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Future Wars and the British Food Supply.

Recent wars and rumors of wars have set the people of Great Britain earnestly considering what would be their condition in the event of a conflict which might even temporarily, and for a comparatively short time, cut off the enormous food supplies which they now receive from abroad. Last year a National Committee was appointed to consider the question of forming a reserve of wheat in Britain as a safeguard against famine in the event of war. This committee took the evidence of all the leading importers and agricultural experts in the United Kingdom, and they have now reported their findings. The witnesses, it is pointed out, were practically unanimous as to the importance of the subject, and the need for the authorities of Great Britain at once taking action to safeguard the national welfare.

The evidence showed that the stock of wheat in farmers' hands was now—always more rapidly reduced than formerly; in fact, that it was practically exhausted within six months of harvest. From this the committee concludes that for six months after the end of March in any year, the quantity of wheat and flour in Great Britain seldom exceeds six weeks' supply. In this connection reference is made to the possible contingencies which might occasion a serious diminution or even a total stoppage of foreign supplies, and it is pointed out that in the three years, 1894-96, about 66 per cent of the total supply of wheat and flour received by Great Britain from over the seas was sent from the United States and Russia. It was urged by several witnesses that there was a possibility that a nation—or a coalition of nations—intending to make war on Great Britain might forestall the supply of wheat by the purchase of futures. For instance, Mr. Procter, a leading grain merchant of Liverpool, said that he could quite imagine if Russia were at war with Great Britain the supplies to Britain from that country being stopped, and Russia buying up, through German and other sources, practically all the American wheat.

Admitted, then, that a reserve of breadstuffs in some form or other is necessary for the safety of the British people, the question arises how it is to be attained. The committee considered three proposals—(1) a stimulus to wheat-growing in the United Kingdom; (2) a subsidy to millers on flour held for a certain time; (3) national stores of breadstuffs. As to the first of these, the suggestion that found most favor as a means of stimulating the growth of wheat was a bounty. The committee, however, find numerous objections to any of the schemes propounded, and also consider that the proposed subsidy to millers could not be commended. This brings them to the question of national stores for wheat.

The report outlines the scheme of Mr. V. W. Chapman, of London, who went into the matter in a most exhaustive manner. Mr. Chapman proposes that the Government should erect forty stores or granaries in different parts of the Kingdom, preferably near arsenals or military depots; these stores to have an aggregate capacity of ten million quarters of wheat. According to Mr. Chapman, eight million quarters of wheat should form, in the first instance, the permanent stock, and the purchase of this quantity should be spread over three years, one-third to be sold annually thereafter, under strict regulations, securing that the operation should be continuous and that the sale and purchase should be as near as possible simultaneous, so as not to affect the supply or demand on the markets. Mr. Chapman further suggests that, while the Government should build granaries to hold ten million quarters of wheat, they should hold storage space for two million quarters at the disposal of the grower of British wheat, and that British wheat should be admissible to the granaries to that extent, remaining the property of the grower, but subject to the right of the Government in time of war to take it on payment of its value at the price current of the day, with a further sum of from 10 to 20 per cent to be fixed by law as compensation for forced sale.

The estimated cost of the granaries Mr. Chapman put at £3,900,000, and the cost of eight million quarters of wheat at 35 shillings, would be £14-

000,000, making a total of £17,800,000. The annual working expenditure he estimated at £282,213. Mr. Chapman considered that £150,000 might be made annually for storing the two million quarters for farmers, which would reduce the annual working expenditure to £132,213. Assuming, therefore, Mr. Chapman's figures to be plausible, the total annual cost to the nation would be only £490,213. If, however, there is no revenue from farmers, and the capital charge were raised by 2½ per cent, terminal annuities, the total annual cost would be £912,986. The report of the committee briefly discusses the possibility of storing wheat, and decides that it is perfectly practicable. The effect of national granaries on the corn trade and growers of corn is also reviewed, but the committee dismisses the matter as one more or less of conjecture. However, it is evident that if a reserve of wheat existed there would not, on the outbreak of war, be a rise in prices as if the reserve were non-existent. Then the necessity for refilling the granaries would tend to prevent the severe reaction which would occur in the price of wheat at the conclusion of war. The opinion of the committee is that under no circumstances should national wheat stores be drawn upon except in case of grave emergency caused by war. The summing up of the report is as follows: (1) The committee are unable to conclude from the evidence that national wheat stores would have any material effect upon the interests of agriculture, or on the corn trade. (2) The committee are profoundly impressed by the evidence given as to the immense importance of government wheat stores, as an essential item of national defense. The recommendation of the committee is to the effect that the Government be most strongly urged to obtain the appointment, at the earliest possible date, of a royal commission, comprising representatives of agriculture, the corn trade, shipping, and the army and navy, to conduct an exhaustive inquiry into the whole subject of the national food supply in case of war.

