

Public Opinion

ONTARIO'S WAR SHOWING.

(London Ont. Free Press).

Ontario has given 42 per cent. of Canada's men at the front, and will this year give forty-five per cent. of the Patriotic Fund for the support of soldier's wives. It is a proud record.

A WORLD WITHOUT PAPERS.

(New York Editor and Publisher).

Bill Sunday is not celebrated for moderation of statement, but when he says that, in a world without newspapers, "Hell would break loose in forty-eight hours," he shows real conservatism in forecast. The figure could be reduced to thirty-six.

WISHBONE AND BACKBONE.

(Chicago Tribune).

"Our aim is the same as President Wilson's. What he is longing for, we are fighting for."—Andrew Bonar Law.

Absent treatment and direct treatment, idealism and experience, wishbone and backbone, dreams and brass tacks.

SUGGESTS WILSON LOOK AT BATTLE-FIELDS.

President Wilson is advised by the Pall Mall Gazette to visit the shell-torn battlefields and villages of northern France to get a new perspective on war and peace. Such a visit, it believes, would cause him to change his mind concerning a lot of things. The Gazette, known as "Lloyd George's paper," adds: "If he thinks we show undue obstinacy in refusing to resume neighborly relations with an unpunished cut-throat, he should visit Europe and inspect the site whereon it is his laudable ambition to erect permanent tranquility."

A SMALL DAY'S WORK.

(London Observer).

Duncan Macpherson was sent to an outpost to observe any move of the enemy. With rifle and a few bombs he took his lonely stand. Suddenly he observed in the darkness the approach of an enemy scouting party. He opened fire. The enemy charged. Emptying his rifle, he flung a few bombs, and the while maintained a frightful yelling—defiance, threats, commands. Believing themselves facing a substantial entrenched force, the attackers retreated, leaving eleven dead on the field. Macpherson came off with a slight flesh wound, and was awarded a medal for bravery. The commanding officer wound up his brief address with: "And a good day's work it was sir."

"Tut", said the soldier, "tut it didn't tak' me twenty meenutes."

ELECTRICITY FORGING AHEAD.

(Engineering).

The Great Falls of the Missouri river have been turned into electrical energy by means of a huge power plant and dam which supplies the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul's Railway with all the power it requires for a 600 mile line.

The Falls are 526 feet high, 350 feet higher than the Niagara Falls.

Up to last year the C. M. and St. P. Railway, as it is called, was run by steam. This winter 440 miles of the track will have been electrified, including three ranges of the Rocky Mountains and thirty-six tunnels, one of which runs one and a half miles through the ridge of one of the ranges.

The trains are capable of hauling extraordinarily heavy loads. A single engine will haul a train of 130 cars weighing 4,000 tons. The usual load for one of our locomotives is 200 tons.

The electrifying of this system will result in a vast saving in coal, engines, besides other materials, and there won't be any delays due to taking water and coaling.

The long-distance tunnels will be less unpleasant to passengers as there won't be any smoke or gas, and in the future the tourist in the Rockies will have his view of the magnificent scenery unspoiled by cinders and smoke.

NO SUCH NATION.

(Albany Journal).

Conceivably, a nation "too proud to fight" would be glad to accept "peace without victory," and lucky to get it. But there isn't such a nation.

A DIRE POSSIBILITY LEFT.

(New York Telegraph).

With a woman mayor, woman recorder, woman treasurer, and four women composing the city council, there will be nothing to interfere with the perfectly ideal government of Umatilla, Oregon, unless some miscreant turns loose a mouse in the city hall.

NOT UNITED STATES BUSINESS.

(Chicago Tribune).

Considering the sacrifices being made by the peoples of Europe, we can hardly fail to sympathize with the view not infrequently expressed abroad that the terms of whatever peace or accommodation of differences is arrived at is a matter strictly for those who have paid the price.

"LET US HONOR ENGLAND."

(Le Journal de Paris).

Therefore, do not let us forget that if we have been able to hold out, to persist in the struggle, the wearing-down process which our headquarters staff regard as the surest means of success, it is to England that we owe it. Let us honor England as the faithful, sure, loyal Ally, who has always given more than she promised. Let us never forget that her promised friendship has never permitted an occasion to pass without rendering homage to French valor. Let us do the same.

CANADA'S ADVANTAGES.

