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Special Articles

Victory Loan Cards and New Savings Accounts.

By H. M. P. Eckart.

A Graded Out-Door Prison.

By J. W. Macmillan.

The Future of Canadian Agriculture.

By W. W. Swanson, Ph.D.

Conditions in the West.

By E. Cora Hind.

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Venice—Queen of the Adriatic

ONE of the goals sought by the Austro-German forces now invading Italy is Venice. Possibly no city in Europe has a more storied past and at the same time been more of a football than this wonderful "Queen of the Adriatic." Going back over a hundred years, or to the time of the Napoleonic Wars, Venice has changed hands almost a half score times. When Napoleon Bonaparte first invaded Italy he drove the Austrians before him, forced Venice to surrender, but after retaining it for a time gave it back to the Austrians as a reward for acknowledging his authority. Four years later Napoleon again invaded Italy, took Venice from the Austrians and had himself made King of Italy. When Napoleon lost his French crown his kingdom of Italy also passed from his control, and Venice again fell under the control of Austria.

A period of comparative quiet then followed and for almost half a century Venice remained under the iron heel of her hard Austrian neighbor. Her opportunity for freedom came in 1848, when Europe was being torn by revolutions. Venice saw her opportunity, rose in rebellion and drove out the Austrian garrison. A year later Victor Emmanuel of Italy was forced to make peace with Austria and to pay a heavy indemnity. One of the prices paid was Venice, which in addition to passing under Austrian sway was swept by famine and disease. Ten years later Napoleon III, of France, invaded Italy, and after dividing up the country to suit his particular whims gave Venice back into the hands of Austria. In the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 Italy sided with Prussia, and as a reward for her contributions to the campaign Venice was taken from Austria and given to Italy.

For the past half century Venice has been part of the Kingdom of Italy. Now her freedom is again being menaced by her old enemy from the North. It remains to be seen whether the Allied forces will rally in time to save the beautiful city on the Adriatic from passing into the hands of the Huns. Venice would be a lovely city to sack.

Clemenceau—The Tiger

GEORGES CLEMENCEAU, the Warwick of France, upsetter of Cabinets, and in general the stormy petrel in French political life, has formed a cabinet of his own. Whether his administration will live longer than those of his predecessors who have held office during the war remains to be seen. However, Clemenceau was the main factor in upsetting the war Cabinets of the past three years, so he may be able to avoid the pitfalls and snares which caused their downfall.

Clemenceau is popularly known as "The Tiger," and is probably the best known and the most spectacular figure in public life in France. Through the fact that he has upset nearly a score of Cabinets and still wields a tremendous influence through his paper, L'Homme Enchaîné, he has come to be feared by Governments and all those in authority. Clemenceau is probably a destructive rather than a constructive critic, but as many another man has shed a portion of his Radical tendencies when authority was placed upon his shoulders, the new Premier of France may do likewise. It must be admitted that his statement of the aims and objects of his Government have created a very favorable impression, and there is a feeling of hopefulness that this veteran of seventy-six will duplicate his previous record when he held office as Premier from 1906 till 1909. France is in need of a strong Government, something which it is sincerely hoped the new Premier will be able to furnish.

The Problem of Distribution

FROM time to time "famine" scares are being circulated in Canada and the United States. For the most part an investigation of these shows that there is no scarcity and that the trouble consists either in faulty distribution or in hoarding on the part of food speculators. In regard to the latter the United States authorities are commencing to take action, and there is every indication that men who hoard food stuff, whether in cold storage warehouses or in any other way, are likely to meet with drastic treatment just as food speculators are being dealt with in Great Britain. In Canada we are just commencing to realize that speculation in food stuffs should be eliminated, but we have scarcely thought of grappling with the larger question of food distribution.

One does not need to be much of a student of economics or of transportation problems to notice that food stuffs have been plentiful and actually going to waste in certain parts of the Dominion when the same articles were commanding famine prices in other localities. This is true of potatoes, eggs, apples and nearly everything else we consume. In countries like Canada and the United States there is plenty of grain and meat, plenty of vegetables, dairy products, and everything else if it be evenly and expeditiously distributed. Our faulty and involved system of distribution, including in its sweep the railroads, express companies, the parcel post, the producer, wholesaler, middleman and consumer, is so complicated that not only is the cost of everything greatly enhanced, but in some cases it is almost impossible to secure a supply of food stuffs in certain local-