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THE LONDON ADVERTISER
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London, Ont., Wednesday, March 28.

PREPAREDNESS IN THE STATES.

NOTHING has been more discussed recently in the United States than preparedness, and after all nothing need be so little discussed.

Nether England nor France was prepared for war when it came, and recent events in Russia indicate that what preparedness in that country would mean would depend on which side had the power to control the preparations. Fortunately the democratic view has prevailed. In the United States more stress is laid on preparedness in the navy than in the army. A "fleet that shall not be at the mercy of the British fleet" has been asked for. We need not consider how long it would require the United States to get such a fleet. The sailors of Canada would not be far behind anything the United States could produce for many years. What chance, then, would the United States have to rival Great Britain? A trial of strength between the navies of two countries today means the annihilation of one of them. The German navy hiding in the Kiel Canal proves this.

It is not necessary to follow the joint further because the aspirations and hopes of Great Britain and the States are identical. The United States, without incurring the expense of maintaining a navy equal to the British, has all it would have with such a navy.

England is as democratic as America, and it is generally believed will, when the war ends, be more democratic than ever.

FOR UNITED DEMOCRACY.

THE war is fast becoming the people's war, the world over. The Socialist party has been stronger in Germany than in any other country. What the percentage of the people of Germany, who would gladly see Germany a republic is, is almost impossible to tell, because the autocratic Prussian has his iron heel on the body of the German people, and his mailed fist has them gripped by the throat.

Great Britain has been the leading nation for freedom. The people and the King have meant the same thing for many years. In any British colony it would be difficult to imagine a freedom desired and not enjoyed. The United States, practically in the war today, has, during its whole existence, stood for government of the people, for the people, by the people. France, a republic, too, and now Russia. Surely "The world is grey with morning light," when Russia is able almost without bloodshed to step from an autocratic monarchy into the broad daylight of a republican form of government.

If the news could reach the people of Germany, that all that stands between them and peace, are the war lords of Prussia, represented by the Kaiser, and that peace would come as the natural consequence of throwing off their tyrannical and murderous yoke, it would not take them long to act. The spirit of Karl Liebknecht is more outspoken than it was. As time proceeds, and the progress made by the Russian people sinks home, it will gather force, until it finds action that will enable the people of Germany to join with the other nations in liberating Germany. Germany, instead of being defeated, will be a victorious nation, victorious over the most despotic government in the world.

The United States could do much to hasten this victory. The German-Americans are standing true to the United States, just as those of German descent have been in Canada, and more than any other portion of the population in America, when that day of victory comes, will have cause to rejoice with those who rejoice.

A BIT OF VERSE.

WRITER in the current Canadian Magazine says that where as early in the war our poetry on the subject was largely abusive and vindictive, it is now becoming rich in "the love of man, forgiveness of enemies, and even for the arch-enemy, Germany, sorrow and pity and prayer that her people may be regenerated." He condemns the following lines by Canon Scott as "immoral, obscene and hellish-revolting":

"Treacher-breakers, poison throwers,
Baby-killers, spume of swine,
Heavy bellies, carnal feeders, bulging
eyes of beer and wine,
Cries of women, screams of children,
Rising o'er the shot and shell,
Blast you with the curse of heaven,
In the hottest gulfs of hell."

So this little address to our foe is branded as "obscene, hellish, revolting." The last of these words sounds a bit weak after "hellish." The critic screams more loudly even than the reasonably enraged poet, and with the smash-word "hellish," losing his voice, wheezes down to "revolting" for an anticlimactic finale.

It is pretty obvious that the good Canon breaks through the usual reserves of art. He feels, perhaps, that his subject emancipates itself from the customary rules. Etiquette is left behind by this chaplain who is seeing things at the front and smelling the

poison gas fumes. He cannot keep himself up or down to the sweet, serene soulfulness of the praying psalmists at home. He feels impelled to beat a spade a spade, and a beast a beast.

Does he do so? Does he exactly photograph the enemy? That is a more interesting question to the unsentimental reader than whether Canon Scott brutally designates the brute. Is the designation overdrawn or not? What he says is, that the Hun broke and keeps breaking treaties, throws poison gas—he might have added, poisons wells—and kills babies. Whether this be poetry or not, it is obviously the truth, and is the truth immoral or hellish?

"Spume of swine!" That is a poetical phrase for foam, or froth of swine, probably symbolical of "swinish fury." From pointed designations of the Hun in his totality, the Canon turns to anatomize his parts or qualities, his admittedly swinish fury, his swag-belly, a particularly salient feature, quite undeniable, of the Hun in action whether of warfare or rampage; his liking for flesh food, whole pollets of it, and for beer, a characteristic that goes to explain and artistically substantiate the corporal swariness; the taste for French wine when he can steal it, as he did at the opening of the war.

So much for the invocation. Then the poet proceeds to say that cries of women and children, rising shrilly in the roar of guns and bombs blast the Germans to hell. Surely no one will doubt that hell is a "curse of heaven," if heaven ordains all things. When the Canon says "blast to hell," he means, apparently, "stamp the Germans as diabolical," as perverts from what God intended men to be. Who outside Germany will quarrel with the truth of all this? The fault of it mainly is that it is too obvious, too, trite, too hackneyed. But "immoral," surely not.

