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HON. W. S. FIELDING, President and Editor-in-Chief.
J. C. ROSS, M.A., Managing Editor.

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Toronto—T. W. Harpell, 44-46 Lombard Street.
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New York Correspondent—C. M. Withington, 44
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The Soldiers' Votes.

The sparring that is going on at Ottawa on the subject of the votes of the absent soldiers does not give promise of resulting in a sensible measure. If provision could be made whereby the electors who have enlisted and gone to the front could be afforded an opportunity to follow events at home and intelligently participate in any election that might be held during their absence, such would be very desirable. But it will be very difficult, and probably impossible, to bring about such a condition of affairs. A political campaign in the trenches, with the inevitable party strife, with probably a flood of partisan literature from both sides, is one of the worst things that could be introduced amongst our soldiers at a time when the voice of partisanship should be stilled and all should be united in the discharge of their duty to the Empire. The proposal that the soldiers, without knowing the names of candidates, shall be asked to cast their vote for "Government," "Opposition," or "Independent," is about as clumsy a device as could be proposed. There is a large and growing proportion of electors—and there is no reason to suppose that soldiers are not included—who do not cast their vote strictly on party lines, but wish to aid in the return of the men whom they believe to be the best qualified for parliamentary service. The word "Independent" in the proposal, has no intelligible meaning. An "Independent" candidate may in one place mean one thing, and in another a very different thing. To pretend to provide for the vote of the soldier-electors when he does not know even the names of the candidates is an absurd scheme.

There is one way in which the right of the soldier voter can be adequately protected, and that is by an authoritative announcement that there will be no general election during the war, unless the war is protracted for a much longer time than is expected. Such a course would give the soldier a real voice in public affairs, for it would enable him on his return home to cast his vote, as he should cast it, in the light of a full knowledge of the questions at issue, and of the names, standing and qualification of the candidates for parliamentary honors. That would be a fair recognition of the soldier-voters' rights. There is no reason why, from the viewpoint of public interest, such an assurance should not be given. There is every reason in favor of such a policy, for, apart from party interests, real or imaginary, on one side or the other, there is no need for an early general election. But if those in authority are unwilling to take this reasonable course, if a general election is to be brought on unnecessarily while the soldiers are away, then decidedly the best means of dealing with the soldier-voter would be by letting him nominate an elector who is at home, to act as his proxy, to vote for him in his absence. There should be an intelligence in votes cast in this way; there would be little or none in the other plan.

German Finance.

The statements so frequently set afloat by the German press bureau that Germany's financial position as respects the war is easy and comfortable, are not borne out by German action. An American paper at hand contains an advertisement of an issue of ten million dollars of Imperial German Government Treasury Notes, bearing five per cent. interest, offered to the public at a price which makes the interest 5.52 per cent.—a very stiff rate for a loan of that character. The advertisement gives assurance that the proceeds of the notes are to be used only for the establishment of commercial credits in the United States—in other words, for the purchase of war materials in America. It is worthy of observation that these notes are issued for nine months only, maturing on January 1st, 1916. Evidently the German authorities feared that a long term issue, even for the purpose of buying American goods, would not find favor in the United States.

We hope that the Germans, who are noted for their efficiency in some things, will see that there is a thorough inspection of the manufacture of these war supplies—a better inspection than Canada has had in similar cases—so that only reliable articles will be turned out. As the stuff is not likely to reach Germany, but will probably fall into the hands of the Allies, we are interested in having Uncle Sam supply straight goods in exchange for this ten million of German promises to pay.

The last of the German commerce raiders, the Kronprinz Wilhelm, has had to seek refuge in an American port. Some of these days the last of the Hohenzoellerns, Kaiser Wilhelm, will be seeking refuge in a similar way.

The Allies should hang the German leaders who are responsible for the campaign of piracy and murder carried on by their submarines. No other measure will prove effective.

Nat Goodwin and De Wolf Hopper are being run a close race for extended matrimonial honors by that other aspiring Thespian, "Bob" Fitzsimmons, former heavyweight champion, who has just been married at Washington to Miss Temo Zillih, an associate of his on the stage.

