

Journal of Commerce

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MONTREAL, TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1915.

The Stamps.

Even at this late day the Government at Ottawa would do well to meet the public desire by issuing a three-cent postage stamp. The need of this, which might have been seen from the beginning, has lately been pressed upon the Government by the St. John Board of Trade. If it is deemed right to impose a tax of three cents upon a letter, what earthly good reason can there be for requiring a man to use two or three stamps for the payment of the tax? The only reason that can be imagined was a desire on the part of some of the Ministers to mark a distinction, by separate accounts, between the ordinary postage and the "war tax," a reason much too weak to justify the annoyance connected with the system that was adopted. Even that poor reason cannot now be offered. The system proved so universally objectionable that the Government felt obliged to give notice that ordinary stamps might be used instead of the special "war tax" stamps. The attempt to draw the line between the "war tax" and the ordinary postage has consequently proved a failure and been abandoned. Much of the new tax is being paid through the use of the common postage stamp, the sale of which swells the Post Office revenue. If it is of any importance to set forth how much the postal war tax yields the amount will have to be fixed by some process of estimate. Thus the only possible excuse for separate stamps has disappeared. Why then should there not be a three-cent stamp so that one stamp instead of two may be used?

To some persons—especially those who have little or no correspondence—the matter may seem a small one. But it is one of the little things which are fruitful of unnecessary trouble and irritation to the general public.

Too Little Exercise.

Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, speaking a few days ago to the graduating class of the University of New Brunswick, gave some wholesome advice which he described as "Rules for Life's Conduct." The rules he mentioned are all admirable and it would be well were they heeded not only by the young men and women graduating from our colleges, but by everyone throughout the country.

We wish to call special attention to one of the rules emphasized by Sir Frederick, viz, the care of the body. In speaking of this, Sir Frederick said: "The care of the body automatically improves the mind. The great majority of Canadians take ample exercise until they are about thirty years of age, then cease. In England the average man takes lifelong care of his horse, his dog, and above all of himself. Diet and exercise are essential for all three, not only in youth, but so long as life lasts. In playing games one gets mental relaxation—physical rejuvenation."

In the United States and Canada upwards of sixty per cent of the people are engaged in work which wholly or partially keeps them indoors where they have little or no physical activity. Were it not for the fact that we are descended from generations of men and women accustomed to outdoor life, there would be marked evidence of physical degeneration. Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor pointed out that most people in this country take sufficient exercise until they are about thirty years of age, then quit. Nowadays everybody rides to work instead of walking. The farmer rides his sulky plough, while machinery and labor saving devices make the ordinary mechanic part of his machine. Easy telephone communication, good car service, elevators and other means of communication make it unnecessary for men to walk a single block in transacting business. We even take our play by proxy. Thousands of young men will pay money to watch other men play ball and lacrosse when they would be benefited a thousand times more by getting out and taking part in the games themselves. Undoubtedly we exercise too little. Physical fitness helps to keep us mentally alert. A sound mind in a sound body is necessary in this age of keen competition.

Freak Laws.

At the last session of Congress some thousands of bills were introduced, but fortunately for the country only a few hundred became crystallized into law. All over the world there seems to be an overplus of zealous legislators who seem anxious to burden the business interests of their respective countries with a multiplicity of laws.

The freakish nature of the measures introduced is almost as objectionable as their number. Recently the Times, of El Paso, Texas, compiled a list of freak measures introduced by various states during the past year. There is a certain measure of satisfaction in knowing that the majority of these freak measures were defeated.

Minnesota—To prohibit the catching of frogs.
Kansas—To prohibit the use of face powder, hair dye or bleach, the piercing of ears and wearing of earrings.

Colorado—To compel chickens to go to roost before 7 p. m. daily; and to provide that bulls driven along the roads at night shall wear lights.

Massachusetts—Bachelors to pay annual tax of \$5. Prohibiting the wearing of whiskers by doctors and dentists.

Nebraska—Compelling the National Guard to do ninety days' work each year on the roads.

Texas—Compelling churchgoers to leave their

guns outside.
Illinois—Forbidding the giving of tips to barbers, porters, hat snatchers.
Minnesota—Providing that lumberjacks shall be furnished with individual bathtubs.
North Dakota—Establishing uniform thickness of sleigh runners.
Our own provinces, not to mention the august body who direct affairs at Ottawa, have introduced some freakish measures, but on the whole Canada has a pretty levelheaded body of men making her laws. The chief criticism to be leveled against our Canadian legislators is that they seem extremely anxious to burden the statute books with an overplus of laws.

