

Opinions From Our Contemporaries

THE GIRL HE LEFT BEHIND HIM

Without the women this war could never be won, is the dictum of prominent public men in Britain. The war gave them the opportunity to show of what stuff they are made, and if they have not surprised themselves they have surprised most everybody else. They have adapted themselves to almost every kind of work that men did, thus relieving them of some important work at the front. They have even invaded the front and thousands of British women are now engaged in work behind the lines which has been looked upon as men's work. Many of these women are the wives or widows of soldiers. Thousands more are working in munitions factories, and in most every other walk of life.

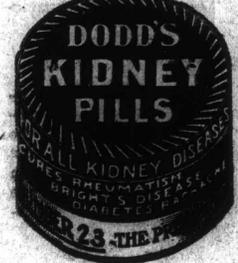
The women in Britain and Canada have not spared themselves. They have given freely of their time and labor, and many thousands of them have parted with their breadwinner so that he could go where duty called. To those women Canada owes a debt that we too seldom think of or recognize. Many of these women have been left with young families on their hands, and many again have a lonely life to lead in the intervening years. Thousands have already felt what it means to lose the dear one who has fallen on the field of battle and thousands daily dread every knock that comes to the door.

Yet these women cheerfully bear their burden, and it should be the duty of all to help lighten that burden as much as possible. It is often harder to stay than to go, but our women have shown a Spartan heroism in this crisis that will forever remain a glory to them. We have heard it said that the returned soldier is seldom prayed for. How often are the waiting wife, mother, sister, or sweetheart prayed for? The war has given women a place beside their male companions that without the war, might have taken ages to accomplish. All honor to our women who are so nobly doing their share to save their country and their homes from the tyrant Hunner. —Hamilton Times.

AMERICAN ENGINEERS TO GO FIRST

President Wilson has agreed to the sending of American soldiers to the front "at the earliest possible moment", as everyone thought he would. The arguments in favor of this were overwhelming, and we hardly need to guess that the President really never thought otherwise. If delay occurred, it is easy to see how the Huns would sneer, and what use they would turn it to.

But it is noticeable that reports state that the first troops to be sent will consist of a large number of the Engineers Corps. No doubt infantry, artillery, and so on will follow as speedily as possible. That engineers are to be sent first is further proof of what has been so often said, that this is an engineers' war, and it has been as truly said that nobly and proudly have engineers responded to the call of duty. They have included all grades and conditions from the great scientific experts and business organizers to the highly skilled craftsmen and the mere machine minders. Never in the splendid record of engineers' work has so great an upheaval occurred, or so great a strain been put upon both brain and muscle. Fortunately trained engineers are a resourceful class, ever ready and delighted to scheme with originality and ability to overcome new difficulties. The spirit of competition has spurred them along, and no one can deny that the engineers of the British Empire have proved their superiority to the Huns. The record of recent advances alone proves this.



The war will be won by the work of engineers of all classes supported by the magnificent bravery of the men in the field; it is a war of engineering skill applied in every way as well as one of physical endurance, determination and courage. The news that nearly 200,000 Americans have expressed their wish to go to France under Colonel Roosevelt shows that Americans are ready to support their engineers. —Kingston Standard.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Mr. J. G. Turfitt, one of the western members, has a bill in Parliament which revives the agitation in favor of proportional representation in the House, instead of the present system of one-sided elections by party majorities in the various ridings. This matter has been brought up before, only to be voted down. It is likely to meet with the same fate, so long as it is left to members who are selected under the present system. Men chosen for places in power are apt to regard as perfect a plan which results in their choice. Proportional representation does not mean representation for an inconsequential minority, as some may claim. The aim is to give all parties voice in the management of public affairs. Under its operation it would be impossible either for a large proportion of the population to be deprived of representation, but would render it equally impossible for any government to so gerrymander the constituencies as to win a snap verdict.

Proportional representation is an untried theory. In England, a committee appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons has investigated and reported in favor of the change. The President of France has proposed it as one of the reforms when the time comes to re-construct that republic after the war. Belgium and Sweden have adopted the system, and it has given strength and stability to their governments. Under proportional representation the so-called pivotal province in our federation would cease to be a pivot in determining the result of an election. No government could hold office by the grace of one section of the Dominion, but the majority of the entire country would count, with the minority not entirely left out of the reckoning. —Peterboro Review.

