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HON. W. S. FIELDING, President and Editor-in-Chief.
J. C. ROSS, M.A., Managing Editor.

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MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1914.

The Naval Victory

The splendid victory achieved by the British squadron under Sir Frederick Sturdee naturally has aroused great rejoicing throughout the British Empire. The victory was made doubly sweet owing to the fact that the German squadron had defeated a smaller British fleet on November first, sinking the Good Hope and Monmouth and damaging the Glasgow.

In the victory which took place a couple of days ago, word of which reached here late last night, there were no British boats sunk and very few casualties were reported. Two German cruisers, the Nürnberg and the Dresden escaped, but are being pursued by British ships, and their capture is likely only a matter of a few hours. This will leave the sea practically immune from German warships, the only one now at large being the Karlsruhe. The victory restores the slight want of confidence which some timid people began to express following the last conflict between British and German vessels. It serves to show that under conditions anywhere near equality, British seamanship, gunnery and naval tactics are the best in the world. A fate similar to that which overtook the German ships yesterday will overtake them in the North Sea just as soon as they venture out and meet the British fleet, which have been cruising in those waters for the past four months. Britannia still rules the waves.

A Veteran Official Gone

The announcement from England of the death, at the age of 52, of Lieut.-Col. Holt Waring Clarke, marks the passing of a gentleman who for many years was a prominent figure in the official and social life of the Maritime Provinces. Coming out to Halifax in early life as an officer in the British army, Mr. Clarke married a Nova Scotian lady who, until her death in England a few years ago, was a very charming leader in Halifax society. He identified himself with the militia service in which he advanced to the rank he held at the time of his death. Very long ago he became Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia of the time, an office in the duties of which official and social affairs are often blended, and by his ability, courtesy and tact proved himself the ideal Secretary. So satisfactory was his discharge of the duties of the office that his services were retained by successive occupants of Government House. He must thus have served under four or five Governors. Falling health obliged him to retire from active service a few years ago, and he returned to England to spend the evening of his life.

The Remotest Section and the Capital

The recent agitation in Ottawa to prevent the delivery of an address by a citizen of Canada, whose attitude in public affairs is disapproved by most of us, makes the following passage of history interesting now. It is to be found on page 130 of the first volume of Mr. James Young's "Public Men and Public Life in Canada."

"The activity of Mr. (D'Arcy) McGee at this period (1859) aroused not a little hostility on the part of the Conservative party, especially the Orange section of it, and this was ultimately carried so far that at Bradford, in the country of Simcoe, he was prevented from lecturing on a literary subject. The Historical Connection between Ireland and Scotland, by open threats of the Orangemen of the district that they would break up the meeting by a riot. The danger, which was known to be real, greatly alarmed the town and vicinity, and at the request of a deputation, Mr. McGee wisely withdrew his consent to lecture. This denial of free speech was widely condemned by men of both political parties, and it shows how far Canada has since advanced in political toleration, for such a display of party bigotry would hardly be possible in the remotest section of the Dominion at the present day."

But what would "hardly be possible in the remotest section of the Dominion" seems to be quite possible in the capital of the Dominion.

Street Railways in Europe and America

Montrealers are, or at least should be, keenly interested in municipal matters, especially as they relate to street railways. The city has a tramway problem on its hands which it is finding difficult to solve. Some advocate municipal ownership, others every grade between.

In this connection it is interesting to note the report recently issued by the American Federation of Labor Commission of Municipal Ownership of Street Railways in Europe. The Commission investigated street railways in Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, England and Scotland. The main points of their report follow:

"The tram systems of Europe are not to be compared with the street railway systems of the United States. Throughout continental Europe and the United Kingdom, in the most thickly populated centres, the street railway service is inferior to ours in many respects."

"In the continental cities the track mileage is small compared with the United States. This contributes to density of traffic and profitable operation. The same is true of the United Kingdom, whose total street railway trackage is about 2,600 miles, as against 40,470 miles operated in the United States. Cheap fares on the zone system prove dear fares to the worker if he has to ride any considerable distance, or take intersecting lines, for each zone entered means an additional fare, and there are no transfers on European systems. Zone fares and inadequate wages force the workers of Europe to live close to the workshop, mill and factory. It is rare to find a European worker who can afford to live in suburb or country, miles away from his work, as is

frequently the case here. The rate of fare for long distance makes it prohibitive and the wage will not warrant the expenditure."

