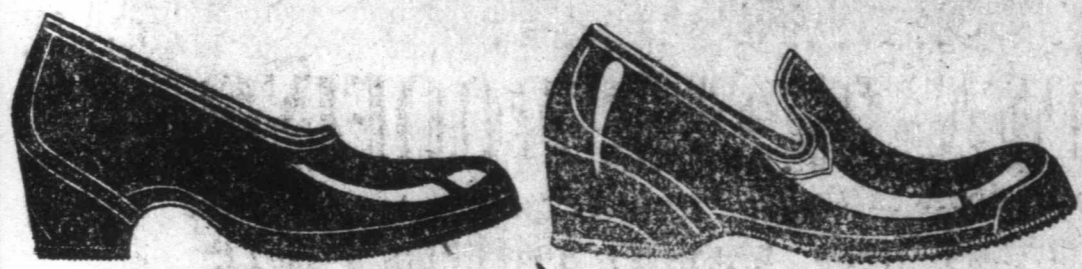
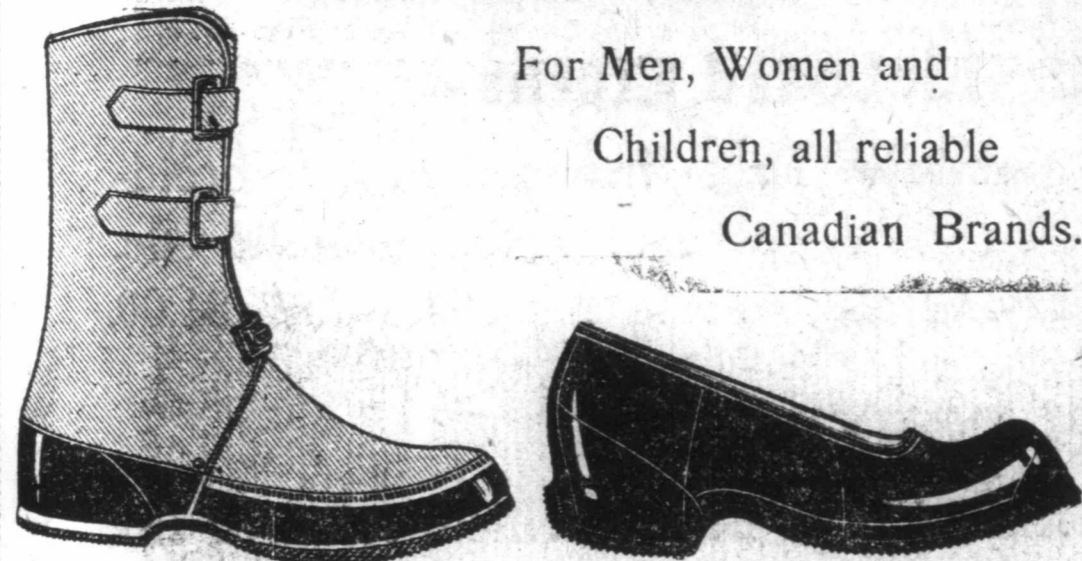


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Will Emperor Charles of Austria Make Separate Peace?

Although Emperor Charles of Austria has announced that he will continue the war until the end, he will not continue it in the way that it would have been continued had Franz Josef remained on the throne. He is not likely to prove the mere tool of Germany that his great-uncle was. He has not the respect for the Kaiser that the latter had been used to look for from Austria, and in the opinion of F. Cunliffe Owen, a well-informed writer upon European affairs, the prospect of Austria coming to a separate peace has been improved by the death of Franz Josef and the accession of Charles Francis Joseph. It is said that the impression that the new emperor is a characterless youth is an erroneous one, although it has been fostered in Berlin. He is not a youth at all, for he is 29, the age at which the Kaiser ascended the throne. He has also been unusually fortunate in the sort of training he has had. He has been brought more intimately in touch with his subjects than most sovereigns, for he received his education in the Public Schools of Vienna where he sat beside the sons of tradesmen, artisans and professional people.

Disliked by His Uncle.
His military training, too, was unusually severe, and this will prove of advantage to the new emperor, although his uncle and guardian, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, prescribed the severity because of his thorough dislike for the nephew who was in the direct line of succession. Perhaps it ought to be explained that, while the late Archduke Francis Ferdinand, nephew of Franz Josef, and heir-apparent to the Austrian throne, whose assassination was the pretext for bringing on the war, had sons of his own, they were the children of his morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, and therefore not eligible to succeed him. We are told that on this account the Archduke hated his nephew and did what he could to make his life an arduous one. The present Emperor, however, appears to have taken kindly to the regiment and before the war broke out had learned the art of making friends of his fellow-officers and whoever else came in contact with him. Since the beginning of the war he has been almost constantly at the front either in the south against the Italians or in the east against the Russians.

A Friend of Berchtold.
Perhaps the most significant public act in the career of the new emperor was that of appointing Count Berchtold Grand Master of his household. The Count had been virtually the Chancellor of the Dual Monarchy, and resigned, it is believed, because of difference of opinion with Berlin. He strongly objected to Austria being made a mere adjunct to the German Empire, but so besotted was the aged emperor that he permitted Berchtold to retire when it became plain that he was persona non grata to the Kaiser. That the leading politician in Austria should then consent to take a mere court appointment was a surprising development. The heir to the throne had virtually showed Germany that he was the friend of Berchtold, and would stand by him when the time came. It would not be astonishing if Berchtold were speedily restored to his old position.

