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THE NEW ONTARIO
CABINET.

IT CANNOT be said that the changes
announced yesterday in the Ontario
Cabinet, and forecast some weeks ago
in the Advertiser, will add to the
strength of the provincial administration.
Hon. L. B. Lucas is not a worthy
substitute for Hon. J. J. Foy as
Attorney-General, and G. Howard Ferguson,
of Grenville County, will hardly
be expected to be as efficient a member
of the cabinet as Mr. Foy. Mr. Foy was
a member of the Ontario cabinet for
years, and was the greater part of the work
done in the cabinet, and unfortunately the
majority of the new appointments, at
least, bear the earmarks of party expedi-
ency, if not of political expediency.
Hon. W. J. Hanna, as senior member
of the cabinet, next to Mr. Foy, and
regarded as the logical successor to
Mr. Foy, was given his choice of the
portfolios, and decided to continue as
provincial secretary, on the grounds
that the work of prison reform required
his services. It is doubtful if the
argument is good, as this branch of
work could have been transferred quite
easily to the attorney-general's de-
partment, and it has not been demon-
strated that Mr. Hanna is more efficient
in prison reform than any other man
in the cabinet. Mr. Lucas was willing to
undertake it.

Despite the pressure naturally brought
to bear from Northern Ontario to give
the portfolio of lands, forests and mines
to a section of the country where it
belonged, the appointment has gone to
Mr. Ferguson. It was a foregone con-
clusion that the member from Grenville
County would be provided for at \$6,000 a
year. In fact, Mr. Ferguson should
have had his choice of anything going,
for it was he who quelled the Proulx
charges when things looked black
for Mr. Hanna, and virtually saved the
administration from extermination. It
was Ferguson also who blocked the in-
quiry into the educational administra-
tion of Mr. McGarry, too, has a record for
party loyalty that could not be over-
looked, and possibly can fill the duties
of the office of provincial treasurer as
efficiently as did his predecessor.

Hon. Mr. Foy remains in the cabinet
without portfolio. It is unfortunate
that he was obliged through ill-health
to relinquish the important post of
attorney-general.
Since the death of Sir James Whit-
ney, without considering the depart-
ment of provincial secretary, every
portfolio except two, those of education
and agriculture, have been changed, and
these two are generally admitted as be-
ing ill-fated at present most unsatisfac-
torily. Mr. Hearst has become premier
in place of Sir James, Mr. Lucas suc-
ceeds Mr. Foy as attorney-general, and
in turn is succeeded as treasurer by Mr.
McGarry. Finlay G. Macdormid, of
West Elgin, has become minister of
public works, in place of Dr. Reame.
Mr. Ferguson is minister of lands and
mines, in place of Mr. Hearst, and Mr.
Foy and Dr. Preston are ministers with-
out portfolio. In place of Sir Adam Beck
and Hon. J. S. Hendrie.

THE FORCE TENDENCY.

A REVIEW of social and moral
history for the last fifty years
will bring out an advance of the force
tendency along many lines, not only
in Germany, but elsewhere. There was
formerly an age of romanticism when
poets said that poetry should deal in
sweet, gentle things, for

"Strength alone, though of the Muses
born,
Is like a fallen angel."

And the first half, or three-fourths,
of the nineteenth century in England
lived with Keats, rather than with
Byron in this matter. But Germany, al-
ways heroic in its theatrical energy,
has taken itself to illustrate the "fallen
angel."

Poets said that in his verse there
should be
"Nothing be
More boisterous than a lover's bended
knee,
Nought more untroubled than the
grassy slopes
Between two hills."

For a time German poets, philoso-
phers and artists, in one way or an-
other, were the leaders in the senti-
mental propaganda of sweetness and
light. But reaction set in, and as Ger-
many has had hysterics over love and
poetry, happy-ever-after Grimm's Tales,
and sorrows of young Werther, and
nightingales, neo-Catholicism, pale
and effeminate Christs and angels with
insufficient wing-power, and all that,
so Germany has crazed herself in lead-
ing the counter-wave of violence, per-
forming Berserker feats under spiked
hats and producing Bismarck and
Nietzsche.