WHAT THE KAISER HAS DONE

The Kaiser hasn't liked the world, but he has accomplished some wonderful feats. He has almost federated the British Empire; he has given the women of Great Britain the vote; he has brought about in Russia the most remarkable revolution in the history of the world; and it begins to look as if, over the job of putting him out of the way of doing harm, John Bull and Brother Jonathan may become real friends. The Lord sometimes uses queer instruments to work His will. —Simcoe Reformer.

THE C.D.F. PLANS ARE A FAILURE

The attempt to raise a Canadian Defence force by voluntary enlistment has not made much progress, and it is pretty well known in military circles that it never will. One needs but to look at the plan to see that it could not work. The plan contemplates that men who will not enlist for overseas service will enlist for the C.D.F., will pass the medical exam, proving that they are physically fit for overseas service, will throw up their employment and quit their homes, showing that they are free to go overseas but refuse to go. They are supposed to march about as soldiers who are free to go and fit to go and trained to go but who prefer the blank cartridges of Camp Borden to the kind used at Vimy Ridge.

Men who dodge enlistment for overseas service do not want to come out into the open like that. They do not want to be assembled, organized, uniformed and paraded up and down as the Safety First Brigade. In Toronto, men who have tried to enlist for overseas but were rejected because they were physically unfit, have been awarded A.R. buttons to wear as a mark honorable to them as evidencing that they were keen to do their bit but were rejected because unable to do it. The C.D.F. was to be a force the uniform of which would indicate the wearer as one who, while physically fit, engaged in training, not otherwise employed, yet declined to do his duty preferring to be a soldier far away from war.

Did anybody really believe that fifty thousand men would enroll on terms that would expose them to derision. The announcements from Ottawa concerning this projected force always explained that once the men got into khaki, it was supposed that many of them would offer to go overseas. Those who have dogged enlistment all along are not attracted by this prospect. The plans for raising the C.D.F. seem to have been laid by politicians rather than military men. We are unable to suspect any military authority of having either recommended or approved the course decided upon. Unless the Militia Act is put into force and a selective draft made of a quota of eligible men in each locality—unless that be done to raise further forces for overseas, there appears to be no way of getting a home defence force except by calling upon the regiments to recruit to full strength on the assurance that those who enlist will not be required to leave their homes or relinquish their present occupations but only to drill three nights and one half day each week. The half day to be allowed them by their employers without reduction in pay because the defence is for all, not only for those who engage in it. In this kind of a plan thousands of men might be interested and the regiments might be brought to full strength, not entirely composed of men physically fit for overseas service, nor would the training be anything like as good as if the men were giving their whole time to it. But thousands of men would feel that they cannot go overseas, nor into camp for six months, nor resign their occupations, might train in the militia if they could do so without putting themselves in a false position. In this way the regiments could reach full strength and we should have something in the way of a defensive force in the remote chance of its being needed. As matters go at present there is little chance of having anything at all of such a force. —Toronto Star.

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who, notwithstanding their knowledge of the fact of the great scarcity, still permitted them to be shipped out of the country, until today many Ontario farmers find, it beyond their power to purchase seed for their fall requirements, in consequence of which a small acreage is likely to result. If the Government is on the inside and really knew of such a surplus as the press stated, why not deal sharply with those who have cornered the market and permit the seed to reach the farmers, now that it is planting time. —Tweed Advocate.

THE SELECTIVE DRAFT

Better late than never will be the verdict of most people on the action of the minister of finance in conscripting the exorbitant wealth of the munition makers and other accumulators of war profits. The new tax exacts 50 per cent. of all profits over 15 per cent. and 75 per cent. on all over 20 per cent. This leaves a huge profit still and there can be no sorrow for a man who is making 25 or 40 per cent. out of his business. The man who is making any profit out of the war is the man who has to make the explanations.