Billy Sunday will only attempt to give the liquor traffic a "jolt" in one place at a time. He is now in Patterson, N.J., and has refused an offer of \$1,000 to deliver his "booze" sermon once in Providence, R.I., in a prohibition campaign.

Canada has now 101,500 soldiers under arms at home and abroad. A few years ago this would have

been deemed impossible, but Canada has made rapid strides in recognizing her responsibilities to the Empire since the time of the South African War.

Philanthropic efforts are not always appreciated. Alfred Read was arrested in an "L" train in New York City when he tried to brighten up sleeping passengers by singing. He paid a fine of \$3 rather than promise to refrain.

Wall Street, which was thought to be dead a few months ago, has "come back." A few days ago Wall Street had a million dollar share day, which has only taken place once or twice in the past two or three years. Apparently there is a revival in stock speculation, and Wall Street is coming back to its old time activity.

The Jitney bus, which is to make its appearance in Montreal today, is of comparatively recent origin. The name is derived from the Mexican word for five cents. The Jitney first made its appearance in the Southwestern and Southern States, or those nearest to Mexico, and spread up the Pacific coast to Vancouver. It is a far cry from the old-time taxicab, which cost about four dollars if a man looked sideways at it. Hard times have brought the Jitney.

Russia has been regarded as a very backward country, but now that she has come into close and friendly relations with Britain, some of her good points are becoming more apparent. One discovery is that with regard to cheap newspapers, Russia is in advance of the sister nations. There is in Warsaw a daily journal which has until lately been sold for a farthing per copy. It is described as a comprehensive newspaper, with a large circulation. Owing to the stringency caused by the war the price has been raised to a halfpenny, but this is regarded as only temporary.

The liquor question comes up now in England in many forms. At a conference of the British Women's Temperance Association, held in Glasgow, a resolution was submitted, which asked the war authorities "to refrain from all use of alcohol, and to act in harmony with Lord Kitchener's advice to troops, and with scientific experience, which declared that alcohol confused judgment and spoiled accurate shooting." A note of dissent came from Lady Griselda Cheape, who declared, as a professional nurse, that "rum was most invaluable as a medicine," and that "those who said that rum was wrong only hindered the temperance movement." The nurse's plea did not avail, for we are told that "the resolution was carried unanimously."

ONE BURDEN OF SPRING.

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love," sings the poet. "Lightly!" Of all the burdens that can or do fall upon the shoulders of a young man love is by far the heaviest. The song that he carols so blithely is sheer bluff, meant to hide the crushing responsibility under which he staggers; it is like whistling in the dark to keep one's courage up. For consider what the lover must do! He must prove to the object of his affections that he is unworthy of her merest glance while he invents a thousand devices to keep her from glancing away from him; he must wrestle in the silent watches of the night with a dictionary of rhymes to express his clumsy thoughts in Ariel-like verses, yet at the same time he is figuring that if he furnishes a flat he cannot afford a honeymoon, and if they keep one maid they can never go to the theatre; he must prove to his mother that it will be no thing to lose him, and to his prospective mother-in-law that it will be everything to win him.

"All the world loves a lover" not because he is a lover, but because he is a hero, striving to do the impossible, defying the grim laws of necessity and the freakish whims of Fortune, striving a brave face to hide an aching heart and remaining calm and sweet when he knows everyone is laughing at him behind his back.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

CANADA AT SAN FRANCISCO.

The Canadian Building and the Canadian Exhibit at the Panama Exposition at San Francisco is said by American newspapers to be the best thing of the whole exhibition. Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture in the Borden Government, naturally comes in for a great deal of praise. It is well that Canada did put her best foot foremost on this occasion, not only because we desire to show our goodwill, but for Canada's own sake as well. To do what we are doing, with some little difficulty in equipment, it is true, for the Empire in Europe and at the same time in the arts of peace at Frisco, is not a bad year's record.—Peterboro Review.

ENTERING A BULL PERIOD.

