

The Weekly Ontario

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1915.

DR. C. C. JAMES.

Last Wednesday evening Dr. C. C. James came to Napanee, his old home town, to open the "Patriotism and Production" campaign at that centre. He was greeted by an exceedingly small audience, but delivered an address remarkable for its eloquence and profound good sense.

Dr. James is coming to Belleville on Friday Feb. 26, and will deliver addresses here in the afternoon and evening. The Women's Institute has the matter in charge, and it may be taken for granted, that, although we cannot claim Dr. James as a native son, we will show our appreciation of the visit of a great Canadian to our midst by bringing out an audience that will be limited only by the accommodation of the assembly-room at the High School.

In his masterly address at Napanee Dr. James did not tell the farmers that as a class they were immune from military service and could honorably leave the active defence of our nation to the unemployed, while the agriculturists engaged in the safer and more lucrative business of growing wheat. Neither did he tell the farmers to go home and work harder. But he tried to impress upon them in a tactful way the necessity for meeting the new problems that have arisen by improved and more scientific methods. It was quite as necessary for the modern farmer to adopt the latest processes and discard the old and worn-out, as it was for the artisan and the manufacturer.

Following is a brief synopsis of Dr. James' address for which we are indebted to The Beaver—

"The Empire's call," said he, "is one of duty; not merely a call to all the Colonies, that has been responded to from every corner of the globe: Canada, Australia, India, and wherever the British flag flies, but more especially to each and every one of us. Have we responded to that call? What are we doing? What have we done. Do we realize the true significance of this, the greatest, fiercest and most disastrous war that has ever been seen since any time? Pick up any of the Toronto papers, said Dr. James, and you will find from one to four pages devoted to sport of every description, from hockey in the north to horse-racing in the southern States. Is that where the hearts of the people are at the present time? More interest in sport than in the happenings in Europe? We do not comprehend, as yet, and shall not until in a few weeks' time the reports begin to cross the Atlantic, and we shall be afraid to pick up the paper in the morning, fearful lest some one whom we hold dear shall have lain down his arms for the last time. What is our duty? It is clear: 'Production.' That does not mean, necessarily, to work harder. No one can accuse the Ontario farmer of not working as hard as any man. But it means that we must work to better advantage. The great armies must be fed and the man who devotes his whole energy in producing the greatest possible amount that lies within his power is serving his country just as faithfully as the man on the firing line. Those who stay at home and fail to perform their duty in this service is like the man who joins the colors and goes into the trenches and then lays down his rifle and runs away. The farmers must farm a little more with their brains, use better seed, give better cultivation to the soil. Now is the time to put into practise those little things that we have heard in the institutes yet have not got around to yet. Now is the time. While German militarism is being trodden under foot we can take a leaf out of their agricultural policy, through which she rose to be one of the greatest agricultural nations of the world. It was due to the fact that they always did a little better, took a little more pains. And Belgium, too, can teach how to make the greatest use of every inch of land. Land is so valuable in Belgium that they cannot afford to put fences on it. This call not only applies to the farmers of Ontario, but also the townspeople. Back gardens that hitherto have supplied but a few vegetables during the summer must now be made to produce more than ever before, remembering that the back gardens in this country are of the same size as a good many Belgian farms on which a whole family lived. Great credit, said Mr. James, is due to the women of Ontario, especially the Women's Institutes, who were the first to respond when the Red Cross call went forth. If the men fail to do their duty we will call upon the women, and they will respond in a manner that will put the men to shame. As a closing sentence, Dr. James again asked the question: 'What are we going to do?'

TEUTON AND CELT.

In the nineteenth century Germany took a leaf out of France's book, as far as she could. Not having been able to grow into a nation by inherent virtue, the Germans let Prussia whip them into a mechanical union. Not by the virtue of social cohesion, but rather by the vices of fear and subservience has Deutschland uber Alles been evolved. These vices were assisted by that of systematic untruth and hypocrisy. God being represented as the ally, a tribal Woden with a Christian veneer, inferior to none except to Deutschland herself, hating things French and British, and anxious to put them down by German might. German historians systematically rewrote history for German imperialism and systematically belied the French.

The prestige of the German achievement in philosophy, music and education put weight behind the lies. Englishmen made haste to proclaim their German origin and the essentially German character of British institutions. Freeman and Gree begin the history of the English people in Germany. Carlyle out-Heroded the German Herods, his teachers, in his burlesque history of the French Revolution and held up everlastingly the German character to the disadvantage of the French. Tennyson wrote of "the blind mysteries of the Celt," "the brainless mobs" of Latin revolutions (too much brain was usually their trouble perhaps), "the red fool fury of the Seine," and stood aghast at the shocking deeds of Irish peasants, as though the Saxon hand was clean. It was really most unfashionable to be a Celt of any description, especially in the hour of France's overthrow, in 1870.