Now that wealth is to be conscripted, it would be well for the Government to turn its attention once more to what it has ever done so before, and take up the serious problem of universal service. The war will last another year, according to all the experts of Britain and France, and the United States is organizing on that basis. More troops are required to replenish the ranks so thinned in the severe fighting now going on. But it must be Canadians, surely, who are to take the places of their fellow comrades. If we cannot enlist our men, they should be conscripted on the same basis that President Wilson is adopting in the United States. They call it "the selective draft" over there. The press of the republic are practically unanimous with regard to the measure. Washington condemned the volunteer system from the first, and Jefferson declared that "all citizens must be marshalled, classed by ages, and every service ascribed to its competent class." Our Militia Act is drawn on this principle, but the Government has not been wise enough to put it into effect. The crying need of the time is a discriminating draft which would exact service from every citizen, according to his ability and fitness. We need soldiers, we need farm laborers, we need munition workers. The only thing we do not need is the idler, the slacker, the man who is wasting his time.

IS CANADA BANKRUPT IN LEADERSHIP?

Canada has had a Militia Act as a part of the law of the land ever since 1873, or during practically the whole life of the country as a Dominion. The present Militia Act was framed and adopted in 1904, only thirteen years ago, so that it cannot be regarded as obsolete. By this Act all the militia in Canada is composed of all the male inhabitants between the ages of eighteen and thirty, being unmarried or widowers without children. These would be the first to be called if the Act were put in force. The other classes would be called as needed.

THINGS TO FORGET

If you would increase your happiness and prolong life, forget your neighbor's faults, advise an exchange. Forget the slander you have heard. Forget the temptations, forget the fault-finding, and give a

like thought to the cause which provoked it. Forget the peculiarities of your friends, and only remember the good points of your friends which makes you fond of them. Forget all personal quarrels or histories you may have heard by accident, and which, if repeated, would seem a thousand times worse than they are. Blot out of memory, as far as possible, all the disagreeable occurrences of life; they will come, but they will grow larger when you remember them, and the constant thought of the acts of meanness, or worse still, malice, will only tend to make you more familiar with them. Obliterate everything disagreeable from yesterday; start out with a clean sheet for today, and write upon it for sweet memory's sake, only those things which are lovely and lovable. —Exchange.

WEAKENED RUSSIA

A gleam of sense appears to have come to the executive of the soldiers' and workers' council at Petrograd. It evidently realizes that it has gone too far and too fast on the road to ideal liberty, equality and fraternity, and so has sent a message to the Russian soldiers at the front urging them to stop their foolish fraternization with the German troops and telling them that only in the defeat of the Kaiser's armies can Russia secure permanent liberty and security.

It was time. Hindenburg, taking advantage of the demoralization wrought in the Russian army, and the paralysis of Russian resistance by the revolution and by the insidious work of German agents preaching pacifism, has transferred some half a million German troops from the eastern to the western front and is preparing to hurl them at the Anglo-French armies. If some forceful military personality were to get control of the situation in Russia and bring order out of the political chaos there, he might end the war this year by directing a vigorous offensive against the weakened Teutonic lines. But it is to be feared that this is too much to expect. —Hamilton Herald.

AMELIASBURG

An old adage says "a cool and windy May causes the year to be fruitful"—we hope so. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Boster were Sunday visitors at C. N. Adams'. Several from this neighborhood attended the sale at Mr. Whaley's of the second con. on Friday.

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Gladye Alyea spent Sunday afternoon with Ruby West. Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Vandervoort, also Mr. and Mrs. J. Allison and daughter, of Trenton, called at F. Smith's Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. C. Clapp and baby daughter visited at W. C. Pulver's on Monday afternoon.

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of other nations to live. A more terrible struggle the world has never seen; a more desperate fight for liberty the world can scarcely expect to see. Surely, if a time ever could come for the enforcement of the Militia Act, that time has come!

Let us as a serious people engaged in a serious business face the fact in all sincerity. The work MUST be done. And it must be done by the Government. If the present Government shows itself unwilling or incapable, then another government must be found. If a government cannot be found under the party system, then the party system must go, for the present at any rate. The life of the country is of much greater importance than any custom or habit or piece of political machinery.