The reported resignation of Lord Fisher, to be followed by the formation of a Coalition Government, will tend to strengthen the confidence of the public in those responsible for the prosecution of the war. The gratifying feature of the whole matter is the unanimous decision on the part of the country that the Government should present a united front and prosecute the war to the very end.

The Allies are now going to use gas. It is about time that they "fought the devil with fire." The Allies have been waging a humane war for nearly ten months, during which time the Germans have resorted to the most inhuman devices their ingenuity could secure. This is going to be a bitter war, and the sooner the Allies realize it and treat the Germans as they have been treating us the sooner it will be over.

With a dozen nations fighting in Europe, Portugal in the midst of a revolution, Italy about to enter the fray, the United States considering the advisability of polishing off Germany, Japan shaking her bayonet under the nose of China, Chile sending an ultimatum to Germany, the British Overseas Dominions all taking part in the conflict, and Mexico still doing business at the old stand, there hardly remains a spot on the earth where the Dove of Peace can find a lodging place.

If all Italians have as large families as Amastio Chelotti, a news vendor of Savona, it is no wonder that they are anxious to go to war in order to acquire some additional territory. Chelotti, who is sixty years of age, has just celebrated the birthday of his thirty-first child. He was twice married. My first wife "made me an annual present of a male child for nineteen years running, then she died. My second wife added another dozen to the family. I have nineteen sons living, all healthy and strong, the twentieth fell fighting in the Libyan Desert. If Italy goes to war, we hope that Chelotti and his family will come in on our side.

Australia, which has contributed so splendidly to the fighting forces of the Empire, may be rewarded by the gift of the Fiji Islands, which were formerly a Crown Colony. These islands were first discovered by Tasman in 1643, and later by Captain Cook in 1773. In 1827 Dumont d'Urville discovered them for the third time. In the last fifty years Great Britain has offered them to the United States on three different occasions, but the big American Republic did not then possess the Philippines or the Panama Canal, and not appreciating the strategic value of the islands, refused to take possession of them. The islands have been a Crown Colony since 1874. In number they comprise three hundred, and are situated about one thousand miles from Australia and New Zealand.

Chile is the latest country to protest to Germany regarding her high-handed, autocratic way of imposing "kultur" on the world at large. Following the destruction of the Dresden, which happened at the time to be in Chilean waters, the British Government promptly apologized to Chile and the apology was accepted by the Chilean Government. This aroused the anger of the Kaiser and his war lords, who made very offensive references to Chile. The Chilean Government has not only sent a vigorous protest to the Germans regarding their attitude, but has taken the opportunity to make public the following statement regarding Great Britain: "Few nations have given more convincing proofs than Great Britain of their desire to comply with international obligations and to require compliance from others, and few have shown more eloquently their respect for the rights and prerogatives both of great and small nations."

SUBMARINE NETS IN ENGLISH CHANNEL.

Stories of renewed activities of British war vessels in intercepting steamships about the British Isles were brought here yesterday by the Holland-America liner Noordam, which arrived last night from Rotterdam. The Noordam was stopped off Dover and boarded by British officers, who let her proceed after they had examined her papers. She also reported that submarine nets and mines have been stretched across the English Channel, between Dover and Calais, except for a space of about a mile in the middle of the channel, which is marked by two lightships, and between which all vessels must pass.

The Noordam came down the channel on Sunday, May 2, so it was figured that the submarine that torpedoed the Lusitania must have gone to the north of Scotland and down the west coast of Ireland. —New York World.

MORALITY IN THE ARMY.

(Boston Transcript.)
Soldiers and sailors come in for many hysterical denunciations as "peculiarly immoral." The professional peace-at-any-price agitators never weary of pointing out the derelictions of men in uniform as sinners above all others. The young men of Kitchener's army are very like those who filled our earlier volunteer regiments. They come from all conditions of life, "cook's son, duke's son," as Kipling says, and among them doubtless the majority are those who have received the teachings of Christian homes.

Which "warning" is a loyal American bound most to consider? To which must he give the greatest weight? To that of a foreign government, threatening him with death if he goes along a public highway upon his lawful business? Or to that of his own government promising him protection wherever on the world's highway he might travel in a peaceable manner with lawful intents? In a word, should American citizens turn their eyes and ears for guidance to Washington or to Berlin? —Chicago Herald.

