

The Weekly Ontario

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Thursday, November 4, 1915.

WHY WE ARE OPTIMISTIC.

Some people are of the opinion that The Ontario takes a too optimistic view of the war situation. The Ontario does not disregard the gravity of the crisis, nor does it underrate the power of the enemy, but it nevertheless believes that optimism is not only desirable but is well warranted by the facts of the situation.

Let those who are disposed to lend themselves to every passing wave of pessimism consider a few facts. Is the Allied position better or worse than it was twelve months ago? A year ago this month, Germany everywhere held the offensive on the Western front, and in the East. Who does not remember the days of gloom in October of last year, when the monster Krupp guns reduced the forts of Antwerp to dust, and Ostend and the Belgian coast towns were overrun by the onrushing Germans.

The Germanic forces in overpowering numbers were flung upon the Allied lines in Flanders. They captured Lille and for a time there were some who believed that they would not stop short of Calais. Indeed, a few timid souls there were who already visualized the German guns sweeping the Straits of Dover. In the Eastern theatres the Teutonic forces advanced from point to point and the gallant Russians were unable to stem the tide.

This was the situation a year ago. Today, there is a complete change. The Huns are on the defensive in the East, as they are in the West, where already they have been driven from their massive first entrenchments, which they took ten months to construct and believed to be impregnable, and are holding on like grim death. They have undertaken a new campaign in Serbia, but, as the New York Herald said the other day, this is the desperate fling of the gambler, who unable to pursue his attack on either the East or the West, from necessity, essays a new, and, as events may ere long prove, a perilous and disastrous, adventure.

Somebody has said that England neyer knows when she is beaten. She is far from beaten now, and while the task before us is stern and the struggle promises to be long, there is no occasion for despondency, but, now more than ever, ground for confidence in the ultimate triumph of our cause.

DOCTORS OF HEALTH.

Doctors spend too much time studying disease and not enough studying health, said Dr. Henry B. Cavill of Chicago, chairman of the Council of Health and Public Instruction of the American Medical Association, in an address.

"Industry," said Dr. Favill, "is in the last analysis a matter of health. All of the great questions related to the well-being of the masses and their work, their play, their opportunities, their habits, their livelihood, their infancy and their old age correlate absolutely in the one great factor of health. The more thoroughly human affairs are investigated, the more underlying causes for social conditions are discovered, the deeper becomes a knowledge of social pathology, the more manifest it becomes that mental, moral and physical values in human affairs are ultimately questions of health."

In other words, it is going to be increasingly necessary for us not only to do everything possible to avoid disease, but also to do everything possible to retain health. The work of the trained physician of the future is going to be far more that of keeping people well than treating people who are sick. From this point of view, Dr. Favill criticizes medical education of today because while it teaches the young physician everything that is known about disease, it teaches him at the same time very little about health. We are coming more and more to realize that success and happiness in any relation in life are necessarily based on good health—a sound mind in a sound body. This is the ideal toward which we should all aim, both as individuals and as communities.

To secure it, as Dr. Favill has well pointed out, two things are necessary: A properly trained medical profession, skilled in all the methods of modern science by which health can be preserved and a public which will estimate the value of growing scientific knowledge on the preservation of health and which will co-operate with properly trained and right-minded physicians in securing such benefits. The physicians of today and of the future must resume the func-

tions of the doctors of the middle ages and be real teachers and leaders. Possessing the technical knowledge necessary for securing health, they must point out the way to the people by which freedom from disease can be secured.

NO CAUSE FOR DESPONDENCY.

If our armies at the front are not downhearted—and we have their oft-repeated assurances that they are anything but that—why should we at home be depressed? Nearly all private letters from the trenches express the expectation that the enemy in France and Belgium will be disposed of before the end of the year. This may not be a fully-enlightened hope, but it indicates a spirit of cheerful confidence which presages victory. Certainly, there has been no hampering for many a long day to justify serious apprehensions, or shake our belief in the final triumph of the Western Allies.

To get a right view of the present situation we must look at it from the side of our enemies. We know all the worst, from our point of view. We are naturally disposed to exaggerate rather than belittle our own weaknesses, failures and disappointments, without regard to the conditions affecting our opponents. This, perhaps, may be well, in some respects. At least, it safeguards us against over-confidence, and tends to induce us to exert ourselves to the utmost. But if persisted in, it is apt to produce dangerous discouragement, for which there are absolutely no grounds.