If a royal commission is appointed, as is here proposed, it is to be hoped that it will not confine its attention to the recommendations now made. Storage granaries would only in a limited degree meet the wants of the British people in the event of a conflict with the nations from which they now obtain the greater part of their supply. What is needed is the development of the resources within the Empire to such an extent as to make the Motherland, and all parts under the British flag, practically independent of foreign countries, whether in time of peace or war. Let Great Britain lend a hand to divert her surplus population to the many millions of fertile acres that await cultivation in the Canadian Northwest, and the Dominion can soon supply every want of the old land in the matter of food, whether the demand be for wheat, oats, barley, corn, cheese, butter, eggs, beef, bacon, apples, grapes, or any other product that may be produced in our admirable climate. This development of the great resources of the British Empire, so as to provide homes on the fertile prairies for the surplus population of the Old Country, and at the same time to make the Empire independent of other nations in the matter of food supplies, should be kept constantly in view by those who desire to do the greatest possible good for the Empire that can be accomplished at the present stage of its marvelous progress.

Monday next will be a statutory holiday—the first Monday in September of every year having been set apart as Labor Day.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is en route to the United States, with Mrs. Chamberlain. The latter was a resident of Salem, Mass. Could he not be persuaded to visit our great Western Fair?

The removal from London, because of ill-health, of the Rev. George Fowler, late pastor of the Christian Church, East London, will be widely regretted. The Advertiser hopes his sojourn in the South will result in improved health, and that we may some day see him again resident in our pleasant Forest City.

It is pleasant to read the following from so influential a newspaper as the Washington Star: "An alliance between England and Japan is not at all improbable, the interests of the two nations having been steadily drawing closer together during several years. During the war with China the British sympathies were largely with Japan. For some seasons there has been a practical understanding between these powers in the disposition of their naval forces. Later events have suggested an alliance between Japan's land force and England's naval force as almost essential for both parties. At the same time the American and English sentiments have been approaching the highest plane of mutual ally ever known in the history of the two nations, while certain causes tending to lessen the traditional Japanese friendliness for the United States have been swept away."

The young Queen of Holland, Wilhelmina, ascends the throne with more than ceremonial welcome. She seems to be a warm-hearted, bright, independent-minded girl. Her Ministers of State every now and then suggest someone as a suitable husband, but she has always declared that she means to have a big say herself on that matter. The ascension of Wilhelmina to the throne recalls the coronation of Queen Victoria. A long and happy life to Wilhelmina!

All the circumstances connected with the conviction of Capt. Dreyfus, in Paris, charged with selling military secrets, were of a sort to reflect discredit on the administration of justice in France. And now comes the sensation of the arrest, confession and suicide of Lieut.-Col. Henry. This man confessed to having committed forgery, "owing to the absolute necessity for finding proofs against Dreyfus." Why the French Government deemed this so necessary has never been clearly shown; but it is generally thought to have had something to do with the alliance between Russia and France, which would have been jeopardized by the truth. It will be remembered that Zola, the great French novelist, convinced of the innocence of Capt. Dreyfus, sprang into the breach, only to find himself involved in libel suits, fines and imprisonments. Truth, it is said, is mighty, and must prevail; and we imagine that truth will yet get a hearing, even in the Dreyfus case.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat makes an interesting point. From times immemorial, says our contemporary, the idea has been cultivated that old men for counsel and young men for war is the proper arrangement for human activity. Whatever may have been past experience, the recent war with Spain leaves the venerable maxim in a topsy-turvy condition. Men on the far side of the prime of life have directed the battles as well as formed the plans, and with remarkable success. Perhaps some, like Shafter at Santiago, were a little impetuous, but that merely strengthens the case against the proverb. Most of the leaders are nearing the age of retirement. Devoy is 61, and entered the Naval Academy 44 years ago. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, on the 10th of next month, will reach the age of 62. At Santiago he was sick, but refused to go to the rear. A younger man might not have been ill, but his advice would not have had the same value, and if sick he would not have known how to husband his impaired strength. Shafter also was indisposed, but managed to pull through. Lawton and Merritt are veterans. Gen. Miles, commanding the army, is past 59. Sampson is 58, and Schley nearly 59. Fitzhugh Lee, the senior of this list, will be 63 in November. On the Spanish side, Admiral Cervera, a gray-haired veteran, is decidedly the hero. He showed heroic stuff by his manly treatment of Hobson. But Hobson is a young man, it is interposed. So he is, and as gallant a one as ever lived. But the noble self-sacrifice of his deed is what entitles it to universal honor. Old men, at least men near the 60 mark, are the safe warriors if any lesson touching this point is to be extracted from the conflict of 1898.

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

Quite a Raise.

[Omaha Bee.]

The observation balloon that did war duty at Santiago has been ordered to do peace duty at the Omaha Exposition.

Lost Carrying Trade.

[Dallas, Tex., News.]