Of course it may be argued that the Canon tells only part of the truth, leaving out the good in our enemy. But the good is not very conspicuous to one at handgrasp with the Hun. "Canon Scott," his critic says, "knows that we have already turned to forgive and pray for the German people blinded by their leaders." One who is saving himself from the bayonet of a Hun, or snuffing his poison gas, or running the gauntlet of the subs, or honestly and in no wishy-washy spirit helping at home to win the war, will be only in a rarefied sense engaged in prayer for the nation that has worked as one man to assassinate civilization.

On another page of this Canadian Magazine an illustration by Raemaekers shows "The Triumph of the Zepplin." A mutilated form lies on a bed, covered with a concealing cloth and a cross. A husband and little girl sit beside, in grief terrible to see. "But mother had done nothing wrong, had she, daddy?" asks the little orphan of her living parent. On another page still of this number the same Raemaekers pictures Germany as a ruffian soldier, quite after Canon Scott's prescription, who, having smashed and robbed Belgium's house and killed the mother and child that lie on the floor in a heap, says, "It's all right; if I hadn't done it, someone else might." These things are true and need to be said and said again. Canon Scott's spirit may not be ethereally ideal, but it is that of one alive to the facts, and has more of Raemaekers in it than of the silly. Doubtless he knows how as well as when to dissolve in prayer and edification.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

For pure waste of time, the hunting up of proof by Washington that Germany has violated treaties is the limit.

Hon. T. W. Crothers expects a settlement in the western miners' trouble. Is he taking any real interest in bringing it about?

Send Sam's advice to Washington to stir Villa to fight the Germans is good. But he should also advise as to how to catch Villa.

It is significant that it is the women of Liberal tendencies who are first to realize the value of the franchise and suggest organization.

A good many Canadians will be anxious about the Kaiser's health. They don't want him to die before he is thoroughly humiliated.

General von Stein says the Allies appear to be preparing an offensive. Presumably the Germans are beginning to think of a further retirement.

You've seen those circus bills stoking up in sleepy villages six months after the visit of the entertainment. Aren't the streamers on Dundas street advertising the 14th Battalion now departed, rather similar?

THEM GOL DURN SIGNALLERS.

(Composed by some soldier in France, whose name is unknown.)
When a working party's wanted
For to help build up the line,
On the platform men are hiding
Oh hell! But it sounds fine
For to hear the sergeant-major
In a voice that booms and burrs,
Come shouting down the trenches,
"Where's them gol durn signalers?"

When you're straffed like old blue blazes,

Oh yes! It sure is fine
To dance round the trenches,
Patching up the broken line,
And the squire, as you pass him,
Has to throw his little slurs,
"Hail! Who goes there? All right,
pass on.
You gol durn signalers!"

When the rum ration is issued
And there's battle in each eye,
When the sergeant shakes the bottle
And finds it's run clean dry,
It's the same time-worn story,
How often it occurs,
Somebody has to go short.

It's them gol durn signalers.
Oh, it's joke to have a dugout
Where it's nice and dry and fine,
But when one lands hard and heavy
And you take an up-bulge,
When the smoke has kind of lifted,
One naturally infers
By the casual way it's mentioned
It's them gol durn signalers.

But never mind, for some day
We will follow up a line,
In a place where all is roses
And the ration is superfluous.
But when work parties are called on
For to sweep those golden stairs,
I know you have to do it,
Those gol durn signalers.

The Advertiser's Hint for City Gardeners.

Information as to Preparation, Planting and Care of Plants That May Be Grown in Backyards.

THINNING AND TRANSPLANTING.

In vegetable growing the seed should be sown thickly and afterwards the young plants are thinned out. This insures a sufficient number of plants for the ground and enables the gardener to choose only the stocky ones, throwing away the weakly plants. Thinning should not be left until the plants are long and spindly, but should take place when they are only one-half or one inch long. It is a common fault for beginners to attempt to grow too many plants in a plot of ground. The plants must have room for development, and all superfluous ones should be treated as weeds and pulled out, even though it pains the heart of the gardener to see his nice plants being wasted.

Transplanting is partly carried on indoors while the plants are yet in flats. It is best to make the final indoor transplanting for large plants into perforated cans, clay pots or strawberry boxes, each containing but one plant, and giving it plenty of room.

Before transplanting from the flats to outdoors, care must be taken that the plants are well hardened off. This is done by gradually exposing them to the outdoor temperature, first by opening the windows, and later by putting them outdoors during the day, and finally by allowing them to remain outdoors both day and night. This hardening process should be commenced about ten days before the plants are to be set out.

Transplanting should be done in moist weather, preferably on a cloudy day. However, if a bright day is chosen, the best time is 4 p.m., as from that time on the moisture in the air increases rapidly, and the plants may recover during the cool hours of the night.