Wanted Early Peace.
Whether he becomes again the official adviser of the Emperor of Austria it seems likely that he will continue to be his unofficial promoter. This is important in view of the fact that it was generally believed that in the early part of 1915, before Italy had entered the war, Berchtold was in favor of Austria arranging a separate peace. He said that whoever won the war, Austria would be a loser. Should Germany triumph, Austria would be a German vassal; should Germany lose, Austria would be partitioned. Had the war ended with the swift triumph that the Central Powers expected, with Paris captured and France laid prostrate in the first few weeks of the war, and with Austria and Germany free to attack Russia, Austria might have claimed an equal share of the glory, and might have made claims to be treated like a 50 per cent partner. But Austria's participation in the war has been a series of disasters, and Berchtold realized that the sooner she was quit of the struggle the better for her future.

Kaiser Means Aged Duke.
It is only a few days ago that Dr. Dernburg in an address to leading Austrian and Hungarian bankers and merchants showed them that in the future Germany intended to have the Dual Empire absolutely at her mercy. This he did unintentionally when he

The Children of Belgium

"All of them, from the oldest to the youngest—and most of all the youngest—have the hollow cheeks, and that which does not deceive, the wan faces of people who for two years have not eaten according to their hunger," is the graphic description of the Belgians of the occupied section of the country as given the great Belgian writer, Maurice Maeterlinck. "Think what these words mean," he adds, "Not to eat according to one's hunger. The soul stiffens against its lot, but the body is able no longer. It does not support for endless months a life of want which no civilized people would dare inflict on its worst criminals."

And this attacks the young. It is the wan faces of helpless little children, hanging to their mothers' skirts as they leave their impressions on the minds of us here in the midst of our plenty. "Why should our children suffer?" is the questions that Belgium can rightfully ask of the civilized world. Yet these children are suffering, starving, dying to-day because they cannot be given food enough to keep their little souls on this earth.

Life and happiness is the birth-right of the child and yet this is the very thing that is being denied the children of Belgium,—the children of these noble soldiers who even now are helping us fight the battles of civilization. Are we fighting the battle of civilization, too, by helping to save these children.

ADVERTISE IN
THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

Port Blandford Welcomes One of Her Fighting Sons

To the Editor)
Dear Sir—On the 23rd ult. the friends of the soldiers, with the help of the W.P.A., got together in the Orange Hall to welcome home one of our returned soldiers, in the person of Private Geo. F. Greening.

Private Greening was away for about 18 months. During that period he spent three months in the trenches in France. While there he was stricken with pneumonia, rather severely, which demanded immediate removal to hospital. Private Greening suffered severely while in hospital, his temperature going up to 105 degrees. While in the trenches he had some rather close calls. On one occasion a fragment of shell tore the puttee from his leg, but did not touch the skin.

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On another occasion while standing on duty, a stray bullet from an air explosion descended from above and pierced the steel helmet cape that he had on his head.

His parents and friends were very pleased to have him home for a few months, even on furlough, and to regain his health. Private Greening, we are told, married a bonnie Scotch lassie before going to the trenches, whom he left in Scotland to await his return.

As I said, Mr. Editor, we got together to show our appreciation for what he had done for us. We had a free tea for all comers, old and young, at which all did ample justice. Not the least part of the proceedings was the entertainment which came after, consisting of short addresses and songs, in which several took part, having as our chairman Mr. J. R. Row-sell, J.P.

Private Greening was the recipient of a little donation of \$5.00 from the W.P.A., also a collection on the spot, amounting to over \$6.00 more. Three cheers for our soldiers, and the National Anthem brought to a close a most enjoyable evening.

Mr. Arthur Cooper and Mr. Hayward from Bonavista came up to spend the winter with us a short time ago. We hope they will find it both pleasant and profitable.

G. R. PLOUGHMAN.

Food Crisis in Germany

London, Nov. 28.—The Daily Mail makes a feature story of what it describes as highly authentic information that the food situation in both Germany and Austria-Hungary is more desperate than had hitherto been generally believed. This information is based on what is claimed to be the necessity of the American officials in both countries to send urgent demands home for supplies of food. The food supplies, it is said, are now arriving and are being placed in depots under the vigilant supervision of American officials.

The newspaper says its informant declares that the Americans in the past few weeks have been reporting to Washington that their ration tickets are useless as there is little or no food to ration the nation and government in hastening supplies of food to them is only interpreted in the light of showing that the American Embassies and consulates now regard the food situation in Austria and Germany with the greatest possible anxiety.

In an editorial dealing with this story The Daily Mail says it explains the present peace intrigues which the Germans are fomenting in the United States and elsewhere and urges the British government to exert every possible pressure, especially the tightening of the blockade, to prevent Germany from taking advantage of the seizure of the corn lands of Roumania.

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With best regards, I am,
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