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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1915.

Party Co-operation in England.

The co-operation of the two great political parties in England in all measures for the prosecution of the war has been very cordial and very gratifying. In Canada the same happy conditions have existed to some extent, but here, apparently, the Opposition have not been invited as fully as in the mother country to participate in the work. The close co-operation in financial affairs between Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and two of his Conservative predecessors, Lord St. Aldwyn and Mr. Austen Chamberlain, has already been noticed in our columns. The leading men of the two parties have so much in consultation that in some quarters, not well informed, it has been understood that there is really a coalition government in England. That, of course, is a mistake. The Conservative party in the mother country retains its position of independence, but that has not prevented their being invited to share with the Government the burdens of service connected with the war. The responsibility for all that is done must, of course, be accepted by the Government. They have frankly recognized this, and at the same time have borne testimony to the patriotic action of the Opposition in strengthening their hands. An interesting discussion of this subject took place in the British House of Commons a few days ago.

Mr. Bonar Law rose early to correct a misapprehension as to the relations between the Government and the Opposition—that the Opposition were supplied by the Government privately with information of their war plans, and that in consequence they shared their responsibility, and were not perfectly free to criticize. I am very far from complaining (the continued) that the Government have not given us sufficient information. The responsibility for the conduct of the war must attach to the Government alone. But it must be perfectly plain that we have no responsibility; that we are absolutely free; and that in criticizing or refraining from criticizing the action of the Government we are influenced solely by what we consider to be the national interest.

We realize so keenly the serious nature of the struggle in which we are engaged that in any criticism—and there must be criticism—which comes from these benches we shall not in any degree be actuated by considerations of party interests.

Mr. Asquith: I take no exception to anything that has fallen from the right hon. gentleman. I do not desire in any way to advocate that we should share that responsibility with anyone else.

In regard to the position and conduct of those who are responsible for the leadership of the Opposition I would only supplement what has been said by two observations. In the first place, we have thought it right and proper to communicate, practically from day to day, to the Opposition, a good deal of information which reaches us in regard to diplomatic and other matters. That does not in any way fetter their right or freedom to criticize the steps we have taken or may take.

Germany's Food Shortage.

A prominent Canadian grain man, who has had extensive dealings with a commission man in Copenhagen, has just received a letter from him in which he states that he has just returned from a three weeks' trip through Germany. "Do not believe anything you hear from Germany in regard to that country having abundant food supplies. I have spent the last three weeks travelling throughout that country and know that the people will be facing starvation in a very short time. The food ordinarily consumed by cattle is now being used by human beings, and Germany is face to face with a shortage of foodstuffs." The Canadian grain man who gave this information to The Journal of Commerce knows the Danish commission man intimately, and has the utmost confidence in his knowledge of conditions and his veracity. The Danish commission man also stated that while formerly he did a very extensive trade with Germany, now he is not selling anything to that country.

In brief, this statement of the commission man bears out the claims repeatedly put forth by The Journal of Commerce. We have shown on many occasions that Germany in a normal year can only grow sufficient to feed her people for nine months in the year. Last year Germany had a shortage of 187,000,000 bushels of wheat and rye, and a shortage of 7,000,000 tons of potatoes. She has now been at war for over six months, which, in view of the shortage prevailing last year and of the further fact that more food is wasted during war time than in times of peace, there is every reason to believe that Germany is now face to face with a shortage of food. There are also rumors of a semi-official nature

coming from Germany to the effect that that country will commence peace negotiations inside another two months. The probability is that, apart from any naval or military results which the Allies may achieve by that time, Germany will be face to face with famine. At the same time, that country must be finding a serious shortage in rubber, copper, gasoline, and other munitions of war. The best evidence, however, is the testimony furnished by the Danish commission man.

Uniformity in Provincial Laws.

At the last annual meeting of the Ontario Bar Association, F. M. Field, K.C., of Coburg, then president, referred to the great disadvantages all the provinces are suffering because of the lack of harmony in provincial laws. Sir James Alken, president of the Dominion Bar Association, has also been urging greater uniformity in our laws, and no doubt at the next annual meeting of the Dominion Bar Association the matter will again be discussed. The Conference on Commissions on Uniform State Laws, of which Charles T. Terry, of New York, is president, has been actively at work for twenty-four years, and has accomplished much. In a recent interview, Mr. Terry said, "And although it is but a comparatively short time since the Commissioners drafted and submitted to the various Legislatures a uniform law governing warehouse receipts—those documents which form one of the foundation stones of the system of bank credits and of general credits everywhere—already thirty States have put that uniform act upon their statute books."

