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FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 2.

A Plea for National Service.

A most excellent pamphlet has been issued by the military service council, entitled "For the Defence of Canada." It sums up in concise form all the issues of the war and the causes that have made it necessary for the allied nations, comprising the democracies of the world, to take their stand against Germany. No reasonable young man can read these pages without feeling that duty calls him where so many of his comrades have preceded him, and if he has any doubts left about compulsory service and its necessity after a perusal it must be a case of congenial politics.

Of the thirty-four sections or chapters into which the essay is divided we recur to the 13th and 14th and following ones, dealing with compulsory service. "We hardly yet realize what a revolution in opinion was necessary before the draft could be applied in Britain or the United States," says the author. "We have a new revelation in democracy which would have come slowly, if at all," he continues, "if the war had gone more prosperously for the allies. It would not have come had the war ended in one or two campaigns. Sheer military necessity chiefly explains the change in popular feeling."

Some attention is paid to distinguishing between conscription and compulsory national service. It is very necessary, in spite of all the educational speaking and writing that have been done there are still many people so afraid, either of their own skins or of theoretical political difficulties in the future, that they are quite willing to risk German control of the world, the Prussianization of Canada, permanent military service for this country under Prussian officers, and the imposition of the Kaiser's kuker on the people of this country. The defence of Canada from this menace is now being fought out in Flanders.

Jean Jaures is quoted as an extreme socialist and idealist who sees the point that our half-informed socialists and pacifists have not grasped, that "the rooted objection to national service which has been so common in democratic countries finds its support in the spirit of caste and the vested interests of a class who cling to the idea of commanding a great army, segregated from the nation in a world of its own, with its own laws, its own pomp and circumstance, rather than of accepting their position as the leading citizens in an armed nation."

M. Jaures insists that "just as there is no power more majestic than that of the national will embodied in law, so there is no army more powerful and more capable of enduring its leaders with moral authority and prestige, if they are in harmony with it, than an army which is the armed nation itself, inspired with the determination to defend its independence and organized for the purpose."

The feeling that the army necessarily constitutes a separate class is dying in the view adopted by the military service council, and those who are familiar with Great Britain and the United States since national service has been adopted have no fears of the result, unless indeed they are pro-Germans; and there is nothing in the experience of France, Belgium, Italy or any of the other democratic nations which have national armies to alarm a democratic patriot.

Napoleon, it is pointed out, conscripted for aggression and conquest. "Under national service Republican France has had freedom from internal revolutions and Chauvinistic military adventures. In defence the French people have made sacrifices of blood and treasure beyond computation. . . . If France had trusted to the voluntary system she would have been overcome in 1914, before her forces could have been organized to resist the German attack. We reach false conclusions because we think of the origin of conscription, rather than of the equity of national service. A democracy chooses its rulers; an autocracy commands its subjects. . . . Where democracy rejects the supreme obligation of citizenship it is not full born."

Probably that is the real difficulty with regard to national service. The objectors are individualists, rather than real democrats. They are not willing to serve for the national well-being.

The First Lord's Speech.

Sir Eric Geddes' speech in the house of lords yesterday was of the "wake up" order, and gave evidence that the admiralty was not altogether insensible to public opinion. Later and fuller reports will indicate to what extent he purposed modernizing the shore organization of the navy. Questions of change of officials do not appear to be touched upon, but a new civil lord to be appointed indicates something of the nature of proposed changes.

There is considerable difference of opinion professionally over the merits of Sir John Jellicoe as head of the navy. The adverse critics think him insufficiently aggressive, just as in the army there is the same feeling about General Haig. The official feeling supports a "safe" policy, realizing no doubt that the enemy is strong, powerful and clever, and quick to take advantage of weaknesses or false moves. The latest conclusions about the battle of Jutland is that it was a draw, and that Beattie would not have been supported or the German fleet would have been wiped out. At any rate the Germans have not dared to risk another encounter, and the British navy has been able to secure the safety of the seas in a remarkable way in spite of the continuous menace of the submarines.