THE ADVERTISER'S
DAILY SHORT STORY
(Copyright, 1916, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

THE COUNTRY GIRL.
By HARRISON CHASE.

"I'm crazy about you."

Bruce Barton, sitting on the steps of the rambling farmhouse, looked up into the eyes of Mary Neilson. The girl smiled.

"Are you sure?" she asked.

"Positive."

"Why?"

For a moment Bruce was silent.

"It's because you are different from any other girl I have ever known," he answered finally. "You're pretty and you're clever, but at the same time you don't think anything about clothes, you don't powder your nose, and you don't go around fishing for compliments."

"Thank you," she curtly replied.

"But don't you know that I'm only a country rube and that I haven't very many clothes to think about?"

"That doesn't make any difference; you're not like other girls."

Her eyes grew serious.

"How long have you known me, Bruce?" she asked suddenly.

"Three weeks."

"That isn't very long, is it?"

"It has been all too short for me."

"But you really don't know anything about me, do you?"

"It doesn't matter whether I do or not; I only know that you're cute and—"

"Listen, Bruce!" she interrupted.

"You don't know what I'm doing up here, where I came from or who my parents are."

"I don't know," he answered in mock seriousness. "All that I care about is that I came up to Riverton Centre three weeks ago expecting to take a rest. I met you, and I haven't had any rest since."

The girl smiled.

"I'm sorry that I spoiled your vacation; you haven't spoiled it; you've made it."

"And you're going home tomorrow?" he nodded.

"Yes, but I want you to come down to college next week and go with me to the senior ball."

He looked up anxiously, but the girl shook her head.

"I've read about college dances," she answered, "and I don't think that I'm the girl you want to take."

"Because the girls at the house parties wear beautiful clothes and are accustomed to society; the men try to outdo the Imperial, and the senior who takes a girl who doesn't measure up to the standard is more or less of a laughingstock."

Bruce's face reddened.

"I don't know," she answered finally. "I want you to come with me. Will you?"

Mary hesitated a moment.

"I don't know," she answered finally. "I'm only a country girl. I haven't many dresses, and I hardly think that you would be very proud of me down there in college."

"I would," he answered. "I'd be proud of you anywhere."

But somehow his words failed to carry conviction, and the girl, sensing his hesitancy, made her decision. "There are ten days before the dance, if after you go back to college and think over what I've told you, you still want me to go to the dance, you may write and ask me next Saturday. If I don't get a letter I'll forget all about it."

The girl turned and saw Bruce Barton returned to college he found the members of his fraternity talking eagerly of the approaching dance.

"I'm going to bring a wonder of a girl," Dred Chambers announced. "She's coming in her dad's car, and she's got all kinds of money. She'll make a hit, all right."

"My guest is one of the most popular girls in Vassar," Bob Voorhees remarked. "At the Yale prom she was the hit of the house party."

Bruce said nothing. A picture of Mary as he had learned to know her, with her simple clothes and unaffected manner, flashed before him. For three days he debated the question, and it was not until Friday night that he made his decision. Then he wrote a letter, but it was addressed to a girl he had met in New York who, he knew, would "make a hit" with his fellow-students.

On the afternoon of the dance his conscience troubled him a bit, but when the guests began to arrive and the members of the house party flocked around the girl he had invited, he smiled satisfactorily.

"Mary's right up in the wilds of Riverton Centre," he said to himself. "But she wouldn't fit in down here."

He reached the big armory where the dance was to be held rather early, and having donned his gloves and arranged his tie, waited outside of the ante-room for his partner to appear. He watched idly as girl after girl strolled out of the room and joined their escorts. He noticed with approval that his girl promised to eclipse them all.

He was still enjoying this feeling of self-satisfaction when the door opened and a veritable vision of loveliness came forth. Bruce's heart stood still; the girl was Mary Neilson. Involuntarily, he stepped forward, but Ralph Towens, the Varsity football captain, brushed him aside, and offered his arm to the

waiting girl. Together they made their way to the dance floor.

Bruce gazed after them, his mouth opened in astonishment. Mary, whom he had considered not good enough to attend the dance, was the guest of the biggest man in college. She wore a dress of white satin, trimmed with silver lace. It seemed as if she had always attended dances; she walked gracefully, greeted the reception committee, and then made her way to the booth reserved for Towens and his fraternity.

Bruce resolved to solve the mystery of her appearance, made his way across the floor.

"Hello, Mary," he said easily. "Are you going to save a dance for me?"

She smiled into his eyes.

"I'm afraid you'll have to ask Ralph about it," she answered. "He is filling out my order."

"But surely you'll give me at least one?"

"I don't know," she looked at him strangely. "I'm engaged to Mr. Towens, you know."

"What?"

"I've been engaged to him for six months."

"But why did you say that you'd come to the dance with me, if I should ask you?"

"Because I knew that you wouldn't have courage enough to ask me. You thought that I was only a country girl!"

"And aren't you?"

"Three weeks ago I was a country girl. Proudly, 'I am president of the senior class at Wellesley.'"

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