

STAUNCH SUPPORTERS OF CANADIAN LIBERALISM

Death of Hon. J. K. Kerr in
Ontario

Wife Alone at Death Bed

Only Son in Khaki and Four
Daughters Are Soldiers' Wives
—Was Senator Since 1903

(Toronto Star)

By the passing of Senator James Kirkpatrick Kerr, whose death occurred after a lengthy illness at his home in London, Ontario, Canadian Liberalism loses a staunch supporter, the Canadian senate an outstanding figure and the Canadian bar a prominent representative.

Owing to the claims of war upon the family, the aged senator was able to have but one immediate relative with him at the end. This was his wife. His only son, Capt. Stanley Kerr, is on the Canadian headquarters staff, London, England, and his four daughters are also overseas as the husbands of all of them are serving at the front. They are: Mrs. George Cassella, wife of Major Cassella, with the 2nd Battalion in France; Mrs. E. F. Oiler, wife of Major Oiler, with the Durham Light Infantry, France; Mrs. Harry, wife of Capt. W. Harry, Ammunition Column, 2nd Canadian Division, and Mrs. Gibson, wife of Lieut. Colin Gibson, with the Royal Fusiliers at the front.

The late senator was the senior member of the law firm of Kerr, Davidson, Paterson, and McFarland. He was born 75 years ago, on August 1, 1841, in the township of Puslinch, near Guelph. His father was the late Robert Warren Kerr of Guelph, and later of Hamilton, and his mother was Jane Hamilton, daughter of James Kirkpatrick, county treasurer of Wentworth. After a preparatory education at Dr. Tassie's school, Galt, he came to Toronto and took up the study of law.

Lawyer and Politician

The young student who was destined to play such an important role, was called to the bar in 1862, and was created a Q.C. in 1861, during the Marquis of Lorne's regime. His election as a Bench of the Law Society took place in 1870. His professional ability became recognized early and he made rapid progress.

The senator practised with the Messrs. Blake up to 1885, when he formed the firm of Kerr, Davidson, Davidson & Paterson. As one of the leaders of the bar, he appeared in several important cases before the judicial committee of the privy council.

The young barrister became interested in politics early in his career, and throwing in his interest and influence on the side of reform, took an active part in the councils of the Liberal party. He contested Centre Toronto in the Liberal interest in 1891 and was president of the Ontario Liberal Association from 1892 to 1904. His appointment to the senate of Canada was made March 13, 1903, and he became speaker of that body in January, 1909, holding office until his death in 1911.

His Work as a Mason

Apart from politics, his most active affiliation was with the Masonic Order. He was elected grand master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, A. F. & A. M., in 1875, and continued to hold that office until 1877. He also held in his time many other important positions in the Craft, Past Master, Provincial Prior of the Sovereign, Great Prior of Knights Templar in Canada, a Sovereign Grand Inspector-General of the Supreme Council, 33rd degree of Canada, and of the Supreme Council of England.

He received from the late King Edward (when Prince of Wales and Grand Master Knights Templar) the Distinguished Order of the Grand Cross of the Temple, and was also at the time of his death, Grand Representative in the

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FINDS WORLD MUST SAVE IN USE OF CEREALS

Grain Failures Cause Milling of
Surplus Wheat — Release of
Russia's Stores Would Help

Rome, Dec. 5.—(Correspondence
The Associated Press)—The International
Institute of Agriculture has published
a report under the title "Has the
World Enough to Live Upon Until Next
Harvest?" The report took into consid-

eration five unfavorable factors the failure of the northern hemisphere harvests of the year ended July 31, and particularly those of Canada and the United States, the unrelieved crops of Russia, owing to the continued closing of the Dardanelles; the extra and unusual consumption of food by the armies; the increased difficulty of transporting crops; and the fact that normally the world's food consumption increases year by year, partly due to population increases, and whereby a crop which does no more than attain to an antecedent average is actually an insufficient one.

