

The Weekly Ontario

Morton & Herity, Publishers

THE DAILY ONTARIO is published every afternoon (Sunday and holidays excepted) at The Ontario Building, Front Street, Belleville, Ontario. Subscription \$3.00 per annum. THE WEEKLY ONTARIO and Bay of Quinte Chronicle is published every Thursday morning at \$1.00 a year, or \$1.50 a year to the United States.

TELEPHONE MAIN 96, with private exchange connecting all departments.
W. H. Morton
Business Manager.
J. O. Herity
Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1915.

THE AMERICAN PRESS NOT NEUTRAL.

Canadians will have to revise their opinions of the American newspaper press. The notion was very generally prevalent in this dominion that the papers of the United States were, as a class, low in moral tone, sensational, unfair, mercenary, yellow, without principles and without influence. Since the advent of this European war, however, it has been a surprise to the people of Canada to find the American papers speaking out with an independence, fearlessness and dignity that are altogether foreign to our preconceived views.

When we consider that in the population of the United States there are about thirteen million individuals of German birth or German parentage, we begin to realize how influential the Teutonic element must be throughout the republic. In Canada the Germanic inhabitants constitute but a small fraction of the whole.

But, notwithstanding the power and influence of the German-Americans, we find almost all the great newspapers, in every large city, speaking out in clarion tones in favor of the Allies. The American government may be neutral, but there is no neutrality so far as the press is concerned.

The American press is not only strongly pro-British, but they know why they are pro-British. As one reads the leading editorials in New York dailies he cannot fail to be struck, not only by the powerfulness of the appeal they are making, but by the remarkable accuracy of their information. They seem to know all about both sides in the great controversy and from that knowledge they have seen that it was possible to arrive at only one conclusion. Having reached their decision, they advocate our cause with a vigor and recklessness of financial consequences that give us all a new and wholesome respect for the high tone their policy has disclosed.

But advocacy of the British cause has not been confined altogether to the big papers in the great cities of the east. From Bisbee, Arizona, Mr. S. A. Gardner has sent us a copy of The Daily Review, published in that city of about twenty-five thousand inhabitants. The article contains so much good sense that we reproduce it in full.

If the German nation should find out who gave the order for the airship raid on defenseless English cities, and should take that man—even if it were the Kaiser himself—and shut him up in a sanatorium until the war is over, it would perform a service to the Fatherland equal to a great victory.

Such bombardment is not war. It is murder. But if it is objected that "all warfare is murder," and that the form in which it is perpetrated is a mere accident, and that judgment of it depends solely on the point of view of the judge, let us be more explicit:

Such slaughter is either the result of calculating cruelty, deliberately indifferent to the moral opinion of mankind, or it is the result of hysteria which knows not what it does. It is more charitable, and perhaps more reasonable, to take the latter view. The Germans we know are not deliberately cruel or deliberately contemptuous of public opinion. Neither, we believe, are the Germans in Germany. Such deeds cannot be committed except by hysteria, and cannot be defended except by hysteria.

Let us consider the moral issue. All warfare may be considered immoral; but the moral sense of civilization has restricted its immoralities through international law and treaties. The latest notable restriction and restatement of the rules of warfare was effected in the Hague Conventions of 1907. That conference of representatives of all the powers took up specifically the new question of bombardment from airships or aeroplanes. Great Britain and Belgium wanted to prohibit altogether the dropping of bombs from the sky. The other nations would not consent. But the conference did adopt, with the acquiescence of Germany, a regulation forbidding absolutely "the attack or bombardment by any means whatsoever of towns, villages, habitations or buildings which are not defended." And it was provided that in case of attack on defended places, "the commander of an attacking force, before commencing a bombardment, except in the case of an assault, should do all he can to warn the authorities."

The first of these provisions outlaws the attack by the German airships on the towns of the Norfolk coast, with their indiscriminate slaughter of civilians. The second would have demanded a warning before the bombardment even if the towns were fortified or defended—which they are not. In this connection, it will be recalled that the German warships gave no warning when they bombarded both defended and undefended Yorkshire seaports a month ago.