Mr. Terry also states that all the acts of the Uniform Laws Commission, with one or two minor exceptions, were placed upon the statute books of Alaska at a single session.

Over thirty States, in addition to the District of Columbia, Hawaii, and Porto Rico, were represented at the Conference held in Montreal in 1913 during the meeting of the American Bar Association.

We hope the Dominion Bar Association and the Bar Association of the different provinces will unite in organizing a Commission on Uniform Provincial Laws.

The Russian seems able to come back. Probably he has his eye on that warm water outlet to the south, and won't be happy till he gets it.

Mayor Martin should not take any notice of the foolish letters sent by anonymous correspondents. There is no desire on the part of either the better

Germany losses in the three weeks' fighting in East Prussia and Poland number 200,000. At that rate her available fighting men will become a vanishing quantity. In men the Allies have a tremendous advantage.

Last night's severe snow storm seriously interrupted telegraphic communications. For the greater part of the day The Journal of Commerce was cut off from the outside world. In the face of Nature man's best efforts crumple up.

French-Canadians or the better English-Canadians to stir up racial or religious strife. The foolish efforts of a few should be ignored. At a time like the present, when the two mother countries are fighting side by side in a common cause, there should not be any division among the people of the Overseas Dominions; especially is this true of Canada.

The annual meeting of the Bell Telephone Company held yesterday, calls fresh attention to the large place the telephone occupies in the business and social life of the country. The total number of telephones now in use on the Bell Telephone system in Canada is now 237,068, an increase of 13,400 during the year. This only includes the connections in Ontario and Quebec, and a part of Eastern Canada, and does not take into account the services in Western Canada. It is less than fifty years since the telephone was invented, yet a few days ago the inventor talked from New York to San Francisco.

THE ALLIES' SUPPLY OF WAR MATERIAL.

The suppression of importations of war material by "Great Britain and her allies," which is one of the purposes of the German submarine "blockade," is obviously impracticable. Even if British, French, Russian and neutral ships were torpedoed by the score in the defined "war zone," the traffic in war munitions would still go on in its waters. Moreover, the southern route to the Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean could be taken by the freighters. They would be able to land their cargoes at Bordeaux, Marseilles and Toulon with no risk of destruction by the enemy's submarines. England could get the bulk of her supply by convoyed steam lighters across the Channel in spite of the enemy's submarines.

At the present time, owing to ice conditions in the seas north of the Scandinavian peninsula, Russia is procuring additions to her supply of war material from Japan by way of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Later, when the ice breaks up, the traffic to Archangel will be resumed with comparatively no risk from submarine attack. Freighters to Archangel can lay a course remote from the extreme radius of German submarines. Russia will be always sure of her shells, cartridges and whatever explosives and guns she needs in the eastern area of warfare, although deliveries may be slow at times.

The fact is that control of the sea by the Allies insures them against exhaustion of war material. Nothing but a victorious and decisive fleet action by Germany in the North Sea would turn the tables on Great Britain and France. German "submarine warfare" might check the supply they are drawing from neutral countries, principally the United States, but suppression is out of the question. If the British and French fleets in the Mediterranean succeed in forcing the Dardanelles Russia will be able to augment her stock of war munitions more rapidly. The practical men on the German staff can be building no hope upon the plan outlined in the German note to the United States of stopping the traffic in arms and ammunition.—New York Sun.

THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE!

Then France will suddenly arouse herself. She will become formidable. She will regain Alsace and Lorraine. Is it enough? No! No! She will capture—listen!—Trevés, Mainz, Cologne, Coblenz. And you shall hear France cry: "The clock strikes my hour! Germany, hear me! Am I, thine enemy? No, I am thy sister! I have taken all from thee. I return all to thee upon one condition; that we shall no longer be a divided people; that we shall be one united family, one republic. I will demolish my fortresses, thou thine—my vendetta is brotherhood. No more frontier. The Rhine, mine and thine. We shall be the same republic. We shall be the United States of Europe, we shall be the Continental Federation, we shall be the liberty of Europe. And now let us clasp hands, for we have rendered each a reciprocated service. Thou hast freed me from my Emperor. I will free thee from thine!"—Victor Hugo.

AN AMERICAN "MADE GOOD."

An experienced American railroad man was engaged as general manager of a leading English line, and entered upon his duties last April. The arrangement evoked a great deal of comment, much of it anything but friendly, the criticism being based on the apparent admission by the company that it could find no Englishman equal to the task. The last few months have been very trying ones to British railway operators; but Lord Charles Hamilton, chairman of the company in question, now comes forward with a statement declaring emphatically that the American has "made good." It is evident that, with all the talk about defects in American railroading, there are men on this side of the water who can at least equal the experts of the Old World.—Troy Times.