Of these Sir Eric gave some cheerful account. As many had been destroyed in the past year as altogether previously, and half the German strength under sea had been sunk. He did not minimize the existing danger, however, the new German submarines of 5,000 tons being much more formidable than anything hitherto produced. With all the inventive genius of the allied nations at work it will be strange if something is not devised to be an antidote to this most destructive agency.

There will be time, for Sir Eric still looks forward

to a long war. It is time that people in Canada should make up their minds, as they have done in the United States, to another three years of war. Those who are slacking or holding back, whether in their own persons or in their money or by their influence, are only prolonging the agony and adding to the debt that will be required of them, materially and morally, in the long run. The spectacle of the nations ought to be sufficient to satisfy the most unthinking of the gravity of the case and convince them that the whole world does not turn out against one foe without good reason. It might even be suggested that the lions and the lambs of politics do not lie down together without grave cause; and the evidence before them, probably most of which is of a confidential nature, which was sufficient to convince the premier, has been adequate to bring his new colleagues to his side, and were it available for the public would arouse the most earnest unanimity throughout the nation in the prosecution of the war.

The Germans in Italy.

There is nothing particularly consoling in yesterday's war news. The evening papers give the same prominence to the capture of Beersheba in Palestine as they did to the loss of an Italian army corps of 60,000 men. The Germans now claim 180,000 prisoners in their Italian drive and 1,500 guns, and it is merely foolish to think that this can be offset by Beersheba. If the whole country from Dan to Beersheba were captured it would not approach the significance of the German stroke. We do not wish to over-emphasize the German success, but least of all do we wish to minimize it. This ostrich policy is always a weakness, as it begets the apathy and indifference which is so fatal to national action.

France and Britain are doing all that is possible. It is understood, to relieve the Italian situation. General Cadorna reports that he is holding the German invasion seven miles west of Udine, however, and the third army is said to have been exterminated. The Germans report the capture of two bridgehead positions on the Tagliamento, and there is no doubt that matters are still critical. Premier Lloyd George is confident that Italy can roll back the tide of the Hun armies, and while he is optimistic by nature he is always careful not to leave a false impression. The effect of the German invasion in consolidating Italian opinion and procuring a solid support behind the government is one of the advantages arising out of the disaster. The whole of Italy is now of one mind about the prosecution of the war, and pro-Germans will have a less comfortable environment than hitherto among King Victor's loyal people.

The really comforting feature of the Italian problem is the fact that the Italian armies, even with losses approaching 200,000, have not been broken, but have withdrawn in good order and will be prepared to make a stand when General Cadorna is satisfied that his ground is good. The reinforcements which the allies are hurrying forward will not weaken any other force in the field, and it may be that Germany will find in a pitched battle in northern Italy that the beginning of the defeat is possible which Napoleon first found in his invasion of Russia. The German invasion may prove an open sore for the Hun allies, and may exhaust their resources more rapidly than anything they have yet undertaken.

Problems of Aviation.

Prof. Alexander Graham Bell suggested many new problems in his address at the Empire Club yesterday, and his admissions, in speaking of the possibilities of the flying machine are of profound interest. For a long time the conflict raged between those who supported the view that only lighter than air machines could expect to navigate the atmosphere. The experience of the kite, so long a mere toy, and the observation of bird flight, convinced many students that heavier than air machines could be used. It is on the airplane, following this view, that the successes of aviation have rested.

Dr. Bell takes another step in his speculations and boldly posits the conception of a flying machine without wings. One is almost inclined to wonder whether he has been studying the records of the east which assert that the ancient inhabitants of the sunken continent of Atlantis had air vessels which they called viwans, and were large enough to hold eight persons, a number which suggests Noah's ark, and that they were propelled by some now unknown force.