A capitalist closely associated with one of the most important financial groups in Wall Street expresses the following view: "I can see no sign of a big reaction in the stock market, nor any reason why one should occur. Stocks are cheap, and the fact is realized by people who can afford to buy them, and who are buying them on every little setback. I believe that we are just entering a bull period which will probably run about five years and during which we shall see prices in comparison with which those of to-day will look very low."—Wall Street Journal.

DESPITE THE GERMAN SUBMARINES.

That treasure ships are still crossing the "war zone" is proved by the British board of trade report, showing actual import of \$5,000,000 in gold into England during February, of which \$2,950,000 came from Brazil, \$1,300,000 from West Africa, and \$535,000 from Egypt. Since 1915 began, the country's gold imports have footed up \$12,500,000, and its exports \$7,500,000.

PEOPLE LIKE A FIGHT.

In a recent address at the Pulitzer School of Journalism, the Managing Editor of the "New York Sun" expressed the opinion that what the people were interested in to-day was a fight—a dog fight, a cock fight, a prize fight—any kind of a fight. Judging from the interest displayed in Saskatchewan and district over the Willard-Johnson bout, we opine the "Sun" man was right.—Saskatoon Phoenix.

SPIRIT OF DRAKE NOT DEAD.

One of the surprises of the war has been the efficiency of the British aviators. Not that anyone doubted their enterprise and daring, but until quite recently England had been backward in aviation. It gives a chance to show that the spirit of Drake is not dead.—Springfield Republican.

LET GOVERNMENTS ECONOMIZE.

"War taxes" that don't apply on military expenditures are a prolific crop in Canada. Isn't the Government machinery, built up in times of prosperity, a little too expensive for times like the present. The people must economize. Why should not the Government?—Farm and Dairy.

OPPORTUNITY.

Chicago waits for a mayor who will be the masterful architect of the greater city. The community is passing out of a period of confusion and discouragement. The shadow of the European calamity has fallen upon us as upon all places. The election from which you came a victor, was without real issues, was full of childish devices, and some that were sinister. Nevertheless the city is in a mood for better things, is ready for building. There is vision among its citizens and devotion and courageous hope. The life of the city is strong and sound. Rely upon that and work.—Chicago Tribune.

MODERATION.

A little bit off the top for me, for me.
A little bit off the top for me.
Just tear me off a yard or two,
I'll tell you when to stop;
All I want is a little bit off the top!
—From Ballads of a War Time Middleman—Ottawa Citizen.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Bilton (in Judge)—What's the reason that young man stays so late when he calls?
Miss Bilton (demurely)—I am, papa.

Rockan—Ever since winter has come I can't bear to play billiards.
Rye—Whadde ye mean?
Rockan—Every time I see three balls I think of my overcoat.—Gargoyle.

It had been a hard day for the book agent. Sales were desperately slow, and as a last resort he decided to try a nearby house despite its shabby appearance. "Have you a Charles Dickens in your home?" he asked politely. "No," she snapped. "Or a Robert Louis Stevenson?" "No." "Or a Walter Scott?" "No; we ain't; an' what's more we don't run a boarding house here either. If you're looking for them fellows you might try the house across the street. I understand they keep boarders."—Argonaut.

The man from Glasgow had suffered grievously in crossing the channel and when he next had occasion to repeat the journey he did not intend that there should be so much physical discomfort attached to it. So he marched into a chemist's shop. "Have ye anything to stay the pangs of seasickness?" he asked in his winning Glasgow accent. "Certainly, sir; we have the very thing," said the obliging druggist. "Hoo much is it?" "Half a crown, sir." The Glasgow man staggered back a pace, visibly shaken. "Losh," he gasped when he recovered himself. "I would sooner be seasick!"—Philadelphia Ledger.

President Wilson is noted among his intimate friends for his ready wit. Of course he is a continual prey to the "autograph fiend," and like most famous people, he is not fond of giving away his signature to collectors.

On one occasion, however, when asked to write in a friend's album, he consented to do so. He noticed that someone before him had written in the book the words: "Do right, and fear no man." "Without a moment's hesitation, Dr. Wilson wrote underneath it: "Don't write, and fear no woman!"—Pearson's Magazine.