COTTON UNIFORMS IN SIGHT.

Cotton for Russian uniforms is said to be on its way to Vladivostok by way of Seattle. Cotton does not suggest a Russian winter, but a Russian summer is coming, and the long days in the far north are hot.—Springfield Republican.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

"I regard it a duty and a privilege to remain a 'Progressive.'"—George W. Perkins. Our own Casa-blanca.—Wall Street Journal.

A New York butcher was fined \$30 for kissing a woman in his shop. That's one the meat carver made a mis-steak.—Guelph Mercury.

"Sam, I'm afraid that you are an idle fellow." "Idle? Not me, sah! Why, I gits my wife mo' work dan she din do, sah."—Boston Transcript.

Doctor (in Philadelphia Public Ledger).—Mr. Blinks, your wife is very ill, indeed. Blinks—Let me know the word at once—is it Atlantic City, Palm Beach or San Francisco?

Visitor (at seance)—I want to talk with Mr. Brown. Attendant—What Mr. Brown? Visitor—I cannot remember his first name, but he is only lately deceased. Attendant (formerly a department store worker)—Please show the gentlemen some of the latest shades of Browns.

The McTavish family were having their New Year dinner, and they eagerly watched Mr. McT. carving the goose, none so eagerly, however, as the dog, for that intelligent animal never took his eyes off the luscious bird.

Suddenly the knife of the carver slipped, and sent a fragment of the goose rolling on the floor. "Mighty me!" cried McTavish. "The leg, ma ain it-bit! The dog'll get it!"

"Xaw, father," said the youngest offshoot of the clan McTavish "he'll no get it. I've got ma fit ort!"—Weekly Scotsman.

General Joffre once told a good-humored story of a party of four British tourists who entered a Paris restaurant one evening and announced that they wanted dinner. "And we don't want any of your frogs, or snails, or hèreses," one of them told the waiter, severely. "Well, start with soup—some sort of plain soup." "Certainly, sir," replied the waiter, and next minute the four Britons heard him shout down the speaking tube to the kitchen. "Cat soup." Without a word the tourists seized their hats and bolted. It was not until some time later that they discovered that in French "four soups"—"quatre soupes"—is pronounced almost exactly like "cat-soup."

The other week certain ladies of the parish were busy decorating the village church when they were informed that a goat was making a meal of a "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men" design in yellow leaves, which was standing in the churchyard ready for removal into the building. The sexton, who was assisting, immediately rushed to the rescue, but the goat, resenting the interruption, repelled his attack vigorously. "Make haste, Johnson, and get up," said the vicar's wife, from a place of safety: "it's starting to eat again."

EVE OF WAR

August 2, 1914.

Wonder at Man, and dread of God and Doom
 Held us, three friends, from sleep that fatal night.
 The moon at splendid full stared lordly bright
 Above our harvesting fields and garden bloom.
 St. Lawrence, flowing far from gloom to gloom,
 Yet vastly lay in silver-shimmering light.
 Such peace! We, yearning on the holy sight
 Of spires and earth and stream in that illumine,
 Longed that high Heaven might so soothe Europe's
 heart.

And yet the sky was wild with wondrous clouds
 Driven, in shapes of continents and seas,
 On lofty winds that flew as still as shrouds,
 Blasts that stirred not the leafage on our trees
 While masses packed on high were stormed apart.

Said one—"A parable behold! I deem
 That all Earth's empires that we may decay!
 Save where ethereal blankness rules the sky,
 They, darkening solid, hide the every gleam
 Of starry throng and moon in steadfast beam,
 Which heavenly host the more triumphantly
 As evanescent blot on endless dream."
 "Yeas, spoke another, 'Future even as Past
 Seems swept across your great indifferent moon,
 Which shines as cold with scorn that naught
 which Man
 Shall strive, by war, to establish as his plan,
 May linger more than is the penitence
 Long by each fleeting empire overcast."

HEAVY LUMBER EXPORTS FROM CANADA.

Notwithstanding a remarkable rise in freight rates, lumber shipments from St. John to the United Kingdom for January of this year show a marked increase over the same month last year. A marked increase is shown in the demand from London and Liverpool, London having imported more than 1,500,000 feet in excess of the figures for January, 1914, and Liverpool having called for an increase of 1,000,000 feet.

A feature of the export lumber trade since the outbreak of war is the almost unprecedented high freights which have prevailed for steamers and sailing vessels, and chartering at more than 100% (\$24.33) is now the rule, a remarkable jump from the rate in the same period last season when 35% (\$8.25) was considered high.—Consular Report.