Dr. Bell thinks there are possibilities in mere inertia. He says he has seen the albatross overtake and pass a swift steamer without a motion of its wings, carried apparently by this impetus or velocity of inertia alone. Other investigators who are convinced of some connection between electricity and gravitation imagine that as there is no force in nature that is not dual in its manifestations, there must be a negative side to the positive force we call gravitation, and that a knowledge of this force, sometimes called levitation, and its application would overcome the chief difficulty the flying machine has to surmount. If a force which would repel bodies from the earth at the same rate that gravitation attracts them to it, sixteen feet per second, were available a new age of miracle would be inaugurated, rivaling that in which Dr. Bell has himself played so prominent a part. Nature is exceedingly simple in her methods, and the quality or two-sidedness of all the forces with which we are familiar, except gravity, lends a degree of plausibility to the suggestion that gravity may have something of a centrifugal character to maintain the balance of forces and to preserve also the symmetry, of which nature never loses sight.

There is nothing but our unfamiliarity with the idea that makes the repulsion of bodies from the earth any more wonderful than their attraction to it. Fish balls in the old experiments in static electricity are as readily repelled as attracted. Gravity, like magnetism and electricity, sound, light, heat, chemical action and many other things, are all mysteries of the ether, that crowning mystery which science in all departments is bringing to bear all her genius in order to investigate.

There is only one day in the year on which the inhabitants of Monte Carlo are allowed to gamble at the Casino tables—the Prince of Monaco's birthday. Laurel leaves in olden times were believed to communicate the spirit of poetry. Hence the custom of crowning the poets and of putting laurel leaves under one's pillow to acquire inspiration. Native bread today in Persia is said to be very little different from that of 1000 years ago. The oven is built of smooth masonry in the ground, and many of them have been used for a century. The dough is formed into thin sheets about a foot long and two feet wide and pressed quickly against the side of the oven. It bakes in a few minutes.

SOUND FREAKS OF THE GREAT GUNS

By Teddy Wick.

Curious sound freaks are being observed all over France and even into England, during the great bombardments on the western front. I have been told of numerous instances, where the firing has been heard as far from the firing line as 160 miles, although at 100 miles it is perfectly inaudible.

Not-constant at great distances behind the lines tell of curious instances in which the sound of the distant guns is to be distinctly heard on one side of a tree, but on the opposite side of the same tree, there is no sound at all.

Some tell of isolated hill-tops 75 miles from the guns, where no sound is heard, and of deep valleys immediately back of them where the deep booming of the guns is distinct. One would imagine the opposite to be the case—that sound waves would come more distinctly to the man on the hill than to the man in the valley.

I remember similar instances cited after the great munitions explosion in East London on Jan. 19. The sound was heard as far away as Stow, in Lincolnshire, 128 miles distant, but between the twentieth and the sixtieth mile from London, there was a zone of silence. I remember that conjectures at the time were that for some reason not yet known, the sound waves mount and pass over the zones of silence. Another curious sound freak of the great explosion was that only one report was heard in London, but four distinct thuds were heard in Norfolk. The sound waves appeared to have split up and followed different routes in their journey to the outer areas, traveling a great deal farther in the eastern direction than in the western.

Other instances of noise freaks incident to gunfire at the front, multiply. In fact there are so many of them that it is to be hoped British science will make the most of the experiments in acoustics which this war makes possible. One officer with whom I have talked in France tells me the direction of the wind does not seem to affect the audibility of the gun-fire at points far behind the lines.

Another tells me—he has just returned from leave at Cobham—that on spots where the chalk crops out of the ground, usually just below the crest of a hill, the guns are plainly audible, whereas a few feet away, no sound whatever is felt. He had a curious experience, he said, in digging just outside his house. On the surface, no sound of guns was to be heard, but as soon as he had uncovered the chalk, the noise of gun-fire became extraordinarily loud.