Before carrying our heart-searching to extremes, as to why we have not effected more, let us inquire as to what the Germans have actually accomplished during more than fourteen months of war. Long before war had been seriously thought of by other nations as an actual probability, the Germans were openly told by Von Bernhardi and others of their military authorities that they must win such a war as this, which was then directly contemplated by them, in a few months at most, if they were to win at all. Von Bernhardi's pronouncements were freely accepted by the German General Staff. Their plans were all laid with that end in view. They expected to have been in Paris well within a month after the declaration of war, and to have definitely defeated Russia within another month.

To their infinite amazement and utter dismay their long-arranged, and criminally matured designs were almost immediately countered and frustrated. First, Belgium, barred the way, long enough for the French armies to be partially mobilized, and for "the contemptible little army" of Britain to reach the scene. What the Belgians so well began, the British completed by drawing the German armies into the military trap which General Joffre had so skillfully laid on the Marne River. When the armies of the Kaiser were routed on that river and chased back across the Aisne, they left all their hopes of ultimate victory as deeply buried on the banks of the Marne as the thousands of their best troops whose last resting place is there.

During all the months of war since then, what have the Germans achieved? Have they gained even one material victory? Have they defeated any of their opponents in any great battle? Have they won any commanding strategic position? If so, where and when? They are holding certain French and Belgian territory. Is it a defensive advantage to them? They themselves cannot deny that they have been continuously on the defensive ever since the failure of their gigantic efforts to retrieve the disaster of the Marne by breaking through to Calais. There has been not the slightest hope from that day to this, of their even being able to shake the Western lines of their opponents. They have been ever since and are now, in occupation of a long, narrow "salient" from their true base of defense on the Rhine, which is much more difficult to maintain or retire from than was Warsaw with regard to Russia. We have more than once expressed the opinion which we see no reason to change, that the German armies could not successfully withdraw from France and Belgium if they would, and that they will never escape without disaster of an overwhelming character. So far, they have won nothing of value to them in the West.

Their efforts have been almost equally futile in the East. They drove the Russian armies back deep into their own territory at the beginning of the war. Immediately afterwards the Russian forces turned, crushed the Austrian attack, over-ran Galicia, hurled the German armies out of Poland, and invaded not only East Prussia, but actually raided Posen, in the heart of Germany. In turn, early last summer, the Germanic forces pushed the Russians far back, although not as far as on the first occasion. Once more the Russians turned, checked their pursuers, and again are coming on, while the Germans are once more retreating. As a matter of fact, Russia is simply a military "punching bag." The more forcibly she is driven back, the swifter and harder is her return. Russia never has been, and probably never will be, successfully invaded. She can never be crushed. It is doubtful if she can be seriously weakened by any efforts which Germany and Austria can make.

In the meantime, Germany has been driven from every sea; and all doors of trade or supply

closed and barred against her. Her submarine warfare has proved a costly fizzle; her Zeppelin menace, a murderous farce. Her diplomacy has utterly failed in the United States. Italy, with its great military resources, has been added to the list of her open enemies.

Now comes this Balkan movement, which is causing so much trepidation in timid hearts. What does it amount to? A little State, with a territory smaller than New Brunswick and a poverty-stricken population of four and a half millions, has been added to the list of Germany's supporters. Is that a very startling thing? It bears with it the necessity for Germans and Austrians who could scarcely hold their own on two fronts, of facing their opponents on three. Should that, in ordinary course, tend to strengthen, or in the end to weaken them? They may gain some immediate apparent success. But, what of the future? Already Russia has taken effective advantage of withdrawals from the troops opposing her. France and Britain now have plenty of men and munitions wherewith to keep the German Western lines more than fully occupied, while still able to dispatch in concert with Italy and Russia, as many troops as may be necessary to check the advance of the German and Bulgarian forces towards Constantinople. Greece will be compelled, in self-defence, to aid the Allies should the Germans ever reach and attempt to invade her territory. Roumania is at least as likely to join forces with as against the Allies.

In short, the German lines have merely been considerably lengthened by the new movement—a most doubtful advantage for them, in view of the fact that German strength in men and munitions has quite reached its zenith, if it is not actually on the decline, while that of the Allies is steadily and rapidly increasing. It seems to us, in view of the whole situation, past, present and prospective, that one must be endowed with extraordinary pessimistic gifts to be able to distill any copious showers of despondency from the latest despairing wriggle of Germany.

THE WATCHWORD OF WORTHINESS.