That Germany never, in cold blood, contemplated such acts is shown by the statement of her representative at that same Hague con-

ference, Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, who said officially: "We are not of the opinion that what is not expressly forbidden is permitted. Nor are military operations governed solely by the provisions of international law. There are other factors: conscience, common sense, and the sense of duty imposed by the principles of humanity."

How far Germany-at-war has departed from that honorable intent! Who would have supposed eight years ago—or eight months ago—that German aircraft would without shadow of international right, and apparently without excuse of military necessity, rain destruction on sleeping towns and villages in a campaign of terror?

It is not prejudice that revolts Americans and other neutrals at such deeds. If the English waged war against women and children in this fashion, we should condemn them even more bitterly. But the British airship raid on Cuxhaven was a legitimate attack on a German naval and aircraft base. When British aviators bombarded Duesseldorf and Schaffhausen they confined their attack to Zeppelin airship sheds. It is significant that in all the bandying about of atrocity stories, the English have suffered not even from accusation.

Morally, then we cannot excuse such attacks. From the viewpoint of military tactics, they seem even less defensible. What object is gained by blowing a boy to pieces in his bed or killing a widow as she stands gossiping with a neighbor? Of what benefit to Germany is the demolition of homes and churches and the frightening of a countryside? The killing of a thousand women and children and old men in remote villages of the enemy's country is not equal to the killing of one able-bodied English soldier in the trenches. But the killing of a thousand non-combatants in such a fashion would add a million recruits to England's army. The few deaths from this raid will add 100,000.

No, there's neither morals nor generalship in such warfare. And the kindest thing we can say is that it must be the hysteria of leaders who cannot understand the world's opinion, and whose leadership is therefore a menace to Germany more serious than the menace of hostile armies.

"GENERAL JOFFRE."

In a popular Life of the military hero of the French, by a French Gunner, recently published, we get this description of General Joffre, who is only a few months Sir John French's senior: "Fairly tall and particularly broad, his figure is more massive than elegant. His head is large, his hair thick and wavy, golden threads still shining in the mass of silvery grey. His keen eyes are deep-set, and may be called either blue or grey; they are remarkably mobile and expressive, as searching as cold steel one minute, and sparkling with Gallic wit the next." His short neck and broad shoulders, it is added, give to his personality an appearance of greater strength than distinction, but his bonhomie and kindness of manner, the writer says, "add a real charm, an irresistible fascination, to the face of a clever, a strong, a kind, and, above all, an essentially manly man."

General Joffre, we are further told, "loves work above words, and fastidious exactitude more than the most poetical of images. He talks little, and speaks slowly, without gesticulation; at the same time, he in no way deserves the epithet of taciturn unjustly bestowed upon him by some professional babblers. He is not taciturn when he has something to say, in other words, he is typically a 'hillman,' a 'doer,' ever active in body and mind, naturally born to bold face and overcome difficulties, revelling in taking risks, and 'getting there,' whatever the fatigue that may result, whatever the effort that may be necessary, whatever pains it may cost."

When a month after war had been declared, on September 6, the Army Order was read to the French retreating troops, in which General Joffre cried "Halt!" his voice, remarks his latest biographer, "rang through the whole of the army, and made of every man a hero." During a whole fortnight the soldiers of France had been fighting desperately on a losing side; the foe was fast marching upon Paris; hope was ebbing in anxious hearts; "then above the thundering roar of the cannon came Joffre's bugle call 'En avant!' 'Now,' said he to his men, 'now is the time and the opportunity to save France; let all advance who can, let all die where they stand who cannot advance!' At last Joffre had spoken and Joffre was obeyed." The General has great regard for his men, and they, and indeed all France, simply adore him.

Russia is to put the crew of a captured Zeppelin on trial for dropping bombs on an undefended town. Good for them.

Wheat is breaking price records daily, and incidentally will break a good many persons financially if it keeps up its present pace much longer.

The Crown Prince seems to be as truculent as the old man, but he lacks the Kaiser's facility of phrase-making and is much coarser in expressing himself.

The German attempts to score a spectacular success in France on the Kaiser's birthday are now reported to have cost them at least 20,000 men. This being so, the French seem to have

warrant for their official announcement that "the day was a good one for us."

