

The Weekly Ontario

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THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1915.

DOES GERMANY WANT WAR?

Is Germany deliberately trying to force the United States into war? At first thought such a question sounds ridiculous, but is it as ridiculous as it seems? Lord Charles Beresford has expressed the opinion that Germany actually desires to add the great American republic to its list of enemies. The reasons for this peculiarly Teutonic attitude can easily be discovered.

Official Germany realized months ago that there was small chance for its armies to triumph in Europe. With the United States augmenting the forces hostile to Germany there would be a fine excuse for the managers of Germany's big machine to throw up their hands, and say it required the whole world in arms against them to put them out of commission.

It is probable too, that the war-lords hope there would be the possibility of securing better terms in the settlement after the war with the United States in the game.

The more enemies Germany has the greater are the chances for dissension in the enemies' councils.

On the other hand the Germans may be shrewdly figuring that the United States would really be less formidable as a declared enemy than as a neutral, friendly to the Allies.

Since the opening of the war, New York has come to be the money-lending centre of the world. United States machine shops are turning out a very large proportion of the weapons, equipment and ammunition that go to supply the Allied armies of Europe.

If the republic were to declare war on Germany, the money would all be required at home. The machine shops, arsenals and mechanics, would instantly be charged with providing for the needs of a huge, new American army, and the supplies for Europe would cease to be exported.

How long would it take the United States to prepare and equip an army that would be capable of rendering effective assistance in Europe? Their regular army, as at present constituted, numbers about one hundred thousand. Every state has its own militia which is more or less efficient, but is, generally speaking, about as much of a joke as was our own militia in Canada prior to the war.

Our neighbors could in time raise an enormous army of the very best fighting material, but it would require many months of preparation.

In the meantime the issue in Europe would probably be decided.

The Americans would have to contend against the peculiar situation of having several million subjects of German and Austrian birth who would strenuously oppose any attempt to swing the United States into a war in behalf of the Allies.

Taking all these facts into consideration, there may be very much method in the Kaiser's madness, if he is deliberately trying to stir up and provoke the American nation until forbearance will be followed by vigorous action.

It may be put down as certain that there is no very strong desire on the part of the Allied nations to see the United States become involved. They do not need the help of the American navy, and the little American army would of small assistance. On the other hand the Allies do need food, money and ammunition as well as the commercial support of a great trading nation. With the U. S. as a neutral all these can best be supplied.

The Allies could receive far more valuable assistance in an active military way from Italy and Roumania. Both these countries have well equipped, formidable armies ready to take the field at a moment's notice. They would pretty nearly be able to take charge of Austria, leaving Russia to join with Great Britain and France in

a concerted attack on Germany.

The coming of Italy and Roumania into the war would lessen its duration by months. The entry of the United States could scarcely have any favorable effect for our side for at least a year to come.

What the United States may or should do to vindicate its honor and self-respect is another matter. Despatches from Washington indicate that vigorous action may be taken in a few days if the German reply to American representations is unfavorable.

There is a rising fire of indignation over the whole republic that increases in volume daily. At any time this may be fanned into such a flame as to force the administration's hand.

AN INGLORIOUS END.

The resignation of the Roblin administration yesterday morning, brings to an inglorious and cowardly close the most brazen regime of corruption in the parliamentary annals of Canada. That it has persisted for fifteen years is more of a tribute to the long-suffering forbearance of the people of Manitoba than it is to their good judgment or determination to be clean.

There is no doubt but the end was hastened by the certain knowledge that damaging revelations would be made before the Royal Commission recently appointed to investigate the charges alleging the misappropriation of nearly a million dollars in connection with the building of the new parliament buildings at Winnipeg.

The threatened collapse of roblinism, or, rather, bobrogerisation, in Manitoba was no doubt one great contributing cause in producing the Honorable Bob's inordinate anxiety for an early Dominion election.

The ignoble collapse of macbrideism in British Columbia may also be confidently looked for at no distant date.

The master who taught Sir Rodmond all his tricks could see plainly enough that disclosures at Winnipeg and Vancouver, in addition to the Militia scandals at Ottawa, meant disaster to his own machine in the coming election—unless the contest could be brought on before the disclosures were made.

There need now be no patriotic fears in regard to a June election. Any such calamity will be staved off as long as possible.

THE POWER OF THE WILL.

