

Journal of Commerce

Published Daily by
The Journal of Commerce Publishing Company,
Limited,
85-87 St. Alexander Street, Montreal.
Telephone Main 3663.
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Journal of Commerce Offices:
Toronto—T. W. Harpell, 44-46 Lombard Street.
Telephone Main 7098.
New York Correspondent—C. M. Withington, 44
Broad Street. Telephone 343 broad.
London, Eng.—W. E. Dowling, 25 Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.

Subscription price, \$3.00 per annum.
Single Copies, One Cent.
Advertising rates on application.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1914.

Lovers of War

Germany is constantly charged, upon good grounds, with having cultivated amongst her people, a war-like spirit. The teachings of some of her philosophers, and more recently the Bernhardi books, are referred to as evidence of the prevalence of this evil spirit. War for war's sake, and war for the glory of Germany, have certainly been among the desires of many Germans. But a recent defender of the German cause makes the argument that a similar spirit has been manifested in England by those who have long been urging the British people to prepare to fight Germany. The British advocates of a big army, conscription, and a big navy have, the German writer thinks, been as much promoters of war as anybody in Germany. It cannot be denied that there is some ground for this view. The truth is that in both countries there have long been groups of men who, if they did not actually seek war, have regarded it as inevitable, and have therefore manifested a war-like spirit. The military element has constantly striven for more recognition, and more power. It is not only in recent years that this has been shown. In Lady Dorothy Nevill's Reminiscences there is a letter from Lord Ellenborough, son of the famous judge, written during the American civil war, in which he says:

"As for public matters, of course I have been following every movement in America with the deepest interest, for the thing I love most is war. I have done so all my life. I had rather read a good account of a battle than a novel by Sir Walter Scott."

In another letter, some years later, Lord Ellenborough wrote:

"The one thing which was military strength for our security, and that the politeness of the Government will not venture to ask for, it will cost too much."
Lady Dorothy tells us that Lord Ellenborough used to say to her: "War and women, these are in reality the only two interests for a man." This spirit of Bernhardism, as we may call it, did not die with Lord Ellenborough. In later years England has had a good deal of it. But the British side in the present conflict can at least claim that this admiration for war was the admiration not of a people, but of the few not heads. Unfortunately the war in England could only be attributed to a few, because in Germany a part of the so-called "Kultur" of the nation.

Fatigue in its Relation to Work

Arnold Bennett, in his great work "Clayhanger," has given the world a vivid and compelling picture of conditions of work in England in the early nineteenth century. Those who have read this book can never forget what brutality, what suffering and what gloom characterized the labor of those days. We are too prone to idealize the past. The world does move, slowly; and employers as a class to-day would shrink from imposing old conditions of work upon their labor.

Nevertheless, we still have in Canada, and the United States long hours of work in certain occupations, and the day and night shift. In many cases men work during a seven-day week. But it is becoming more and more evident that these conditions cannot last. They are a relic of the days of barbarism. They cannot last for humanity's sake; and they cannot last, from the point of view of competitive costs, in the world of affairs to-day.

What agitation and laws have failed to bring about is coming as a direct result of economic knowledge. Within a few years the man who works regularly more than ten hours a day, or more than six days out of seven, will do so against the best judgment of his employer. This is seen from the report of a Federal investigator in the United States, who was sent to look into complaints made by men employed by the government in reclamation work. Although there was no particular emergency the engineers of the United States Government were driving the construction gangs seven days a week. Not far away a private contractor was busy on a section of the same work, but he gave his men their Sunday rest. The investigator went over to inquire into conditions at this private camp.

"I can't afford seven-day work," said the contractor. "It may be all right for the Government, but I am out to make money, and I have to look out for my costs. I learned long ago that it was cheaper to rest my men and horses on Sunday than it is to use them. It is not sentiment with me—just business." Alert employers are discovering this to be true everywhere. Yet there is a surprising amount of continuous operations in factories and mills, both in Canada and in the United States.

