

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1917.

HARVEST IS HERE, LABORERS ARE FEW.

The annual call for labor to help in harvesting the western crops has come, the estimated number needed this year being 42,000. The inducements offered are high wages and cheap railway fares.

It is an absolute necessity that every bushel of grain there be harvested and safely housed in as good condition as the weather will allow, but it is equally a necessity that all Ontario's crops be taken in to supply the tremendous demand which will be made on Canada. Unfortunately, the harvests here and in the West come at practically the same time, so that different men will be required in each province. The problem is to secure all the help for which the farmers are asking.

Robbing Peter to pay Paul will not do; if the West gets its men from the farms of Ontario, the latter will lose much of the produce on which so much hard work has been expended. There must be co-operation between the agriculturists of the east and west, not competition.

Of course the present situation was anticipated; even the Government knew it must come, but what steps have been taken to solve the puzzle? A few hundreds of United States workers were brought across the line to help in the seeding, and, probably, it was arranged that some of these should return for the harvest. But since that time the United States has entered the war, and has decided to conscript her man power. Doubtless many of those who were helping in Canada in the spring are now in khaki or unable to leave their homeland. A Dominion service council was formed, but if it has done much the fact has been successfully hidden from the public.

Had some system of national service cards been instituted to provide the labor now needed, instead of that plan which proved such a failure, good might have resulted. A census or registration of all willing and able to devote their time to agriculture during August and part of September might have made easy a plan for supplying all needs and for giving fair play to all parts of the Dominion. The opportunity was ignored, like so many others, and now the critical time is here, with little preparation made to meet it.

Farmers throughout the land will have to depend largely upon themselves and their neighbors. They will have to co-operate by planning to save time and labor in every way and by getting along with as little help as possible. Every minute must be made to count if the crops are to be housed, and picnics, family reunions and other festivities, which usually mean a day's holiday each at this time of year, will have to be abandoned or held on Sundays. This is to be a summer of work, and there is room for everyone to help who can drive a horse or use a hoe.

LITTLE DOSES OF TRUTH

Capt. Perseus has admitted that the British navy controls the seas, and that the German fleet is unequal to the task of meeting and defeating it. He adds to this a warning that no encouragement should be given the idea of an offensive activity on the part of the Teuton men-of-war.

This is all in accord with self-evident facts and in itself is no startling announcement. But when it is remembered that the kaiser has claimed that the battle of Jutland ended in victory for the Germans and the wresting of supremacy from the British, and that the German press has pretended to regret the inability of the kaiser's navy to find the British grand fleet so that it might destroy it in a general action, the statement gains in importance.

It is a part of the truth, which is being given to the German people in homeopathic doses once in a while, and which will bring realization eventually of conditions as they actually exist. They have been informed authoritatively that the "contemptible little" British army has grown until the German leaders are excusing their retreats on the ground of the overwhelming forces which oppose them in Belgium; they have become tired of the false prophecies of victory by a certain date, which passes without any improvement in their position; now they are plainly informed that Wilhelm lied when he said his navy had gained control of the seas. Soon they must begin to question all the optimistic reports handed out to them and to distrust their leaders as liars and deceivers.

It sometimes appears as though the German Government were permitting these revelations to get into print with the purpose of preparing the nation for the defeat which is inevitable. Such papers as the Berlin Tageblatt do not publish articles which they realize will bring down upon them the wrath of the

authorities. They are extremely careful, of necessity, and generally await patiently the cue given them from official sources. Capt. Perseus is no Liebknecht or Harden. He has shown no disposition to become a martyr, so that there is ground for believing that when he writes unpalatable truths, he has assurance of immunity from punishment.

It may be that Count Reventlow and others will attack him for his statements, but that will not show official disapproval. The authorities at Berlin will not hesitate to play one military writer against another if the result should suit their purpose.

RAISE IT BY TAXES.

