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THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY, LIMITED.

London, Ont., Wednesday, October 10.

ANOTHER PEACE OFFER.

ANOTHER peace offer is about to come from the Teutons, according to the Berlin Tages Zeitung, having as its basis no territorial aggrandizement, the surrender of Belgian and French territory, the renunciation of positive territorial acquisitions for payments of money and no indemnity on either side. Such a proposition will be eminently satisfactory; not that it will be acceptable, but because it will show that official Germany realizes she is beaten and cannot accomplish the objects she had in view when she plunged the world into the most fearful war it has known.

No territorial aggrandizement! One of Germany's reasons for desiring and forcing on the war was her need of territory in which to expand. She needed parts of Russia and France, and set longing eyes on the Belgian and French coasts. She managed, in the first rush, to secure much of what she wanted, but she cannot hold it, and is ready to restore it all. She has renounced her aims, temporarily.

But this new promised proposal is open to the same objections as have been urged against others. Peace, with the present Government of Germany remaining in control, under the arch-murderer, is unthinkable, and, as President Wilson pointed out in his reply to the pope, would simply serve Germany's purpose in allowing her time to recuperate and gather strength for an even more frightful campaign against humanity and the peace of the world. Indemnities to Belgium, to Serbia and. to France are essentials. The devastated lands must be restored and, certainly, the whole cost is not going to be paid by these countries or their allies. The Huns must pay heavily for their wanton destruction.

It is to be expected that offers from Berlin will become more and more tempting as time goes on. The militarist Government, seeing the signs of popular distrust, will go to any lengths to save its face and its life. If it can divert the intention of the Allies, to rid Germany of this Prussian incubus, by any means, it will do so. But its efforts are doomed to failure; the first requisite of peace is a German Government with which the Entente can deal in assurance that its promises are backed by the nation, and will be kept in good faith. To obtain this, the kaiser and his parasites must go.

SOME LONG-RANGE OBSERVATIONS.

THE Manchester Guardian makes some criticisms on the unwisdom of Canadian statesmanship since Confederation, in handling the French-Canadian nationality questions. It says:

"The French-Canadian is determined to preserve his language and the schools which are the instrument of French culture. The British majority in the provinces outside Quebec have used their voting power to qualify or deny him this moral right; they have not understood the sanctity of cultural autonomy. The French-Canadian, therefore, has the double grievance that conscription should be forced upon him against his will, and that it should be forced upon him by political groups who have harassed French-Canadian nationality."

Now how far has the Guardian got the truth of the matter? How has the British majority denied the French-Canadian his language, his schools and his culture? All this is absolutely guaranteed in Quebec. The Guardian does not fully understand, it seems, that the B. N. A. act insures to each province control over its education, thus making the habitant's language perfectly safe, and also protects the minority in each province from being ridden down in this regard, thus preventing any undue oppression or restriction of French culture in the English provinces. Here in Ontario we have simply taken the very natural stand that the language of the vast majority of the population shall be the language of the schools, to be learned by all, and we do not propose to allow the French language, excellent as it may be, to encroach upon our own. It is clearly to the advantage of the whole Canadian people that the English language, that of the Empire and that of the republic next door, the Empire's best friend, should be spoken by all Canadians, and particularly the people of the English provinces. Let the French-Canadians keep their excellent language and culture, but it is not to the advantage of Canada that it should gain ground at the expense of English in the provinces outside Quebec. That seems to be an obvious truth and one that critics like the Manchester Guardian should get to understand.

That journal does not seem to know that English has been menaced in this country, even by organization and propaganda. It does not consider that Quebec Nationalism, helped by Tory intrigue, has sought to penetrate with French influence the provinces of both Western and Eastern Canada. The Blondin-Lavergne brand of oratory has evidently not echoed as far as Manchester. The Guardian has not heard that secession or an independent French republic embracing Quebec, parts of Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba has been urged. It has not become aware of the gloating over the low British-Canadian birthrate, the decline in the rural Ontario population, its further depletion by exodus and war. The cry of rage from Bourassa and others at the immigration of "British scum," and the consequent comparative diminution during the latest years before the Borden-Nationalist-millionaire regime came in, of the French proportion of the whole population of the Dominion, has not been heard across the Atlantic. It is simply nonsense to say that "the British majority have used their voting power" to deny the French-Canadian his rights. On the other hand our own legitimate position has been variously threatened by Quebec Nationalism, whose only meaning is, not the protection of secure French rights in Quebec, but an aggressive campaign against a British Canada.

The Guardian's other statement that conscription is being forced upon Quebec "by political groups who have harassed French-Canadian nationality," is also in part incorrect. Sir Robert Borden and the others applying conscription are the very men who leagued with this secessionary, anti-British Nationalism, and have been promising it all along that there would be no conscription, and have allowed it the greatest latitude of seditious utterance, and are some of them even now giving quiet tips to Quebec constituents that conscription will not mean much to the habitants. The staring facts of the unholy alliance in 1911 and the Conservative-Nationalist coalition Government since, seem not yet to have caught the attention of the great English Radical organ.

ARE ONTARIO'S FISH DOOMED?

IT IS TO BE HOPED that the Liberal members of the Ontario Legislature will make a careful investigation of the transaction whereby the fisheries in Lake Nipigon and Lake Nipissing were taken over to be fished for the benefit of the people of Canada. These are possibly the two finest lakes for game fish on the North American continent. Lake Nipigon trout are famed wherever the knights of the rod and the creel forgather. And they are the last lakes in Ontario of any size where sturgeon, whitefish and trout are found in abundance. Situated in the heart of Ontario's great natural playground, they have been the heart's desire of fishermen from every city in the United States and Canada.