The advance of science, the improve-
ments in transportation and the death-
defying conquest of the air have caused
a speeding-up of life the world over.
Men live not to think, but live and
think in order to act. The spectacular
spread of organized sports and games
is almost as remarkable a feature of

our recent social life as the spread of
parliaments and socialism in mid-Vic-
torian times. Life has grown more
restless and dramatic. Fearing to be-
come soft and enervated, civilization
has aimed to steel itself against senti-
mentality, and in place of
poets like Tennyson, singing of "low,
large moons" and courtesy, there came
first Browning, rude offender, and then
Kipling, Maasefield, and the rest of the
dramatic school. The flute is not heard
for the gramophone. Culture is de-
fined nowadays differently among our-
selves from the ideas our grandfathers
had of it. In Germany, as a Princeton
professor points out, Kultur means
organized efficiency for national or
social service, a chemical laboratory,
let us say, and our own notion of
"culture" is not unimpregnated with
this scientific tinge.

The "barbaric yawn" is heard
around the civilized world in various
notes and degrees. Germany has only
intensified a certain "rattling back into
barbarism," to use the late Campbell-
Bannerman's phrase. This, of course,
is not to say, old-man fashion, that
Germany and the rest of the world are
really going to the bad. But so far as
philosophy, poetry, talk and some
lines of conduct are concerned, sys-
tematized force has replaced sweet-
ness as the pivot of culture, and in
some degree more energy and effi-
ciency are sought for energy and effi-
ciency's sake. We have even had a
breakfast food called "force," and
Stevenson's wild men are more popular
than ever.

Religion shows the same tendency.
Missions, social effort and dramatic
conventions are central. The activity of
the present life leaves the vision of
future bliss to take care of itself.
Heavenly rest, so far as still consid-
ered, is transformed into a higher and
harder sphere of work in "the sound-
ing labor-house of being." Muscular
Christianity has developed an enormous
biceps, and we hear of men like
Silly Sunday laying doubts by laying
out the doubter at his meetings.

Even our Martha's and Mary's have
caught the idea of "getting busy." In
addition to being cumbered, as of old,
with much serving and prayer. They
have become very businesslike, and
wear the jewel of consistency often
along with the diamond ring. The
female of the species is more deadly
than the male, except in Germany—
behind England, strange to report, in
this particular, and considerable de-
velopment of the force tendency. By the
way, Bret Harte, had remarked, some
years before Kipling stole his phrase,
how "the female of his species brought
the noble Perkins loss." Perhaps the
mascots of hatchet, torch and hammer
will yet have to take this war in hand
and settle accounts with the Nietz-
schean operators for the babies of
Scarborough.

DON'T FORGET THE
ANIMALS.

JUST now, while we are all busy
planning good cheer for friends
and loved ones, don't let us overlook
our four-footed friends. They do not
expect any special attention because
it is Christmas, but because of their
faithfulness, and from feelings of
humanity, they are entitled to a little
extra consideration, now that winter
is in our midst. It is most important,
for instance, that cats and dogs should
have plenty of fresh water. Without
it there is danger of rabies in winter
as well as summer. Therefore see to
it that the receptacle in kennel or
shed be kept clear and the water
prevented from freezing.

And it doesn't require such a great
effort to toss a blanket over a horse,
even when the step is but for a few
minutes, and if these cold mornings
the bit is warmed before going into
the horse's mouth, it will prevent a
lot of cruelty to the lips.

Also remember the birds. That
handful of crumbs you sweep into the
stove would furnish a banquet for a
whole tribe of the feathered friends.
True, the sparrow is a good deal of a
nuisance, but somehow your sporting
inclinations tell you that the plucky
little chap, by weathering these bitter
nights, has earned some small atten-
tions.

THE FIGHT IN POLAND.