The Kaiser's birthday was a day of massacre for the Prussian soldiers who were hurled against the Allied lines to gratify the vanity of their ruler.

Our old friend, Mr. Dooley, calls the Kaiser "Bill the Bite," and perhaps that appellation is as good as any. As one paragrapher says, he has bitten off more than he can chew.

Just six months ago to-day England declared war against Germany. At the present time it does not look as if the dove of peace would be particularly busy until another half-year has rolled on its course.

In addition to the big ships, it is interesting to note that the light cruisers played a very important part in the North Sea battle. To the now famous Arethusa fell the honor of finally despatching the Blucher, while the light cruiser Aurora put the German cruiser Kolberg out of business.

The new campaign organized by the Austrians and Germans who are reported to have massed a million men in Hungary to launch an attack against the Russians north of the Carpathians, is likely to develop one of the most important battles yet fought in the Eastern theatre.

The Boston Herald says: "There's business in being a winter port of Canada. A Portland despatch tells of 2,000,000 bushels of grain now in the Grand Trunk elevators there, with 800 unloaded cars in the yard and 1800 more cars on the track between Montreal and Portland." Surely not, Sir Robert!

Ex-President Eliot, of Harvard, has very decided opinions as to where the sympathy of the United States should be in the war, and notwithstanding all the yelping of hyphenated partisans of Germany, he has no hesitation in expressing them. Indeed, it is difficult to name a prominent American who does not hold similar views.

If that first-class band of pirates at Chicago get their way, we will shortly have two-dollar wheat. The trouble with this game is that the farmer who grows the wheat, and has the most of the trouble, will not benefit. The enormous profits go to the middlemen. The Canadian Government should take drastic action to see that stocks of wheat in this country are not manipulated so as to bring disaster to the self-sacrificing population of the Motherland.

Yesterday the bear came out of his hole to see if he could see his shadow or anything else to get scared about. There being no shadow and nothing worse than a February blizzard in sight, he went, like a sensible bear, and got the snow shovel and started out to clear off the walk and break roads. To-day he has retired to his hole again and is treating his lame back with arnica. He now admits that he likes the sunshiny Candelmas best. Coming at the end of a three months' fast, yesterday's type is a little too strenuous.

There is a good story in the London Nation about one of the slighter accidents of the fleets. The other day the commander of a destroyer, rolling heavily in a gale, and with her engines disabled, tried to lessen the strain by lading out oil. The seaman engaged in this work was washed overboard, and washed back again by a returning wave. He picked himself up, saluted his officer, and said: "Very sorry, sir; lost the bucket!"

In John Hay's diary, written when he was Lincoln's secretary, and published for the first time in Harper's Magazine for January, appears the first record of one of Lincoln's most famous sayings: "The President to-night (December 23, 1863) had a dream," writes Hay. "He was in a party of plain people, and as it became known who he was they began to comment on his appearance. One of them said, 'He is a very common-looking man.' The President replied, 'The Lord prefers common-looking people. That is the reason He makes so many of them.'"

We are getting interesting opinions from the bankers about the causes of trade depression. For example, Mr. H. A. Richardson, General Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, stated in his address at the annual meeting of the shareholders of that Bank in Halifax the other day that "To be quite frank, those who blame the present depression on the war are only hugging a delusion, for the reaction from speculation, extravagance and over-expansion was inevitable however much it may be aggravated by war conditions."

Sir Edmund Osler, M.P., President of the Dominion Bank, on the same day, speaking at the annual meeting of the Bank in Toronto, ex-

pressed the opinion that the business situation in Canada at the present time was being assisted rather than injured by the circumstances arising out of the war.

"The prevalent depression," he said, "had been little intensified by the outbreak of hostilities, and it had, in fact, been relieved to an extent, by the higher values which it had placed upon the country's produce and by the employment produced by the orders for war materials."

The war has brought many evils in its train, but it is only too true that "hard times had come upon many sections of the Dominion and had caused a slackening in industry, long before the outbreak of hostilities." Let us give the Devil his due.