An old French padre says that one of his grave-diggers, while digging a deep grave last week, heard unmistakable sounds of gunfire at the bottom of the grave, although on the surface, nothing was audible.

Instances multiply of persons who could hear nothing of the guns when they stood up to the bombardment, but when they lay down, lying at full length on the ground, could hear them distinctly. My most vivid talk on the subject, however, was with an artillery officer who said he had been 30 miles back of the line during the bombardment, and could hear nothing whatever, although he knew that the bombardment was at its height. His errand necessitated his going some eight miles farther back from the front line, where he was stationed, and he had been told to stay there until the bombardment was over. When he returned to the front, he found that quite suddenly the sound ceased altogether, until he could hear it by waves as he approached the front. To satisfy his curiosity, he made inquiries and found that not for one minute had the bombardment ceased during all the time he had been away.

These instances and many more like them, cause one to conclude that it is not the air, but the ground, which carries the stupendous sounds of the great bombardment for vast distances.

Indeed, almost every officer to whom I spoke on the subject, made the assertion that at a distance of 100 miles from the guns, one stood at the base of hearing the guns by getting underground than by getting on the highest hill top. It seems to be the universal explanation that it is the stratum on which the guns emplacement, rest that carries the sound of the gunfire.

This theory would explain the instance of the grave-digger, who heard the gun-fire at the bottom of his grave, but not before; and of the man who dug a hole beside his house at Cobham, and of those who could hear nothing of the guns until they lay at full length with their ears to the ground.

It would explain, too, the zone of silence noted at the time of the great East London explosion last January.

Briefly, the theory is that the stratum on which the guns rest, carries their sound as far as it runs, and wherever it crops out to the surface, or wherever diggers touch it, the sounds it is bearing become audible.

While one is speaking of the curious freaks of sound in this war, a sound-freak which one notices as soon as one gets within hearing distance of the guns, should be touched upon.

One's first impression on approaching the fighting lines, is the appalling pressure of the strength of the German guns. It frightens one to feel that the British artillery is so pathetically inferior in strength.

The explanation is simple. You are coming up behind the British guns and in front of the German guns, so that the most wonderful and majestic of all phenomena, the great discharge of a big gun, follows the discharge of a "viper" which you are standing. This is because the noise of a big gun is nearly all concentrated in the direction of its fire.

So, although the British guns are nearer than the Germans, they throw their sound away from you, and your first impression of the relative strength of the two artilleries, becomes woefully deceiving.

How much British science is doing to collect the important acoustic data which the war is supplying, I am not in a position to say. A few isolated men are doing what they can, notably Charles Davidson, who has collected data from scores of correspondents, but so far as I know, no united action has yet been taken toward conserving these data, either French or British scientific. (Copyright, 1917.)

EMPEROR AND CHANCELLOR.



HAND OF WELCOME HELD TO LIBERALS

Sir George Foster Advises Working Together at Present Time.

The responsibility resting upon Canadians during the coming election was forcibly impressed upon members of the War, Sir J. P. O'Connell, Conservative Association, by Sir George E. Foster at their meeting in the Royal "Temple" Hall, West Queen street, last night. Sir George called upon the gathering to keep their eyes on the prize, the return to power of Sir Robert Borden's coalition government in order that Canada should be able to stand up to the world as a united front.

R. J. O'Connell, president of the association, presided. Other speakers were: Hon. Thomas Crawford, Hon. W. D. McPherson, Mayor Church and Edmund Bisset. M. P. O'Connell, present on the platform, declared that the Liberal government, as we have it today, is a mechanical thing, Union government as we have it today is a living thing, and the people of the country and has been the result of the work of the Liberal government. He said that the Liberal government was the only government that had been able to stand up to the world as a united front.

Referring to the attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the citizens of Quebec toward the war Sir George declared that by any unfortunate chance Sir Wilfrid Laurier should be returned to power Canada's active participation in the war would practically cease.