GRAT confusion marks the dis-
patches from that section of the
war which is being waged in Russian
Poland, but it is very clear that Ger-
many is throwing all energy that can
be spared from the struggle in Flanders
into a supreme effort to crumple
up the Russian advance. The fighting
for the last few days has been of the
fiercest nature, Petrograd and Berlin
alternately claiming great victories.
Boiled down, it seems as if the German
army in the north was being thrown
back, while the one that is driving at
Warsaw under General von Hindenburg,
appears to be making progress.
It is likely that the capture of War-
saw is now desired by the Germans
more than anything else. Throughout
Austria there is widespread restlessness
over the non-success of the war, and a
spectacular feat, such as the capture
of the Polish capital, would hearten
up flagging enthusiasm. Again, it may
be that the Kaiser hopes that a decisive
win just now would put him in a posi-
tion to suggest a draw. Also it would
tend to keep Roumania out of the fight,
a contingency that must keep the Prus-
sian general staff awake at nights.
Whatever is back of the desperate at-
tempt to defeat the Russians, and per-
haps it is all the reasons suggested, it
is quite evident that the need for a
striking victory is a dire one, other-
wise there would not have been the
withdrawal of Austrian troops from
the Serbian campaign, and the lines
in Belgium would not have been
weakened at a moment when the Allies
have assumed the offensive.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Talking about the dogs of war, there

are some promising bull pups in Flanders just now.

The Mikado of Japan is so anxious
to get into action that he has written
a poem on the war.

William Watson's war poem, "To a
Would-Be Emperor," will not be re-
corded as a hit by the scorers.

When at home the Kaiser's favorite
exercise is sawing wood. With the
Allies in Belgium it's a regular busi-
ness.

Any bored Montrealer who is seeking
a sensation should drop a Union-Jack
down Mr. Bourassa's chimney. Christ-
mas Eve.

The Kaiser is said to be anxious to
call it a draw. But the only draw
the Allies will accept will be that
Germany draw out.

The Dresden has been seen at so many
points since that fight off the
Falklands, that she has become a
regular "Flying Dutchman."

"We note with regret that George
Bernard Shaw continues to skate on
thin ice,"—Exchange.

Well, cheer up. They frequently go
through.

There is little news from the Eastern
Mediterranean, but any day now we
may expect to hear that the British
and French fleets have bored a way
through the Dardanelles. Then comes
Constantinople.

Newcastle, on the east coast of
England, has one of the largest or-
phan's homes in the British Isles. How
did the German "Baby-Killers" come
to overlook that? Must be something
wrong with the German espionage
system.

Christmas Chimes

Start your Christmas smiling early.

"Have you bought Father's present
yet?"

"No, Father has no money left."

A LITTLE DIFFERENCE.

(Philadelphia Record.)

Miss Vane—I knew he was talking to
you about me. Now wasn't he?

Miss Speltz—Well, yes.

Miss Vane—I thought I heard him re-
mark that I had a thick head of hair.

Miss Speltz—Fairly correct. He didn't
mention your hair, however.

A CHRISTMAS SONG.

(Detroit Free Press.)

It's Christmas for the lonely ones, the
same as for the glad.

And it's Christmas for the troubled
hearts, the weary and the sad;

It is Christmas for the poor folks, the
same as for the rich.

But the spirit shouldn't ponder to dis-
cover which is which.

Let the jolly joys of Christmas
As the sunbeams gently fall
And the soothing rains of April,
On the hearts of one and all.

It is Christmas on the mountains, and
the valleys stretching low,
It is Christmas in the alleys and the
streets, where lights aglow;

It is Christmas in the mansion, and the
cottage, bleak and bare;
There's no favored place for gladness,
It is Christmas everywhere.

And the sweetness and the kindness
Are for Peter and for Paul,
For the spirit of the season
Should go out to one and all.

It is Christmas for the orphan when
he's alone, and for the friend
What is in their well-filled stockings
Upon their Christmas tree;

And the love of being thought of is not
only for the few.

Oh, it's Christmas for the humblest
when it's Christmas day for you.
There's no Christmas for the small,
For the blessings of the season
Are the hope of one and all.

NEW WINTER RESORT.

(Toronto Star.)

It's nothing to us, of course, but folks
who are looking for a suitable winter
resort may be interested in the news
that Middlesex county jail is said by
Dr. Bruce Smith to be a remarkably
well-conducted institution.

