

THE Journal of Commerce

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1915.

Shall we Adopt Conscription?

A year ago only a few men dared mention conscription in Great Britain. Today some of the most conservative and thoughtful men in the country have come out in favor of compulsory military training.

The British people are commencing to realize that they are fighting the most powerful and the best organized foe that they have ever faced. Germany not only adopted conscription generations ago, but has been preparing for forty years for the present struggle.

During the American Civil War Abraham Lincoln first called for 75,000 men, and then for hundreds of thousands of volunteers. Despite the offer of large bounties and the most urgent appeals, the North found it necessary to adopt conscription.

In Canada, despite the urgent appeals of well-known speakers, members of Parliament, the press and other leaders of public opinion, the number of recruits offered is far below what is required to make good the wastage of war.

Sir Edgar Speyer.

There are times when public opinion is not logical, when it is useless to attempt to discuss the issues of the day with close reasoning and sound argument. Some powerful influence, possibly arising from a patriotic spirit, stirs the people and they hastily commit themselves to conclusions which in later and more sober moments they sincerely regret.

The case of Sir Edgar Speyer is substantially the same as that of Prince Louis of Battenberg. Prince Louis, it will be remembered, was the First Lord of the British Admiralty when war broke out. In a little time attention began to be directed to the fact that he was of German birth, and related to some of the German royalties.

Sir Edgar Speyer's position in the financial world was almost as prominent as that of Prince Louis in the naval service. Of German birth, he has spent most of his life in England, has long been a British subject, has been at the head of one of the most influential financial houses of London, has been identified with many British enterprises, and taken a warm interest in the works of benevolence and charity which command so much of the time and means of prominent Englishmen.

Some Vigorous Words.

English public speeches, as a rule, are marked by much deliberation and moderation. Occasionally some fiery orator indulges in hot words, but the general tenor of addresses from the British platform is of sober character.

salation of the German methods of warfare. On the evening of Friday, May 8th, Sir T. P. Whitaker delivered an address in the Town Hall of Cleckheaton on "The War and Some Problems Arising Out of It."

"Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord. Yes, and He uses human instruments, and I hope and believe that He is using and will use us and the other nations of the earth to smite that people who are acting as the very spawn of hell world act, who are violating every law, human and divine."

We would like to remind the Italians of the old saying that "he who hesitates is lost."

Some 245 rural schools in Ontario have elementary instruction in agriculture, towards which the Provincial Government contributes \$20,000. It is money well spent.

Shannon county, out in Missouri, has not an auto within its borders, although there are 70,000 cars in the State. Our own Prince Edward Island—"The Garden of the Gulf,"—only recently allowed autos within its confines.

The heavy casualty list from the Dardanelles shows that the Turks are taking a heavy toll of the Australians, New Zealanders and others engaged in forcing the Dardanelles. The men of the Overseas Dominions are certainly winning a place for themselves in the councils of the Empire.

The evils of the patronage system are well illustrated by the statement of Mr. A. E. Frigg, M.P. for Ottawa. In the past four years he has had 13,000 applications for jobs, or an average of 128 per day. He supplied some two hundred with jobs more or less to their liking, and probably made enemies of the remainder. Patronage should be abolished or at least put under the Civil Service Commission.

"Good-bye, I'm off for England to-morrow," declared a young business man of Montreal to a Journal of Commerce representative. "I tried five times to pass the doctors here, but they turned me down every time, so I'm going across to drive a car, make shells, pack ammunition, or do something for my country."

Business in Canada is now at ninety per cent. of normal, if bank clearings and railroad earnings be a criterion. In their monthly circular Greenshields and Co., stockbrokers, point out that bank clearings and railroad earnings last month were ninety per cent. of what they were in April, 1911, which was a very active period.

