

London Advertiser

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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEB. 20.

IDLE ACRES.

WHY should hundreds of acres in this city be idle? Why should such a strip of land as that lying between the city and Springbank be left uncultivated and permitted to blossom with every weed in the botanist's catalogue? Talk about public utility! The putting to work of the idle acres of London would be of more benefit to the people of the city than all the "good" schemes that have been proposed or adopted. Thousands of acres of vegetables could be grown on the homes, and there are hundreds of men with and without an adequate competence who would be willing to take charge of an acre or more.

The agitation for cultivation of the idle soil within the city limits has so far taken place along broad general lines. It is difficult to bring a movement such as this to anything unless there is leadership and organization. The board of trade and the industrial commission have devoted much time to other worthy objects that yet were not as worthy of consideration and investigation as the one now under discussion. In many American cities the plan has been adopted with a measure of success. Of course, most American cities usually feel and are now feeling more distress than a city like London. For instance, there are more than 29 per cent of New York's people on the charity list. Detroit boasts that only 11 per cent of her people are on a public charity roll. London's is much below this, and for that reason there may not be the necessity for using the land from a philanthropic standpoint. But for the sake of stopping waste and conservation of our resources and thrift that may be more practiced as the war continues, we should use this land.

Idleness in the individual is bad. But idleness in the land is an economic crime. THEN AND NOW. CORRESPONDENT of the Morning Evening News sends to that paper a letter, the contents of which indicate in a striking manner the change wrought in German national character during the last 40 years. Even in the war of 1870, when the "blood and iron" policy of Bismarck was being advanced, the German soldier was not trained to kill the helpless, nor to look upon those who defended their homes as felons, to be shot with their backs to a wall. The letter says: "In 1870, after the French forces had been driven back from Germany into France, the then Crown Prince of Prussia, Friedrich-Wilhelm, father of the present 'Kaiser', addressed his soldiers in the following terms: 'Soldiers of the 2nd Army: You enter upon the soil of France. The Emperor Napoleon has, without any reason, declared war upon Germany, and his army are our enemies. The French people has not been asked if it wished to carry on a bloody war with its German neighbors. A reason for enmity is not to be sought. Meet the feeling of the peaceable inhabitants of France with a like sentiment: show them that, in our country, two civilized people do not forget their humanity even in war. Fight with each other. Bear always in mind how your fathers would have felt if an enemy—which God forbid—overran our provinces. Show the French that the German people confronting its enemy is not only brave and brave, but also well controlled and noble.'"

As the correspondent remarks, "the verbiage of this great man has entered all this." The spark of "world power" mania has made the Kaiser altogether a madman. He had tried his hand at all the arts of peace, but he could not believe his people had demonstrated the virility until they had trampled the heads of other nations in their path. He has nothing left now. Peace would turn him from her door; victory would turn him from her door. He is a terrible monster, possessor of the minds of his subjects. Like the opium eater who drags his family down with him, this terrible father has tainted his race with his slaughter lust and debased both his own monarchy and the intelligent democracy that was thriving in spite of him.

WHAT WILL HE DO WITH IT?

THERE is a new premier in Ontario. He has so large a following in the Legislature that he can afford to be independent of old theories and old associations. One of the most important problems—perhaps the most important—his Government has to deal with is the liquor traffic, and the liquor habit. What will the premier do with it? There would seem to be little doubt that the great majority of the people of Ontario want this business curtailed—even abolished. It is true that at the last election the majority did not support the party that proposed to close all the bars. But if we are to believe many of those who voted against Mr. Rowell and his colleagues, it was because they were opposed to his policy. They say they want

the most stringent legislation possible. But they had their doubts whether the Liberals were sincere in their avowed policy. They did not want the temperance question mixed with politics. They thought the Government of Sir James Whitney would eventually do more for temperance than the Liberals would do and so on.