Will is the part consciousness plays in evolution. It is the individual organism helping to make itself—man taking a hand in his own making, piloting his vessel of heredity through the sea of environment.

It is through will that we develop or neglect the capacity bestowed by heredity. A gifted person may idle away his time and become a nobody; a mediocre one may improve himself as best he can and become of consequence. It is for each man himself to say whether he will be all that nature permits.

Capacity undeveloped is as fruitless as no capacity at all, as a seed unsown is as barren as dead seed. It is by will that we realize upon our capacities, that we choose to be or not to be what our inherent potentialities allow.

Within the limitations of inherited capacities and environment one becomes what he will. He cannot by willing enlarge his capacities, but he can develop them to the full. He cannot by willing create opportunities, but he can utilize them and help them arise.

One's life unfolds, like the rose, from within.

No more pregnant words occur in holy writ than these: "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

As the seed is so is the flower; as the spring is so is the stream; as the tree is so is the fruit; and as a man's will is so is his life.

The workings from cause to effect are as absolute and immutable in the secret realm of the soul as in the outer world of visible things.

Will must find its own, as surely and irresistibly as the homing dove finds its cote, the bee the clover and the seed-shoot the light it seeks.

A man's will is the master weaver of his destiny.

GEN. BOTHA'S TRIUMPH.

The brief despatches from Cape Town yesterday contained the gratifying announcement that Windhoek, the capital of German South West Africa had been captured and occupied by the Union forces under General Botha.

Although the victory was won without serious resistance on the part of the Germans, it is none the less a great triumph for General Botha and the splendid plan of campaign he had inaugurated. Slowly, but irresistibly, he

crept up to the enemy until they sought safety in flight rather than face inevitable defeat. Whether they will remain in the colony to carry on guerilla warfare, or try to retreat across the continent to Germany's colony on the east, remains to be seen.

General Botha's triumph is a triumph as well for British fair play and British diplomacy. Only fifteen years ago, Botha led the arms of the Transvaal against Britain. Now he leads a magnificent army of his fellow-countrymen to vanquish Britain's enemies. To our mind there is no such object lesson in all history of the value of just treatment extended to a defeated but gallant enemy.

The victorious outcome of his campaign stamps General Botha as one of the great military leaders of the world. He has already been recognized as one of the greatest colonial statesmen.

His plan of campaign and the difficulties he had triumphantly overcome have been admirably described in the Manchester Guardian, from whose article we gather the following facts.

The Union forces which have advanced from the west, the south, and the east, are now within touch of one another at Keetmanshoop, which is the administrative centre of the southern half of the colony, the meeting point of its most important military roads, and the chief station at the southern end of the central railway line, the other end of which is commanded by General Botha and the force advancing from the north.

The defending army has so far refused battle, and contented itself with adding as far as possible to the immense natural difficulties of the country. It is therefore undefeated, but it is sandwiched between two strong forces which must sooner or later compel its surrender. Its chances of striking an effectual blow have narrowed rapidly with the concentration of the attacking parties. Had it risked a sally against any one of these while they were still isolated it might have given the British operations a serious check. The fate of the eastern party, advancing from British Bechuanaland, with a vast expanse of waterless country to traverse both without and within the German frontier, and with no railway and little cover to support it, seemed specially precarious. Colonel Berrange has, however, led it successfully to a junction with its fellows, and the defence must now pay the price of hesitation.

The western advance, though it, too, had over a hundred miles of desert to conquer, had the sea as a base and at least the ruins of a railway to help it on, while the southern force, once the drifts of the Orange River had been forced, found some semblance of a track to lead it to the railway that connects with Keetmanshoop. But the reports from all sections of the Union troops have amply explained the German belief that nature would beat their enemies even if armed defence could not; and the commissariat, transport, and medical arrangements that have overcome drought, sandstorms, fever, and fatigue cannot be overpraised. By his conduct of these vital matters, says the Guardian, "General Smuts, whose care they were, has earned the gratitude of the Empire; and the leadership of the three advances by Sir Duncan Mackenzie, Colonel Vanderventer, and Colonel Berrange will give their names a place beside that of General Botha in the military annals of South Africa."