This makes out a bad case for municipal ownership, but this is no reason why Montreal should not secure some satisfactory solution to her tramway problem. Municipal ownership may not be feasible in a poorly governed city like ours, but some sort of system whereby proper control is vested in independent management which characterizes our street railway system.

What Egypt Owes Britain

The Premier of Egypt has come out strongly in favor of British rule, although the Khedive of the country has cast his lot with Turkey. In a recent interview, the Prime Minister pays a warm tribute to the work accomplished by Lord Kitchener, Lord Cromer, and to the other men who are responsible for the rejuvenation of Egypt.

Britain's connection with Egypt and the wonderful results achieved from her administration present one of the most illuminating pages in history. Back in 1875, Egypt was in a deplorable condition, financially and industrially. Her credit was gone; she was hopelessly in debt, the people were half starved and weighed down by taxes, laws were poorly administered and, in brief, the country was in a most chaotic condition. In order to secure some needed money, Ismail Pasha sold his Suez Canal shares for £2,376,582 to the British Government. Following this purchase of Suez Canal shares came the intervention by France and Great Britain. After two or three years of direction by the two countries, they withdrew, and from 1878 to 1882 Egypt had a chance to govern herself. Those four years showed that the Egyptians were incapable of self-government, the country having fallen back into its former state of chaos. Then came the revolt of Arabi Pasha. France decided not to participate in any further governing of Egypt, and Great Britain alone took up the task. She crushed the revolt at Tel-el-Kebir on September 13th, 1882, and since that time has exercised an unbroken hegemony over Egypt.

During these thirty-two years, Egypt has been entirely changed. Men like Sir Evelyn Baring (better known as Lord Cromer), Sir Eldon Gorst and Lord Kitchener have worked wonders. The country has been re-organized and put upon a proper basis, the country's debt has been reduced, taxes have been lowered, great public works carried on, new industries established, agriculture encouraged and the whole country changed and vitalized. The army from being a disorganized mob has been changed into an effective loyal fighting force. One of the great achievements has been the building of the Aswan Dam, which regulates the flow of the Nile, and which has made possible the cultivation of great areas of desert land. As a result of that achievement cotton growing to-day is an important industry in Egypt, while agriculture, as a whole, has taken on a new lease of life.

To imagine that the Egyptians would go back to what they were accustomed to a generation ago is unthinkable. There may be a few fanatics actuated by religious motives who will blindly follow the Turkish call to arms, but to the great mass of the common people, who have been changed from a state of serfdom to that of freemen, and from poverty-stricken peasants to a prosperous people, the Turkish appeal will fall on unheeding ears. Egypt has been made into a new country, and will never willingly go back to Turkish rule.

Rule Britannia! Britannia rules the waves!

Three German cruisers sunk and three merchantmen captured makes a very creditable week's record. Every day the war lasts makes the position of the Germans more precarious.

Mexico has four men claiming the presidency, to a greater or lesser extent. It is pretty difficult to say just who is president down in that country, where they have perpetual warfare reduced to a science.

An explanation of the Kitchener interview occurs to us. The probability is that when the head of the British War Office agreed to receive "Mr. Cobb," he understood he was to have the honor of a call from Mr. T. Cobb, the baseball man. These great men like to meet each other.

The tonnage of ocean vessels entering Montreal during the season just closed reached the figure of 2,849,210 tons, against 2,679,414 for 1913. In the amount of grain shipped out, the harbor also made a record, totalling 74,000,000 bushels, or nearly 20,000,000 greater than last year.

President Falconer, of the University of Toronto, does not seem to have made out a very good case on behalf of the German professors who have been retained on the teaching staff of the University. It is all very well to emphasize British fair play, but we have been far too lenient in this country with the enemies of the Empire. War, especially with a ruthless, unscrupulous enemy like the German nation, does not call for an overplus of consideration.