One of the really greatest speeches delivered by a Canadian statesman since the outbreak of the war was that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Sherbrooke in August last. It is safe to say that no other public utterance in Canada has been so frequently referred to or so extensively quoted. This is in itself a splendid tribute to Sir Wilfrid and an eloquent testimony to the unbounded confidence which he enjoys in the public mind of Canada. There could be nothing more direct, more clear and forcible, than Sir Wilfrid's terse putting of the case:

"This war is a contest between German institutions and British institutions. British institutions mean freedom, German institutions mean despotism. That is why we, as Canadians, have such vital interest in this war."

Those few brief pointed words contain not only the fundamental cause of this colossal struggle, but also adequately explain why Canada, too, is taking part. Minor matters, and what may be called the surface causes of the war, are all waved aside. British institutions which are democratic and German institutions, which are essentially autocratic, simply could not continue to exist side by side in modern Europe. That is the one underlying truth concerning this present conflict. Germany and Austria rejected democracy in the years 1848-1870. This war is the direct result. It has been said of the German people by one of themselves that ever since 1871, they have been "drunk with victory." The fight today on the fields of Europe is the outcome of a long campaign in German lecture rooms. That campaign had for its objective the world-wide dominance of German "Kultur," which objective could only be realized by the absolute dominance of German arms.

Thus the clash between Germany and Britain became inevitable. Britain, the home of democracy; Britain, whose flag spelt freedom in every quarter of the globe, could not be expected to throw aside her birthright and become a nation of slaves. Britain's sons had sailed the seas, British Colonies had sprung to birth and the untrammelled freedom of the Union Jack, itself a symbol of liberty, brought into the British Empire of today. The dusky sons of India, the stalwart Boers of Southern Africa, found to their satisfaction that British institutions meant freedom. The mother of many nations gave freedom to them all, and because freedom breeds loyalty, we find now in the hour of crisis, standing each for all. Democracy, freedom, expansion, self-government—these are British institutions. And because Germany and the Prussian spirit threaten them today, and are fighting fiercely for their overthrow, that is why, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared at Sherbrooke "Canadians have such vital interest in this war."

Our birthright is at stake. The inheritance bequeathed to us by our fathers at the price of blood is involved in the present conflict. All that we cherish most, that liberty which constitutes our one priceless possession, and for which many of our bravest sons have already laid down their lives on the blood-stained soil of Europe, is hanging in the balance of the war. Of the final issue we have but little doubt. Much yet remains, however, to be done. There must be no relaxation of effort, of service or of sacrifice.

Victory in sight, unless doggedly pursued, oftentimes becomes victory lost and defeat in earnest. The words of Sir Wilfrid as he closed his memorable utterance at Sherbrooke will surely bear repeating:

"If we want to win, we must be worthy of freedom, and to be worthy of freedom, we have to be prepared to fight for freedom."

We are enjoying our liberty today, but at what tremendous cost, the list of casualties give ample evidence. The preservation of that freedom is our one concern and service is the watchword of our worthiness to retain our cherished liberty.

THE ABSENT-MINDED BEGGAR.

"The Absent-Minded Beggar" was written by Rudyard Kipling during the period of the Boer War. The sentiment it expresses has even a stronger application at the present time. We trust that every one in the city will read it and make the sentiment show practical results in their Trafalgar Day giving.

When you've shouted Rule Britannia! when you've sung God save the King,
When you've finished killing Kruger with your mouth,
Will you kindly drop a shilling in my little tambourine,
For the gentleman in khaki ordered south?
He's an absent-minded beggar, and his weaknesses are great,
But we and Paul must take him as we find him,
He is out on active service wiping something off a slate,
And he's left a lot of little things behind him.

Duke's son—cook's son—son of a hundred kings
Fifty thousand horse and foot going to Table Bay;
Each of 'em doing his country's work (and who's to look after their things?)
Pass the hat for your credit's sake, and pay—pay—pay!

There are girls he married secret, asking no permission to,
For he knew he wouldn't get it if he did.
There is gas, and coals, and vittles, and the house rent falling due,
And it's more than rather likely there's a kid.
There are girls he walked with casual; they'll be sorry now he's gone,
For an absent-minded beggar they will find him;
But it ain't the time for sermons with the winter coming on:
We must help the girl that Tommy's left behind him.

Cook's son—duke's son—son of a belted earl—
Son of a Lambeth publican—it's all the same today;
Each of 'em doing his country's work (and who's to look after the girl?)
Pass the hat for your credit's sake, and pay—pay—pay!

There are families by thousands far too proud to beg or speak,
And they'll put their sticks and bedding up the spout;
And they'll live on half o' nothing, paid 'em punctual once a week,
'Cause the man that earned the wage is ordered out.
He's an absent-minded beggar, but he heard his country's call,
And his regiment didn't need to send to find him;
He chucked his job and joined it! So the job before us all
Is to help the home that Tommy left behind him.