The American Association for Labor Legislation finds that continuous operation is the rule in cement and paper mills, street railway service, steel and iron mills, beet sugar refineries, breweries, canneries, electric light and power plants, gas works, glass factories, ice plants, newspapers, smelters, drug stores, libraries, theatres, street cleaning, delivery service, and telephone offices, but in most of them provision is made to let the men off in rotation.

The seven-day evil was brought prominently to the front in the Bethlehem Steel Company strike in 1910. In 1911 the United States Steel Corporation granted its men one day's rest in seven; but it was found a few months later that between 15,000 and 20,000 of the blast furnace workers, comprising half the force, were working during the whole seven days of the week. Of 173,000 blast and steel workers in the United States 29 per cent. were working seven days every week, and 20 per cent. of these were working twelve hours very day.

Now, the man who works twelve hours a day finds all his life absorbed by his work. To make matters worse, he is often changed from day to night shifts during alternate weeks; so that every fortnight he has to work twenty-four hours at a stretch. Such conditions of work are intolerable. It is no answer to say that a day off simply gives the men opportu-

ity for a drunken debauch; or that the men themselves desire the continuous work to make extra pay. With regard to these points, the United States Government investigator has said:

"I have been hearing those from the day that we awoke to the evil of seven-day work, and there is no merit in either of them. A single day off, when it has been forced on a plant by a breakdown or a strike, has brought drunkenness, because the men got their first taste of freedom and started out to celebrate. Where the day has been given regularly they have learned to make proper use of it. As for the desire of these laborers to spend all their waking hours in gloomy mills, I have never found any of them who did not want their day off if they could make their living in the other six."

But, inexorable as fate, the twelve-hour day and the seven-day week are passing to their doom. The "thired hours" of labor do not pay in dollars and cents. Where a man's whole system is poisoned by fatigue he can not perform effective work. Employers who have reduced the ten-hour day to a nine-hour day have been surprised and gratified at the results. In the future men must be treated less like machines and more like human beings. To destroy a man's creative instinct is to take the joy of service out of his work; and men will not regard themselves as creators, but more as drudges, if they are given no time for reflection and friendly intercourse, but find their whole life tainted with the foul poison of fatigue.

Germany's Food Shortage

The Wall Street Journal, an unusually well-informed and authoritative journal, shows by reports of American Consuls in Germany that there is a steady advance in the price of all foodstuffs with the exception of meat. Tea and coffee have almost doubled in price, while imported articles of all kinds sell at a great advance. The German newspapers, inspired by the authorities, are impugning the people to cook potatoes in their skins, and to mix potato meal with their flour.

The drop in meat prices is explained by the fact that food for animals is becoming so scarce that it is necessary to kill off cattle, as the cost of feeding them is prohibitive. The Wall Street Journal shows that on Germany's average crop production she cannot feed herself more than nine months in the year, and that with many of her able-bodied men under arms, future production will be seriously curtailed. The eating up of their cattle now is in principle not unlike eating seed corn. Germany is having cheap meat because grain is dear. In other words, she is rapidly approaching the time when famine will stalk through the land.

The Yukon River is the fifth river in size in North America, draining an area of 330,000 square miles. Its length, including the Lewes and Teslin Rivers, is 2,700 miles. The Mackenzie River, also flowing into the Arctic Ocean, is 2,865 miles long, but comparatively little is known of either the Mackenzie or Yukon Rivers.

The United States Department of Agriculture reports that the farmers of that country have added 4,135,000 acres to their winter wheat acreage, while the increase in the spring sown grains will be proportionately as great. The increased acreage propaganda which is being preached in Canada and the United States is bound to bear good fruit.

In the decade from 1903 to 1913, Canada's total trade increased by 138.55 per cent., being the second greatest increase of any country in the world. The record was held by the Argentine Republic, which showed a gain of 156.92 per cent. The United States gained 69.9 per cent., and the United Kingdom 57.29 per cent. Germany, despite its many boasts, showed a gain of but 86.92 per cent.

