

The Toronto World

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 16.

Why Wait Two Months More?

It is rumored from Ottawa that conscription may be adopted after two months. We turn with less impatience to the Russian statement that "the situation is painful but necessary. We appreciate the extra fighting the allies must do, but expect a change in a few weeks with a reorganized republic army."

The Russians intend to do what they can for their allies as soon as the evil effects of the war on the Russians and other pro-Germans has been eradicated, but the Canadian Government, aware all along of what is happening to their own flesh and blood in the great battles in France, have refused for months to lift a finger to supplement the insufficient and depleted forces at the front. Day after day the casualty lists come in, the numbers now considerably exceeding 15,000, and these are the best men, the flower of the nation, the men who went because they were brave, and honorable, and self-sacrificing. There are strong and able men at home here without the qualities which took the best men away first on their own impulse. These able and unwilling ones must be constrained to their duty, and made to understand that the privileges of citizenship in a free and civilized nation have corresponding obligations. To live in comfort and good cheer one must help others to do so. The selfish soul must learn to be wiser.

Our government has fallen down and cringed before the forces of selfishness. Writing to accept the voluntary sacrifice of the best it has been too weak or too unprincipled to exact the necessary service of others who have not understood their responsibilities. On one side the situation and led a right to speak as authorities declared was inevitable and immediately necessary has been postponed for a year or more, and the latest rumor is that something may be done in two months. Two months more such fighting as we have had will mean that two of our divisions at the front shall have been wiped out, and only then shall the government begin to think of reinforcing them.

The men who have borne the burden and heat of the day have had some relief during the lull of the great campaign. But there is no rest or relief possible for them. Our government is careful of its own existence, alarmed by fears of what the selfish and the weak, who remain at home, may do, and if they were called to go abroad and fight with their fellows. As far as votes go there should be no voting till the war is over, and when the men who survive return to tell their tale and vote on their own accord, but their fellow countrymen, the government may find that it would have been better to support the brave and strong than to consider the timorous and fearful.

Democracy means equality of service according to ability, and this is what is meant by any fair measure of conscription. The selective draft, as it is called in the United States, takes those of suitable age, healthy, without dependents, and not occupied with an essential employment. The munition factories need not fear the selective draft, nor the farmers engaged in production. The men who are needed at home remain there. The men who are needed at the front go there in due course.

But why should there be a moment's longer delay?

The Folly of Supply and Demand.

Not feeling that the argument was together satisfactory, The Hamilton Herald attacks our analogy and declares that food prices are not a factor with people in an open boat at sea with limited supplies. People in that situation, says The Herald, are not on rationing, and the food is distributed, not sold. Then it agrees with us.

"That is the proper system where the food supply is too small for ordinary needs and there is danger of starvation."

Yet after this admission The Herald hangs on to the superstition about the laws of supply and demand. If demand creates supply and supply follows demand, then why in the name of common sense is there not sufficient supply at present, and why is it that we know that there won't be sufficient supplies for some years to come? The Herald is mixing up, as many people do, the question of prices with that of supplies, and prices is another thing altogether. The laws of supply and demand are knocked higher than a kite in every war, in every famine, in every cataclysmic crisis that overtakes the earth and its people. This is what we need men to recognize and governments to arrange for.

"The people on the coast," continues The Herald, "are put on rations. That is the proper system where the food supply is too small for ordinary needs and there is danger of starvation."

This is exactly the situation that exists, and if we were a prudent people, we had a discreet government measures would be taken to that end. Instead of this we place our trust in the fetishes of supply and demand. Not until these graven images bring us to actual starvation are we likely to wake up to their impotence.

"The German Government realized this long ago," says The Herald, "and put the whole population on rations." And then follows the confession which might as well have been made at the beginning, that if it were possible to put people on rations the successful enforcement of such a system "would probably result in a general lowering of prices." This course would demand "a very strong and efficient central government and

administrative organization far more than there exists on this side of the ocean."

There is a pessimistic wall from a presumable democrat? Why can't we have a strong and efficient government? Why can't we have an administrative organization equal to that of any other body under the sun? Canadians can organize banks, railways, shipping companies, great commercial houses. Are they unable to organize their own government and the food supply of the people?

Evidently The Herald and many other people are not yet seized of the gravity of the occasion, or they would not be satisfied with worn out shibboleths of supply and demand, and the effete methods of party politics applied to the greatest war of history, with famine as a side dish to the joint. But the nation is waking up to a sterner law than that of supply and demand—the law of self-preservation. The bakers formulated a demand for a food controller yesterday, and other groups of citizens are getting together and talking ominously.

Perhaps the government itself will consider this law of self-preservation as worthy of attention.

Not Afraid of Change in England.

There have been half a dozen reorganizations of the government in Great Britain since the war broke out, and, doubtless, if it continues, there will be others. They are not bound to any hard and fast political plan over there, for they know that the existence of the empire depends upon efficiency, and it must be attained at all costs. So far, all the changes have added to the effectiveness of the administration. Any new proposals will be considered on their merits.

The latest change affects the admiralty, and is of considerable significance. The admiralty has usually been regarded as sacred—something like the Ottawa government, which could not imagine any improvement upon itself, and, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, altereth not. The British Admiralty, however, unlike the Ottawa government, must deliver the goods or get out of business.

The recent change is a radical one, and involves the creation of a naval staff such as has not previously existed. Absence of a staff resulted, it is asserted, in the fiasco at the Dardanelles, the expedition to which was organized without the preparation and co-ordination which a staff ensures.