(Washington Post).

There is no denial of the fact that Canada is to have preferential tariff arrangements after the war as a part of the British Empire. The Allied nations will grant to Canada concessions which they intend to withhold from neutrals and nations now enemies. The British Government has already gone far toward repaying Canada for its generous assistance in the war. The diversion of trans-Atlantic steamship service from New York to Halifax is to be permanent, and much of the freight traffic formerly handled through New York will be handled through Halifax and St. Johns. It is proposed to deliver not only all of Canada's export business at Halifax and St. Johns, but to draw American freight thither through Detroit and other gateways. Steamship and rail connections will complete a route around the globe, all under the British flag.

THE LEAGUE TO ENFORCE PEACE.

(New York Sun).

One thing which Mr. Balfour's note was intended to make clear, and does make clear, is that President Wilson's gratuitous and unauthorized offer of "every influence and resource" within the command of the government and people of the United States in support of an international league to secure peace throughout the world is a meaningless and unwelcome offer to the allies unless it is more sharply defined. It amounts to naught unless it is a pledge to contribute money and troops and ships toward the actual physical work of enforcing peace in Europe and elsewhere.

Mr. Balfour states the case with regard to our Monroe doctrine much more intelligently in his note than the president did in his note. For Mr. Balfour dismisses the president's amazing proffer as an aimable pacifist generality of no particular importance to anybody; and he does this with velvety politeness by means of one little parenthesis in his penultimate paragraph when he speaks of securing peace "on the general lines indicated (so far as Europe is concerned) in the joint note."

CURRENT TAXATION.

(The Ground Hog).

Rob a chicken house and you're fined once. Build one, and you are fined (taxed) every year.

SUFFICIENT FREEDOM.

(Boston Transcript).

Would Mr. Wilson like to see Germany enjoy a greater freedom of the seas than she had when she sank the Lusitania and the Arabic?

THE SCHOOL MASTER'S ADVANTAGE.

(Toronto Globe).

President Wilson is now said to have cribbed his "peace without victory" speech from an address by Emperor Dom Pedro of Brazil to Lincoln. Yet some say education does not aid a political career.

THAT UNCLAIMED BALANCE

(Ottawa Citizen).

Why not pass legislation awarding that \$916,500 in unclaimed bank balances to the Patriotic Fund? Money that isn't working is of little use in war time. And this money is sentenced to life imprisonment. Get it out.

THE DANGER OF MILITARISM.

(Kansas City Star).

There is just about as much danger of the United States becoming "militaristic" by giving a few months' training to all its young men as there is for an office clerk to get the bug of being a prize fighter by taking fifteen minutes' systematic exercise every day.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

(Daily News, London).

The state today has an opportunity such as has never offered in this country of making itself master of the liquor trade. And in taking the necessary steps to achieve that end the government will be assured of the approval and support, not merely of habitual opponents of the drink traffic in its present form, but of an army of practical business men convinced at length of the necessity of fettering a force so disastrous in its reactions on national efficiency and national morale.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF RAILWAYS.

(Toronto Globe).

The government railways that do not pay interest on the capital invested in them are for the most part colonization ventures. The Intercolonial was built to connect the Maritime Provinces with the interior by an all-Canadian line, and the men who built it put the question of profit aside as of no importance compared to the national benefit to be derived from the road. Without it there would have been no Canadian Confederation. The Temiskaming and Northern Ontario cost twenty millions, and has paid for itself over and over again by opening up two of the continent's greatest gold and silver fields.

THE WAR OF 1812.

(Cleveland Leader).

The young men who are attending George Washington University, in the city of Washington, met a short time ago to organize a coast artillery company. They were addressed by the assistant secretary of war, and he told them some wholesome truths which seem to have been lost sight of by a good many Americans.

It was probably a shock to most of them to be told that the United States did not achieve any such victory over England in the war of 1812 as they had been taught to believe. It was humiliating to them to learn that 5,000 well-trained British troops along the Canadian border held in check about 100,000 American militiamen and volunteer soldiers during the two years and a half that the conflict continued. Their ideas concerning the brilliant naval battles which their country won during that struggle underwent a change when they learned that by the end of the war the British navy had driven practically every American warship to cover. The true explanation of the condition of affairs in Europe which enabled this country to emerge from that war undefeated was not very gratifying to American vanity.