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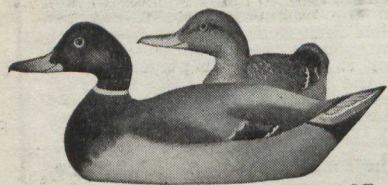
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## World-Over War Notes

### From the Angles of Four Nations

#### ENGLAND THEN AND NOW.

A writer in the London Chronicle gives an interesting comparison of military England now and a century ago during the Napoleonic Wars:

"A little more than a century ago, England, with a population of about a third of its present numbers, was maintaining an immense army scattered over the world. In 1809 the local militia alone numbered 200,000, and these were kept in training until the Peace of 1815. More than half a million men were garrisoned in the United Kingdom; another 22,000 regulars were fighting in Portugal; while in India, Ceylon and the West Indies, North America, the Mediterranean, Cape of Good Hope, and Madeira were large bodies of British troops struggling to keep the Empire together. One thousand three hundred regulars guarded the convicts of New South Wales, and 18,000 more were on the high seas. And in spite of a long war, costing a million pounds a week, the country managed to redeem millions of unfunded debts and show a brave front to the world, with bread at 1s. 10d. a loaf."

#### THE KING OF BELGIUM.

Says Malcolm Macaskill, Belgian correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, concerning the King of Belgium:

"There is probably no monarch in

the world who would have so desired thus to win fame on the field of war, none who remembers more often that peace, too, has her victories no less renowned. King Albert, like his people, served in Belgium's army, first in the Carabiniers and then in the Grenadiers. He has simplicity in thought and deed. Sometimes it is a romantic and splendid simplicity; at other times severely practical. The merely unconventional never deters him. Not many monarchs have driven a railway engine in their dominions; not all would. King Albert on more than one occasion has proved thus his capacity for the things that apply to mechanics. He honours the arts without which he told his people in his speech of accession a country does not truly flourish. Not only did he attend in person the public gathering to fete Maeterlinck when he won the Nobel Prize, but he carried the poet off to dinner at the Palace."

It must be very comforting to this thrifty and art-loving monarch to notice what a mess the Kaiser's army has made of his country.

Don't you really think that if a gang of sophomores could get off the college yell somewhere round the German headquarters, it might have a retarding influence on the German advance?

## A Department of Municipal Affairs

### The Suggestion of the Ontario Municipal Association

AT the Convention of the Ontario Municipal Association, held in Toronto last week, a very important subject was introduced by Mr. G. H. Kent, the City Clerk of Hamilton. It was the question of the establishment of a Provincial Department, or at least a sub-department, of Municipal Affairs. Mr. Kent's point was that municipal affairs were just as important a part of the life of the people in the Province of Ontario as education was, or some social legislation, or any department which finds acknowledgment as a department with a Minister at its head. Mr. Kent said: "As municipal corporations were creatures of the statute and governed by limitations of the Municipal Act, the business of such corporations is largely controlled by the laws of the province which authorize certain things to be done according to definite lines of procedure."

As he pointed out, the advantages would be many. For instance, from a financial point of view, the change from the present order of things would be beneficial. The present system of municipal borrowing occasions the loss annually of many thousands of dollars to a great many municipalities. In the aggregate, the loss to the province must be very large. Such a loss, Mr. Kent contended, could be avoided either by the co-operation of municipalities or by the Government becoming a clearing-house for municipal debentures. This latter is similar to the plan adopted by the Hydro-Electric. Moreover, a Department of Municipal Affairs would be in the position of an expert, practical adviser.

A second consideration Mr. Kent mentioned was the building of roadways, or the construction of public work of any kind. At present, the municipality has no kind of advice on these matters. It wants, say, a waterworks system. It asks for tenders, but has no one in very many cases who is able to pick flaws in those tenders, no one who knows how to get the best value for the town for the least money. An instance was cited. A town in Ontario was installing a waterworks system. The pipe they laid under the main street was a six-inch pipe! There was no one to tell the municipal authorities that such piping was ridiculous. If there were a Department of Municipal Affairs, there would be experts to help the towns and cities in such matters. A municipality would then be able to write to the Depart-

ment and ask advice and instruction, and get it.

Mr. Kent went on to point out how his remarks would apply to town planning, prison and asylum administration, uniformity and public accounting. The whole idea was to get some authority which, by virtue of its expertness and quality as adviser, would save the municipalities money. As he said to The Courier subsequently, the municipalities wanted a sort of federal body who would supervise their actions. After all, municipalities were composed of people, and it was the people's money which was being needlessly squandered.

## How to Shoot

LORD KITCHENER says: "Never mind whether the volunteers know anything about drill. It does not matter if they don't know their right foot from their left. Teach them how to shoot and do it quick." A large percentage of the British volunteers come right in the scope of this advice. In a free country like England and Canada no man is expected to learn how to use a rifle in times of peace unless he feels like it. If he wants to go hunting he gets familiar with a gun. Or he may join a rifle association for the fun of aiming at bull's eyes.

But in England there are millions of men who have never handled a gun. London swarms with derelicts who have never smelt gunpowder. In the 300,000 men recently enlisted there are probably 100,000 whose chief knowledge of a gun is that it goes off if you pull the trigger and hits something if it happens to be in the way.

But these men can be taught to shoot a great deal quicker than they can be made to drill. In the opinion of a Canadian military officer a gun-ignoramus can become a good shot in three months with an hour's practice every day. A few weeks on the ranges should make the British volunteer who doesn't understand a gun as good a marksman as many of the German reservists. A man will learn to shoot much more rapidly when he feels that in a few weeks or months he may have something to hit that will be of great use to his country after he has hit it.