The general conclusion on the report, while not favorable, indicates that if every nation, irrespective of those at war, exercises close economy there may be a narrow margin of surplus food left at the beginning of the next harvest year. It is also made clear that should the next harvest be no better than the present, the situation will be serious. "It is clear," the report says, "that no one can estimate with any precision what may be the actual consumption of the world during the period dividing us from the next harvest." However, it places the consumption of wheat in the northern hemisphere countries at 2,937,000,000 bushels, adds to this the consumption of the southern hemisphere countries, and arrives at a total estimated consumption of 3,880,000,000 bushels. Taking into account all existing wheat, the report finds that the wheat surplus by July 31 next will be but 46,281,009 bushels, and that this surplus will exist because of the preceding abundant harvest whereby 345,386,140 bushels of stored wheat were available to add to this year's consumption. This year's total wheat crop is therefore but 4,081,267,224 bushels, as compared to 4,025,267,000 bushels last year.

The report estimates the stores of Russian wheat so far unavailable for military reasons at a total of 303,580,000 bushels. If this wheat is released at any time within the next calendar year the food situation will be made easier, though not if the next harvest fails. The report's definite figures deal with the five important food crops of the northern hemisphere—wheat, rye, barley, oats and corn.

"It should be borne in mind," the report says, "that these northern hemisphere crops are 99 per cent. of those of the whole world—wheat, 99.9 of those of rye, 99.1 per cent. of the barley, 97.8 of the oats, and 94.2 of the corn. The crops in the northern hemisphere lately gathered, taken as a whole, are undoubtedly bad. The wheat figures for 1916, 1915 and the average of the five year period of 1909-13 are respectively 887,706,000, 1,095,408,000 and 925,816,000 quintals. In other words this year's crop is only 80.2 per cent. of that of the previous year, and 94.9 per cent. of the average. (A French quintal is 2.2 bushels.)

OLDSOLDIER FAVORS CONTROL OF FOOD BY THE GOVERNMENT

"Only Solution of High Cost of
Living Problem," Says
Sergt.-Major

Was at Kimberly Siege—Proclamation,
Posted Up 17 Years Ago,
Specifies Some Price Limits

(Toronto Sun.)

Sergt.-Major Ernest Southgate, paymaster of the Toronto Recruiting Depot, believes that it will be only a matter of time until the Canadian government will have to regulate food prices in the Dominion. The sergeant-major is an old Imperial Army and Navy veteran. He served in the former all through South Africa, for which he received the king's and queen's medals; and when he was in the navy he fought at Ashantee in 1894 as a member of the Gambia Expeditionary force from H. M. S. Raleigh. He was also present at Johannesburg during the Jameson Raid, and spent eight years in the navy. He has come safely and unwounded through all his campaigns.

The sergeant-major believes the only solution of the high cost of living problem depends upon government control of commodities and that the government will eventually have to set the top price at which goods may be sold. "Recalling the scarcity of food in the beleaguered town in South Africa during the war," the officer said that the authorities had been compelled to resolutely set their faces against "profiteering" of all kinds. "You may not believe it," he said, "but there were some people mean enough to want to make money out of the country's need just as there probably are to be found some such people right here in Canada today. The only way to stop them is by the government setting top prices at which all stuff may be sold."

Sergt.-Major Southgate has copies of proclamations posted up in besieged Kimberley just sixteen years ago, dealing with food price regulation. A copy of one of these resolutions reads in part as follows:

"WHEREAS it is deemed desirable for the public welfare to fix the price and regulate the issue of the undermentioned food stuffs:

Now, Therefore, I, Robert Kekewich, Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Griqualand West and Bechnanaland, do hereby proclaim and make known that:

1. No higher price shall be charged for the following produce than that stated hereunder:

Flour \$4.50 per 100 lbs.
No. 1 and 2 Boer Meal \$3.50 per 200 lbs.
No. 3 or inferior quality Boer meal, \$7.00 per 200 lbs.
Bread 6 cents per lb.
2. Bread must be made of the following proportions of Boer meal and flour:

Boer meal One-quarter
Flour Three-quarters

One-quarter of the governing quantity of flour and meal to be sold are mentioned in the proclamation, which also limits the amount of cattle to be slaughtered within the city of Kimberley, and Beaconsfield. This and similar proclamations are signed by the military commander of the district; and severe penalties are provided for those who break these rules.