A few contributions to our list of long law firm names have been received since last month's publication. We note that Canada still leads, and also that seven names seem to be the limit. Are there no firms with eight names? The additions to our list follow:

Casgrain, Lavery, Renaud, Chauveau & Marchand, of Quebec, Canada; Choquette, Gallepeault, St. Laurent, Mitayer & Laforte, of Quebec, Canada; Drouin, Drouin, Sevigny & Grenier, of Quebec, Canada; Foster, Martin, Mann, McKinnon & Hackett, Canada (city not given); Rose, Henningway, Cantrell, Loughborough & Mills, of Little Rock, Ark.; Smith, Markey, Skinner, Pugsley & Hyde, of Montreal, Canada; Taschereau, Roy, Canon, Parent & Fitzpatrick, of Quebec, Canada; Laurendeau, Archambault, Lavalee, Dampousse, Butler, Jarry and St. Pierre, of Montreal, Canada; Russell, Macdonald, Hancox, Farris, Russell, Mowat & Wismer, Canada (city not given).

Great Britain has dropped the standard for the height of soldiers to five feet one inch. Now the real fighters will come out. The six-footer is impressive to behold, but the sawed-off man is the dangerous man. The world is full of henpecked husbands who weigh upwards of 180 pounds.—Southern Lumberman.

The United States is now so neutral that it doesn't care who whips Germany.—Ottawa Citizen.

The French have captured La Targette, which is undoubtedly considerable of a bull's eye.—Ottawa Citizen.

IN LONDON NEXT CHRISTMAS. We are entirely opposed to the childish game of selling the bear's skin before the beast is killed, but the present outlook warrants us in the belief that our troops will celebrate next Christmas in London.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

The three K's, "Kaiser, Krupp and Kultur," are about as popular here as the three R's are with school children.—Wall Street Journal.

J. M. Lively has been elected president of the Tennessee Undertakers' Association. Ought to stimulate business. Might make two funerals flourish where but one languished before.—Kansasburgh Illuminator.

Dentist—"Open wider, please—wider." Patient—"A—A—A—Ah." Dentist (inserting rubber gag, towel and sponge)—"How's your family?"—"Harvard Lampon."

Voice of Captain (through tube)—"There's a submarine about, Mac. Can you whack her up any more?" Chief Engineer—"Ay, Ah! I'll get another two knots if I have to burn whusky!"—Punch.

A Scotch gentleman had an ancient valet named Gabriel, whose petulance and license of speech went so far as to be intolerable. One day at dinner Gabriel took the liberty of calling something said "a great lee."—"Well," said the laird, really offended, and rising from the table, "this will do no longer. We must part at last."—"Hout, tout!" replied Gabriel, pressing his master into the chair, "whaur was yer Honor be better than in yer ain hoose?"

A clergyman was discussing with an illiterate member of his flock, in an orthodox church in Georgia, religious topics of varied interest. The member said that even the best were none too good in this vale of sin and tribulation. "You believe, then," interposed the preacher, "in the doctrine of Total Depravity?" "Yes, I do," responded the member, "that is,—er—er—when it's lived up to."—"Christian Register."

Jenkins has ceased to complain, but one evening his troubles as a strap-hanger in the street cars got so bad that he felt bound to expostulate. "Excuse me, sir," he said to the man sitting by him, "but would you mind moving your suitcase? I really can hardly find room to stand." "Move my suitcase?" gasped the stranger. "Those, sir, are my feet!" "Is that so?" said Jenkins. "Then, perhaps, you would pile them one above the other?"

Two Scotsmen were staying at the commercial hotel in a Welsh town, when they discovered that the wash-stand in their room was innocent of soap. They rang the bell and the attendant arrived to ask them why they wanted.

"Sen up saps, lad; a wee bit saps, quick!" said one. The attendant gazed at the two men of strange tongue and muttered to himself. "They're not French, nor Dutch, nor Russian. What can they want?" One of the Scots grew impatient. "Mon," he thundered, "can ye no understand plain Scotch?" The attendant promptly withdrew and returned with a bottle of Highland dew and two glasses.—Cardiff Western Mail.

THE CANADIAN GUNS.

By R. F. W. Rees in the London Express, April 28. Open out! Open out! Double through the dark! Ho, you Canadian boys! d'ye hear the bullets sing? Ready with the bayonets and steady on the mark. We're up against no simple sort of thing: Ho, it's hell hot loose and kicking, and it's Paradise for mine!