The opening of the London Stock Exchange, which is scheduled to take place on Monday, January 4th, is a further evidence that financial conditions are getting back to normal. The Bank of England has increased its holdings of gold from less than £28,000,000 at the outbreak of war to £89,000,000. The expected liquidation following the opening of the New York Stock Exchange did not materialize, and it is not expected that anything serious will develop as a result of the opening of the London Stock Exchange.

Canadians, who see nothing but blue ruin ahead because certain parts of the West had a short crop last year, should make a study of the economic history of the neighboring Republic. That country has had its ups and downs, land booms accompanying a rush of settlement, followed by the inevitable reaction after the settlers had spent the little capital they had brought in with them, and while they were establishing themselves. In the United States they have had their full share of short crops and hard times. In many tracks of country which are now peopled by prosperous citizens, the land once sold under mortgage. Land speculation, especially in the Western States, has caused disastrous panics. Yet despite these ups and downs, these western lands are to-day selling at prices never dreamed of even in the boom times. There is not the slightest doubt but that Canada will emerge from the present depression and develop at a rate undreamed of by our business men.

It is somewhat significant that the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, pastor of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, who five months ago was decidedly pro-German, has taken a diametrically opposite stand. In a published statement he says:

"I was pro-German five months ago. I have been lecturing for five years about the lessons we might learn from Germany. Five months ago, it may be remembered, I gave an interview, in which I praised Germany and took the part of the German people in the dreadful war that had come. But I have changed my mind. I have seen that I was mistaken. Several months ago I gave instructions to my lecture bureau to withdraw my lecture, 'The New Germany,' from my list. That was done about the middle of September, and it was only then that I realized what a German success would mean to the world—how there could be nothing else but a world of armed camps, how we in this country, too, would have to adopt militarism in order to live. Just prior to that time, in the first of my Sunday evening sermons in this course, I had praised the Kaiser, I believed in the German ideal, I believed in German progress, German inventions, German principles. But I was wrong. I have now become convinced of what I never imagined before—that in the German viewpoint the only sin against the Holy Ghost is military impotency, and to use Treitschke's words again, the only virtue is militarism."

Apart from the Serbian question, or even the Belgian question, the paramount issue of the present war is the sanctity of treaties. Until that question is settled what is the use of making international agreements which one of the belligerents, in a real or imagined emergency, regards as a "scrap of paper?"—Wall Street Journal.

PETER THE GREAT AND LAWYERS.

"The defendant," said Mr. Justice Lane, commenting on the case, "is undoubtedly and manifestly of a coarse type and emanates apparently from a social class inferior to that of the plaintiff, whose father belonged to the legal profession."

That's what a Montreal judge said in giving his decision in a separation case. As a matter of fact the legal profession has made considerable advances since the visit of Peter the Great to Britain. At that time Peter was taken into Westminster Hall and after seeing the court in operation asked who all those busy people in black gowns and flowing wigs were, and what they were about. When informed that they were lawyers the Czar remarked in astonishment that he had only two in all Russia. "And," he added reflectively, "I shall hang one of them the moment I get home."—Ottawa Citizen.

FLATTERING ATTENTIONS.

Germany has been offering Sweden a part of Russia if it will frame up a pro-German union of the Scandinavian powers. Russia responds by offering Denmark the provinces Germany took from it if the alliance will stand neutral. At the same time Roumania and Greece have been assured that Bulgaria will not attack them if they go to Austria. The smaller nations in Europe must feel flattered at the attention they are getting from their big neighbors these days.—Edmonton Bulletin.

GETTING POPULAR.

Commission government has made rapid progress in the United States and has spread to Canada. It was recently adopted in St. John, New Brunswick, Edmonton and some other cities of the west have also been under commission rule.—Windsor Record.

There are too many men between the man with the hoe and the man with the mouth. Co-operation will reduce their number.—Grain Growers' Guide.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Reply to those who think it absurd to take precautions against invasion—It's the Hun-expected that always happens.—Punch.