How far these Conservative temperance people are sincere; how far they believe their own excuses; how far they are prepared to go in favor of any moral reform if it means an injury to the Conservative party, these are questions they can best answer themselves. But there is no ground for any such excuses now. Mr. Rowell offers the support of the Liberals in the assembly for any prohibitory legislation that may be submitted. Mr. Hearst can close all the bars in the province just as easily as the Czar of Russia could stop the sale of spirits. It is true, Mr. Hearst has not the arbitrary power of the Czar, but he can command the support of three-fourths of the provincial assembly for any prohibitory laws he may introduce. Perhaps more for if he loses a few Conservative members he will have the solid phalanx of the Liberals. He can do for moral reform all that Mr. Rowell attempted, and much more. Will he do it?

The conditions that exist today are more favorable for stringent liquor legislation than they have ever been in the past. The war has turned the attention of all people to the ill effects of intemperance to a greater degree than in any previous war. The nations engaged in the conflict recognize the value of sobriety for soldier and civilian alike. Russia stops the sale of vodka. France stops the sale of absinthe, and if we are to judge from the vote in the Legislature a few days ago, will adopt still more drastic measures. Sentiment in England is growing strongly in the same direction. Ontario is still "joined to its idols," but it need not be. There is today a great opportunity for reform legislation. It would be accepted with the minimum of opposition. Will Mr. Hearst rise to the occasion? The problem is in his hands; its solution is comparatively easy. What will he do with it?

THE JOLLY ROGER.

THE Mail and Empire cleverly adopts the Jolly Roger for its German naval dispatches in which appear the threats against Britain and the rest of the world. While it may be taken as a sharp stab at the enemy, there is truth even in the charge that the skull and cross bones against a solid background is none too sinister a label for the German navy. What do these brigands of the sea propose to do? Boldly they tell the world that Britain is closed against the world, and that any ship approaching a certain zone will be in danger of destruction, without an attempt being made to rescue passengers or crew. They tell the United States and other neutrals to keep their ships out of this zone or they will not be responsible for their safety. In other words, they declare all ships that do not obey German's orders are doomed.

Then, as your pro-German will say, but did not Great Britain declare the North Sea closed to shipping? The argument will not hold, however, for Great Britain at no time threatened neutral ships, nor has she done anything that could be construed as hostile act against any flag but those she fights. Great Britain's attitude to the commerce of the peaceful world has been protective, motherly, if the word is permitted. She alone has kept the ways of ocean commerce open to the United States. Only the German or the Austrian or the Turkish flag were anathema to her, and when these flew on mercantile vessels the crews were rescued and well cared for. Also, British lives were risked to save drowning German sailors on more than one occasion.

There is no law, no custom, no excuse for the action of Germany. She says she must blockade or starve, and in these words she confesses herself a pirate, for the cutting off of contraband supplies is part of the game she plays so poorly. She might have as well lost all her soldiers as struck at an enemy who was powerful enough to bottle up her feet and cut her off from the outside world. Just as the pirates of old knew no law and were the common objects of punishment from all nations, so is Germany today the outcast. And she has not even proved that she possesses the same prowess as her piratical venture as the sea robbers of old. To the eyes of all fair nations appears the Death's Head at the mast of the Kaiser's fleet. And the latest device seems to be about the last shot in the locker.

HATING THE "FOREIGN DEVILS."

ONE curious feature of German Kultur is the careful distinction made by every German between themselves and other men. They regard non-Germans as a sort of lower animals—the British as the lowest—and while the rest of the civilized world has been advancing towards an ideal of cosmopolitan humanity, they quite openly declare that, as a matter of course, a whole village of Belgians should be shot on suspicion, to save or to avenge one German life. That is the way southern "Massas" used to talk about negroes, whose soul was a matter of doubt. Just lately, German newspapers have been warning us that the prisoners will be the first to be starved. Now they say that, fighting for her life, Germany must disregard not only the lives of the merchant sailors of her enemies but any third party as well. If they could win the victory they would want to use the rest of mankind for purposes of vivisection, on the theory that any foreign life is of no higher value than to serve for experiments to save or prolong the lives of German men and women. It is the savage who hates and despises the foreigner as such. Any wild bear considers its own friends and

relations as more important than other breeds. No wonder the races of men unite against the wild bear of Brandenburg.