Australia is busily engaged in building her navy. A month ago a torpedo boat destroyer was launched at the government dock yards in Sydney. This is the first warship to be entirely built in Australia, and is to be followed by two others as well as by the cruiser Brisbane; the latter a sister ship to the Sydney which destroyed the German raider Emden. The Brisbane will be launched this year. Our sister Dominion, as the Montreal Journal of Commerce says, is saying very little about her achievements, but is doing an effective work in providing for her own defence. She is true to her motto, "Advance Australia."

A South London resident received a letter from a friend in Germany presenting a rosy view of things, and it was passed uncensored. But his friend also wrote: "I know your little boy collects stamps. He will be pleased with the one off this envelope." Now the recipient of the letter has no "little boy"—indeed, he is a bachelor—so the sentence puzzled him. But the obvious reference to the stamp set him thinking, and at last he steamed it off. Underneath, on the envelope, was printed in tiny characters:—

Nobody doing anything here.
Business standstill. Gloomy outlook.
Food prices excessive.

The annual report of the Secretary of State for Canada for 1913-14 gives some figures showing the number of foreigners naturalized in this country. By countries they were as follows:

United States	11,339
Russia	3,696
Austria-Hungary	3,430
Italy	3,102
Sweden	1,752
Norway	1,074
Germany	545
Finland	884
France	359
Belgium	288
Denmark and Iceland	254
Japan	292
Roumania	278
Turkey	411

Americans have a long lead in the naturalization, followed by Russians and Austro-Hungarians. These latter make a somewhat surprising showing.

In his admirable address at the King Edward Hotel banquet in opening the "Patriotism and Production" campaign on Wednesday night, Hon. Martin Burrell, Dominion Minister of Agriculture paid this appreciative compliment to the press:

"To the press we owe much. We recognize the assistance the press can give to any great movement, and in this special appeal we propose to enlist their active co-operation. Never in our history did we require from the press of Canada such clarity of thought, such force of expression, as we require now on all matters of national importance, and although the financial strain is as hard for those great interests as for many others, we shall not look in vain for a high response."

THE OLD NURSE.

It's not the bein' old and sick and losin' all you've had,
Nor the comin' to the poor-ow at the end,
But the thing that goes the hardest and the thing that hurts so bad
Is the havin' nothin' left for you to tend.

I was oldest of the sisters and the brothers 'way back home,
And I minded 'em until they grew too big,
But there's always somethin' wantin' you and glad to see you come
In a farmyard—if it's nothing but the pig.

Then I went out as a nursemaid—Oh, the children I have known,
But the knowin' 'em has almost broke my heart!
For they'd wait until I loved 'em just as if they was my own,
Then the folks'd say the time had come to part.

Oh, it's not the bed you sleep on, nor the clothes you get to wear,
Nor the food to eat—when all is said and done,
It's the havin' somethin' look to you and glad when you come near,
And the steps a-runnin' out to meet your own.
—Anne W. Young.

Other Editors' Opinions

THE WILLING SOLDIER.

There was one point stressed by Mr. Bonar Law yesterday on which Mr. Balfour had also dwelt on Saturday, and that is the proud and unique spectacle of millions of men before we are done it may literally be millions—raised by voluntary enlistment for service in war. Nobody desires compulsion for compulsion's sake, and it must be obvious that under all circumstances the willing man will be better for the soldier's work than the pressed man. He is the right man also in another way. He feels he can be spared. He is not essential to an industry, to a business, to the support of a family. There is a beautiful selective influence thus at work which withdraws those who can best be spared with least disturbance to productive industry and to life. No doubt the shirker will escape, but who wants the shirker? This is one of the lessons that may well remain with us after the war.

—Manchester Guardian.

BEYOND THE PALE.

Of all the fatal mistakes none has been graver than the Germanic outraging of international morality. If the Kaiser has failed only as a warrior, the world would have accorded him and his armies the honor that belongs to courage; but mankind will never forget and hardly forgive the rapine of Belgium, the destruction of Louvain, the vandalism of Rheims, the unleashing of the merciless Moslem and last of all, the flagrant violation of the Hague Convention by the bombardment of defenceless towns without warning. It seems now as though the callous jest about "the scrap of paper" were simply the first evidence of a complete abandonment of national compacts.

—Philadelphia Ledger.

AN ARMED TRUCE.