The Wall Street Journal likens the Kaiser's action in regard to Belgium to the Bible story of "Naboth's Vineyard." After quoting the story of Naboth's Vineyard, the paper says: "The parallel between Kaiser Wilhelm and King Ahab is not exact. Their domestic relations are quite different. And besides, Naboth was dead when the 'annexation' took place while King Ahab of Belgium is a very much alive."

Some excitable Americans are trying to make out that if Great Britain wins in this war she will try to build up another world empire. In reply to the nonsensical claim that Great Britain will menace the welfare of the United States, the New York Commercial says: "Nobody knows who will be the out come of this war, but we can laugh at prophecies of evil for ourselves should England remain the dominant maritime Power of the world."

The announcement that the Bank of Vancouver had withdrawn from the clearing house of that city and the intimation that it might become financially involved was not unexpected in banking circles throughout Canada. In speaking of the withdrawal, Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Canadian Bankers' Association, said: "The Bank of Vancouver is entirely local in character, and its withdrawal from the clearing house has no bearing whatever on the general trade or banking situation in Canada." The Bank of Vancouver, which has been in trouble to a greater or lesser extent for some time, had its standing further jeopardized by the failure of the Dominion Trust Company. The bank states, however, that it will be able to continue business.

A CORRECTION.

In yesterday's Journal of Commerce appeared an editorial on Germany's Colonies. Through a typographical error it was stated that in Africa, she constructed altogether over 22,000 miles of railroad. This should have been 2,200 miles.

GUARDING SHIPYARD SECRETS.

Every shipyard that builds for the navy must take great precautions that none of the secrets entrusted to its care shall leak out. Detectives watch all visitors and keep the workmen under observation also. Plainclothes officers guard every entrance, and nobody is allowed to bring in even a small parcel unless it is first examined, for fear that it may conceal a camera. At one of the big construction yards one man in every two dozen is thoroughly searched from head to foot on leaving. All the draftsmen engaged on the drawings of a new warship are sworn to secrecy, and the plans are invariably kept under lock and key when not in use.

These precautions have brought many suspicious circumstances to light. One night when a new cruiser was about to undergo her trials two men crept aboard as she lay at anchor. They were captured and handed over to the police. Shortly afterward, on the day of her trial, the chief engineer thought it would be advisable to have another look at the interior of the turbines before steaming, to make certain that no rubbish had got inside to injure the delicate turbine blades. But worse than rubbish was found. When the turbines were opened two heavy steel chisels were discovered inside. If the machinery had been started the damage would have taken months to repair. Northern Weekly Gazette.

THE DAY OF THE YOUNG.

Fortunate are our young men to be young at this moment, when conscience and faith have so suddenly and splendidly revived. They, in the best years of their life, have something to do, something to fight and to suffer, and, if need be, to die for. There is the material fact of Belgium to be freed from its oppressors; and behind that is the future of the world and that faith upon which the future depends, which they can now uphold with their lives and in the hope that after their victory there will be a new age for them to live in.—London Times.

NOT IF THEY HAD FORESEEN.

The Crown Prince may be quite sincere when he says the war "was forced upon us," but would there have been war if Austria and Germany had desired to prevent war? Would there have been war at all if Berlin and Vienna could have foreseen the events of the last four months? Would the Austrian government have rejected Serbia's request for mediation if Vienna could have known what the condition of the Austrian army would be after four months of conflict?—New York World.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

There are now two or three clouds on the Mexican horizon, each larger than a man's hand.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"Why, what in the world has become of your watch?" The one you used to have had a handsome gold case.

"I know it did, but circumstances alter cases."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

A darkey porter was asked if he could change a five dollar bill. "No, boss," he replied, "no, sah, I can't change no five dollar bill. But I thanks you for de compliment 'just de same.'"

A German who fought on the Aisne. Went out for a stroll in the rain. But a seven pound shell sent him promptly to—well, Where he'll never see rain again.

"The graspiest man I ever knowed," said Uncle Jerry Peabees, "was an old chap named Snooping. Somebody told him once that when he breathed he took in oxygen and gave out carbon. He spent a whole day tryin' to find out which of them two gases cost the most if you had to buy 'em. He wanted to know whether he was makin' or losin' money when he breathed."