SIZZLING! ALBERT HUBBARD writes a pamphlet to answer his own question—Who has lifted the lid off of hell? The prophet of East Aurora describes the guilty devil to be the megomaniac, mastoid degenerate with a shrunken hand and a running ear—William Hoheizeller—whose pestilential egotism had opened a larger river of blood than this old earth had ever witnessed before and beside whose fendishness that of Caligula and Nero seems kindness in comparison.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Toronto Star has picked the right word—"scareplanes." Lent is with us. The fox trot will be very foxy for a period.

"Made in Canada" goods and "British goods" should go hand-in-hand.

Napoleon wasn't so strong on girls, after all, but he had the stuff that lies under the girls.

Have you written your "Reply to the Chant of Hate" yet? Neither have we. (That makes two of us.)

The Windsor Record puts the accent on the "in" when the Kaiser boasts of how many men he has in the field.

As the Detroit Free Press asks, how are the mines the German's horse to sow about Britain to distinguish the Stars and Stripes?

Admiral Bechnike tells us that Germany must make peace or starve, or blockade Britain. Germany may yet have a touch of Belgium's experience.

A picture in The Advertiser revealing hundreds of dead German soldiers, following the attack on Wilhelm's birthday, was a masterpiece of ghastly horror.

It is satisfying to hear a good, solid journal like the Farmer's Advocate call the Kaiser "a fiend incarnate." We second the motion, and would like to send him a marked copy.

The newspapers "bit" at the Belleville "air raid." And they will bite again, because in this world crisis anything is liable to happen. Any old town may get on the map.

But we hate you not, we love you not. Your "Chant of Hate" is just "bally-rol."

These lines from a Winnipeg poet's "reply" seem to take it not too seriously. A Whitley, England, baby, born just at the time of the German bombardment, has been christened George Shrapnel. And we warrant he'll do as much screaming as any German shell.

In aerial warfare Britain seems to have superseded Germany. The raid of more than a score of airships is, to judge by precedent, more dangerous than the encroachment of one or more Zeppelins.

"They are seeing things in Canada," says the Macon, Ga., Telegraph. Yes, and they were seeing Spanish bombardment along the Atlantic coast a few years ago, and a few still see the Japanese peril.

A man interested in the paper trade writes the Toronto World to say that the new tariff will not be revenue-producing, but merely protective. There will be some more wild scrambling before deficits are met.

The Woodstock Sentinel-Review says this sensible thing: "And so much appears in print that one may naturally harbor the suspicion that it cannot all be gospel." The public has exercised a certain discrimination with some newspapers more than others.

The Toronto papers are in a controversy over the merits of the morning and evening papers. London does not worry about such matters. All the Guelph Mercury cares is that the Globe shall not again tell people that they can heat their homes with ashes.

Referring to the valentine which The Advertiser received from some red German at Ashland, Wis., in which dire threats of destruction and several "Chants of Hate" were contained, the Brantford Expositor says: "The Expositor congratulates the 'Tiser on the enemy it has made. Its Canadian contemporaries have reason to reproach themselves that they have not been equally successful in drawing forth German 'Chants of Hate.'"

Yes; even in Ontario there are some papers that are trying to face both ways on the war for fear they will offend German-Canadians. But it is an insult to suggest that German-Canadians should be offended by denunciations of Prussians.

DESTROYER AND SUBMARINE.

A seaman serving in a British destroyer writes: "You ask me to give you a little insight into what we are doing. Our job is patrolling up and down the east coast. It was the first experience in November that we got our first experience with German submarines. It was an ideal night for an attack by these craft—dark, and the water was choppy. No man is allowed to turn in his hammock on such a night. At about half-past two in the middle watch the look-out sighted a red light on the starboard side; another was seen ahead; and shortly afterwards another was reported on the port side. We steamed up within twenty yards of the first light and then threw the rays of our searchlight on it. Instantly it was revealed as a submarine, and immediately it dived. The two other lights disappeared at the same instant. As a matter of fact, the submarine had mistaken our ship for their own supply ship, the red lights evidently being their recognition signals. The captain put on full speed and steered about in a semicircle in the hope of ramming one of the submarines, but without success. Every minute we expected to get a 'fin fish' into the side of our ship, but fortunately they failed to torpedo us. Word was signalled to the other destroyers in our division and a careful watch was kept up until dawn, but nothing more was seen of the enemy."

