

The Evening Times and Star

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THE REAL AMERICAN VIEW.

In view of the comment brought forth by the last American note to England, and the disappointment expressed in English papers at the tone and tenor of that note, it is refreshing to turn to the utterances of representative men of the United States, not members of its government, but who give expression to the views of the great majority of the people of that country far more accurately than has been done by the government.

The University of Toronto Press has just issued a booklet which contains the proceedings at the special convocation held on Sept. 26, when the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred on members of the American Peace Centenary Committee. Among the latter was the Hon. Joseph H. Choate, a former American ambassador to England, and one of the most distinguished of living Americans. Mr. Choate replied in behalf of himself and colleagues of the Peace Centenary Committee, and he left no doubt as to where he and they and the great mass of the American people stood on the question of the British attitude in this war. At the very outset he said:—

"I am a neutral and therefore my tongue is nationally tied, but I can say for myself that wherever men are fighting for liberty and justice and civilization I am in full sympathy with them. Perhaps it is only fair for me to say that I believe that of the one hundred millions of my countrymen at least ninety millions are in full sympathy with me."

Mr. Choate referred to the second peace conference at The Hague, in 1907, in these words:—

"We sat four months cheek by jowl with the Germans, the Austrians, the Turks, and all other conquering nations. We all thought that we had done something at the end of four months to advance the cause of peace, to prevent the breaking out of war, and if war must come, to mitigate the horrors of war. Well, it seems that our success was very small. For the moment—it was only transient. Everything we did at that conference, every provision that we enacted for the purpose of preventing war or mitigating its horrors, has been trampled upon and violated, and all our arguments have been torn into shreds of paper and thrown to the winds."

Mr. Choate left no doubt in the minds of his hearers as to whom he held responsible for the violation of the law of good faith which brought on the war, for he said:—

"I have little confidence in, although much sympathy with all the schemes that are on foot for promoting peace, but it is no use crying 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace and no possibility of peace—no possibility of peace until the authors of this awful war are brought to a condition where their adversaries and the whole world can see that hereafter they will obey the rule of good faith, the rule of keeping contracts, the rule that when they make a treaty they must stand by it, whether it is to their interest or not, and put an end forever to this awful legacy which they have propounded and which they have acted upon during the last twelve months, that whenever their interests required they could throw all treaties and contracts to the winds."

It will be noted that in this paragraph Mr. Choate repeats in other words the declaration of Premier Asquith, that it would be useless to sheathe the sword until Prussian militarism has been utterly crushed. He sees as clearly as we do that a premature peace would simply mean another outbreak of war as soon as Germany was ready once more to throw treaties to the winds and endeavor to enforce the doctrine that might is right. Of American sympathy with Canada, Mr. Choate said:—

"When we heard how your strong young men were marching to the fight, when we heard of their great and gallant achievements, when we heard how freely they laid down their lives in this cause of justice and liberty and civilization, our hearts bled with yours, and the people of the United States were actually in full sympathy with you."

Mr. Choate referred also to the many millions of men of foreign descent in the United States, of whom one half were on one side and one half on the other, and said:—

"But if we should go to war with you against an unspeakable enemy—I do not want to mention its name—I think nineteen-twentieths of all those people would stand by our flag, the Stars and Stripes."

Let us add to these words of Mr. Choate a paragraph from a letter written by Mr. John M. Zane, a Chicago lawyer, quoted in last week's Canadian Courier. Mr. Zane protests against American neutrality first on the ground that free government wherever it exists is in peril, and that the brutal violation of neutral rights by Germany in Belgium should be avenged. Then he goes on:—

"But if we had looked at the war merely from the low standpoint of our selfish interests, leaving out of view the fundamental issue, we ought to have seen instantly that if Germany wins and England loses command of the ocean, Germany would at once give us a choice between a devastating war and the bitterest of humiliations. Even now, if

the German warships could keep the sea, would have no commerce of any sort."

Mr. Zane quotes an incident of recent South American history to prove that Germany flouted the United States but abandoned her aims when England said, "Hands off." His denunciation of the course of the United States in this war is even more vigorous than that of the New York Tribune, quoted in the Times on Saturday.

Canadians are grateful for such expressions of sympathy with the cause of Britain, and in the face of them it cannot be believed that the government of the United States will take any such action as would seriously embarrass the Allied nations.

A Windsor, Ont., despatch says that it is expected to fill the ranks of the new 90th Battalion in Essex county within ten days. They must be out for a record.

German influence is now paramount in Austria. If the Allies should lose in this war, Austria-Hungary would become a mere vassal of Germany. Strange the people do not see it.

The recruiting committee now has a new incentive to active work. It has achieved notable results in recruiting for the 104th, and now the ranks of the 118th must be filled. The whole province should respond.

Li-Col. Wedderburn will prove a popular commanding officer. He has had long military experience, and those who enlist in his battalion may be sure that their welfare will be his constant aim throughout the period of training for service overseas.

The Ontario Horticultural Association will petition for a town-planning act for the province. This movement is steadily gaining ground in Canada, and it is gratifying to know that St. John leads in the matter of the adoption of a comprehensive town-planning scheme.

