



GERMAN PRISONERS ARRIVE AT ALDERSHOT.

A few days ago 1,600 German prisoners of war were brought to military headquarters and marched from there to the Frith Hill Detention Compound in Camberley.

manoeuvring. He has this share, of course—a noble share. He gives an unlimited proxy to the men whom he trusts. And he was in the same position before war broke out, touching foreign policy. Sir Edward Grey—doubtless in consultation with his little group of foreign policy experts, including, we presume, the leaders of the Unionist Opposition—conducted the whole diplomatic correspondence in secret. The enfranchised “king” in Middlesex and Midlothian didn’t know a blessed thing about it—except that war was an imminent possibility. We are now reading this correspondence in the various “white papers,” while British soldiers are dying in the trenches on the Aisne.

HOW, in the name of common sense, could Canada have had any more effective voice in all of this than she has had? Note—I think that she has had an effective voice. Her prompt offer of military

assistance undoubtedly greatly encouraged the British people. But if we had made no such offer, we should have been at war just the same. And if any one can imagine so unthinkable a thing as that we had protested against the war, it would have as surely come. In the face of these convincing realities, can we not agree to abstain from talking inflated “flap-doodle” for the future? These tremendous—and possibly tragic—fencing bouts with the secret governments of a military age, must be carried on, on our behalf, by trained “swordsmen” whom we will trust. There is no other way. An open committee can neither wage war nor avert it. The true share of Canada in all this is to put in training a few budding diplomats—possibly as members of the Committee of Imperial Defence—and let them learn the trade. Then we, too, will have skilled “swordsmen” whom we can trust.

THE MONOCLE MAN.

REFLECTIONS

By THE EDITOR

AN interesting story about Lord Kitchener comes to Canada via New York. It is a new explanation of his hurried visit to Paris, in the latter part of August. When General French got cornered at Mons, he sent word to the military governor of the district that he wanted reinforcements at once, but his request was not complied with promptly. Lord Kitchener heard of it, jumped on a warship, and crossed to Havre. He motored to Paris, and demanded that the military governor be court martialled. When the French Minister of War objected, Kitchener threatened to withdraw the British troops. President Poincare sided with Kitchener and the cabinet resigned. A new cabinet, more in harmony with British ideas, was installed. The governor of the district was removed.

A slight variation was given in the New York Sun last week. It says that the French general who caused the trouble received the orders or request from a junior who had been promoted over his head, “or something of that kind,” and refused to open the letter. For this he was shot.

ANOTHER Kitchener story comes from a returned Canadian. When Lord Kitchener was asked to become Minister of War, it was at the request of the Premier, and with the approval of both political parties. He replied that he would take it on condition that he be allowed to finish the job. He pointed out that it would be a long and serious fight and that when it was half over there would be an outcry all through the nations for a cessation of bloodshed. When that cry came it must be disregarded and the war carried on until Germany was completely crushed and every possibility of future trouble averted. After due consideration, the two parties agreed to his condition, and he took up the task.

That there is something in the story, is proven by the agreement afterwards made by the Allies, the one with the other, that there should be no peace until all three powers were satisfied. Moreover, if the story is true, this war will not be over in the year 1914.

STILL another story indicates the wonderful man on whom the British Empire has rested its fate. When Lord Kitchener went to his office, he found two rooms—an anteroom where callers waited and an inside office. He looked it over, ordered his desk to be put in the anteroom and the inner office to be fixed up as a bedroom. He has no time to see callers, and neither has he time to go to his club or residence. He is, literally, on the job day and night.

To describe this man and to picture the confidence which the British people have in him would require the use of too many adjectives and special phrases. It can be felt, but it cannot be described. Where he is, there is no bombast, no ostentatious display of activity, and no confusion. No reporter would dare approach him, and the moving picture man would sooner be hanged than be sent to get a film of the iron-faced war-office Sphinx.

BRITAIN’S wonderful reserve wealth continues to surprise even careful observers. The British investors were asked to supply Belgium with fifty million dollars, without interest. It was a startling and unusual request. Yet Lloyd George reports that he was offered two hundred millions for this purpose.

Three times already the British Government has asked investors to take a \$75,000,000 loan. When the third request was made, the amount was subscribed three times over.