Sergt.-Major Southgate was the first conductor of the trains running from Cape Town to North Africa, and has travelled all over the world.

"The old god of battles directed. We were his instruments and were proud of it."

Afterward, the correspondent states, the Emperor talked to the officers for a half hour on the Roumanian campaign, which he is said to have described as the "irony of fate" which has permitted the corn purchased by the English to fall into German hands.

"The English," the correspondent quotes the Emperor as saying, "paid for it; we eat it; and that has been called a war of starvation."

USE THE WANT
AD. WAY

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AGAIN, THE KAISER

"Confident that we are completely
victors, I yesterday made a proposal
to the enemy to discuss the question of
further war or peace," said the German
Emperor in addressing the troops in Alsace
recently, according to a despatch
published in the Cologne Gazette.

"What will come of it I do not yet
know," the Emperor is reported to have
continued. "It is a matter for the en-
emy now to decide if the fighting is still
to go on. If the enemy still thinks he
has not had enough, then I know you
will." Here the Emperor, says the cor-
respondent, made a "warlike gesture,"
which "produced a fierce smile on the
faces of all his men."

The newspaper despatch described how
the troops were drawn up in parade
order, airplanes being in readiness to
ward off a possible air attack. The Em-
peror was accompanied by the crown
prince and General von Guendell, the
commander of the army group. After
inspecting the troops the Emperor made
a speech thanking them for protecting
that region.

"The steadfastness of the troops in the
west," he said, had made it possible to
deal destructive blows in the east. He
spoke, the correspondent relates in
words most wrathful in contempt of
that people in the east which had
thought to stick a dagger in the back
of our ally. "The judgment of God had
fallen on them," the Emperor declared,
in the campaign which had been con-
ducted according to the brilliant plans
of Field Marshal von Hindenburg. The
Emperor added:

"The old god of battles directed. We
were his instruments and were proud of
it."

Afterward, the correspondent states,
the Emperor talked to the officers for a
half hour on the Roumanian campaign,
which he is said to have described as
the "irony of fate" which has permitted
the corn purchased by the English to
fall into German hands.

FEAR AN INVASION OF SWITZERLAND NEXT

Germany's Threat Believed to Be
Another Violation, Another
Scrap of Paper

Paris, Dec. 20.—The Temps, in a lead-
ing editorial headed "The Other Dan-
ger," suggests that the German peace
manoeuvre possibly hides preparations
for a further crime in the violation of
Switzerland. It says that Germany will
be able to say that the world was warn-
ed that if the Allies refused peace they
must accept the consequence and will
base her action on the dictation that
necessity knows no law, which was the
excuse for the violation of Belgium.

"After fruitless tactical successes," it
says, "Germany is ready to do any-
thing for a strategic decision. It is in-
contestable that the unlawful violent
acts Germany threatens as calculated
consequences of her pseudo-peace pro-
posals justify this anxiety. If Germany
thinks it necessary to destroy the right
of neutrals in order to obtain a decision,
she will neither shrink nor hesitate."

"The risk here is not pletonic. It is
immediate. The Allies must not ignore
it. Switzerland knows she has every-
thing to fear from her German neighbor,
and knows the value of a Berlin
scrap of paper."

DAYLIGHT SAVING.

There will be a Daylight Saving Con-
vention in New York on January 30 next
to consider the project of turning on the
clock on May 1 each year and of turning
it back to normal time on October 1.
Already the Pittsburg Chamber of Com-
merce, the Chicago Chamber of Com-
merce, the Cleveland Chamber of Com-
merce, the New Daylight Club of De-
troit, and the New York City Mer-
chants' Association are campaigning for
the movement, and several strong Cana-
dian organizations will have delegates to
the convention.

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By "Bud" Fisher