A despatch from Ottawa denies on behalf of the Liberal organization, the report sent out from the Capital to Ministerialist journals that the Liberals have begun the widespread distribution of campaign literature. It is stated, authoritatively, that there has been no such distribution; but it is admitted that, in view of the notorious ruling against members of the Government to bring about a general election at an early date, campaign literature is being prepared and arrangements made for its prompt distribution should the necessity arise.

The discredit for distributing campaign literature at this time is thus not shared by the Opposition with the Government. The carefully-written and well-printed pamphlet, "Why Three Dreadnoughts?" which has been widely distributed throughout Canada by the Conservatives would justify the issuing of a pamphlet in reply, but this is hardly necessary. The guns of the Sydney in pounding the Emden to pulp reached across the Pacific and put out of business the Borden naval policy. Everybody knows now that the matter of Canadian participation in naval defence comes up again the programme that will be adopted will be built upon the working theory of a Canadian navy.

The situation at Ottawa between the two parties, as this announcement with respect to literature makes clear, is that of armed truce. It can hardly be anything else, in view of the notorious fact that only the powerful intervention of public opinion has enabled the Prime Minister to block the attempt by some of his colleagues, twice repeated, to force an election on the war issue. With this constant threat of war hanging over their heads, the Liberals have perforce, to sleep on their arms and keep their powder dry.

This is a condition of affairs which is by no means satisfactory to the people. There never was a time in Canadian history when the electors were less in the mood to quarrel with one another over Dominion party politics. The war has distinguished the old political issues and put the rest into eclipse. They know that for the time being there is only one thing that matters; and that is the vigorous prosecution of the war. The Grit and Tory electors are not squabbling these days over politics; they are more apt to be exchanging letters from their sons on Salisbury Plain, on the eve of their going to the front. They have found that, for the time being, the things upon which they agree are enormously more important than the things upon which they disagree, and they will not come any attempt by the politicians to reverse these values.

The people of Canada undoubtedly want to see more co-operation and less suspicion between their political leaders. They want to see the present armed truce replaced by a real alliance, from which all considerations of political advantage for either side will be excluded. They recognize that the man who must play the chief role in bringing about such an understanding is Sir Robert Borden. They look to him to take the necessary first steps to make it a reality.

—Winnipeg Free Press.

WRITTEN SOME YEARS AGO.

"If Germany to-day in general is unloved and is able so easily to become suspected the first and principal reason for this is the provocative activity of the pan-Germans, their vainglory and their mania for treating other powers with mortifying insolence." These few words were written in the heat of wartime animosity by an anti-German-American, like to insinuate, with English gold. It was written by Herman Ridder, the most influential German editor in the United States, but it was written several years ago.

Springfield Republican.

BELGIAN

TE

Turned Back Once She Passed as

Permi

A Belgian officer's wife at London solicited to buy at her old home the outbreak of the war, and in making her Brussels and tells of the hardships she had to endure. She had to travel in the ruins she had to make the attempt, a conditional passport travel within the enemy.

"Then," she says, with one of those commission agents' faintly conveying a faint fashion across the border, and I left the one of a party of the area."

The railways being they had to proceed foot or in country could get them to the X—, and put up a contractor hurriedly, or office, of administrators. He rather glum, say each to apply in person.

"We entered the trap so cunning the Germans to find under immediate return was closed and re-examined, private, by a Prussian lieutenant, and the dictations having at we were searched neighboring room, rate, in most border, inch of their clothing, non-escaping the fire, a man of who they did not still and sex I am still."

"On hearing the one of my lady known Brussels as pretended to. And known during the mystery was explained old colonel who to code and official government had been away in the finding was a spy and we voyd to the citadel with. To-morrowly added the way of comment."

"We were to all, say with such a person be detained as 'sister inquiries'."

Not until nearly allowed to return they did not only we sat in the ing our misfortune sudden the young tears confessed that was a Belgian the partner of the that upstairs in the State papers of patriots. She begged patriots in case s

BI

NOT

serge
the sa
made
country

Our cele
rived to
—the ne
touches

We also
\$20.00 a
nd 12

The Boy
\$6.00, \$7.
regular
pay mo
selves.
advance

Big