Matter of Regret. It was a matter of regret, declared Hon. Mr. McPherson, that instead of supporting the cause of union government the works, stopping work of harbor public works, consulting with those who were opposed to the win-the-war policy of the government.

Mayor Church regretted the order of Hon. J. E. Carvell, minister of public works, outlining the part of Canada in the war, will shortly be available at all postoffices in the Dominion. It is now being translated into French for circulation in the Province of Quebec.

Town in Bavaria Bombed By Allied Aerial Raiders

Amsterdam, Nov. 1.—Despatches received from a source in Bavaria, reported an aerial raid, says bombs were dropped on the town and its environs. Three persons were killed and four were wounded and some material damage was done.

ROOSEVELT LEADS MITCHELL PARADE

Charles E. Hughes Presides at Monster Mass Meeting.

New York, Nov. 1.—Theodore Roosevelt headed one of the five divisions of a big torchlight parade here tonight in behalf of John P. Mitchell, candidate for re-election as mayor, while Charles E. Hughes presided at a great mass meeting in Madison Square Garden which followed the parade.

The doors of the garden were ordered closed by the police after a crowd estimated to number 15,000 had jammed into the building, leaving many thousands more outside. Members of the Japanese educational mission to the United States attended the meeting.

Mr. Hughes in opening the meeting said it had been arranged to greet the best mayor New York ever had had. Col. Roosevelt combined his appeal for the election of Mr. Mitchell with a denunciation of those who hold a "fifty-fifty" allegiance to the United States.

BIG PERCENTAGE OF MEN COME IN FIRST CLASS

Ottawa, Nov. 1.—Medical examinations under the Military Service Act to date reveal a high percentage of "A" men coming within class I. One hundred and twenty-five thousand men have in all now passed the medical boards divided into the following medical categories:

"A" men, 62,063.
"B" "C" "D" and "E" men, 63,789.
Total examined, 125,852.

There were in all 84,912 men examined last week, a figure which is regarded as entirely satisfactory.

"The Defense of Canada," a pamphlet outlining the part of Canada in the war, will shortly be available at all postoffices in the Dominion. It is now being translated into French for circulation in the Province of Quebec.

New York City Authorities To Trade in Food and Fuel

New York, Nov. 1.—John Mitchell, state food commissioner, late today granted permission to New York City authorities to buy and sell food and fuel. The materials will be immediately bought in truckloads and sold to retail dealers.

PEACE ENDOWMENT FOR WAR TO END

Carnegie Institute Favors Breaking of German Military Power.

New York, Nov. 1.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace held here today, at which there were present Elihu Root, Nicholas Murray Butler, Henry S. Pritchett, A. P. Mott, August G. Fox and James Brown Scott, the following declaration was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, that the trustees of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace assembled for their annual meeting, declare hereby their belief that the most effective means of promoting durable international peace is to prosecute the war against the imperial German Government to final victory for democracy, in accordance with the policy declared by the president of the United States."

"In view of recent events, emphasized by the widespread intrigues of the German Government, to deceive and mislead the peace-loving people of the world, the executive committee of the peace endowment unanimously reaffirms this declaration and pledges the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to the loyal support of those courses of action that will assure early, complete, and final victory for the arms of the allied forces. The path to durable international peace on which the liberty-loving nations of the world would gladly enter, is now blocked by the blind reliance of Germany upon the inviolability of German military power and upon its effectiveness as an instrument of international policy. This reliance must be broken before any effective steps can be taken to secure international peace. It can only be broken by defeat."

"The executive committee of the Carnegie endowment call upon all lovers of peace to assist in every possible way in the effective prosecution of the war which has peace and no conquest for its aim."

MAYOR OF GALT CONSIDERATE

Galt, Nov. 1.—With the first real snowfall of the season here today many people were without coal, but Mayor Galt came to the rescue and secured a carload of coal which is being sold out in tons, and smaller lots, at \$2.25.

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