The girl of his heart looked at him doubtfully. "Frankly," she said, "I don't think I can accept you—yet. The man I marry must be brave and brainy." "Well? I think I can say that I am both." "Oh, I admit your bravery. You certainly saved my life when our boat upset the other day; but, after all, that was scarcely brainy."

"I beg your pardon," he corrected her, gently: "One moment. I upset the boat on purpose."—London Evening Standard.

A sturdy little Lancashire lad went to a recruiting station to enlist. He was much disappointed, according to London Tit-Bits, when the officer told him he was too small and too young.

"Can't you find me some job in th' Army what I am big enough for?" anxiously asked the lad. "No, I can't. I'm sorry to say," replied the officer. As the lad turned sorrowfully away he said: "Well, don't blame me if th' bloomin' Germans lick 'em; 'ot an' yo'; that's all!"

"I haven't seen Hammandhaw for a week." "No; he hasn't been out of the house since his accident." "Was he seriously injured?" "No; but he feels the disgrace deeply." "Disgrace?" "Yes; after living in the heart of the city all his life, he went to the country one day last week, and was run over by a milk waggon."—New York Tribune.

THE WAR WIND.

The north wind sweeps the countryside, And brings the blinding snow; The way wind sweeps the countryside With fierce advancing foe; And man may hide from the north wind, But from the war wind—no!

The rainstorm beats the crops to earth, And frees the foaming flood; The war storm breaks the men like oats, And the rivers flow with blood; And man may brave the rainstorm, But the war storm beads no hood.

After the north wind comes the spring, After the storm the sun; But the war wind leaves no living thing After its race is run; And the war storm needs to blow but once— Its work is fully done.

To Him who sends the north wind Unending praises be; But God have mercy on his soul Who sets the war wind free.—Percival U. Birdseye, in N. Y. Sun.

TWO-FACED.

Hun, the invader, is one party. Hun, the defender, is another. And when we stand the two side by side we see the contrast—we catch a glimpse of the Hun, who will sign a "war of paper" in one minute only to break his bond in the next.

Hun, the invader, violated the neutrality of Belgium. The plucky Belgians resisted the big bully, who, exasperated that his well-laid plans had come a cropper, made the excuse that German soldiers had been ruthlessly fired on by Belgian non-combatants. Louvain and Aerschott and Malines were his answer. They were razed to the ground; civilians by the score were stood against a wall and shot down in cold blood.

But Hun, the defender. That is a different tale. Turn from Belgium to East Prussia. The Russian bear invaded East Prussia and did the German warn his civilian residents against the terrible crime of firing upon the enemy's troops? Not much. Here is his command to civilians when German territory is invaded—A German proclamation posted up in all parts of East Prussia:

"It is the duty of every man capable of bearing arms to harass the enemy until he retreats."

"The whole population must take up arms to keep the enemy always in a state of unrest, to seize his ammunition, to stop his food supplies, to capture his scouts, to destroy by any means whatsoever his ambulance and field hospitals, and to shoot him down during the night."

"When the enemy crosses the frontiers of imperial Germany there ensues a struggle of national defence in which all methods are permissible."

"The men of the landrurm who perform such duties should not wear uniforms, because by retaining their civilian's dress they are less conspicuous and thus are in a better position to attack the enemy unaware."

The Hun is a great stickler for the rules of warfare when it suits his purpose. Otherwise, Louvain is his answer.—Lethbridge Herald.

The Day's Best Editorial

ROMANCE AND WAR.

Comfortable folk in this comfortable land, accepting the war news each morning with a slight sense of boredom, complain that "romance" has been taken out of soldiering. Men now burrow like moles, wallow in mud, and are killed as are miners in a mine explosion. The instruments of destruction are out of sight; the masses of men are so enormous that the individual, who is necessary to romance, has lost not only importance but identity; nothing is presented to the eye or to the imagination but serpentine writhings on or under the ground. This can be horrible, but it cannot be romantic, in the opinion of comfortable folk who desire to take other folks wars romantically.

If by romance, a word which has travelled so far from home that it would not know its parents, is meant pictorial effects, the complaints may be right. In the east, in Poland, Galicia, and East Prussia, whence little news comes, there may be a sweep, dash, and contact of masses which would thrill the pictorial sense as much as it would horrify the humane; but in the west, where war has been described and photographed, it lacks pageantry.