DAILY WAR PUZZLE



Cold weather uniform. Find another English and a German soldier. ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE—Right side down in skirt. Upside down in front of women.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

THE chief events of interest this week have had to do with Germany's last effort to keep her people from rising in rebellion owing to lack of food.

WITH A BLOCKADE. For weeks it has been apparent that the British mastery of the seas had a serious effect on the food supply of the enemy, and during recent days the statement has been made that this consequence was much greater than the outside world, or even the German people themselves, realized.

The Prussian officials did not count on a war of the magnitude or fierceness of the conflict in which they involved Europe and were not as well prepared, it seems, as they supposed. They have told their people that their arms were victorious everywhere and constantly pointed out that German domination was a matter of only a short time. Then they were obliged to take refuge in the fact that the country and hand out in small quantities, limiting the amount of wheat and rye flour which bakers might use for making bread to supply the country. It has even been said that the supply is now so limited that in parts of Bavaria people are starving.

So the British pressure has been a serious thing for the war lords. How were they to make the people believe they were victorious in the war against all comers if they could not get enough food for their own people? There was danger of the German people losing faith in their rulers unless something effective could be accomplished at once.

The first attempt was the chartering of the steamer Wilhelmite to take a cargo of grain from the United States under the guarantee that it was for the consumption exclusively of the civilian population. This guarantee had little effect on the British officials but the German Government had issued a decree taking over all the food of the empire, and the cargo of the Wilhelmite was ordered to a prize court upon reaching England.

Then Germany's last card was played by announcing a blockade of all the waters around Great Britain and Ireland, including the English Channel, effective from February 18. This announcement, however, had hardly got under negotiations were opened to cancel the blockade if Britain would raise her embargo on Germany's food supply. Britain refused and is at present waiting to see what Germany is going to do.

In the meantime she has announced that shipping between Britain and the continent will be suspended. The Woodstock Sentinel-Review says this sensible thing: "And so much appears in print that one may naturally harbor the suspicion that it cannot all be gospel." The public has exercised a certain discrimination with some newspapers more than others.

IN MAINTAINING her proposed blockade Germany will have to reckon, not only with Great Britain, but also with the neutral powers to whom she has sent warnings. They were asked to keep their merchant vessels out of the prohibited waters at their own peril. The dose did not taste well and the neutrals notified Germany that if she destroyed property belonging to them or the lives of their people the responsibility would rest upon her.

None of them so far has shown a disposition to change its route of their shipping or to make any cancellations, except Holland, whose ships would be most endangered. At that, however, no day after the blockade was announced to go into effect ten Dutch steamers, laden with foodstuffs, started for England across the North Sea.

Great Britain has not made public her plans to meet the enemy's proposals, but Winston Churchill stated in the House of Commons that retaliatory measures would be put into operation at once. It is believed in England that a general blockade of the German coast will be ordered.

IT SEEMS that the Kaiser is personally to direct the arrangements for the blockade. He is reported to have returned from East Prussia to Berlin and to have left immediately with other members of his staff for Heligoland and Wilhelmshaven, the naval bases on the North Sea. Here it is stated a great submarine fleet of 120 vessels has been gathered, built especially for mine-laying and each capable of carrying 100 mines. Germany's submarines, probably be directed toward getting these submarines in operation along the British coast, if she can.

The two other lights disappeared at the same instant. As a matter of fact, the submarine had mistaken our ship for their own supply ship, the red lights evidently being their recognition signals. The captain put on full speed and steered about in a semicircle in the hope of ramming one of the submarines, but without success. Every minute we expected to get a 'fin fish' into the side of our ship, but fortunately they failed to torpedo us. Word was signalled to the other destroyers in our division and a careful watch was kept up until dawn, but nothing more was seen of the enemy."

RUSSIA'S successes of previous weeks were not continued during the past six days. Her troops were driven out of East Prussia and out of the IN TWO PROVINCES. Austrian province of Bukovina. Germany claims that the Czar's

BRITISH INDUSTRIES ARE PROFITING BY THE WAR

A well-written and very timely article, dealing with conditions generally in the home country at the present time, and which was taken from a British paper, is worthy of perusal. It is to the following purpose: Birmingham, Jan. 10.