A wise handling of the internal situation has contributed greatly to the success of the expeditions. The latest estimates of the numbers of the opposing forces give the Germans 10,000 men in the field and the Union 40,000. When the rebellion was at its height it seemed impossible that such a force could be raised in the Union. The Defence scheme, if applied in its entirety, would clearly yield such a number, but a rigorous application of it might, it seemed, prove fatal to internal peace. General Botha wisely availed himself of the old commando system and used it along with the new plan. At the same time a fair hearing by local committees of the grievances of those who did not wish to serve was ensured, and lenient treatment of the rebels decided upon. The result has surpassed all expectations. The burgher commandos, led in many cases by their old field cornets and equipped and maneuvered on lines familiar to them, have achieved more than any freshly planned force could well have done, and have outwitted under the most adverse conditions German troops seasoned by native warfare.

Meanwhile the manhood of South Africa has answered the call to the Defence Force and the National Reserve enthusiastically and irrespective of race. The Union army is now fully representative of the fighting force of the Dominion and is very adequately equipped. A point of special interest is the strength of the motor-car contingents. The value of the motor for veldt and desert work was strikingly proved in the chase of De Wet, and it is probable that petrol will play an important part in the final outflanking and rounding-up of the German army. General Botha's statesmanship in the management

of civil affairs and his military genius in the field have been amply proven under the most difficult conditions. He has signally earned his place as one of the great leaders of the Empire. To us in Canada it is a matter of no small pride that General Botha has been proud to acknowledge how greatly he is indebted to Sir Wilfrid Laurier for guidance and counsel in the critical days at the early stages of the Union.

Huerta says the row in Mexico can be stopped only by hanging all the belligerent leaders. He seems to think that there is not a patriot left down there since he emigrated to a more congenial clime, and his disposition is getting worse than ever. He used to be gentle enough to think that it was sufficient punishment for those who differed with him to stand them up against a wall and make targets of them. Hanging is really cruel and barbarous for such a kindly disposed patriot to openly advocate.

The murder of the women and children, and other non-combatants on the Lusitania, was celebrated "with great rejoicing" in Germany. Admiral Von Tirpitz received "hundreds of telegrams" and the school children in some sections were given a half-holiday! A nation capable of these things is steeped in infamy and shame.

Does American citizenship count for less than nothing beyond the boundaries of the United States? Can Americans be murdered and robbed with impunity whenever they venture abroad? If so, we have the greatest of all causes for thankfulness that we are Britons and not Americans. Not a hair of the head of any Canadian or other subject of the British Empire, however humble, can be improperly touched in any corner of the globe, without immediate reparation therefore being demanded and exacted to the letter.

The use of poisonous gases by the Germans as a weapon in warfare did not come altogether as a surprise to the Allies. A correspondent of the Times, writing from the front, on April 6, foreshadowed these tactics in these terms:

"It has been reported that in the Argonne, where the trenches are very close, the Germans have on several occasions pumped blazing oil or pitch on to the French, but, according to the statements of our prisoners, they are preparing a more novel reception for us in front of parts of our line. They propose to asphyxiate our men if they advance by means of poisonous gas. The gas is contained under pressure in steel cylinders, and, being of a heavy nature will spread along the ground without being dissipated quickly."

A fitting answer to this as to other applications of German frightfulness will be found.

GAILY THE TROUBADOUR.

Gaily the Troubadour touched his guitar, When he was hastening home from the war, Singing "From Palestine hither I come; Lady-love, lady-love, welcome me home."

She for the Troubadour hopelessly wept, Sadly she thought of him while others slept, Singing "In search of thee would I might roam, Torbadour, Troubadour, come to thy home!"

Hark! 'twas the Troubadour breathing her name Under the battlement softly he came, Singing "From Palestine hither I come, Lady-love, lady-love, welcome me home!"

THE CHARMS OF NATURE.

[Even a normally busy man, says "The Hospital," can generally manage, with a little determination, to keep up a bowing acquaintance with Nature.]

I've a bowing acquaintance with Nature, I wish I could say it was more, For her ways are sublime, but I haven't the time To swear up her beautiful lore. I've a general love for creation, The plants and the beasts and the birds, Not to speak of the fish, and I wish, oh, I wish, I could put it in suitable words.

But love's not enough for my lady, She wants you to sit at her feet, Where no stranger intrudes and to study her moods,

Till your knowledge is fairly complete. And when you are learned in her story— It takes you a lifetime or so— You may taste of the joy without any alloy, That only the patient may know.

