

The Evening Times and Star

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THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT

The people of Canada mourn the passing of the Duchess of Connaught, and their deepest sympathy goes out to the family so sorely bereaved. The position of Her Royal Highness the Duchess could not but be a painful one since the great war began, for she was a German princess; but she espoused the cause of her royal husband's people, and throughout her residence in Canada during the war period her whole heart was thrown into the work of caring for the soldiers in the field, in hospitals or prison camps. Both the Duke and Duchess won the affection of the Canadian people, and that regard was even more warmly evinced toward the noble Princess Patricia, whose name was taken and immortalized by one of the first battalions to prove in this war the quality of Canadian soldiers. During their five years residence in Canada the Duke and Duchess and Princess Patricia neglected no duty, and the manner in which they adapted themselves to the democratic atmosphere of the country at once gained for them the kindly regard of the people, who of late have noted with deep concern the cables announcing the progress of an illness that has resulted in the death of the Duchess. Reverently the people of this great Dominion place a spray of maple among the tributes to her memory.

"WINDING UP"

"It would take up some time to wind up the business of several departments before handing over the seals of office," said one member of the government, "but then it may be that we won't have to hand over the seals just now."

The above quotation is from the Fredrickson correspondence of last evening's Globe. We are not told which member of the government is still hugging the fond belief that the tail can wag the dog; but some kind friend should tell him that the government was defeated on Feb. 24, and that only the gentle courtesy of his nature prevents Lieut.-Gov. Wood from indicating to certain gentlemen the propriety of obeying the wishes and will of the people.

The people know quite well the explanation of the government's attitude. The result of the elections was a thunderbolt. The grafters of the party were fairly caught. New men are to go into the departments with power to investigate. This was entirely unexpected, and so there is a lot of "unfinished business" to be attended to before the man with the probe is permitted to enter.

The remarks of a member of the government that "it may be we won't have to hand over the seals just now" is characteristic of a well-known party reluctance to hand over anything until it has been squeezed fairly dry. It is said that the whole of that \$71,000 got from the lumbermen has not yet been handed over, and everybody knows the liquor dealers are still whistling for that \$6,000.

The seals of office belong to the people, and they have decided to have new keepers of them. The seals should be "handed over" this week. Any further delay would be entirely due to disregard of the popular will—and perhaps a desire to make that "unfinished business" reveal as little as possible to the man with the probe.

THE FEEBLE-MINDED

The Social Service Council of Nova Scotia has asked the government of that province to enter into a conference with the other maritime provinces with a view to making provision for the care of the feeble-minded, especially of feeble-minded females of child-bearing age. The Social Service Council of New Brunswick will make the same appeal to the government of that province.

The reason for such action is that it is felt the three provinces could unite and establish a large institution more economically than they could provide three different institutions. As an illustration of the need, Dr. Blackadar told the Commercial Club of Halifax last week that there were more than a hundred mental defectives in Halifax. A class of thirty of these is being looked after to some extent but the others are not receiving attention.

There has just been laid before the Nova Scotia legislature a report on the feeble-minded, which recommends that a director be secured to whom should be entrusted the duty of working out a comprehensive plan for the establishment, construction and administration of an institution for the care of feeble-minded persons in the province. This report was prepared by the superintendent of education, the superintendent of neglected and dependent children, and the provincial health officers. While they recommend an institution for Nova Scotia, the better plan of joint action by the three provinces should appeal to them as more likely to produce the best results, since it would mean a larger and better equipped institution, with less overhead charges than would be the case with three separate homes. Aside, however, from the question of provincial or interprovincial action, the report is valuable in that it shows there are no less than ninety-two feeble-minded children in the various institutions in Nova Scotia.

tin, and that in the last eight years an

average of 233 children in the public schools have been reported as mentally deficient. Whoever gives serious thought to the subject must see that there is great need for an institution where the feeble-minded may be segregated and properly cared for. It is in the public interest that such action should be taken, and one large institution for the maritime provinces would best solve the problem.