Augustine Birrell, about whose resignation from the chief secretaryship of Ireland rumors are still in circulation, is, like so many other notable politicians, a lawyer, observes Pearson's. In his early days at the bar Mr. Birrell often had to deal with poor clients. On one occasion he defended a very poor man, and kindly offered to do so for nothing. Mr. Birrell won the case and the client was so grateful that he sent the lawyer 15 shillings. Mr. Birrell accepted this small sum so as not to hurt the man's feelings; but, later on, he was reproached by a fellow lawyer for doing so. "Why," said the latter gentleman, "did you take 15 shillings? Don't you know that it is unprofessional conduct for us lawyers to take less than gold?" "Well," answered Mr. Birrell with a twinkle in his eye, "I took all the poor beggar had. You don't consider that is unprofessional in a lawyer, do you?"

THE CREDIT OF THE TARTAN

(By A. Gordon Mitchell, in Stirling Advertiser.)
Our fathers were an unco sodd
For fuad and fecht and fowry,
And aft the clans had dyed the sod
Wi' crimson stains and gory;
An' tho' in gentler days we're wae
To witness Peace departin',
If nocht but war contents the fae,
They'll get it frae the Tartan.

The pomp and circumstance o' war
I noo are little thought on,
And in the trenches' bloody glaur
His glory is forgotten;
An' yet, in spite o' shrapnel shell,
Our lads their fecht pit heart in,
And ne'er forget thro' battle's hell
The credit o' the Tartan.

And when the moment comes to charge,
Their een like swords are flashin';
Swift as the lightning they emerge
Wi' thunders round them crashin';
And as they rush towards the foe
Wi' heit o' courage Spartan
Their deeds o' glorious valor show
The credit o' the Tartan.

As lang's the Scottish thistle wags,
Tho' shot and shell be blindin'
Shall Scotia prove that still her bairn
Hae got a puff o' wind in.
Play up your slogan fierce and fast
As belty-flaught ye're dartin',
Drive onward like the Highland blast
For credit o' the Tartan.

An' noo the hostile ranks ye reach,
An' noo your points deliver
And as we mak' the deadly breach
The bluid rins like a river.
Tak' that, and that, ye Prussian swine,
Stick t'ur them like a partan;
They never mair shall see the Rhine,
For credit o' the Tartan.

Ye've taught them "Kultur" lads atweel
The wounded, deld and dyin'
Apprue their fate, by dint o' steel,
That roose the Scottish Lion;
And mony mae sic noble bruis
May ye, my lads, tak' part in;
For rest assured, till I the mools
My heit warrs to the Tartan.

GREAT WORDS.

A writer in the Atlantic Monthly observes that the vocabulary of the average American is being degraded: "Our phraseology has become carnal; our vital terms are terms of physical life." This is probably true. If one reads the letters or the quoted conversation of a century ago he will discover a very staid and prim atmosphere, a certain bookishness that is quite absent from modern informal language.

Part of this difference may be due to the change in current expressions that are classified as slang. For every age had something of this looseness of words in the making, though it may be possible that the present is more addicted to the manufacturing process than the past has been. But it is also true that we are, in spite of informality, more self-conscious than we would have anybody imagine.

We are afraid of being thought rhetorical. We shrink from the stateliness or the floweriness of an older age. It is really a lack of courage as much as anything else that makes the great words shunned in our modern conversation or our modern writing. It is not intelligent restraint, however, for in our feverish desire to get a "punch" into our talk or our literature we run the gamut of the sentimental and the extravagant.

So it is rather an unfortunate condition, this one of the poorness and cheapness of our language. There are more college graduates in their olden than there ever were before, more people with a formal training in the use of clear and dignified and correct speech. It seems rather a mistaken pride or negligence which allows our language to become slipshod and meager. The use of the carnal, the concrete, the physical, is not a thing to disparage. But with this we should have some adequate expression of the spirit or we lose a kind of communication and uplift and refinement which should not be lost by any people, and this is the influence of great words.—Des Moines Register and Leader.