Birmingham is experiencing a famine—a famine of workers.

Government orders for supplies for the army and navy have come in such quantities that it is impossible to keep pace with them. Manufacturers by the hundreds have transformed their plants to serve the nation. One famous pen-maker has abandoned for the moment the making of steel pens to produce 12,000,000 magazine cartridge clips. Button-makers are hurrying the completion of 72,000,000 brass army buttons. The brassfounders have turned from the making of ornamental brass for furniture to the production of brass tubes for shrapnel. One leather house is reported to have made a fortune by its great purchase of hides on the day the war broke out, and every leather manufacturer is striving early and late to supply a part of the belts and pouches and straps demanded. Rifles are being made by the half-million; small-arm ammunition in such quantities that figures fail; while bedstead manufacturers are busy on hospital beds for the wounded.

The Government is now asking for bids for the production of badges for the new army. On expert calculated that in order to produce the badges required in the manner stated by the war office every firm that could touch this class of work would have to devote its entire staff exclusively to it for the next six months. The Government is now asking for bids for the production of badges for the new army. On expert calculated that in order to produce the badges required in the manner stated by the war office every firm that could touch this class of work would have to devote its entire staff exclusively to it for the next six months. The Government is now asking for bids for the production of badges for the new army. On expert calculated that in order to produce the badges required in the manner stated by the war office every firm that could touch this class of work would have to devote its entire staff exclusively to it for the next six months.

Some establishments are working three shifts a day seven days a week, their machines never resting from midnight until midnight. Others are content with a twenty-hour day, double shifts. Others, finding it impossible to obtain more labor, start early and finish late.

The real difficulty is labor. "At the outset we lost a number of our best men, who joined the army," said one manufacturer to me. "We filled up their places as well as we could. We used every available man we used we called in women and girls. Today old men and boys are doing able-bodied men's work. We are now beginning to use the one-eyed man and the one-eyed man. Labor we must have."

Old trades reviving. Birmingham sword-making, once an important affair, almost disappeared under the stress of cheap German competition. Many of the workers were disbanded, some of them went to the workhouse, some to the grave, and one or two went mad, victims of industrial strain. Today the employers, with renewed demand are seeking out the old hands wherever they are to be found, and bringing them back again. "In past years," said a large manufacturer, "I have had to sit on relief committees voting sums to help skilled workers, unable to obtain employment, to go to Canada. Today, if it were not that it did not seem a fair thing to do, we would advertise in the Canadian papers for our workers to come back to us, and pay them to come back. We need them all."

Wages have gone up, and have gone up much higher than the recognized rates seem to show. The wage of the laborer, for example, has risen from 23s to 28s or 27s a week. The rate of pay for certain classes of fitters was formerly raised a few days ago from 38s to 40s. But the employer who tried to obtain men at 40s would today go away empty-handed. One man gave me his experience. "I engaged a fitter last Saturday at 45s. He did not come on Monday. He did not come, but there arrived a note from him saying that he

abandon buttons for hooks and eyes, then they must go for their hooks and eyes to Birmingham also. So soon as there comes a pause from the rush of Government orders Birmingham has a fresh overwhelming trade awaiting it. South America and Australia, the Far East and the Far West are raising a daily louder cry for Birmingham goods. Their continental stocks are becoming exhausted.

Commercial Optimism. I find in all quarters here the greatest optimism about our commercial future. "We are going to have such a time as a manufacturing nation as we never had before." I find quite a realization of the fact that if we are to capture the trade now waiting for us something must be done promptly to train a fresh generation of skilled workers.

No wonder that there are signs of a new era of factory building setting in. The "B. S. A." one of the most famous Birmingham houses, is today erecting an enormous extension of its premises. Work is maintained on the building day and night, and it is said that the premises will take six months to complete. Many manufacturers are at the present time considering plans for rebuilding.

Then there are fresh fields awaiting conquest. Birmingham, for example, has only nibbled so far at the aluminum trade and enormous possibilities are presented here.

Resorts—Atlantic City, N.J.

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Atlantic City, N.J. Your own home paper!

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