In his address on the income tax in the House of Commons, Finance Minister White declared that the Government hesitated to impose such a tax because the people of the country have been so generous in supporting patriotic funds. Perhaps when the government has advanced in the direction of conscription of surplus wealth it will find it in the interest of patriotic funds to make them a part of the Government liability, by establishing a tax which will not only take care of other expenses but relieve the people from the necessity of voluntary contribution. There is much to be said for the voluntary fund. It helps to keep the pulse beating properly; it adds in the development of the brotherhood spirit; it impresses upon the nation the fact that each individual is in fact his brother's keeper. But what of those who have not responded to the appeals, who have not risen to the heights which the voluntary law of brotherhood imposes? The country has not many of them, but it has some, who have not contributed as they should. The tax bill would reach them and give relief to the earnest men and women who at stated intervals have given of time and effort to help in the good cause.

The organization now exists for handling these funds. Would it be in the interests of the war to eliminate most of the voluntary giving and make the provision of adequate moneys a part of the new tax bill?

ANOTHER GREAT CRISIS.

Confederation in 1867 was a great crisis in the history of Canada. Professor Wrong, recently in an address held that Canada had not today statesmen equal to the fathers of Confederation. He attributed it largely to the better opportunities for making money. The best men had turned their attention rather to making money than studying political questions. He may have been right, but we still have in Canada statesmen who would hold their own with the fathers of Confederation. At no time in the history of Canada have the leaders, on both sides, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Robert Borden, been excelled in integrity. Names will occur of the followers of both who take very high rank.

The Hon. George Brown and Sir John A. Macdonald had been lifelong opponents. They had not spoken for years, but they sank their differences and joined hands and forces and accomplished Confederation, and then again ceased to speak. The crisis had passed. A mighty nation, a new world, had been called into existence. That crisis belonged to Canada, but Confederation benefitted the world.

The scattered provinces, the unoccupied prairies, of 1867, less than fifty years after sent nearly half a million of the world's best soldiers across the sea to fight for and secure the freedom of the world, to fight against militarism, the most horrible slavery known to mankind.

The world is passing through its greatest crisis, a crisis that emphasizes the statement that "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." France and England are fighting side by side. They are the mother countries of Canada. Sir George E. Cartier was one of the fathers of Confederation. He called himself an "Englishman speaking French." In 1871 he introduced the bill creating Manitoba a province. He said: "The name of the new province will be Manitoba, a very euphonious word, meaning 'the god that speaks.' Let Canada's latest addition always speak to the inhabitants of the Northwest the language of reason, truth and justice."

This week a great convention of Liberal statesmen is being held in Winnipeg, to decide upon the course Canada should take in the great world-war crisis. Sir George E. Cartier's words seem to be very appropriate. Manitoba, "The god that speaks," is this time not to speak to the Northwest alone, not to Canada alone, but to the world. May it speak "the language of reason, truth and justice."

What Canada has become during the past fifty years is a substantial promise of its future greatness. It is within the limits of reasonable probability, that it will, by the end of the century, have a population equal to that now held by the United States. It is also a rea-

sonable probability that Ottawa will be a more important capital, than it will be as the capital of Canada only. It may be the capital or a second capital of the British Empire.

The convention at Winnipeg is very important. Its decisions will be far-reaching. As Canada had many good statesmen at Confederation, so today it has statesmen equal to the occasion. The crops of the Northwest have been magnificent, but its best crops have been its splendid broadminded men with eyes to see into the future.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is one of Canada's first citizens, and history will accord him as high a place as any statesman of Canada, past or present. We hope to see him premier of Canada again, but if a union government is decided on and neither of the present leaders is to be the new leader of the union government, there should be no difficulty in selecting a man on whom all would unite.

PROHIBITION IN U. S. A.

Nation-wide prohibition draws appreciably nearer for the United States, with the passage by the Senate of the resolution favoring a vote of the 48 states upon a constitutional amendment to this end. The resolution had a majority of 45, and it is expected that there will be no difficulty in seeing it passed successfully in the House.

When the individual states come to vote on the amendment to the constitution, it will be the legislatures which vote, not the whole electorate. Out of the 48 of these, there are already 25 "dry" states, and it is almost a foregone conclusion that this condition will be ratified by the legislatures, since the people have declared for it emphatically. But these are not sufficient to carry the amendment, as a three-fourths vote in favor is required, making the necessary number 36. This means that 11 more states must be added to the "dry" column, leaving not more than 12 in sympathy with the liquor traffic. Six years are allowed as the time within which the legislatures may take action, and if the necessary three-fourths have not then declared in favor of prohibition, the resolution dies automatically.