In an address pleading for the segregation and care of the feeble-minded, delivered recently before the Community Efficiency Conference in Augusta, Maine, Prof. Franklin of Colby College presented the case with great clearness and force. He said:

"Precaution against any menacing scourge is a public duty. Investigations reveal astonishing facts. Crime after crime has been traced to these defectives. As a preventive of crime, incarceration or segregation under supervision is a pressing need. But criminality is not the most dreadful menace; moral and physical diseases are rampant among the mentally deficient. Numerous instances prove that they often spread moral and physical pollution through an entire community. Segregation and separation of sexes, therefore, are the safeguards for the present generation. For the protection of ourselves and our families and friends it is urgent that these people receive immediate attention. Furthermore, the present generation must not forget the unborn generation. To prevent the reproduction of the mentally unfit is the problem of all those who are looking toward the future of the race. On the whole, I feel that some method of segregation is the best solution."

China has seized German merchant ships in the port of Shanghai. The breach between the two countries is complete. Germany's plans to use China in advancing her interests in the far east have proved as futile as her efforts to foment an uprising in India with the aid of plotters in the United States. And now England holds the eastern terminus of the Berlin to Bagdad railway. The German press does not attempt to minimize the effect of this blow to German and Turkish prestige in the east.

Von Bernstorff is back in Berlin. He will not have a very cheerful tale to tell of the result of his intrigues and exploits in the United States. Nor will many bonfires blaze in his honor. A good deal of the swagger has gone out of the German supermen in the last few months.

Almost half the time in which Germany hoped to cripple Britain by unrestricted submarine warfare has passed, and it is plain the submarine will presently be classed with the Zeppelin as an ineffective weapon, so far as the conquest of Britain is concerned.

We are informed that Mr. James P. Byrne of Bathurst has been appointed a king's counsel by the government at Fredericton. More than a year ago Mr. Byrne was recommended for this distinction, by the proper authority in such matters, but the government paid no attention. The appointment now is an illustration of death-bed repentance.

The people of New Brunswick have provided Lieut.-Gov. Wood with a new group of advisors. They are ready to advise. Without desiring to make it unpleasant for anybody, the people are beginning to feel that the new advisors should now be given an opportunity to carry out the wishes of the people.

The British are still pursuing the Turks, thirty miles beyond Bagdad, in the Tigris, and the Russians have captured Kermanshah, eighty miles beyond Hamadan, in their drive forward to effect a junction with the British. All the news from that war zone is of the most satisfactory nature.

Mr. R. B. Bennett says the prairie provinces need 12,500 men for farm work. Are they needed worse there than in France? Who can tell? The government ought to know. What does it say? Nothing at all.

The official list of American victims of submarine warfare gives a total of 230, including those on the Lusitania. Which means there are 230 reasons why the United States should declare war.

The German Chancellor foreshadows a movement toward democratic government in Germany after the war. This is a confession of the failure of Prussian militarism.

The British make further gains yesterday, in their efforts to capture Bapaume. They are already in the outskirts of the town.

India is to supply more troops. What of Canada?

Misplaced Zeal

Teacher—Why are you late for school? Pupil—Please, teacher, I must have over-washed myself.

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Mrs. B.—What do you know about it? Mrs. A.—A great deal. Before I began to keep brandy in the house my husband seldom had colic, but now he has it almost every day.

The lion tamer was brave, as a lion tamer must necessarily be, yet he had his weaknesses. For one thing, he lived in mortal terror of bronchitis. One day after he had entered with perfect composure a cage containing two half-starved bears and a panther, he shook his head gravely as he came out.

"This is going to end badly for me some day," he said solemnly, to a gentleman who stood near.

"Of course, there is always the danger that those ferocious beasts will devour you," said the gentleman sympathetically.

"The animals!" the lion tamer exclaimed. "Good heavens, you don't suppose I am afraid of them! It is these confounded cages. They are such dreadful places for drafts!"