JUST FRIENDS.

The German Governor General of Belgium's reported statement that he cannot understand Belgium's hatred of Germany, reminds us of that thrilling melodrama, "Nellie, the Beautiful Cloak Model." In the first act the villain pushes Nellie off the Brooklyn Bridge; later he throws her overboard from an Atlantic liner, and finally trusts her under a descending elevator. The next time they meet he anxiously inquires: "Nellie, why do you fear me?"—Columbia State.

DENMARK'S AWAKENING.

We all know the story of Denmark's wonderful agricultural awakening, and its direct consequences. Fifty years ago that small Kingdom was one of the poorest and least progressive States in Europe. In natural conditions it closely resembles Nova Scotia, of which it is only about two-thirds the size. Denmark is now maintaining a thriving population five times greater than that of this province; and is yearly increasing in wealth and contentment, largely through the scientific development of its farming industry. Besides supplying most of its own food, it exports annually upwards of 100 million dollars worth of dairy produce and pork.—Halifax Chronicle.

LIFE INSURANCE AND THE WAR.

(Edward A. Woods, Manager, Equitable Life Assurance Society, Pittsburg, Pa.)

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the year is the placing of the whole world on a saving basis. Life insurance is a thrifty proposition. It does not appeal to the extravagant or to the speculator. It is perhaps the most permanent method of saving money that there is, because it involves not the sporadic saving of money from time to time, but a regular plan for saving money for a long period of years or for the whole of life. It has been said that the whole world started saving money since August 1, 1914, and if we can have a reaction from the era of extravagance and prodigality that has affected the entire American nation for years back, it will be most wholesome, financially and morally, and cannot but help turn the thoughts of American people to such permanent methods of saving as life insurance companies, savings banks, building and loan associations, and other safe and conservative methods of saving money.

HEAVY KHAKI ORDERS.

According to the Glasgow Herald, every khaki mill in Leeds and the West Riding generally is taxed to the utmost capacity, and the output of army clothing has been further accentuated by a large order from the Russian Government. It is stated that part of an order for 3,000,000 yards of cloth for Russia is finding its way into Yorkshire, and to the 50 firms in and around Huddersfield there have to be added as many around Leeds and Dewsbury engaged in making khaki.

HIGH TREASON.

American citizenship wipes out all former national allegiance. No act could be more unconstitutional and more treasonable than for American citizens who happen to spring from German stock to form a political party in this country to advance the interests of Germany.—Philadelphia Ledger.

WHY NOT GO THE LIMIT?

Having surrounded Great Britain with an imaginary blockade, Germany might hasten the end of the war by declaring an imaginary surrender of its enemies and an immediate peace on terms prescribed at Berlin.—New York World.

THE LIGHT THAT FAILED.

Speaking of coincidences, while R. B. Bennett was talking in the dark at Ottawa yesterday, Forbes-Robertson was playing "The Light That Failed" in Calgary.—Calgary Herald.

AN OLD FASHIONED MISSOURIAN.

Uncle Bob Nelson, now Probate Judge of Christian county, not only wears high top boots, but stuffs his trouser legs in them. Judge Nelson also wears his hair long, believing it has cured him of neuralgia.—Kansas City Times.

The Day's Best Editorial

TRADE AS USUAL.

The supremacy of Britain's naval service is not measured only in terms of fighting efficiency. The bottling up of Germany's capital ships is but an incident in a campaign which has established for generations to come the position of Britain on the seas. The vast trade clearing in and out of British ports during the past month shows practically no diminution compared with normal times.

An undeniable testimony to the power of the British fleet is the value of the trade cleared at British ports last month. The cargoes which arrived in January had a value of \$37,500,000, about the same as in previous years. Exports of British goods amounted to \$141,250,000. To these must be added exports from British ports of imported goods, \$35,000,000. The ordinary seaborne trade must also be added the vast stores and supplies not only for the British army and navy but also for the Allies. The total of incoming and outgoing trade, including bullion and specie, during the last month is placed at over \$550,000,000. It is this marvellous trade which has excited the envy and cupidity of the Germans, and which they hope to destroy or interrupt by their threats to torpedo at sight all ships within the blockade zone. The civilized world is amazed at the lengths to which Germany seems bent on going in order to alienate the sympathy of neutral countries. No one denies Germany the right to destroy enemy commerce, but this must be done by cruisers that can afford crews and passengers an opportunity of escape. The wrath of the Teuton war-lords is unbounded because they are forced not only to acknowledge their impotence in face of the British blockade, but also to defy the world by a flagrant breach of international law which forbids the use of submarines as commerce-destroyers.—Toronto Globe.