There was an American carrying trade before the country tried protection, and there has been very little since. Great Britain developed her foreign trade by adopting an "open door." It is sheer folly to attempt to decorate the sea with American vessels so long as we maintain the closed door at home. The free trade basis is the fundamental idea of sea-carrying trade, and it is impossible to establish such a commerce until the protection system is abolished.

Not Spanish But English.

[New York Sun.]

The suggestion of a correspondent in another column that the teaching of the Spanish language should be introduced into our schools, because of our great acquisitions of Spanish territory, is deserving of regard, but only within very narrow limitations. English is the language of this country, and sound

policy requires that it and no other should be taught in our public schools. We do not want to make Spanish-speaking people, but English-speaking people.

Wee For Weyler.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.]

It is already suggested that the Spanish authorities should institute an investigation as to who is responsible for getting their country into the terrible trouble it has just gone through. A man named Weyler is suspected.

Decline of the Drink Habit.

[Boston Herald.]

The labor department returns, which are carried up to and through the calendar year of 1896, seem to indicate that the consumption of alcoholic beverages of all kinds is gradually declining in this country, when estimated on a per capita basis. So far as distilled spirits are concerned there cannot be the least doubt of this. This is not, in our opinion, the result of prohibitory laws, but of the gradual upbuilding of a public sentiment which encourages resistance to the abuses of alcoholic liquors, and which makes it a disgrace and this in nearly all classes of society—for a man or a woman to use these beverages to an excess.

LIGHT AND SHADE.

Generous.

Countryman (to dentist)—I wouldn't pay nothing for extra gas. Just yank her out, if it does hurt.
Dentist—You are plucky, sir. Let me see the tooth.
Countryman—Oh, 'tain't me that's got the toothache; it's my wife. She'll be here in a minute—Everywhere.

Fame.

When a man becomes a hero all the world is standing round him.
In waiting for a chance to share his glory.
From shore to shore innumerable voices will resound.
All eager to add something to the story.
"We used to know him in his youth!"
"We said he was a wonder!"
"He was the catcher on our nine!"
"You couldn't keep him under!"
"He was the catcher on our nine!"
"His sharpness beat the weasels!"
"That six-foot oldest boy of mine!"
From him once caught the messengers!

And the anecdotes came rushing in, bewildering array.
From folk of every station and complexion.
For there's always an ambition, which no wisdom can allay.
To revel in some brilliant man's reflection.
"His family we've visited!"
"We were his next door neighbors!"
"Kind words of hope we've often said!"
To cheer him at his darkest hour!"
"My father told him he might call!"
On our folks to assist him!"
And (loudest chorus of them all)
"We are the girls who've kissed him!"

—Washington Star.

Not Brutal.

Disappointed Contributor (to editor)—I would have you understand, sir, that I am a poet, and that poets are born, not made.
Editor—No apology is necessary. I hope I am not so brutal as to blame you for having been born.—Boston Journal.

Life.

A crust of bread and a corner to sleep in.
A minute to smile and an hour to weep.
A pint of joy to a peck of trouble.
And never a laugh but the moans come double.
And that is life!

A crust and a corner that love makes precious.
With a smile to warm and the tears to refresh us;
And the joys seem sweeter when care comes after.
And the moon is the finest of foils for laughter!
And that is life!

—Paul Lawrence Dunbar.

"Did the soldiers appreciate those night shirts we sent them?"
I should say so; they used them to clean their guns."—Chicago Record.

ECZEMA ON BABY

Whole Body a Mass of Sores. Doctor Could Not Cure. Tried CUTICURA.

Speedily Cured. Now Fine Hair And Clear Skin.

Our baby at the age of four months was sickly and broke out with Eczema on his face and body. He was a mass of sores. The doctor could not cure him. One day I saw your advertisement in the newspaper, and I got CUTICURA REMEDIES at once. I used one box of CUTICURA (ointment), one bottle of CUTICURA RESOLVENT, and three cakes of CUTICURA SOAP, and he was cured. He is now seventeen months old, weighs 46 pounds, and has thickest head of hair and clearest skin you would want to see. LOUIS BENZINGER, Feb. 3, 1898. 2750 8th Ave., New York City.

ECZEMA ON LEG CURED BY CUTICURA

I had a sore on the upper part of my leg that three doctors called Eczema. Such pain I never experienced in all my life. I read in the papers of CUTICURA REMEDIES, and I bought CUTICURA RESOLVENT, CUTICURA SOAP, and CUTICURA (ointment). The first time I used them was before I went to bed, and I slept more that night than I had for two weeks before, and from that time on it got better, and to-day it is entirely gone. Feb. 7, 1898. C. BUNKEL, Mount Joy, Penn.

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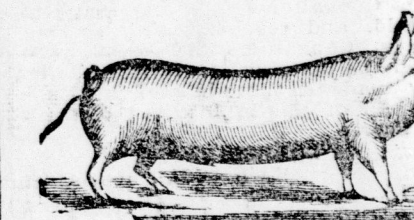
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