out of its lobsters and they are not soon replaced or restored.

6. Most fishes drop or deposit their eggs; but the lobster carries them for a long period. Hence the destruction of a female lobster with eggs means many thousands of young killed. In other marine animals, as a rule, the female may be destroyed, but their eggs being laid or scattered survive, and keep up the supply. Not so with the lobster.

The age of a lobster may be known from its size. Thus a lobster from 1½ to 2 inches in length is one year old; from 4 to 5 inches in length, 2 years old; 10 inches in length, 4 years old; while a 16 inch lobster would be about 10 years old. The size of the lobster indicates the weight; thus a 6-inch lobster weighs about 5 and 1-3 ounces; a 10-inch lobster weighs just a little over 24 ounces; while a 12-inch lobster weighs 43, 3-4 ounces.

These details should be of interest to our fishermen; and they go to prove the precariousness of the lobster fishery. Once the lobster grounds have been fished out it will take many years to renew them, if they ever can be renewed.

We have been supinely careless in this direction as well as in many others; and this goes to prove the crying demand for some intelligent and capable Head of our Fishery Department.

Just what competency in this direction may effect, is evidenced in the case of Norway; and the Canadian Government is now devoting great attention to the protection of both its maritime and inland fisheries on similar lines. We should go and do likewise.

FISHERMEN, ATTENTION!

FIRST CLASS INVESTMENT.

38 per cent. Dividends in Four Years.

THE new issue of Shares in the Fishermen's Union Trading Company, Limited, are now offered to the members of the F.P.U. Those Shares represent the additional Capital of \$150,000 recently authorized. The Shares are \$10 each. The new capital is to be used to extend the Company's business. A dividend of 10 per cent. has been declared for 1915. Thirty-eight per cent. dividends has been paid during the four years the Company has been in operation. The Company also possess a Reserve Fund equal to 40 per cent. of its capital and if it was possible to place the Trading Company's shares on the stock market, one share would easily fetch \$15. No better or safer investment exist in the Colony. Why bank your earnings at 3 per cent. when such a first-class investment is obtainable? Apply to Agents of the Trading Company where stores are operated or to the

Fishermen's Union Trading Co. Ltd.
Water Street, St. John's.

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

FEBRUARY 18
SMITH O'BRIEN spoke from the steps of R.C. Cathedral on Irish National grievances, before 10,000 persons, and in the course of his remarks, said that among those around him he recognized a few of the informers in the past, 1850.

A fire broke out in a house on the Southside belonging to one John McGrath; two of the family, Mrs. McGrath and her son, were burnt to death, 1866.

Hon. James Cormack, merchant died, 1869.

Sealing steamer Walrus first arrived, 1870.

Lawrence Parker married Miss Furlong, 1873.

Walter Irwin, farmer, died, 1877.

Last meeting of first Municipal Council held, 1892.

French steamer Xacher lost off Tenerife, 100 lives lost, 1898.

Four hundred thousand miners strike in Great Britain for ten per cent. increase of wages, 1890.

First concert of Institute Musical Association in Methodist College Hall, 1890.

PRESS COMMENTS

Standing Invitation

Pittsburg Gazette-Times. The British fleet has invited the German navy to name the time and place for a battle. As the present place seems to suit the Germans, the time doesn't matter.

Canada After the War

New York Press.—Canada produces about three-quarters of the nickel used in the world. Refining that nickel has been regarded as impracticable in Canada, and so the crude metal has been sent away, chiefly to this country, for refinement. Now the Canadians are waking up to the possibility of keeping the industry at home. Why not pay a bonus to have it come there or impose an export tax on ores sent away for refinement? That is only one instance. But it indicates the new processes stirring in the Canadian

A man named Chafe injured by dynamite explosion near Brookings, 1890.

First concert of Institute Musical Association in Methodist College Hall, 1890.

mind. It is a good guess that the first generation after the war will see Canada make strides in population and industry, such as have never been dreamed in the past by this choicest colony of the British nation.

First Achieve Victory

London Times.—Our first duty is to fill all gaps, and our next duty is to provide for future wastage. When we have done what is required in these respects, then, and only then, we can begin to talk of stock of the situation, and it is a situation which will need constant revision and readjustment as time goes on. So long as the war lasts, there will always be a conflict between the rival claims of "Trade or Victory," to adopt a popular but not quite adequate expression. Our first task is to achieve victory for our trade will not be of much use to us without it, while half the financial apprehensions of which we hear so much would disappear if the government would only face them with resolution. The dominating factor is the imperative need for greater public and private economy in expenditure and this is a matter which the government have never yet taken seriously to hand.

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