Charge again, the Maple Leaf, charge 'em with a cheer. For the guns—our guns—they are waiting in the rear. Ho, hustle with the bayonet! We mean to do 'em proud— There's a big kick coming from the Canada crowd!

Open out! Open out! Someone's fallen out— Ho, you Canadian boys, he mustn't die alone! Give 'em steel and give 'em butt, charge and right about— Show 'em that they cannot hold their own. Ho, their bullets sweep about us like the hail that rends the heavens! But we take a heap of stopping—they have got our four-point sevens! And our fighting blood is boiling—they can never hold their ground. When the folk at home are watching, from Ontario to the Sound.

Charge again, the Maple Leaf, charge 'em with a will! For the guns—our guns—they are somewhere on the hill! Ho, hustle with the bayonet! We mean to do 'em proud— There's a big kick coming from the Canada crowd!

Back again! Back again! We have got the guns! Ho, you German boys, you got it strong and hot! Won them from the enemy, wrung them from the Huns. Euechred Willie's army on the spot! Ho, we got the square-heads running, and you bet the sport was fine. But they're saying in the trenches that we saved the British line! Though we think no shucks about it, we're glad of that, by Heck! For the folks at home were watching, from Vancouver to Quebec.

Cease attack, the Maple Leaf! We have won the plain. And the guns—our guns—they are safe with us again! We hustled with the bayonet—by God, we did 'em proud! When the big kick came from the Canada crowd!

TAXATION—A DANISH VIEW. (Farm, Stock and Home.) The Danish farmers have their solutions to offer. Co-operation in business has made thinking citizens of them. In the district and national conventions of an organization representing over 200,000 voting farmers, the following resolution has been adopted over and over again:

"The Danish peasant farmers demand the earliest possible abolition of all duties and taxes levied upon articles of consumption or assessed in proportion to income on labor, and in lieu thereof they demand that a tax be imposed on the value of the land, which value is not due to any individual effort, but is derived from the growth and development of the community."

Danish farmers recognize that the taxation of land values would be an advantage to the working farmer. It would give him cheaper implements, cheaper clothes, cheaper food. It would enable him to buy land at a reasonable price—for the interest of the working farmer is in the intrinsic value of land, not its commercial selling price.

On this side of the Atlantic we may well ask ourselves if land taxation would not be just as good for us as for the people of Denmark. We have been told that co-operation has solved all problems in Denmark. The people of Denmark agree that co-operation has solved all problems in Denmark. The people of Denmark agree that co-operation is a grand thing so far as it goes, but that the solution of the land question is the primary problem. And the people of Denmark should know.

IN A WAR HOSPITAL.

Alexander Powell, the war correspondent, writing to the New York World from a hospital at Baillieu, France, with mostly British wounded, tells among other things:

On one cot was stretched a young Canadian. His face looked as if it had been stepped upon by a giant in spiked shoes. "Look," said the surgeon, and lifted the woolen blanket. That man's body looked like a field which has been gone over with a disc harrow. His feet, his legs, his abdomen, his chest, his face were furrowed with gaping, angry wounds.

"He was shot through the hand," said the surgeon. "He made his way back to the dressing station in the reserve trenches, but just as he reached there a shell exploded at his feet."

I patted him on the shoulder and told him that I too knew the land of the great forests and the rolling prairies, and that before long he was going back to it. And, though he couldn't speak, he turned that poor, torn face of his and smiled at me. He must have been suffering the tortures of the damned, but he smiled at me. I tell you, he smiled at me!—Exchange.

OUR GUN AND POWDER FACTORIES.

When your plants are turning out 20,000 rifles a day, which, the authorities say, could be quickly increased to 25,000 or 30,000; when our powder plants are turning out ammunition by the shipload and steel mills are making artillery at the rate of several batteries a week, there is no doubt that the United States could quickly arm half a million soldiers. The production of twelve-inch and sixteen-inch guns and huge mortars, like those used by the Germans and Austrians, is a slower process, and very few of the larger calibre are made here.