For years after Sedan, superficial essayists attributed the Prussian victory to superior morale, to greater virility, to the moral and religious decline of the French people. Fyffe, however, in his history of Modern Europe, considers that it would take a specialist in morals to discriminate between the life of Berlin and that of Paris. Certainly divorce and illegitimacy are more frequent in Germany than in France, if that means anything.

In Britain, though uneasiness began to grow at the advance of German power, nevertheless the cry was strong against things French or Celtic, as in favor of things Teutonic, until the opening of this present century, when a turn in the tide appeared. Already some of the more inquiring minds had begun to make hesitating little pleas for the Celt. The Scotch Highlanders and the fighting powers of Gaelic and Irish soldiery had always been explained away as due to Saxon oversight or Anglicization. But Matthew Arnold put forward a thesis, superficial enough, that the Celt is responsible for the imagination in British poetry. Then came the Irish and Welsh national movements, the evidence of concentration of purpose and political ability in their organizations, the Celtic revival in literature and language, the growing stability of the French Republic falsifying so many prophecies, the Entente Cordiale, the Anglo-French Exhibition, and the iconoclastic attack all along the line by free lances like Chesterton, Wells, Shaw and the rest upon the "fine old maxims" and smug prejudices of the mid-Victorian age.

Bernard Shaw assured us in "John Bull's Other Island" (1904), that it is not the Irishman who is "sentimental, romantic, theatrical, capricious, factproof;" not the Englishman, who is "fact-facing, practical, tactful, long enduring, of sustained and concentrated purpose, lacking in humor." Chesterton, agreed with this view, but argued still that the sentimental, random, casual character is a better one than its opposite. What has happened in this war? Which side of the Vosges has shown itself braggart, ostentatious, noisy, at times rather uncertain of movement, untruthful, lustful, cruel, treacherous, hypocritical and slippery? Which side has shown itself enduring in reverse of retreat, cool and collected, silent and absolutely resolved, contrary to all old preconceptions? Circumstances made the German once stolid and domestic; a different set of circumstances made him yesterday insolent, false and impious. One set of circumstances made the Celt go wild in 1793, another makes him strong to-day.

WARFARE IN WINTER.

Lord Kitchener is reported to have replied to one who questioned him recently that he did not know when the war would end, but that it was going to begin in May. Whether Lord Kitchener made this remark or some well-informed person made it for him, it is pretty nearly the truth. The war has not been "going on" during the past three months; it has been at a standstill

The forces in the western field have scarcely been marking time. They have been stuck in the mud at the bottom of their winter quarters in the trenches.

Non-combatants are apt to think of armies as powerful in proportion to their numbers and weapons. So they may be against other armies; but as against the forces of Nature they are no stronger than the single average man among them. A million men can do no more against storm and cold and impossible seas of mud than one man could do under similar conditions, if opposed by only one other man. In other words, humanity, whether soldier or civilian, whether massed or individual, has its strict physical limitations, beyond which it can neither do or endure. Onlookers are prone to forget this, and to ask impatiently why things have so long been stationary in the western theatre of the war. An impressive answer comes from the Eastern theatre in the form of "A Letter From Russia," which is given the place of honor in the current Fortnightly Review. The writer, among many other suggestive things, says:

"The role of exhaustion in this Polish Armageddon will get its chapter in official histories. I have only isolated facts; but these bring sufficient evidence, at least as regards the invaders' nerve trials. A prisoner told me that between the battle of Orlesburg, in August, and Hindenburg's retreat from the Vistula, he took part in six actions, all of which, measured by duration of conflict, and numbers engaged, would, fifty years ago, have been counted as great battles took place within a fortnight. In the fortnight the prisoner's unit marched two hundred miles. The prisoner saw half his comrades perish; he saw men who when ordered to lie down to escape the shrapnel rain, fell at once asleep. All the war is fought in these conditions. A wounded cavalryman, now in Petrograd, tells me that near Radom a company of Germans was captured when all were asleep. A fight with an outpost, a hundred yards from the camp failed to awaken them. At Linblin, Krasnik and to the north of Limberg, the exhaustion of the out-numbered Austrians played a great part. Soldiers expressed joy, when the rifle ammunition supply failed, because then they could sleep. Shells, which fell into an Austrian camp killed the sleepers. Some of the sleepers did not hear the shells; others opened their eyes, stared, and went to sleep again. There is a story of an infantryman who fell asleep over his bayonet, received the point in his neck, and died. After three days' fighting at Orlesburg, the exhaustion of the Hamburg Landwehr spoiled part of Hindenburg's plan. A Russian unit near Ossowitz rose at dawn, marched twenty-six miles, fought an action before sunset; and next day marched, partly under fire, for five hours. A day later, it took part in a very big fight in the Ossowitz marsh."