THE "DUMMY" FLEET STORY.

St. John has heard during the last few weeks several stories brought from Great Britain by travelers concerning plans to block the Kiel Canal and imprison the German fleet. Hitherto the theory advanced by English newspapers has been that every effort would be made to induce the German sea fleet to come out and give battle. It seemingly is not necessary to block the entrances to the Kiel Canal in order to keep the German fleet off the sea. The mere existence of the British navy is sufficient to do that. Those who have told the story of the dummy ships may be right. They are, of course, proceeding on the idea that it would be of service to have the German fleet definitely imprisoned. Recent advances from German sources have indicated that Germany has abandoned any plan it may have entertained of giving battle at sea, but in some quarters the idea that public sentiment will finally force the fleet out to sea and into action still persists.—St. John Telegraph.

THE WAR IN THE AIR.

Before this war is over, exploits such as these (British aeroplane raids) may have been dwarfed into insignificance. Huge squadrons, numbering their units by hundreds, may before very long be organized for concerted and simultaneous attack. The nations at present are only at the beginning of the new phase of warfare. A few months hence may easily eclipse all that has so far been achieved. We have learned enough, however, of the potentialities of the new weapon, to know, first, that air-power can only be met by air-power; and secondly, that it is an indispensable adjunct to all operations, whether by land or sea.—London Daily Mail.

The Day's Best Editorial

WANTED—A GOOD MEMORY

Attention of a large number of hyphenated persons, writing to this and other newspapers to prove that the murder of non-combatants by drowning at sea is a retaliation for starving Germany, is directed to a homely old proverb. It says that a liar should have a good memory.

It has been repeatedly stated by public men in Germany, and by Dr. Dernberg and other prominent Germans here, that their country is not in the slightest danger of starving. The measures of precaution taken are said to be merely in line with German thoroughness. But whatever murder on the high seas may be, it is not, on Germany's own showing, retaliation for starvation.

As Germany herself proved in the case of Paris in 1870, starvation is a legitimate weapon with a distinct military advantage, which has always been used in war. It is humane in the only way war can be. It tends to shorten its duration. Sinking of unarmed merchant vessels with non-combatants on board has no military advantage. It can terrorize no civilized race. All it does is to rouse an implacable resentment calculated to prolong, rather than to shorten, the struggle.

In another way the German memory is brazenly short. When war first broke out, when Germany took the initiative by invading Belgium, what was the reason given? Nothing was said about England, beyond an allusion to "General French's contemptible little army." Germany was going to war to protect herself, and the civilized world, from the irruption of the barbaric Slavs.

It will be seen that in these, as in numerous other cases, the defenses set up are mutually destructive. It is not enough to say that both of these specimen statements cannot be true. Neither can be true, for each cancels the other. The Hymn of Hate alludes to the Russians in almost affectionate terms. It is the formerly despised Berlin that Germany is fighting now. The Slav peril has apparently disappeared.

Her advocates and defenders have shocked the American sense of humanity. But they need not insult our intelligence.—Wall Street Journal.

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MISTRESS STILL.

"Ouida" on England.

"Ouida" has made her appearance as a poet in the following patriotic lyric:

1862.
Great England put her armor by, and stretch'd
Her stately limbs to slumber in the sun.
The nations, seeing then how long she slept,
Communed together, and in whispers said,
"Lo! She is old and tired; let us steal
The crown from off her brows. She will not know."
And Goneril and Regan, over seas,
Mocking her, cried, "Her time is past, Her blood
Is sluggish, and her rusted sword from out
Her scabbard she will draw no more!" And so
Thus gibing, flung with cruel hands the seeds
Of discord and of hate amidst her sons.
But from the East there came a blast too loud,
As from the West there came a taunt too much;
And she, awaking, raised her head, and saw
Around her all her faithless friends, and all
Her sisters and her children jeering her.
And crying, "She is old!" and meeting out
Her land amongst themselves, and parceling
Her honor. Then, swift as lightning flashes
From the blue skies, her glance of scorn fell on them,
And they crouched, like wolves that are o'ermastered
England stretched out her hand, and touch'd the world—
England arose, and spake, and calmly said,
"Nay, I am mistress still!"