It is business, the business of range finding, the business of entrenching, the business of the commissary, the business of transportation. Romance, seeking something to fill the eye, asks for dragons charging the cannon's mouth; cuirassiers accepting the challenge of the massed regiment. Picket's charge at Gettysburg, the Light Brigade at Balaklava, the cuirassiers at Waterloo, satisfied romance.

Romance is for stay at home enjoyment and it is best satisfied with ancient vintage. There is nothing romantic, in the sense we are accepting the word in the business of battle. There may be pageantry in the preparations for one. Until the business begins there may be pictorial grandeur. The primitive picture sense of men may be pleased, their auricular delight in percussion may be satisfied by the drums, their eyes filled by the spectacle of heroism marching to its supreme effort. But there never was a battlefield which was any more romantic than the stockyards.

Battlefields, whether filled with the silt diaphragms of Roman short sword days, with the split skulls and lopped off arms of long sword days, or with the bodies of men bullet punctured or torn by shrapnel, are realities as hideous as the worst conception of hell.

They become romantic when the realism has been forgotten. There may be pageantry in the return of the conqueror but there was none in the fashion of his victory.

In a truer sense of romance this is the only romantic war. It is the first one which has not "bound itself to verisimilitude." A German taube sailing over Paris to drop a bomb and a mocking note to the Parisians has no relation to anything we ever knew as reality in warfare; a British aeroplane penetrating 120 miles into Germany, hidden in the clouds and seeking for important manufacturing works that it might destroy, has no such relation; a submarine hunting in the channel for a British dreadnaught is not among our verisimilitudes as yet.

An aeroplane, crippled, falls into the sea and its crew is taken off by a submarine arising out of the sea; a torpedo boat destroyer, itself destroyed by an unseen force, has its crew rescued by a ship coming up from underneath the waves.

Here in reality we go back to the unreal days of the god from the machine. Destruction comes from unseen forces. The god throws a bolt and the hero drops. The invincible death threatens or strikes. The Paris of the Illad lives again to be snatched out of danger.

Romance and war never were companions until the war lost its reality, but this war, in many of its aspects, has yet to acquire a reality which we can accept or understand.—Chicago Tribune.

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A GERMAN TRIBUTE.

A German paper, "Bergens Tidende," publishes the following tribute to the British army, from a member of the German general staff: "The Englishman is cool, indifferent to danger, and to the dispensation of Providence. He stays where he is commanded. He shoots magnificently, extraordinarily well. After we had broken through the French position of the Belgian frontier, it was General French's army that stayed the retreat. Our efforts to drive the English back were in vain. The British are a strong people, athletic and well developed. So we decided to shoot them down. We were not in our favor. Then we got all our artillery that could be spared against them, and swept the English positions with a rain of shells; but how can I describe our astonishment? Beyond the small-sweet-sour we saw English soldiers' heads moving, and they began to use their rifles again as soon as the coast was clear. The British are really a cool lot.—Winnipeg Free Press.

LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD.

How many persons, if asked how many languages there were in the world, could give anything like an accurate answer?

It may appear an exaggerated statement, but it is nevertheless true that there are over four thousand languages spoken by mankind, while the number of dialects exceeds this. There are more than sixty vocabularies in Brazil, and in Mexico the Nahuatl is broken up into some seven hundred dialects. There are hundreds in Borneo, while in Australia there is no classifying the complexities. Let us assume that fifty dialects on an average, belong to each language, and we have the colossal total of a quarter of a million linguistic abilities.—Exchange.

BRITAIN SOUGHT PERFECT.

Not less important than the magnificent British navy is the financial capacity of the empire. It financed the long wars that finally humbled Napoleon. So long as the British fleets kept open the national lines of commerce, English credit and English gold will become more and more a factor in the final outcome.

Of all the nations involved England has been the most deliberate. She sought to win the Government apparently hung back even when France was invaded. She sought to achieve a solution through the weight of her diplomacy rather than armed force.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

THE TWO EMPIRES.