GOOD SOLDIER'S MOTTO.

(Beck's Weekly.)

That was a noble epigram coined by
Archbishop McNeil, of Toronto, while
talking to the soldiers at the exhibi-
tion grounds, when he said, "Be phys-
ically fit to fight and spiritually fit to
die."

UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM.

(Birmingham Echo-Herald.)

"I proposed to Miss Elathers last
night."

"That girl's lucky, all right."

"Oh, you flatter me."

"I'm not thinking of you. She won a
bet when you proposed."

GLORY OF WAR.

(Adeline Adams in New York Times.)

"Singer, why are you white and sad,
And staring through the stars?"

"The friend and brother I once had
"Is fallen in the wars."

"Was he at Mons, or by the Aisne,
Or near the Flanders shore?"

"Also at Rheims, and in Lorraine,
And places many more."

"Had he no children, fair of limb?"

"Yes, he had many sons."

"But most are fallen there with him,
Before the monstrous guns."

"And where the daughters of his heart
"Crushed also to the sod?"

"The nun who saw their lot and part
"Died maniac, cursing God."

"His wife?" "The woman lives, yet
"dies."

"Daily, and with the grace
"Men may better her sacrifice."

"As it befits her race."

"What was her race, and your friend's?"

"Was he of the first line?"

"He was Briton, Russ or Frank,
"Or from beside the Rhine?"

"Ah, many thousands times untold
"My friends was each of these."

"And went from mart or forge or field,
"To drown in red, red seas?"

DAILY WAR PUZZLE



Girl Pathfinder, signalling. Find a Boy Scout and Another Girl.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE.—Upside down, nose at shoulder of man standing. Upside down under lower gun.

OUR POETS OF WESTERN ONTARIO

THE OLD CIDER BARREL.

From the blossom to the apple,
From the apple to the barrel;
'Tis honey, sweet and useful,
And cannot breed a quarrel.

But, let it 'gin a-stirring,
A-fermenting and 'd that,
Then should you take an overdose,
You'll not know where you're at.

A little good, sweet cider
Is a boon to human kind,
If taken in its infancy,
But, otherwise—now mind!

'Twill make you mighty foolish,
And work mischief all untold;
It looseth naught by ageing,
But grows more strong and bold.

I've known some worthy people
Try a fall with it and fail;
I've known some gracious women
Put their dignity on sale.

I've been at some big blowouts
Where it made them glib of tongue,
But they sorrowed ever after,
For some silly joke they'd sprung.

So leave it, leave it, leave it,
The cider barrel alone;
The less that slips the nectar
From the blossom, as I've shown.

Is happier and far safer
Than the fellow who would try
To lift it and to shift it—
He had better pass it by.

—DR. JAMES HENDERSON

Ingersoll, Ont.

Pres. Wilson Overdoing It

OPTIMISTIC BILL.

(Montreal Mail.)

W. J. Bryan says a million men would
spring up in arms before sunset on the
day the United States, by a treaty with
Germany, speaks, the world's
greatest military experts are spending
a year training for service a million
which sprung up like this.

BAD FOR THE U. S.

(Guelp Mercury.)

British and French critics claim that
the United States, by uttering near a
word of protest against the Belgian hor-
ror, and allowing the situation between Metz
and Verdun as of unforgotten Metz
such a thing as working the watchful
waiting policy until the thing becomes
late and foolish.

UP TO UNCLE SAM.

(Maitland Herald.)

It would seem to be prudent policy
on the part of the United States Gov-
ernment to make formal protest against
such violations of international law as
the bombardment of undefended English
coast towns by German warships. When
it is considered how powerless the

United States navy would be to protect
that country's long coast lines, dotted
with thriving towns, from naval at-
tack, one would suppose that a protest
from Washington would be filed as a
matter of course. But that precious
jewel, neutrality, is so dearly prized
and jealously guarded that a timorous
silence on the subject is likely to be
maintained at Washington.

[Montreal Gazette.]

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United States for not seeking an excuse
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acts are committed. One speaker for
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that more cities will suffer when the
Germans are being driven back into
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United States could prevent this would
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