THE BIG GUN SHIP.

It was Lord Fisher who gave this country the big ship, armed with big guns of one calibre, and coupled with high speed. In the great day of truth should it ever come, we shall have reason to be thankful that this policy was so boldly adopted by the board of admiralty. Our big guns have survived all the doubts cast upon them, and it is satisfactory to learn that the ships armed with the new 15-inch gun, the most powerful naval weapon the world has ever seen, are gradually coming into line.—London Times.

OUR FIRE LOSS.

Fire waste in Canada averages \$3 per capita. And about 95 per cent. of it is preventable.—Nelson News.

STOCKS FROM TO STRONG

Technical Position at New York Improved as Result

COTTON OIL A

Advance Brought Rumor of Reopening at Meeting of Directors in St. Louis Securities Was

(Exclusive Leased Wire to Journal)

New York, April 12.—After a closing and profit taking by traders, the market advanced strongly at the end of the day. Interests were well pleased with the closing, and that by its ability to stand the test very well.

Missouri Pacific was active and 1 1/4% the rise being based on expectation of the plan to extend notes to \$10,000,000. Distillers Securities was active and strong at the end of the day. It responded moderately to a 1 1/4% to 10% rise in stockholders conveying reassuring sort in regard to position. Reassuring sort in regard to position. Reassuring sort in regard to position. Reassuring sort in regard to position.

New York, April 12.—The opening of the market was compared with the opening of Saturday morning. Prices were steady and there appeared to be no profit taking. Active bulls who had not closed out on Saturday as most of the market.

Steel opened with sales simultaneous and 5 1/4% compared with 5 1/4% at the close. Traders said the technical position was weak and that the tonnage statement was not buying seemed to be of good omen. Can opened unchanged at 38. The first sale was at 12 1/4%, a decline in price rallied to 130 on the next few sales. The first sale of Rock Island was standard railroads generally showed. Trading in stocks from 10 to 10 1/2%.

New York, April 12.—There was a rally in sales on strong spots to enter the market but while caused hesitation in the market and stocks which had recently had a decline were not previously prominent in the market. Active and strong and reached new peaks for present advance.

Amalgam Copper responded to advance in copper futures in London and 1 1/4% high for present movement was strong, gaining 3/4 to 4 1/4%, its rise on favorable dividend rumors. Cotton Oil was active and gained 1/2% to 5 1/4%. The advance brought a restoration of dividends at the directors next month. Virginia Car by selling up to 26 1/4%, helped by reports of business in its cotton oil department.

New York, April 12.—There was a reaction in the second hour but stock bought on the decline and by noon the market was comparatively quiet and steady. Movement seemed to have nearly run its course. Bears vociferously proclaimed that the market was over and that the stock should be sold. They professed to be greatly disappointed in the tonnage figures, although it had every prospect that orders on the books would average from March 1st total.

There was quite a little pressure on the market. Orders were passed around to the effect that the position of the stock was weak as there had been driven in last week, however, good support on a moderate scale.

New York, April 12.—In the early afternoon of hesitation, the market rallied. The technical position seemed to be much improved as a result of the reaction which transferred of a large amount of stock to strong hands and information of new stock. U. S. Rubber was the noteworthy stock. Block of 1,000 shares was sold at 73 and later it advanced to 73 1/4, Saturday's close.

The company is making large profits and dividend is much above the average of 6 p.c.

Some buying of New Haven followed announcement of the sale to strong bank of the \$12,000,000 1-year 5 p.c. notes to the approaching maturities.

Close observers said there was large short interest in Union Pacific, some of it put out at much lower prices when it was learned that a great amount of stock would be sold by Europe.

CALL MONEY EASIER.

London, April 12.—Call money was easier and 1 1/4 p.c. Bills opened at 2 1/4 p.c. and closed at 2 1/4 p.c. It is anticipated that joint bank rates will be lowered shortly.