Now to all the ranks of the 118th Battalion. Will they fill as rapidly as those of the 104th? There are others to follow. The sooner young men are in training the sooner they will be able to strike a blow to rid the world of the murderers of women and children.

The death of Mr. Booker T. Washington removes the most outstanding leader and teacher of the negro race. The Tuskegee Institute, a great training school for colored youth, is his chief memorial. Mr. Washington was in the provinces but a few months ago, and in an interview expressed his profound sympathy with the cause of the Allies in the present war.

A Tag Day was held in Toronto on Tuesday of last week, to raise funds for the Citizens' Recruiting League. No less than \$35,000 was raised, with some contributions yet to come in, and with grants from the city and province and large corporations the amount is expected to reach a total of \$50,000. The fact shows that Toronto is prepared to make great efforts and a large expenditure to fill up the ranks of its battalions.

Sir Herbert Ames estimates that \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 and perhaps even \$10,000,000 will be needed for the Patriotic Fund for the year 1916. Toronto alone is at present drawing \$100,000 per month from the Fund. As more and more men go to the front the demands will grow, and the people must respond to the call. Even if the imposition of general tax should be necessary, the Fund must be made equal to all requirements.

If the United States had possessed a large army and a more powerful navy, Germany would not have committed some of the crimes that will forever be a blot on the pages of her history, and the United States also would probably have pursued a different course. Nor can it be forgotten that but for the British navy and its destruction of German submarines the Americans would by this time have a much larger score to settle with the Kaiser.

Hon. Dr. Montagu is dead. A dark cloud rested over the closing days of his life, in connection with the recent disclosures in Manitoba politics, but he had previously pursued a notable career in public life. He represented Haldimand, Ontario, in parliament for many years, and also held for a time the office of minister of agriculture, and later that of secretary of state. During his term of office ocean raid storage was established between Canada and Britain. He was in the nineties an advocate of imperial and colonial preferential trade, and spoke on that subject with the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain at the Canadian Club banquet in London. After retiring from Dominion politics he lived for some years in Australia, then returned to Canada, and settling in Manitoba, went into provincial politics and in 1912 was made minister of public works in the Roblin government.



LIGHTER VEIN.

Looking to the Future.
Goldsmith—Would you like any name or motto engraved on it, sir?
Customer (who has chosen an engagement ring)—Yes—yes—yes, "Augustus to Irene." And—ah—look here, don't—ah—cut Irene very deep.

French Politeness.

As a truly polite nation the French undoubtedly lead the world, thinks a contributor to a British weekly. The other day a Paris dentist's servant opened the door to a workhouse patient.

"And who, monsieur," he queried in a tender tone, "shall I have the misery of announcing?"

Quick Way.
"I never thought he would be popular among the girls."
"Well?"
"But he unexpectedly saved up and bought an automobile."

Lucky.
"He's a lucky chap."
"Yes. He's the fellow who always goes fishing on the days you should have gone if you wanted to be there when they were biting."

Placed to His Account.
"Does she trust her husband?"
"I guess so. Everything that goes wrong she charges up to him."

S.O.S.
Jack Slowboy—I wish I could read your thoughts.
Winnie Willing—So do I; but goodness knows I've tried to help you all I could.

Call For Help.
"Hey, four or five of you fellows come out and help me, will you?"
"What's the trouble?"
"It's beginning to rain and I've got to put up one of those one-man top cars."

In the Guardroom.
When the officer of the day entered the guardroom he found it empty, save for a private who sat in his shirt-sleeves, was lounging on a chair, puffing a short clay pipe.

"Where's the sergeant of the guard?" demanded the officer, angrily.
"Gone across to the mess to have a drink, sir," replied the private, saluting smartly.

"And the sentries?"
"In the cantons, sir."
"They're unconfident; what are you doing here?"
"We, sir?" was the calm reply. "I'm the prisoner."

"What are you so furious about?"
"Mrs. Smith just called me an old cat."

"Why, you're not so old."

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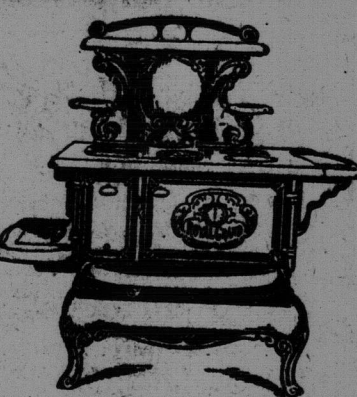
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FATALLY SCALDED WHEN LOCOMOTIVE BLOWS OUT

When the cylinder head of a locomotive on the Washington county branch of the Maine Central blew out on Saturday evening several officials and passengers were severely scalded by the steam and one death has resulted. Those injured were Conductor William Blake,

Engineer Charles Barstow and Hugh Dicksie of Columbia Falls, Me., and E. L. Kinsland, of Columbia Falls, Me. Conductor Blake, who is survived by his wife, died on Sunday afternoon. Engineer Barstow is not expected to recover.

Fifty grand prizes in the patriotic drawing.

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licenses, were arrested on Saturday night on warrants charging them with obtaining money under false pretences. Last Thursday Inspector Wickham asked that they be held until the completion of the case, whereupon Magistrate Ritchie allowed them out on bail of \$40 each.