As to the quality of our product, James A. Nelson tells us that the German experts figure that American shells are 90 to 95 per cent. efficient; the French, 50 per cent.; the English, 40 per cent., and the Russian, 30 per cent.

The rapid conversion of steel plants into factories for making rifles, artillery and ammunition will be of immense advantage to this country when we do conclude to increase our army and strengthen our navy. The trade in munitions of war has brought with it an advantage that is not to be measured by profits.—Baltimore Sun.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY AGAIN.

It has been many many years since a spreadeagle speech by a North Carolina congressman, whose dwelling place was in Buncombe county, gave a new word to our language. While millions of people have used the word "buncombe," it is doubtful if 1 per cent. knew how the word originated, but now the county which gave this word to the language has again come into the limelight.

The county is not rich, but its people decided some time ago that it required better roads, and so at a special election they decided to spend \$52,000 for improved highways, and issued and sold bonds for that amount. The North Carolina county is being held up at all good roads gatherings as an example of what other counties should do in the highways movement, and this time its message to the nation is not "buncombe."—Wall Street Journal.

A TOAST.

To you, with the world before you, With your visions of rose and gold, May the convoy of dreams be o'er you Till the sun of your years is told. And you, who are done with dreaming, Who have passed beyond our ken, May you know the real, streaming In glory and power. Amen. Olin L. Lyman.

The Day's Best Editorial

RURAL SCHOOLS.

Good crops and remunerative prices are stimulating the "back-to-the-land" movement, or, to put it more precisely, are tending to keep the farmers on the farms. James J. Hill and other keen and practical observers have been warning us that the United States will not be able to feed itself if the exodus from the farm to the city continues. A generation ago three-fourths of the population lived in the country. To-day two-thirds of the people live in cities and towns. To combat this tendency the farmers must be induced to stay on the land and to bring up their children in the country, and this can only be done by making country life sufficiently attractive and farming sufficiently remunerative. Some remarkable reports of school work have been published by the state board of education of Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and North Carolina. The corn clubs for children proved so successful that farming communities have begun to realize the value of instruction. Farmers hate to pay taxes, and the rural schools have not kept pace with the city schools because the farmers starve their own local schools and then move into the city or send their children to school in it at great expense when it would have been far cheaper to pay two mills additional school tax and educate them more thoroughly at home. This period of prosperity for the farmers should be used to increase their interest in the school question on which so much depends.—New York Commercial.

BANK OF MONTREAL. (Established 1817) INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT. CAPITAL paid up - \$38,000,000.00. REST. - 16,000,000.00. UNDIVIDED PROFITS, - 1,252,864.00. Head Office—MONTREAL. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: H. V. MEREDITH, Esq., President. F. R. Angus, Esq., E. B. Greenhalgh, Esq., Sir William Macdonald, Hon. Robert Mackay, Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., C. R. Hooper, Esq., A. Baumgarten, Esq., C. B. Gordon, Esq., H. R. Drummond, Esq., D. Forbes Angus, Esq., Wm. McMaster, Esq.

Imperial Bank OF CANADA. HEAD OFFICE - - - TORONTO. Capital Paid up..... \$7,000,000 Reserve Fund..... \$7,000,000. This Bank issues Letters of Credit negotiable in all parts of the world. This Bank has 127 branches throughout the Dominion of Canada. SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT at each branch of the bank, where money may be deposited and interest paid. MONTREAL: Cor. St. James & McGill St. BRANCHES: St. Lawrence Blvd.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA. Established in 1858. Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1873. Paid up Capital..... \$4,865,655.65 Reserve Fund..... \$3,017,333.33. Head Office: 5 Gracechurch Street, London. Head Office in Canada: St. James St. Montreal. H. B. MACKENZIE, General Manager. This Bank has Branches in all the principal Cities of Canada, including Dawson City (N.T.), and Agencies at New York and San Francisco in the United States. Agents and Correspondents in every part of the world. Agents for the Colonial Bank, West Indies, Drafts, Money Orders, Circular Letters of Credit and Travellers' Cheques issued negotiable in all parts of the world. SAVINGS DEPARTMENT AT ALL BRANCHES. G. B. GERRARD, Manager, Montreal Branch.