MUST WE?

Must we as a people sit down like dogs and see our laws defiled, our flag flouted and our protests whistled down the wind of this lordling's majestic disdain? Must we as a nation emulate at once the impotence and the docility of China, and before such proof of the contempt in which we are held by him and his throw up our hands in entreaty and despair, saying to the insistence of autocracy, to the insolence of vanity, "Thy will is law"? —Louisville Courier-Journal.

A NEW GOLDEN CALF.

(Wall Street Journal.)

Cotton is no longer king in those parts of the country down South where they have learned to raise baby beef. A Texas ranchman recently sold 1,500 year-old calves, says the Wichita Times, at \$49 a head. That is more than most Texans got for a bale of cotton of the growth of 1914. Yet only a few years ago there were hundreds of bankers and merchants who would have sworn that the country would go to the dogs at once if the farmers did not stick to cotton as their main sheet-anchor of economic salvation. Now they are turning heaven and earth to persuade the farmer to cut down, if not to cut out, his cotton acreage. Who would have dreamed that one consequence of this senseless war would be to have a yearling calf kick king cotton out of court.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

"What makes you sit up there and toot the horn?" "Charlie told me to," replied the fair one. "So I won't hear the things he says while he's fixing the machine."

"My husband," remarked a Philadelphia matron to a group of friends, "was a confirmed smoker with a tobacco heart when I married him a year ago, but to-day he never touches the weed."

"Good," said one of the group. "To break off a lifetime habit requires a strong will."

"Well, that's what I've got," said the wife.

It was in a Glasgow picture theatre, and the two men were agreeably surprised to find a cup of tea and a biscuit given them free by an up-to-date management at four o'clock. Half an hour later one of them broke the silence.

"We've seen 'at the pictures now, John," he said. "We may as well go out." To which John, after a minute's thought, replied:

"You can go if you want to. Ah'm stayin' to dinner."

A booking agent for a Chautauqua bureau visited a small town in the Middle West. He called on a man who said that in order to introduce a Chautauqua it would be necessary to see the most prominent man in town. Together they called on the "first citizen," and the booking agent was introduced.

"Mr. Jones," said he, "I called to see you in regard to a Chautauqua."

"It won't do a bit of good," spoke up the prominent citizen. "My wife and I have looked over all the catalogues carefully and have already decided on another machine."

The Duke of Connaught tells a good story against himself. Some years ago, when he was raised to the position of lieutenant-colonel of the 1st Rifle Brigade, the late Queen Victoria commanded that he should only be saluted as a regimental officer, and not as a member of the Royal Family.

On one occasion, however, an Irish sentry, seeing the Duke and Duchess approaching, turned out the guard and gave the Royal salute.

The Duke was much annoyed, and proceeded to give the sergeant in charge a piece of his mind.

But the quick-witted Irishman was equal to the occasion.

"The guard, sorr," he said in the richest brogue, "is for her Royal Highness, who, as a member of the Royal Family, is entitled to it."

After that the Duke could say nothing.

A few soldiers belonging to a part of a Swiss regiment in garrison at Basle went to a certain cafe for refreshments. One of them sat down alone at a table. Later a civilian, a German, joined him and the two began to talk war politics. "Would you shoot on the Germans if they invaded Switzerland?" asked the German.

"Oh, no, never!" exclaimed the soldier.

"Waiter, a pint of beer and a beefsteak with potatoes for this brave man," ordered the civilian.

"And your pals sitting at the next table—would they also not shoot the Germans if they tried to invade the country?"

"Oh, no, never!" retorted the Swiss.

"Waiter, a glass of beer for each of the soldiers at the next table!" ordered the civilian.

And, addressing again the soldier, he asked: "Is this generally the view held in the Swiss army in regard to a possible German invasion? Are all the Swiss soldiers so Germanophil?"

"I don't know," replied the soldier.

"But why would you not shoot the Germans?"

"Because we belong to the band."

BEHOLD THE MOTHER.

Woman's Journal.

Behold a slave upon a throne; her hands are bound; Tho' heavy fetters bind her limbs, Her head is crowned.

Her wide, far-seeing eyes brood o'er the earth; She counts the soldiers of the world, she gave each birth.