Such are a few of the simple facts which suggest the possibilities and yet the limits of human endurance. How many of our most able-bodied young Canadian civilians could march twenty-six miles in a day, carrying seventy pounds weight, even without having to face a fight at the end of the day, and a five hours' march, under fire, on the following day? Knowledge of facts such as these should make us wonder how so much can have been done, not impatience that more has not been accomplished.

GRAFTERS AND THE WAR.

The Boston Herald has been making some unpleasant disclosures about grafting in connection with the purchase of war supplies. It states that a large New England manufacturer, in seeking a much coveted contract for footwear, for one of the nations now at war, "found his salesman faced with the necessity of paying four commissions to as many persons of influence in the purchase department of that Government."

Another Boston firm, the Herald says, has recently been "approached by a man of unquestionable prominence in a neutral Power, one liable at any moment to be involved in the war. He wanted to place a large order for shoes. As the trade was nearing consummation, he asked the Boston house to enter into an arrangement for billing the goods at 15 cents a pair higher than the actual price. This 'patriot,' to absorb the difference, which as he laconically said, would not mean very much to his Government on 'so large an order.'"

Similar instances, the Herald says, are reported in many lines of manufactured products. Hence, the Herald is moved to say that "war while it makes the strongest sort of appeal to the patriotism of the average man, also serves, curiously enough, to stimulate the grafters to do their worst." We greatly fear, from the reports which are current about some of the transactions in connection with the purchase of supplies, that Canada also has too many "patriots" of whom she has no reason to be proud. We hope, at least, that there will be a complete exposure of any grafting operations, and that the traitors will be given short shrift.

All Germans have not been permeated with the brutal philosophy of Treitschke. The official

"Eye-Witness" with the British forces tells of a German officer, who, noticing a British officer who was partially buried in a trench, stopped to dig him out and give him brandy, despite the fact that he was under fire. This German afterwards was killed by a stray bullet.

"We believe," says the New York Sun, "that it is the duty of the Secretary of State to notify the German Government that any attempt to interfere with American commerce, properly conducted, in any zone or waters, will be resented with all the resources of this Government. If this course is followed there will be no trouble."

Lord Rosebery, in a recent public address, said: "I am not one of those who think it their duty to exhort every man to enlist. I have never asked a man to enlist, because I am not willing to ask a man to go where I cannot follow him. I have never asked any person to enlist, but I do say this, that an enormous and individual responsibility weighs on every man of fit age who is able to enlist. It is not for me to weigh their responsibilities or to estimate the ties which bind them to their homes when this hideous struggle is raging for our very existence. Each man must judge for himself, but I would ask you to remember that if sufficient recruits are not got by voluntary system you will very soon see some system of compulsion inaugurated."

Premier Asquith's announcement in the House of Commons a few days ago that the British casualties in all ranks in the Western theatre of the war, from the beginning of hostilities to February 4th, amounted to 104,000 obviously required further explanation, and the Prime Minister has since added the re-assuring statement that approximately 60 per cent. of the alleged wounded had already recovered and were fit for service, which will probably reduce the actual permanent casualties to between 40 and 50 thousand. This total, of course, includes killed, wounded and missing, but it still affords evidence of the terrible cost in life and disabilities which the British Army has paid. The losses were particularly heavy in the early fighting around Mons and Cambrai. Since that time the British losses have been lighter than those of the enemy.

It is estimated that the Prussians have lost a million men, while losses of the Saxons, Bavarians and Wurtembergers have been at least a half million more. As Germany's forces in the field on both fronts are estimated to number about 2,500,000 men, this would mean, as the New York Evening Post estimates, that for every five Germans now in the field three have fallen. That is to say, the flower of the German army has melted away, and from this time forth the war will be largely fought by newly trained men.

COURAGE.

Courage, the highest gift, that scorns to bend to mean devices for a sordid end. Courage, an independent spark from heaven's bright throne, By which the soul stands raised, triumphant, high, alone. Great in itself, not praises of the crowd, Above all vice it stoops not to be proud. Courage, the mighty attribute of powers above, By which those great in war are great in love. The spring of all brave acts is seated here, As falsehoods draw their sordid birth from fear. —Farquhar.

DAN AN' ME.

Above us the stars was a-blinkin',
An' me an' 'Dan dreamin' again
Of things that have passed, an' a-thinkin'
Or 'fore we grewed up to be men;
It gives us a power of pleasure
A-settin' here by the door—
Dan who's so powerful rich
An' me who's so powerful pore!

We talked of the crops an' the weather,
Then switched to the summer that Dan
An' me went in business together
To "log" on the partnership plan;
We didn't say much 'bout the quarrel
As the two of us set by the door,
'Cause Dan has got powerful rich
Whilst I—well, I'm powerful pore.