The population of Great Britain (the United Kingdom) is 46,000,000. The population of the German Empire is 65,000,000. The population of the British Empire is 374,000,000. The population of the German Colonies is 12,000,000. Total population under the British flag, 420,000,000. With the freedom of the seas, the British Empire could, in time, put into the field an army of 20,000,000 men. Five or six millions is supposed to be the limit of Germany.—Mercantile and Financial Times.

SHERMAN WAS RIGHT.

Truly the age of romance is fast disappearing. Girls making shirts for the soldiers in a Berlin, Ontario factory put notes in them with their names. One has got an answer stating that the recipient was a married man. Truly war is just what General Sherman said it was.—Guelph Mercury.

NEEDS AN EXPERT.

Somebody robbed the northern mail in hope of capturing a parcel of bills en route to a branch bank at Peace River Crossing. He got left. It takes smoother work than that to separate money from a bank these days.—Edmonton Bulletin.

MOTHER OF INVENTION.

"I say, sergeant, this meat is like a bit of leather, and the knife's blunt." "Then why the devil don't you stop the knife on the meat?"—London Mail.

DEFEND YOUR COUNTRY.

Very considerate of British professional footballers to discontinue international matches. It would be much more to their credit, though, to defend their country instead of their goals.—Hamilton Spectator.

FALL IN!

"Our future is on the water," says the Kaiser, and a writer in the London Daily Sketch asks, "Is anyone sending him a copy of the song 'Fall In!'?"—Belleville Ontario.

MAKES LONG STEP A RETURN TO NORMAL

Bank of England Statement on Affords Ground for Encouragement

DECREASE IN CIRCULATION

Reserve and Bullion, Both of Which Increase by, Make as Strong a Showing as Seems Necessary.

New York, December 10.—This week's bank may fairly be called a strong one. There are startling changes in individual items, but for real encouragement on analysis. The gain of nearly three points in the proportion to liabilities indicate the extent of recovery since the beginning of the month, considerable disbursements.

At 22.84 per cent. the bank shows a strong position at any time since the beginning of the war.

A decrease of circulation with the Christmas days approaching probably indicates the dull trade, although the amount (£175,000) is by no means formidable.

The large transfer from private deposits to deposits indicates the operations of the treasury collecting subscriptions on the war loan. What is essential is that the two loan items "Government" and "other" securities, show together a deduction of £14,850,000 which is balanced within 100 by the net reductions in the two deposits. This is a good showing and is a long step in a normal.

The small increases in reserve and bullion better than nothing, and both items make as a showing as seems necessary.

It will probably be some weeks before the bank is placed on a less nominal basis than the present one.

As the bank's affairs are shaping now, a red early in January seems probable, and would have world-wide influence on public confidence and on the market.

LAKE SUPERIOR PAPER WOULD POSTPONE PAYMENT OF INTEREST

The Lake Superior Paper Company, Limited, of the numerous Lake Superior Corporation has recently defaulting in their payments of bond interest, is out with a proposition to holders of its mortgage 6 per cent. 30-year bonds, interest on which was due September 1st, and will again be due on July 1st and on March 1, 1916, to postpone the payment of such interest until June 1, 1922, unless voluntarily thereto the company shall give six months' calendar notice of its intention to pay the same. Bondholders are also asked to sanction postponement for a period not exceeding five years of the interest on operation of the sinking fund for the redemption of the bonds.

The Royal Trust Company, Montreal, is empowered to execute a supplemental mortgage containing the modifications.

To approve the extension and modifications a special meeting of bondholders will be held December 23 at the Great Eastern Hotel, London. Bondholders must produce their bonds at the meeting or deposit them with any one of a number of banks named previously to the meeting for which they will receive certificates of deposit entitling them to record their vote on the project.

BANK OF ENGLAND RETURN.

London, December 10.—The Bank of England weekly return compares as follows:

	This week.	Last week.
Circulation	£235,751,000	£235,926,000
Public deposits	45,002,000	12,577,000
Private deposits	120,904,000	167,970,000
Government securities	11,369,000	31,289,000
Other securities	117,600,000	113,121,000
Reserve	54,151,000	58,932,000
Prop. res. to liab.	32,84 p.c.	29.87 p.c.
Bullion	71,452,000	71,409,000

BOSTON EXCHANGE REOPENS.

Boston, December 10.—The first