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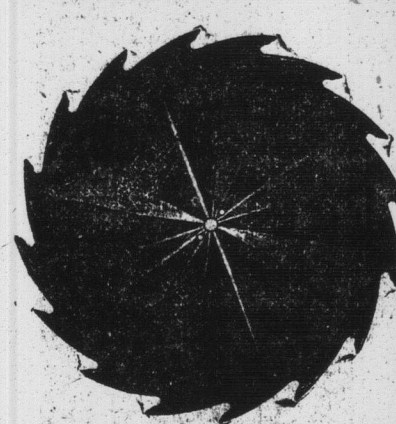
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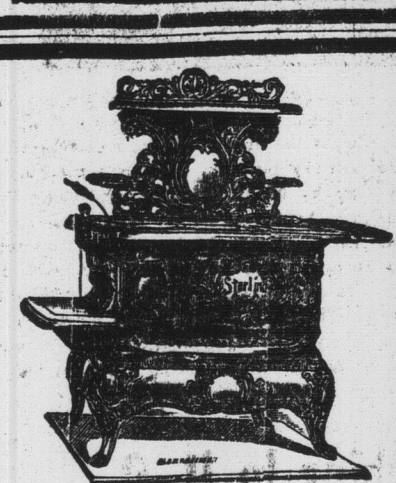
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When the historian records the story of this great war, one chapter will be devoted to the great work done by dogs. Practically all the European nations have used dogs in one way or another. They have been on the battle field attached to the ambulance corps; on patrol duty. They have been despatch carriers and scouts, and when the invasion of Belgium took place they drew the quick firing guns to the front line.

In addition to their work on the battle field dogs did much to aid refugees. They took their masters and their families out of the line of invasion.

War correspondents have told how

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much sagacity and courage the Belgian draught dogs displayed upon the battle field at Hazen, where, with the aid of Colonel Isaac Neill Lewis' machine, they held back for a time the German advance through Belgium.

Europe has been training dogs for years to the work which they did upon the battle field. Fries were their rewards but when the war broke out they aided humanity.

These trained dogs immediately became attached to the Red Cross work, and many of them gave up their lives in aiding humans.

There is a story told of Belgian dogs which aided their masters. The Belgians, surrounded so that it seemed hopeless to break through, probably would have been destroyed but for the idea of a captain in charge of what was left of the machine gun section. He gave orders to loose the dogs from the guns and to encourage the dogs to fling themselves upon the enemy. The dogs did it with such telling effect that they made a lane through which some of the Belgian gunners escaped.

If dogs were given medals for valor or for distinguished service on the battlefield, doubtless thousands would have won the coveted cross of war, for there have been instances without number on both sides where they have distinguished themselves.

Sergeant Major Poulisigne's dog Artemis, was wounded in the Argonne. This is how it happened: Lying beside his master in the trench at a listening post, he smelled the German advance guards and, indicated a warning of the enemy's approach. Sergeant Poulisigne ordered the dog back to warn the regiment to be on the alert. The dog, however, refused to go, when suddenly there was a slight noise behind the listening soldier and Artemis sprang over the parapet and flung himself at the throat of a German soldier. In the fight between man and beast a bullet went through his right front leg. The dog recovered.

On another occasion, when his master was attached to the 84th regiment of infantry in the Ypres sector, the soldier was having a fierce hand-to-hand fight with one German, while another was slinking up to beset him from behind.

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Artemis leaped at the latter's throat and finished him. The dog's master also got the better of his adversary.

Other dogs which deserve medals for their work are Marquis, which carried a message around his neck to a far-off detachment, arriving, breathless and panting at his destination, only to die; Stop, of the Fifteenth Army Corps, which saved many lives by his activities, and Flora, of the Twelfth Alpine Chasseurs, which did linking work for two days, running under a rain of shell fire.

"The French war department has on record a letter from the father of a family, who wrote saying:—'I already have three sons and a son-in-law with the colors; now I give my dog, and 'Vive la France!'"

Dogs on both sides do plenty duty at night, carrying messages back to the line with more security than man and give notice of the advance of the enemy by barking. These dogs are trained to bark whenever a stranger approaches within 200 yards, and surprise attacks have often been frustrated by this advance knowledge.

According to the Gazette de France a certain French regiment possesses a dog which is sent out from advanced sentry posts at night with a telephone strapped over his mouth and a wire connecting the instrument with the post. If the dog hears the Germans approaching he barks quietly into the telephone.

The use of dogs in war is merely history repeating itself. In earlier times the use of the dog was far more extensive. Both Greeks and Romans used them as actual fighters, arming them with coats of mail and fearsome spiked collars.

In the border wars between England and Scotland, both the employed dogs to track fugitives, and Wallace and Bruce had narrow escapes from English bloodhounds, old chronicles testify. And when in the reign of Elizabeth the Earl of Essex went to suppress a rebellion in Ireland 800 bloodhounds accompanied his army as part of his expeditionary force.

WHY Does Your Head Ache?

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