Of all the sailors on the seas, there is not one But lay upon her breast a loved son.

Each toiler in the mills, those the mines hide, The laughing schoolgirl and the fettered bride, The countless prostitutes, by man beguiled, Each lay within her arms a loved child—

And yet she may not make their wrongs her care, She is not free to make the world more fair! She sits with haunted eyes which visions see.

—Marie Blymyer.

A-MAYING.

Young April goes straying across the fields, A magical wand in his hand he wields, As he rambles along the way:

And, hearing him come, the sweet spring flowers Smile out from their shady woodland bowers— They've watched him for many a day.

He passes his wand o'er the trees so bare, And a crop of buds full soon they wear, And the branches blow and swing;

And the rich perfume, so dreamy and sweet, Which the glad, festive song-birds meet, Makes them carol away and sing.

As he strolls along by the meadow brook, He takes a gentle and lingering look At the willows bending low;

And the dear little "pusies" so long asleep, Open their eyes to the light for a peep, And straightway begin to grow.

But amidst these wonders so manifold, Dear April, our friend, is growing old, As over the fields he's straying;

And at last one day we'll awake to see That he left in the night quite suddenly, For April has gone "A-Maying."

—Ada M. Fitts in "A Little Boer, or Verse."

GERMANS WORSE THAN TURKS.

The hideous atrocities of the Kaiser's only friend, the odorous and barbarous Turk, sink into insignificance compared to those committed by Germany in this war, and yet all this is excused and glorified by the Derburgians. Race superiority will tell! To them the premeditated slaughter of American sea travellers by Germany is just punishment for failure to stand by the Kaiser.

All this is, of course, intensely pleasing to Americans and accounts for their enthusiasm in support of the German cause.

The way to make an inferior person love and respect you is to treat him with contempt. Lord it over him, sneer at him, twist his nose, ignore his protests and at all times be insulting and insolent. This is what the German overlords have done to their friends, and this is why the world's sentiment is against Germany.

But the Derburgians answer: "The world is an ass—especially the United States. After the Kaiser has thrashed the world it will understand that he knows best." —New York Sun.

"OF THE MAKING OF BOOKS."

According to statistics, the total number of books published in England and the United States during last year is about identical, with a slight preponderance on the American side. In England the total number of books of fiction published was greatly in excess of those published here, although both countries show a decrease over former years in this department. In England there was an increase in books of science, in the United States a decrease. The reverse was true of poetry and the drama. In religion and theology both countries show an increase.—Chicago Tribune.

EDUCATED SAVAGES.

(London Daily Express.)

What success they (the Germans) have achieved has been due to the use of asphyxiating gases, but that is a matter of relatively small importance. We must expect the Germans to fight like savages who have acquired a knowledge of chemistry. It is useless to protest. It is absurd to expect anything else. We must evidently be prepared to hold our own in a warfare that ignores all The Hague conventions, and we must be ready to defend ourselves as men defend themselves against the attacks of wild beasts.

The Day's Best Editorial

AFTER THE WAR—WHAT?

(Ottawa Journal.)

After the war—what? When the drums are stilled, the battle flags furled and the old map of Europe rolled up, will a new and better civilization arise from the ashes of the old?

Are the awful cleavages of to-day making for unity to-morrow?

Shall this mad nightmare of history, with its unprecedented and unspeakable horrors bring out as never before mankind's inherent, underlying sense of brotherhood and humanity?

What do we, Canadians, expect to get out of this war?

These are questions which, when Canadians of all classes and creeds are shedding their blood upon the common altar of liberty, should give us cause for thought.

Too often in the past, most of us have chiefly regarded ourselves as Englishmen or Irishmen, Scotchmen or Frenchmen, Liberals or Conservatives, capitalists or laborers, easterners or westerners, Catholics or Protestants, unionists or non-unionists. Too often these exaggerated ideas of faction have risen to artificial hates and fears and proved additional stumbling blocks in the dim path of advance. All these things have their place; are as inseparable from humanity as shade is from light, but they are secondary, subsidiary. Death's harvest of civilization and blood in Europe should teach us to revise these views of life.

It should stir our minds to their roots, compel us to do some basic thinking, to ponder the be-all and end-all of things; to realize that above our petty ambitions and prejudices and jealousies and fears there are higher and better considerations; to weigh life's values afresh.