Duke's job—cook's job—gardener—baronet—groom—
Mews or palace or paper shop—there's some one gone away!
Each of 'em doing his country's work (and who's to look after the room?)
Pass the hat for credit's sake, and pay—pay—pay!

Let us manage so as later we can look him in the face,
And tell him—what he'd very much prefer—
That while he saved the Empire his employer saved his place,
And his mates (that's you and me) looked out for her.
He's an absent-minded beggar, and he may forget it all;
But we do not want his kiddies to remind him
That we sent 'em to the workhouse while their daddy hammered Paul,
So we'll help the homes our Tommy's left behind him!

Cook's home—duke's home—home of a millionaire—
(Fifty thousand horse and foot going to Table Bay!)
Each of 'em doing his country's work (and what have you to spare?)
Pass the hat for your credit's sake, and pay—pay—pay!

Other Editors' Opinions

AN AMERICAN OPINION.

Some may think that Canada had little to be thankful for on her national Thanksgiving Day, which was celebrated on Monday. The Dominion has given heavily of men and wealth to the Mother Country, struggling overseas with a determined, powerful and resourceful foe. She has lost hundreds of her best young men and must almost certainly lose her thousands. But she has lost them in the highest of all human causes, patriotism, and pride must perforce mingle with her sorrow. Her loss of wealth she can easily repair, even making a beginning this year, out of the abundant crops and her growing industries. She has reason to be thankful for the spirit she has shown in this great world crisis. Curiously enough, the Toronto Mail and Empire in its issue of the morning of Thanksgiving Day told of an example of the patriotism which animates most Canadians. It said: "Mr. D. A. Thomas, a Montreal manufacturer of a Hamilton firm which has taken a million dollar order for cartridge cases at absolutely the cost price. This was a voluntary offer. All honor to that firm. There are far too many people wishing to get rich at the expense of the nation in its hour of stress. Fortunes built on a great tragedy such as this, in which millions upon millions of lives are at stake, and homes are wrecked, are not entitled to honor." True, some Canadians tried to cheat their government when it was beginning its struggle for the preservation of the Empire. But they were not many, compared with the multitude that worked in various ways to help Canada perform her part in the conflict. The number animated by the spirit shown by the Hamilton manufacturer was far greater, and the little town of Cobourg, across the lake from us, is an example of what Canadian towns are doing. She has sent away nearly a thousand men to fight for the Allies, at one time, if she does not yet, leading Canada in this respect. She has given machine guns and has contributed liberally to the Red Cross funds. Canada may be proud of her and of the thousand other villages and hamlets that have enabled her to make her fine showing of true patriotism. Rochester Union and Advertiser.

EXTINGUISHING THE TRAFFIC.

All over the world the war seems to have accelerated the movement against the liquor traffic. By a decisive majority, Alberta has declared for the complete extinction of hotel and club licenses, (shops also). Saskatchewan has established a system of dispensaries. Bar drinking has been prohibited. No club may provide liquor for its members. Sale is restricted to packages by agents of the government.

In British Columbia, where advocates of prohibition made little progress until the war, a formidable movement to abolish retail liquor licenses has developed. A few months hence Manitoba will determine by referendum if the license liquor traffic is to continue. The chances are that the province will follow the example of Alberta. Prince Edward Island is under prohibition. Liquor licenses are issued in only a single county in Nova Scotia. The trade has legal recognition in only a few communities in New Brunswick. Licenses are still issued freely in Montreal and other cities of Quebec but in many of the rural parishes they have been extinguished. The cures oppose the traffic and they have the support of the Bishops.

In Ontario 542 out of 847 municipalities have no licensed public houses. The Liberal Party is committed to provincial prohibition. From November 1st all bars will close at 8 o'clock on five days of the week and at 7 o'clock on Saturday. At the last session of the legislature a commission was appointed to exercise general authority over the traffic in the province. It is using its power to cancel licenses freely and is sternly enforcing the liquor regulations.

There is no sign of the reaction which generally follows upon summary legislation. Even before the war the "dry" area steadily widened. With the war feeling against the trade has hardened. In most of the Canadian provinces, as in great portions of the United States, the legal liquor traffic is not likely to be re-established. Nothing that has happened in Great Britain since the war began has made such an unfavorable impression in the Dominion as the apparent vacillation of the Imperial Parliament in dealing with the liquor problem. Toronto News, (Conservative.)

For years Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator has ranked as the most effective preparation manufactured, and it always maintains its reputation.

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