THE DOMINION BANK. SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President. W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-president. C. A. BOGERT, General Manager. Trust Funds Should Be Deposited. In a Savings Account in The Dominion Bank. Such funds are safely protected, and earn interest at highest current rates. When payments are made, particulars of each transaction may be noted on the cheque issued, which in turn becomes a receipt or voucher when cancelled by the bank.

CONSTANTINOPLE'S FOURTH FALL. Constantinople may be the prize for the allies. The ancient city on Europe's stormy frontier has been hammered, assaulted and besieged many times, but only thrice in all its history. And it has been seriously threatened but once since the Turks wrested it from the descendants of the Caesars nearly two centuries ago.—Providence Journal.

NATURAL DULNE PREVAILS IN. Late List was at Standstill Showed Small Interest in First Hour Act. R. I. BREAK FOR. Word Was Passed That "They" Stock To-day—Guggenheim For Investment. (Exclusive Leased Wire to Journal) New York, May 21.—Price change of the stock market were small but on the side of improvement and increase on succeeding transactions. Italy's entrance into the war was a bullish development tending to an earlier close and forecasts of the American note that passer States would guarantee that passer munitions of war, they would submarine attack, implied a considerable President Wilson's demands. The postponement of Chesapeake had apparently been discounted, following opening unchanged at 40c, advance of a few minutes. Steel after opening 1/4 off at 62 1/2 and Bethlehem's steel opened 1/4 higher to the statement that the recently received are well in excess of the practical certainty that gold no ited, helped Missouri Pacific, which 13 1/4. New York, May 21.—After a first few minutes the market became end of the first half hour there was of interest in trading, the day being light with no definite tendency. Crucible Steel was the leader in activity and strength but it lacked liquidity and the general list made no movement. The price made a movement. The rise being said orders. Westinghouse was a strong feature to point to 90 1/2. There seemed to one two new contracts may soon be for 1,000,000 rifles and the amount of shells. New York, May 21.—Towards the hour the market improved substantially and strength and trading became although the war order stocks were active than some of the more conservative. Commission house by there being a disinclination to take margin pending the German reply note. Baldwin Locomotive advanced 2 1/4 hem Steel gained 4 1/2 by selling up Steel advanced 2 1/2 to 27, and L made a gain of 1 1/2 to 43. War business was the cause of the stocks. Reading showed strength, 14 1/4. Union Pacific and Southern strong features of the railroad list. New York, May 21.—During the market was quiet and prices eased the best. This looked like a repeat of the earlier days of the week price movement was made prior to little was done afterwards. The comparative strength of War was said to be largely due to Union was asserted that the Steel Products handles the export end of the business important orders for shells and being turned out in rough form at Steel plants, but sent for finishing corns. It was also asserted that for shells spoken of in connection house was of that kind, the Westing to complete the shells made at the Steel Corporation. The rumor was reiterated that L tive Works has obtained a big order that contracts covering them has been There was some activity in Erie of a favorable showing in the fo ment of the earnings for April. Th ably report gross of about \$5,000,000 for the month. Crucible Steel common advanced 2 a new high record. ROCKEFELLER'S RESER Washington, May 21.—John D. when he again took the stand before tions Commission, resented the attor Wash. In a statement he said: right than has any other citizen in attempt to interfere with or influe justice, and questions which are so to put me in the position of appee that there has been willful tamperin or stating what I am prepared to the future course of justice, either Lawton or any other person? them as other than improper questi reflection on those who are chargi ministration of justice? BROOKLYN UNION GAS CO. New York, May 21.—Brooklyn r pany has declared the regular quar 1 1/4 per cent, and the usual semi-annu demand of 1 per cent, payable July 1 ers of record June 16th. SYNDICATE BUYS N. Y. N. New York, May 21.—Henry E. St and editor of the Evening Mail, paper will be sold next week to a syndicate owned by Dr. Edward mer head of the Rumsey Company. MONTREAL POWER AN The annual general meeting of th Heat and Power Company will be 12 o'clock noon. Transfer books closed from Jun clusive.