We shall never know what the world has lost in this awful convulsion of a civilization that gave promise. Yet for many of the nations it is the darkness before the dawn. At a terrible sacrifice of human blood the fires of freedom are being rekindled throughout the greater part of Europe. For millions of oppressed and persecuted, chains of centuries are being broken, there is promise of blessings of democracy. May not this sacrifice also do us good in the end? Will it not teach us a wider spirit of brotherhood among ourselves? Will it not compel us to see things more in their proper perspective, to have less regard for the things that are unworthy, and to have greater respect for the things that are? Within another year thousands of the men who are now at or about to leave for the front will have returned. Shall not these men, who were prepared to make the supreme sacrifice for their country and us, be entitled to a more kindly regard than ever from their countrymen? If this struggle of all things teaches us the utility of these things, if it helps us to a wider tolerance of others, to a wider humanity, to a better spirit of kindness among ourselves, it will do much to heal the scars, to lighten the burden of blood and tears. At the close of the Civil War a great American poet wrote:—

"The war it is o'er, God avert such another, The lesson it taught, we should evermore heed, Who loveth the flag is a man and a brother, No matter what color, what race, or what creed."

If we in Canada can learn this lesson of a greater unity and fraternity, our sacrifices shall not have been wholly in vain.

BANK OF MONTREAL

(Established 1817)
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT
CAPITAL paid up - - - - - \$16,000,000.00
REST - - - - - 16,000,000.00
UNDIVIDED PROFITS - - - - - 1,232,669.42

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UNION BANK OF CANADA

Dividend No. 113

NOTICE is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of eight per cent, per annum upon the Paid-up Capital Stock of the UNION BANK OF CANADA has been declared for the current quarter, and that the same will be payable at its Banking House in the City of Winnipeg and at its branches on and after Tuesday, the 1st day of June next, to shareholders of record at the close of business on the fifteenth day of May next.

The transfer books will be closed from the 17th to the 31st of May, 1915, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board, G. H. BALFOUR, General Manager.

Winnipeg, 16th April, 1915.

GETTING HIMSELF DISLIKED.

If Dr. Bernhard Dernburg had one single human instinct he would put a padlock on his ever active mouth and retire to seclusion while the United States mourns over and buries its murdered dead.

Behold the man who spends most of his time defending the annihilation of maritime and international law when it benefits Germany now in the face of the event invoking some other phase of international and maritime law as an excuse for colossal murder! Behold him as the leader of those who utter cheers and give toasts for the crews of the submarine which deliberately and premeditatedly committed a crime which has no parallel in history! And then say whether he is not black, soulless, inhuman as the manufactured man of Frankenstein, only built to destroy. Count von Bernstorff stands mute with blanched face, but Dernburg goes on forever.

The time has come to end this shameful international scandal and send this representative of the Kaiser out of the country as either a rabid lunatic or an offence to all humanity.—New York Herald.

THE STRAIN ON THE RED CROSS.

(Arnold Bennett in London News.)

Among the wounded of all the belligerents the British are beyond doubt the best treated. But while the resources of Britain are incomparable, the number of her wounded has been relatively small compared to those of other nations. The strain on the British Red Cross is only just beginning. In May and June it will be terrific. As for the French, it is notorious that French organization has been overwhelmed by the casualties, and that hundreds of thousands of wounded have suffered appalling martyrdoms through the sheer inability of the organization to cope with the numbers.

BELGIAN WOUNDED.

(London Citizen.)

Yesterday morning I came across a vivid reminder of the war. I was walking along Kensington High street when I met three wounded Belgian soldiers. Of these one had lost both arms, one an arm, and the other a leg.

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NEW YORK MARKET AT A STANDSTILL

Only a Couple of Stock Changes—Rest of List Dull and Lifeless

WEATHER REPORT

Westinghouse Advanced but Sooner Interest Centring Around Post Office Loan.

(Exclusive Leased Wire to Journal)

New York, May 19.—There was a to

lence at the opening of the stock m

was of comparatively light volume,

general showed fractional gains on w

a tendency to improve after initial

Buying did not come from commis

large interests seemed to be accumu

Union Pacific opened 7 1/2 up at 12

States Steel after opening unchanged

52 1/2; Amalgamated Copper and We

gained 5.

Rumors that the Goulds would not

extension of their holdings of Missou

to 11 1/2. No arrangements have been