"Does your husband keep a scrapbook?"
"Not exactly; he keeps a cheque book, and we have a scrap every time it is used for my benefit."—(Boston Transcript).

Misses—Why did you place the alarm clock beside the pan of dough, Mary?
"Mum—So it would know what time to rise, mum."—Boston Transcript.

Cavalry instructor (to recruit who has fallen in dismounting)—"From where did you receive instructions to dismount, sir?"
"Raw recruit—"From hindquarters, sir."—Punch.

An item of war news which the President of the Society for the Promotion of Propriety thinks the Censor might very well have censored: "To the south of Lask the Russian troops took Shertsoff."—Punch.

Old lady (meeting two little boys)—"Why, Johnnie, how very dirty you are! How is it that your little brother is so much cleaner than you are?"
"Johnnie—"Well, you see, he's three years younger."—Judge.

One of our colonels said at kit inspection to Private Flannigan, a new recruit: "Ha! Yes, shirts, socks, flannels, all very good. Now, can you assure me that all the articles of your kit have buttons on them?"
"No, sir," said Private Flannigan, hesitating. "How's that?" "Ain't no buttons on the towels, sir."

Uncle Sol threw aside the letter he was reading and uttered an exclamation of impatience.
"Doggone!" he cried. "Why can't people be more explicit?"
"What's the matter, pa?" asked Aunt Sue.
"This letter from home," Uncle Sol answered, "says father fell out of the old apple-tree and broke a limb."

A new teacher found that a little negro girl was named Fertilizer Johnson.
"Are you sure that Fertilizer is your right name?" she was asked.
"Yes, ma'am," replied the little girl.
"Well, tell your mother to come here," said the teacher.

The mother came the next day.
"Yes, Fertilizer is right," she said. "You see, I named her after her father and mother both. Her father's name is Ferdinand and my name is Liza, so we called her Fertilizer."

The captain of a steamer, while loading at Burntisland, took on two hands—one a Kirkcaldy man who was without a written "character," and another, a Dundee man who had abundance of documentary evidence as to his honesty and uprightness.

They had not been long at sea when they encountered rough weather, and the Dundee man, while crossing the deck with a bucket in his hand, was swept overboard. The Kirkcaldy man saw what had happened, and sought the captain.
"Do ye mind yon man frae Dundee?" he asked.
"That ye engaged wi' the fine character?"
"Yes," replied the captain. "What of it?"
"Weel, he's rin awa' wi' yer bucket."

GIVE PEACE, O LORD.

O God, our Father, bend Thine ear,
And hear our prayers to-day
For those who gallantly go forth
Bravely the price to pay.

Father Divine, protect, we pray,
Our soldiers, brave and true,
Who march to death or glory,
'Neath the red, white and blue.

Give peace, give peace, O Lord,
Oh, let the conflict cease;
Give victory to the brave,
And to our country peace.

True to their colours, true till death,
We know our men will be.
With them the British flag
Is safe on land and sea.

True to their colours, true till death,
Should it claim them for its own,
But God, their help, is with them,
They go not forth alone.

Give peace, O Lord,
Oh, let the conflict cease;
Give victory to the brave,
And to our country peace.

Muriel Carter in Dainty Novels.

THE CANADIAN NAVAL PROBLEM.

Mr. Richard Jebb's and Admiral Henderson's Views. (From the "Editorial Notes and Comments," in "United Empire," the organ of the Royal Colonial Institute.)

The articles by Mr. Archibald Hurd and Mr. Richard Jebb, which were published in the October and November numbers of "United Empire," set forth two sides of a case which has been the subject of the keenest controversy—the relative advantages of a navy concentrated in one place, or spread over the globe. In this number we publish a letter, one of many received from interested correspondents, endorsing the view taken by Mr. Jebb. There is no doubt that the action of the Australian fleet in the Pacific has taken the whole subject a step further. The usefulness of even so small a naval force as Australia already possessed has been abundantly demonstrated, and the capture of the Emden gave a dramatic touch which Mr. Punch very appropriately illustrated by a cartoon entitled "Good Hunting." 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