In spite of his money he's narrow,
His body is as bent as a pin,
An' I, why I'm as straight as an arrow—
Could do it all over, an' win!
But somehow I can't help a-thinkin'
As Dan an' me set by the door,
That's he's got so powerful rich
Whilst I stay so powerful pore!

An' then the two childern come trompin'—
My daghters—an' beggin' their on
To play, an' midst all their rompin'
Before I knowed it he'd gone—
Gone home where ther wasn't no childern
An' I says as I watched from the door:
'Well, Dan ain't so powerful rich,
An' I ain't so powerful pore!"
—John D. Wells in Buffalo News.

Other Editors' Opinions

WHITE SLAVERY.

Out of a mass of hysterical untruths emerges the address before the International Purity Congress at Kansas City, by Miss Margaret E. Luther, Superintendent of the Florence Crittenden Home of N.Y. Speaking from experience, she states that the majority of girls who go wrong are not alone in the world nor are they necessarily wage earners. Their downfall is due to bad homes, and the evil begins early in life. Of 450 girls brought before the New York Women's night court, 289 were not over 18 and 118 were only 16. Stories of locked doors and barred windows—in other words, of literal white slavery—are mostly imaginary; the slavery is psychic. The same factor of lack of good home influences and of early degradation is manifest in the matter of sex. From the standpoint of a male—we can scarcely use the word man. One judge declared that 90 per cent. of the sentences for white slavery were imposed on boys under the age of 22. Contrary to most reformers, Miss Luther realizes that people cannot be made good by law. She considers the N.Y. State laws as good and as strong as possible. It is the home influence that needs strengthening, she thinks that reform along social lines would be expedited if it were more clearly recognized that, primarily, the male white slave is what is technically known as a child. He differs only in degree from the youth who deliberately seeks a wealthy marriage—and note that we do not believe that difference in wealth should interfere with the natural course of human affections—from the promoter who specializes on the inexperienced widow and orphan, from the man who plays on his attractiveness to the female sex to secure loans and gifts.—Buffalo Med. Journal.

RURAL LIFE.

Speaking before a rural life conference at Guelph recently, Mr. Drury said that the natural advantages of rural life in Ontario were lack of leisure, of profitable return, of social intercourse and of time for play. For these problems of country life the Agricultural College had failed to find a solution, but he said, the people were still looking to the college for leadership.

They will probably look in vain. The disadvantages mentioned by Mr. Drury are obviously the disadvantages which naturally flow from the shrinking of the rural population. That, we are sure is economic, or a consequence of the relative unprofitableness of farm industry for the sake of which the Agricultural College during many years of patient teaching of the science of agriculture, has done all that could reasonably be expected of it. We are sure that in the future, but without making a solution of these problems, less by legislation or change of which the college has not control, the relative unprofitableness of farm industry is charged. We are sure that a State college in Ontario which the farmers in revolt against economic conditions would be promptly disciplined to silence. Possibly during the next few years conditions will change. The failure of industry in the cities may drive the people again to the land, removing the disadvantages of which Mr. Drury justly complains. Then, also, the rural school, again efficient and we shall hear less, perhaps, of church union.—Toronto Weekly Sun.

LOOKING TO THE END.

Russia, along with the other allies has provided surprises for the Prussian war lords. This will come as a greater blow to them than the failure of their political agents to appreciate the internal unity of the nations who sought to bring under subjection. Even in the military affairs which they believed themselves to be supreme the Kaiser and his advisers have found themselves woefully in fault. Now after seven months of war, Germany is reduced to a position where it is no better off than it was—indeed worse, because the training in the United Kingdom equal the first line troops of many.

Germany never dreamed of the present situation any more than she did that Russia would prove a formidable foe, not be reason of sources of men, but of rapid mobilization and skillful leadership. Germany had organized an efficient war machine, but it could not create or provide a great military genius. The Germans and French have proved to be equal to German command and in the great eastern campaign, Grand Duke Nicholas has conducted the utmost confidence. He has been when to yield ground if that should later success. He has allowed the Germans to waste the process of titile attacks and the process of titile carried out systematically, paving the path for a grim and final victory.—Toronto World.

GERMANY'S GREATER SPEED.

Grand Admiral von Koester, President of the German navy league, is represented as saying that the Germans have shown the greater speed for the offensive because they have raided the English east coast, whereas the British have not dared to do so on their coast. It is just such remarks as that that make one wonder whether there are many people in the world who know less about this than do the Germans in Germany. The British navy has twice sailed into Heligoland bay, sinking or seriously damaging fourteen cruisers, torpedo boats and bombardiers, and fortifications.—Buffalo Express.

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