To some it may appear that the fixing of this period is a concession to the liquor interests. On the other hand, the world movement towards prohibition is growing yearly and it may be that, in a few years, states which would vote down the measure if presented now will be ready to indorse it, so that the advantage may be on either side.

Since it is constitutional that three-fourths of the states must support the amendment in order to give it force, the proviso must stand, but it certainly seems ridiculous that if 13 out of the total 48 oppose it, they would be enough to prevent its adoption. It is probable, however, that before 1923 there will be less than half-a-dozen legislatures willing to stand in the way of the amendment, and that the United States will become a "bone dry" country.

STEADY, SWIFT AND SURE

For the tremendous and increasing thoroughness manifested in the direction of the British army we have doubtless to thank Sir William Robertson and Sir Douglas Haig, and many lesser leaders, but perhaps even most of all the late Lord Kitchener. Kitchener was always thorough, deliberate, typically British. When he undertook to reconquer the Sudan, after the disasters of Gordon's death and the fall of Khartoum, he saw that the river transportation needed paralleling and reinforcing by a railway from Cairo up the Nile. The railway was built, and then, after years of quiet preparation, the Sudan was quickly secured.

At the beginning of the present war crises were raised against the seemingly slow movement of Britain's forces. First the volunteer system of recruiting was assailed, but it was continued until the time was ripe for conscription in a country long disused to war, or, rather, never as a nation accustomed to military life. Then it was urged that the British left the brunt of the battle to the French along most of the western lines. But once the big guns, machine guns and other equipment had been steadily provided, then the Germans looked out for our army.

It is ground for congratulation also that while attending to sea warfare, transportation and blockade, Great Britain has not only deliberately, but speedily, built up her enormous machine. A German general sneered at the commencement of the war that it would take the British years to make the machinery necessary for the manufacture of the big guns. In two years the British equaled and in three out-matched the enemy.

PEP.

"Pep"—Contraction of pepper, a well-known pungently aromatic condiment.

What is it? Not a brand-new slang word, but it shows that a little thing may have a big punch. The mint from which the chipped-off word issued probably was the throat of some screeching ball fan. As the home team tried in vain to get up before the impending defeat, he day cried: "More pepper! More pepper! More pep—" the last syllable being lopped as the crowd took up the yell, and the whole swelling out into a shrieking demand for "More pep!" Well, it has done a good deal since its birth. It has jabbed the laggards into action. It has been in the training syllabus of instructors and officers in the world war especially the Canadian soldiers. It has been the keynote of action in many lines of endeavor.

"Pep" may be overdone. Too much of it causes mental sneezes, but what does it all amount to? Isn't it just another word for putting soul or temperament into one's work? It may be a soldier or it may be a singer—and a coal-heaver who has "pep" must have his soul in his work. An exhibition of genuine "pep" is an indication that someone is living, alive, playing the mental man rather than the physical man, being alert to existence because it is good. "Pep" is just about accomplishment too, for real success does not come without deeper efforts than those of the hand or the rule-ridden brain. "Pep" may mean an unnatural speeding up, but who wants to travel on stage-coaches or horse-cars, anyway? "Pep" makes a man "him" rather than "it."

Can Kerensky make the bear walk like a man again?

Comparatively few men are worrying over the income tax bill. The majority can view the outlook with the greatest calmness.

Mr. Rogers will feel embarrassed by his coat of whitewash. Really it is uncomfortable to be so pure. Consciousness of triumphant sin has in it some sort of emotional luxury, but to hear himself pronounced 100 per cent. honest must be disconcerting to a master of elections.

Labor leaders at a conference, presided over by Samuel Gompers, adopted plans for a publicity campaign to combat the pro-German element seeking a foothold in organized labor. Committees of volunteer workers will go to every labor center in the country "to educate the true American laborer in the fallacies of pro-Germanism and the truths of pure Americanism."

Congratulations to Bro. M. A. James of The Bowmanville Statesman who with last week's issue of his excellent paper had completed forty years of continuous service as its editor and publisher. Upon that long history of journalistic activity Mr. James can look back with sincere pleasure and honorable pride. "I know what pleasure is, for I have done good work," wrote Robert Louis Stevenson and those words apply with singular appropriateness to Mr. James and his long and arduous career.