Sir Edward Carson, who is first lord of the admiralty, stated that one result would be to free the first sea lord, Admiral Jellicoe, from administrative work, so that he and the other heads of the staff might concentrate attention on the conduct of the war on the sea. Another result would be to strengthen the shipping, building and production departments, on lines similar to the army munitions organization.

A good deal of criticism of admiralty methods has been expressed in America, where a more active policy than the "wait-and-see" attitude of the navy is advocated. United States naval authorities are said to favor something of the Nelson tactics, with more boldness and dash, and with the enemy headquarters as objects.

The submarine attack is not being met to the satisfaction of American critics, either. The Wichita Eagle, for example, screaming from a safe island exile, but their fellow countrymen, the government may find that it would have been better to support the brave and strong than to consider the timorous and fearful.

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CHILD DROWNS IN DITCH.

Winnipeg, Man., May 15.—Two-year-old Emilie Sourisseau, whose parents live in Norwood, was drowned last night in a ditch which contained two feet of water.

Lyty Tournaski, aged seven, died last night three hours after receiving burns from a blazing rubbish heap.

From Small Beginnings

We encourage the small depositor, because the small depositor of today is frequently the large depositor of the future. Some of our best Deposit Accounts were begun in a very modest way. By adding small sums at regular intervals, and by accumulation of interest, they have grown till they now show handsome balances.

It is not necessary to wait till you have a considerable amount to make a commencement. We accept small sums on deposit and allow interest at three and one-half per cent. per annum, payable or compounded half-yearly.

Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation

TORONTO STREET TORONTO
Established 1855.

WANTED—A NATIONAL DUMP



The Canadian Press and Public Ownership of Our Railways

On Monday, May 7th, also on Monday, May 14th, The World published several columns of the Canadian newspaper opinion on the report of the royal commission appointed to deal with Canada's railway problems. A lot of them are in favor of the public ownership of the railways, and state taking over the railways and operating them for the public benefit, the expedient to which was organized without the preparation and co-ordination which a staff ensures.

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Two Washboards

For the Price of One

Both sides of EDDY'S Twin Beaver Washboards can be used—giving double service for the price of one. Made of

INDURATED FIBREWARE

(which is really pulp hardened and baked by a special process). It cannot splinter or fall apart. Won't hurt your fingers or tear your clothes—almost like leather. Don't do another washing until you get one.

ASK YOUR DEALER.

THE E. B. EDDY COMPANY, LIMITED
HULL, CANADA

CANNED THINKING ON THE RAILWAY QUESTION.

Winnipeg Tribune (Ind. Liberal), May 12. One is not surprised to find that such particular notice as The London Advertiser has given to the railway question is involved in the railway problem. One is, however, not surprised that it should be given to the railway inquiry commission and the Canadian railway system to the commendation of the corporation-inspired report of Mr. A. H. Smith, president of the New York Central Railway.

Nor is one very much surprised that The Toronto Globe should have condemned the report on the ground that it is not comprehensive enough in its nationalizing plan. It thinks the Canadian Pacific should have been embraced in the scheme, and cannot see why it was left out, or how the new national railway will be able to "compete" with the C.P.R.

THE GRAIN GROWERS AS EXPRESSED BY THEIR ORGAN.

Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, May 9. The majority report (Drayton and Acworth) recommends nationalization. Nationalization is a good thing for the country. They point out that nationalization is a good thing for the country. They point out that nationalization is a good thing for the country.

While all the arguments advanced by these two commissions in favor of nationalization are sound, the arguments are equally strong in favor of taking over the C.P.R. at the same time. The C.P.R. and G.T.P. are short of money, short of rolling stock, short of equipment, short of man power, and short of all these essentials. To take over these poor roads will entail a lot of money and effort and effort and effort to take over the C.P.R. also.

The C.P.R. is one of the best financial systems under the sun. It is well financed, well operated and gives a good record. It is a good thing for the country. It is a good thing for the country. It is a good thing for the country.

Of course, a great deal will depend upon the announcement made by the Eborian government within the next few days. The best opinion that The World can form is that Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues will be in favor of adopting the report of Messrs. Drayton and Acworth. The World hardly sees how they can do anything else, when they declared for public ownership as against the Liberal report, which had included the national system, which had included the national system, which had included the national system.

As for the Liberals, Sir Wilfrid Laurier will play a waiting game until he hears what the government intends to do. But newspapers that support him, like The London Advertiser, have no use for public ownership, the quite a number of the Liberal papers in the west, and some here in Ontario, are genuine believers in public ownership, if conscientiously applied to the railway question.

As for "the financial press" they are against public ownership. The Financial Times of London, The Winnipeg Saturday Star, and all the "horror" at the idea. Saturday Night of Toronto is the only one friendly. The Monetary Times kills the idea by saying for unlimited time to think it over. And yet it devoted three different columns to the idea. The idea is a good thing for the country. It is a good thing for the country. It is a good thing for the country.

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On Top of the Table

The place of honour belongs by right of superiority to O'Keefe's Special Pale Dry Ginger Ale. It is a beverage that finds a hearty welcome at any gathering—a beverage worthy of the seal it bears.

For purity, as well as for delicious flavour, these beverages have no equal:

SPECIAL PALE DRY GINGER BEER

BELFAST STYLE GINGER ALE
GINGER BEER
LEMONADE
ORANGEADE
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