But when I'm tired or dejected, And I wish I had never been born, She will sometimes relent and her pride is unbent,

Towards one who is weary and worn. It is then, spite of all, that I find her A consoler of infinite charms—

When my head is at rest on her motherly breast, And she cuddles me down in her arms! C. E. B. in London Evening News.

Lieut. R. D. Ponton Has Been Promoted

We have learned that Lieut. R. D. Ponton has been promoted to the rank of Captain following the reorganization of the Second Battalion after the battle of Langemarck. It will be recalled that in the terrific fighting in this great contest, the company in which Lieut. Ponton was serving lost half its officers. This early promotion to so young an officer is a striking tribute to Lieut. Ponton's thoroughness in training gallantry in the field and popularity with the men.

Kingston Guard Fired on German

KINGSTON, Ont., May 14.—A German prisoner who disobeyed an order of a guard at Fort Henry was shot by the guard and he lost a piece of one of his fingers of right hand. The German was in his room and persisted in holding a small mirror on the window, which was partially opened. The guard doing duty at the fort ordered him to take in his hand, but he refused. The order was given a second time, but still the German refused, and the guard then fired. There are several unruly prisoners in the fort and the officials are determined to maintain order.

Coming Here to Reside

Mr. M. F. Armstrong, partner with Mr. J. W. Inlath in the Belleville Burial Company, has arrived in the city and expects in the near future to move here with his family. Apparently there is still a scarcity of suitable houses for rental for Mr. Armstrong is experiencing some difficulty in securing a satisfactory place of residence.

Mr. Armstrong, like his partner, is thoroughly versed in every phase of the undertaking business holding a diploma and license from the Ontario Embalmers' and Undertakers' Association which is directly under the supervision of the Ontario Government. He has had eight years' experience in the town of Fergus where he had established an enviable reputation for competency in his profession. He and his partner hope by fair treatment, and ability of render good service, to secure a share of the business at Belleville.

A Long Motor Trip.

On Wednesday evening, Messrs. Zuckert, Claude Wallace and Harry Wesce returned from a grand motor and fishing trip. They left Belleville on Sunday at noon, and visited the following places: Madoc, Bancroft, Milbridge, Co. Hill, Old L'Amable, McCarthy's Mill, New L'Amable and Ormsby. This tour they made in a Wallace's Humber. They report some fine trout fishing in the Little Mississippi, which flows into the Ottawa.

LAID TO REST

(From Friday's Daily) The funeral of the late Mrs. Mary Ann Ketcheson was held yesterday afternoon, the Rev. Mr. Sharpe conducting a solemn service at her late residence, Fifth Concession of Sidney. The interment was in Belleville Cemetery the bearers being three sons: T. Ed. Ketcheson, George Ketcheson, Albert Ketcheson, and three grandsons, Percy, K. Ketcheson, Allan H. Ketcheson and Walter Ketcheson.

Prince Edward Agricultural Society has always an excellent entertainment of sports for Victoria Day, May 24th. This year they have arranged a better programme than ever before, including horse races, motor cycle races, baseball match, Collegiate-Cadet drill, band concerts. This is the first celebration of the season and Picton will have an immense crowd.

SOME HENS

Miss Gladys Thorne has five hens of the White Wyandotte variety that she has had for twelve months and in that time they laid 955 eggs. Four of the hens mothered 45 chicks for eight weeks, and then commenced to shell out again. That is some record for December 26th, 1913, to December 26th, 1914. Taking from December 26th to May 1st, thirteen females have produced 850 eggs. It is wonderful how many eggs a small bunch of hens will produce when well cared for. Miss Thorne is proud of her performers, and well she might be, for she has some very profitable birds.—Bobbayon Independent.

Farmers are away ahead with their work. If there is one man more than another who is entitled to a holiday it is the hard-working farmer after the heavy spring's work. And what better way could he spend it than by taking in the C.N.R. excursion to Picton on Victoria Day, May 24th, and enjoy the splendid programme Prince Edward Agricultural Society is putting on for that day? The C.N.R. will run an excursion, single fare, on that day, and fare and one-third from Saturday till Tuesday, inclusive, returning on special train leaving Picton at 7:30 p.m. Monday, or on regular train Tuesday.

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We have an
Corn ever shown
quote as follows:
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WhiteCap Yellow Dent
Early Bailey
Wisconsin No 7
Stowell's Evergreen

Hanley

Ontario Wind



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