Recently it was announced that the Government had taken over these lakes, and that the waters would be fished for the benefit of the public during wartime. A well-known Conservative of St. Thomas was appointed in charge of the work, and certain other appointments were made. Several shipments of fish have already been noted, one of them reaching this city.

It will be a public crime if these lakes are depleted and "fished out" as other Canadian lakes have been, and, as it would appear, Lake Erie is being "fished out." One time not so many years ago the writer stood on a tug that was lifting its gill nets off Port Stanley. There were many large milk cans aboard, and it was found that as the female fish came out of the water they were "milked" by an American fisheries official and their spawn deposited in a can, to be removed to the United States for the stocking of American waters. It seemed a shame that there was no hatchery at Port Stanley where this spawn could be hatched into fingerlings and conserved for the gravel feeding beds on the Canadian side.

The Advertiser is informed, by those who should know, that Lake Erie is being depleted of its fish with great rapidity. The whitefish are all but gone, there are few bass, the jumbo herring is gradually lessening in quantity and the ordinary herring is present in large numbers because of a strange circumstance. It is stated by those who have studied the matter that the herring each year came to Lake Erie to spawn and then went back to Lake Huron. While the Michigan Central tunnel was in course of construction, the fish got into Erie, and, when on the return journey, were frightened back by the strange hammering that the steel rivetters in the tunnel caused under the water. The sensitive souls of the fish caused them to fly (or swim) to Erie, and there they became acclimated, and have remained since.

Gill net fishing takes fish by wholesale when the runs are on. It is also said that the nets when blown away in storms proceed with their work of destruction for a long time, slaughtering fish in large numbers as the finny fellows become tangled in the drifting meshes. The fishermen are not to be blamed for this, because they are permitted by law to use gill nets, as are the American fishermen. The fish trust is anxious to get the fish, and the catches are shipped to New York and auctioned off each day. (It is said on good authority that on one occasion recently Lake Erie herring were sold for 2 cents a pound on the Fulton street auction). The big American companies are said to own or control many of the Canadian tugs.

Ontario should not permit its fisheries to be depleted, either in lake, river or brook. Almost all the states have systems of restocking their lakes and streams, and around many of the big cities one may catch trout in clean brooks which have been carefully stocked with fingerlings furnished by the state and guarded by the local fish associations. The lakes of New York state are filled with game fish, as a result of state and local efforts. Magistrate Graydon is to be commended for securing bass for the River Thames. And it is to be hoped that public opinion will be worked up to the point where propagation and conservation will be properly taken hold of. Lastly, it is to be hoped that such wonder lakes as Nipigon and Nipissing are not to be fished out, and that the present catches will be replaced by means of hatcheries.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Haig and Petain are a pair capable of beating the German royal flush.

The first snow is reported in Western Ontario. It's nearly time to change 'em.

Count von Luxburg is still in Argentina. Probably waiting for a British cruiser to take him safely overseas.

Michaelis has gone to consult army chiefs before making any remarks on Germany's war aims. If they spoke their minds, they would say their main aim was to keep away from danger.

A Canadian-born American citizen is alleged to have been helping Bernstorff in his pro-German work. This is a man who would have had the vote under the disfranchising act, had he remained here.

And still Sir Joseph Flavelle has not resigned his position as a servant of the Canadian people. He ought to do so, if only in order that he might take his rightful place as master of the Canadian Government.

FORGETFUL WILLIE

By Fontaine Fox.

(Copyright 1917.)

The lieutenant who called on Willie's sister came very near having to go back to town in dad's derby.

Bits of Byplay

By Luke McLuke

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Advice.

The whole world hates a lazy stiff,
Don't sit around and sigh;
You can't achieve a triumph if
You're not there with the "tri."

Mercy!

"How did the reporter lose his job on that prohibition paper?" asked Brown.

"Why, he turned in a story in which he used the term, "A storm is brewing," replied Jones.

Bless Her Heart.

We know they have plenty of it up there without her. So we have invited Crystal Snow of Juneau, Alaska, to join the club.

Answered.

You're going where you won't need wings,
And where it is hot, I fear;
We answer to the dub who sings:
"Oh, where do we go from here?"

Fooey!

"I believe in putting a lot of thought into my work," said the new clerk.

"Yes," replied the boss. "I notice that you work ten minutes and then spend fifty minutes thinking about it."

The Reason.

Old Oswald Bree
Likes to get tight,
So he can see
Two moons each night.

Knockers.

"A scientist claims that man is a descendant of the bird family," said the old fogy.

"I don't doubt it," replied the grouch. "I know a lot of fellows whose ancestors must have been woodpeckers."

Bang!

A pugilist is Harold Haste,
The worst you ever saw;
He puts a belt around his waist,
And gets one on the jaw.

Hooray!

U. S. Gunn has a drygoods store at Crawfordsville, Ga.

What's the Fare to Lexington?

[Lexington (Ky.) Leader.]

Jefferson Street C. F. B. Church—M. E. Bedinger, pastor. Preaching tonight by Mrs. E. L. Howard. Subject: "Twenty Ways to Tell a Lie."

Did This Ever Happen to You?

An important telephone conversation:
Sweet Voice: "Number please!"
Deep Bass: 4-11-44."
Next five minutes:
"B-z-z-z-z—Trying to get them."
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