Under his able tutelage his paper has become one of the leaders in circulation and influence in the Ontario field. It fills the ideal of what a town newspaper should be—ably and fearlessly edited, a model of good workmanship, a mirror of all the local events worthy of being recorded.

Mr. James has always had the courage of his convictions. His sympathies have always been enlisted on the side of right. He has championed the right when it meant the loss of money and the temporary loss of popularity. He has been for many years one of the outstanding figures of journalism in Ontario.

May he long be spared to reap the fruits of his honorable labors.

LIVING

If through the years we're not to do Much finer deeds than we have done; If we must merely wander through Time's garden, idling in the sun; If there is nothing big ahead, Why do we fear to join the dead?

Unless to-morrow means that we Shall do some needed service here; That tasks are waiting you and me That will be lost, save we appear, Then why this dreadful thought of sorrow That we may never see to-morrow?

If all our finest deeds are done, And all our splendor's in the past; If there's no battle to be won, What matter if to-day's our last?

Is life so sweet that we would live, Though nothing back to life we give? Not to have lived through seventy years Is greatness. Fitter to be sung In poet's praises and for cheers

Is he who dies in action, young; Who ventures all for one great deed And gives his life to serve life's need.

—Edgar A. Guest, in Detroit Free Press.

POINTS ABOUT PROFITTEERING

For many months Sir Joseph Flavelle, in his capacity of Director of Munitions, has been dining into the ears of munition makers the necessity of cutting down their profits until the vanishing point is reached. Now the munition manufacturers, and incidentally the Canadian public wish to know why Sir Joseph Flavelle's organization, known as the William Davies Company, thought fit to take substantial profits on war contracts.

Swift & Company, the great Chicago packers, made over twenty million dollars net profit in 1916, selling their dressed cattle at a profit of .25 or 3/4 per cent. per pound. The William Davies Company's net profit on their turnover, according to their own statement, was at the rate of .68 or two-thirds of a cent a pound. In other words, the Swift Company sold one hundred pounds of dressed meat at a profit of 25 cents, while the Davies Company made on the same amount 68 cents. And the Swift Company make no pretensions of philanthropy. They are just plain American business men.—Toronto Saturday Night.

K. of C. ANSWER NATION'S CALL

When the history of America's entrance into the great world war is written, if the record would be accurate, mention should surely be made of the spontaneous and unremitting activity of the Knights of Columbus in support of every step taken by the Government. At the time of the first diplomatic break with Germany subordinate Councils throughout the country hastened to telegraph their resolutions of fidelity and support to the President. The Supreme Officers spoke for the entire order in the memorable resolutions passed at the meeting of the Supreme Board in April, and at the State conventions these resolutions of unflinching loyalty to Government and sentiments of devotion to country were heartily ratified and enlisted in the nation's defence and contributions to the Liberty Loan were urgently advocated.

But words, no matter how forceful or ardent, cannot convey the conviction of deeds. If anything were needed apart from the institution of the great million dollar Knights of Columbus War Camp Fund to prove conclusively where the great heart of Columbianism is in the present crisis; it lies in the splendid response made by the Knights eligible for military service, thousands of whom have enlisted in all arms of the service, the Navy, the Regular Army and the National Guard. Many of the Catholic men at the Officers' Training Camp at Fort Benning, Harrison are members of the Order, and this is typical of the response given to the country's call by the Knights of Columbus. Everywhere Councils have hospitably thrown open their homes and rooms to the enlisted men, the Red Cross, and for recruiting purposes; dues of enlisted men have been remitted for the period of the war, and some of the Councils have even undertaken the payment of insurance assessments of enlisted members for the period of the war. At present, no exact figures are available of the number of Knights enlisted in the country's service, but it already runs into thousands, and with the application of the draft, many more thousands of members will be found in the ranks. From Admiral Benson, the ranking officer of the U. S. Navy, to the rawest recruit, Knights are to be found in all the ranks and departments of the Army and Navy.

The response made throughout the Order to the appeal in behalf of the Liberty Loan is convincing proof of the sterling and practical patriotism that animates the Order. Basing calculations upon the reports that have come to hand at the time of going to press, it is quite evident that the subscriptions to the Liberty Bonds by Councils and individuals throughout the Order, exceed one million dollars.—The Columbian.

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