Ultimately this is a problem for the people themselves. If their servants fail them in the time of greatest need they must get other servants. If the machinery of Government breaks down before a task too great for it, some new machinery must be found. The first great need is leadership. Let the right leader be found and the people will gladly follow without any question as to his party politics. Is Canada bankrupt in the matter of leadership? It would be an insult to the manhood of Canada to say so. Every other country engaged in the war has produced its leaders who have actually led; some have produced a succession of leaders. Canada, in a political sense, has been almost wholly without active leadership since the beginning. The mere statement of the fact is enough to produce a shock, a shock that is all the greater when one realizes how true the statement is and how unnecessary it is that it should be true. —Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

KILLED IN ACTION

The following letter from Major P. L. Hall of the 24th Battalion tells of the death of Sergt. W. J. Wilkinson of Queensboro who was killed in action April 9th at the battle of Vimy Ridge. Sergt. Wilkinson enlisted in the 39th Battalion in Belleville as a private in December 1914 and was transferred to the 24th by draft in Nov. 1915. He served with this unit until the time of his death. He was promoted sergeant in February 1917. He was a brother of Mr. John M. Wilkinson of Queensboro. The letter reads as follows:

Dear Mrs. Wilkinson, This letter is to give you the sad news of the death of your son No. 412327 Sgt. W. J. Wilkinson. He was shot and instantly killed in the great attack in which our Battalion took part on the 9th of April. Your son was a splendid soldier and his heroic death was in keeping with his record which I can safely say was unsurpassed for courage and devotion to duty in our regiment. His quiet and steady manner inspired confidence in both officers and men and he was deservedly popular with everybody. I cannot tell you at present where he is buried but you will at least know that his grave is that of a hero amongst heroes and that he had a part in the greatest victory the Canadians have yet achieved. Hoping that God will comfort you in your grief I am, Sincerely yours, P. L. Hall, Major O.C.D. Co., 24th Battalion.

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YOUNG WOMEN MAY AVOID PAIN

Need Only Trust to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, says Mrs. Kurtzweg.



Buffalo, N.Y.—"My daughter, whose picture is herewith, was much troubled with pains in her back and sides every month and they would sometimes be so bad that it would seem like acute inflammation of some organ. She read your advertisement in the newspapers and tried Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. She praises it highly as she has been relieved of all these pains by its use. All mothers should know of this remedy, and all young girls who suffer should try it."—Mrs. MATILDA KURTZWEG, 528 High St., Buffalo, N. Y.

LETTERS FROM OUR SOLDIER-BOYS

The following letter has been received from a friend in this city from Pte. Fred W. Coon, recently reported wounded in action: 13 Stationary Hospital France

Dear Friend, I was surprised to hear from you but however we are always more than pleased to hear from the good old Belleville boys. I suppose you have read all about the charge the Canadians made and they took their position that was allotted to them to take. It was great to see them go after them the way they did we took an awful lot of prisoners, a mixed lot and hard looking some of them, and others were under sized fellows and were glad to be taken prisoners and to get something to eat. I gave one a tin of Bull's Head and you should see him go for it, he could talk a little English and he said he had nothing to eat for 2 days, he certainly was hungry you should see the poor fellows run, no fight, their dugouts were full of them when we got to their lines. It was a fine sight to see us go after them and chase them down the hill.

Well Frank you have asked me a fair question and I suppose I will have to answer it. Well I lost his stripes in about 2 or 3 weeks after he arrived here so he is nothing but a Pte. the same as myself and I thought every body in Belleville knew about it, for there was a lot of officers put down as sergeants and I don't see why he is making such a fuss of losing his stripes.

Well there is a lot of Belleville boys around us so we can see one another often. I was with Harry McCrodon just before I went into the battle and I hope the poor fellow was as lucky as I was and came through alright. So you can address my letters to the same Battalion as I will be back with the boys in a few days as my wound is healing fine so I guess I will close, remember me to all the boys, so good-bye for now. Fred.

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Advertisement for Beecham's Pills: "Don't Take Risks. If your stomach is strong, your liver active, and bowels regular, take care to keep them so. These organs are important to your health. Keep them in order with Beecham's Pills and avoid any risk of serious illness. A dose or two as needed, will help the digestion, stimulate the bile, and regulate the habits. Their timely use will save much needless suffering, fortify the system and Insure Good Health." Prepared only by Thomas Beecham, St. Helena, Lanes, England. Sold everywhere in Canada and U.S.A. America. In each 25 cents.

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