Contrast this with the methods adopted to secure the German loan of five billion marks, or slightly more than a thousand million dollars. The amount was large, but there was no attempt to make the call gradually. The whole loan was peremptorily demanded. The government attached or commandeered twenty-five per cent. of all bank balances. Every bank depositor was forced to subscribe whether he wished to do so or not. German merchants who owe money to foreign manufacturers were told to invest the money in the war loan and notify their creditors to that effect. The interest at five per cent. is to be credited to the foreign manu-

facturer and at the end of the war, if Germany is able to pay, he will get his principle with interest. The German Government does not desire, or is unwilling, to trust to the patriotism of its citizens.

CANADA has sent thirty-one thousand soldiers to the front, most of them members of the militia and all of them officered from the militia. Every citizen is proud of this army and prouder still that Canada has been able to contribute this priceless treasure to the defence of the Empire. The men themselves will play no mean part. Like the million bags of flour which we were glad to give, they are an earnest of what the Dominion can do, and will do if necessary. It is not so much the contingent itself; it is the significance of it to ourselves, to the Empire and to the world.

TO ourselves, this contingent is significant because its going forward to Salisbury Plain has shown us that we are British still. There have been times when we doubted it. Occasionally learned and thoughtful Canadians would gather in a group and seriously discuss whether Canada was really a part of the Empire or not. The emissaries of that political organization known as “The Round Table” have issued many pages of tedious platitudes about the extent of our loyalty. Visiting Britishers always discussed it whenever they met a newspaper reporter or a Canadian Club audience. Now, all that sort of human folly is ended. The world knows that our loyalty is boundless and measureless. Best of all, we know it ourselves.

CERTAIN people who have always been opposed to military training are now trying to convince themselves that they were only opposed to conscription or compulsory service. They are most ingenious in performing mental somersaults.

For example, the Ottawa “Free Press” has a naive editorial praising voluntary military service as against conscription. It is well done, but it does not carry conviction. What has been advocated in Canada is not conscription, but compulsory training as they have it in Australia, New Zealand and Switzerland. By this system, every man gets a certain measure of training at a period in his life when he can best afford the time and when he is most capable of absorbing the lessons and reaping the advantages. It is a waste of time to train a man who is over forty years of age. Every Australian, when he is twenty-six years old, has completed his military training and is equipped for the call to duty whenever it may come. So it should be here.

FURTHER, the idea of military service has been broadened. A man who can cook or who knows how to take care of horses in the open country is as necessary as the man who can hit a target at a thousand yards. The doctor, the nurse, the man who can set up a bakery, the electrician who knows telegraphy and signalling, the chauffeur who can drive an armoured automobile, the machinist who can take a quick-firing gun to pieces, the engineer who can build bridges, the aeronaut—all these and a dozen other kinds of helpers are as useful as the soldier in the firing line.

Canada has sent well-trained officers, many well-trained marksmen, telegraphers, machinists, chauffeurs, and all sorts of skilled mechanics and helpers. With them go 7,500 horses, six 60-pound guns, scores of eighteen-pounders, and a magnificent outfit of machine guns and automobiles. The ambulances and the medical corps equipment are of the best. The little army that has been sent out represents a variety of intelligence and training. Indeed, the almost bewildering complexity of a modern military force is to a layman almost as complex as life itself.

Officers Canadian Contingent

Commandant

Infantry—

- First Brigade—Lieut.-Col. R. E. W. Turner, V.C., D.S.O. (Quebec.)
- Second Brigade—Lieut.-Col. M. S. Mercer (Toronto.)
- Third Brigade—Lieut.-Col. A. W. Currie (Victoria.)
- Fourth Brigade—Lieut.-Col. J. E. Cohoe (St. Catharines.)

Artillery—

- First Brigade—Lieut.-Col. H. E. Burstall (Permanent Militia.)

Staff—

- Second Grade—Lieut.-Col. A. C. Macdonnell; Lieut.-Col. Gordon Hall.
- Third Grade—Captain Mitchell; Captain Lambe.
- Director Medical Services—Col. Guy Carlton Jones.
- Assistant Medical Services—Lieut.-Col. Foster.
- Quartermaster General—Captain Hamilton.
- Chief Cashier—Major Shanley.
- Assistant Cashier—Captain Gagnon.
- Chief Paymaster—Col. Ward.