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 REST. 16,000,000.00
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CURB MARKET GENERAL

New York, February 26.—The c general weak and very inactive session. In the afternoon the market quiet. In bonds, sales of \$4,000,000 at 103 3/4, up 1/4, up 1/4.

BANK OF HAMILTON

ESTABLISHED 1817

Head Office: HAMILTON

Capital Authorized \$5,000,000

Capital Paid Up 3,000,000

Surplus 3,750,000

THE MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

The announcements made last night complete the Ministerial changes made necessary by the retirements of Mr. Masterman, and Mr. Ellis Griffith. The public, which can now review them as a whole, will, we think, congratulate the Prime Minister on his selections. Mr. E. S. Montague's promotion to the Cabinet was very generally expected and entirely deserved; and the post of Financial Secretary to the Treasury, which so often leads to this promotion, will be well filled by Mr. Acland, whose departmental work has for some time marked him out. The succession of Mr. Neil Primrose to the Under-Secretaryship at the Foreign Office will awaken memories of the time, nearly twenty-three years ago, when his chief, Sir Edward Grey, became Under-Secretary, there under his father, Lord Rosebery. Those were not days when the unity of the Liberal party was what it now is; and perhaps it is worth pointing out that, similar as Mr. Primrose's abilities are in some respects to those of his distinguished father, his political orientation has been quite different, and is altogether more towards the left wing. The appointment of Mr. Cecil Harmsworth to the place at the Home Office vacated by Mr. Ellis Griffith has been well earned; and the same may be said of the appointments at the Whip's Office. Mr. Gulland, the new Chief Whip, will find his hands much strengthened by the accession of Mr. Walter Rea and Mr. Cecil Beck, who have both done their party excellently service in the House, and are well liked personally by men of all opinions.—London Daily Chronicle.

"THE RALLY."

Say not the struggle naught availed,
 The labor and the wounds are vain,
 The enemy faints not nor falleth,
 As things have been, things remain.

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;
 It may be, in yon smoke concealed,
 Your comrades chase e'en now the fliers,
 And, but for you, possess the field.

For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
 Seem here no painful toil to rain,
 Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
 Comes silent, flooding in, the main;

And not by eastern windows only,
 When daylight comes, comes in the light;
 In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
 But westward, look, the land is bright.

—Clough.

DISINGLINED TO PROMOTE

Attitude of Large Inter That Underlying Co are Sound

BEAR TIPS ON M

New York, February 26.—Demo grain markets checked the advance stocks in the second hour, but, altho from their best figures, the trade on the decline.

There was little selling pressure, ed to be wanted on reactions. Bear tips on New York Central and in response to them the stock compared with 83 1/2 earlier in the close on Thursday. No specta cles were heard, and the movement tively of bear origin.

Southern Pacific was firm, selling 95 1/2, the equivalent of a gain of closing price.

The foreign selling of Southern P and the sales of Central Pacific have become somewhat reduced in a recovery in price has already star

New York, February 26.—Very l the early afternoon but the general ability to hold up in the face o number of the shorts had covered a interests were not inclined to encour ing movement seemed to indicate th ditions were strong.

Baldwin Locomotive on a few sal a new low record. The decline was unfavorable earnings. According trade authorities the contract betw French Government for 100 light loco on at such prices as leave little, if profit.

B and O. showed a hardening te up to 65 1/4 compared with 64 1/4 at the day.

CHICAGO COMPANY OFFER

Chicago, Ill., February 26.—A for cables a prominent Chicago grain Rome, asking for an offer on 15,000 wheat, including 10,000,000 of No. 2 for shipment within 40 days, and 5,0 No. 2 spring wheat for April and May.

This order comes from a country directly benefit by opening of the sea not be filled because it cannot be ac

WAGE QUESTION IS THE

THE RAILROADS HA

New York, February 26.—Unoff ment that the eastern railroads con cased wage reduction in the near futu in their private offices. Railroad t the brotherhoods may be depended such a movement to the last ditch, an er of these organizations is not to b do they make any secret that they q question as the gravest the railroads

The president of an eastern carrier "The wage question takes this fo merce Commission has allowed certa freight and passenger rates, and will by roads in the western half of the territory to grant certain others. Ac were given for the express purpose of credit of all carriers and allowing th curties for funding their temporary for imperative construction work.

If raising wages is to continue wi in recent years, it is only a question when the additional revenues to be the rate advances will have been ab eating expenses, putting the railroads by the same position they were in bef vances were granted. The question men are to be allowed to undo the w mission in strengthening the positio

"Unless the men can be persuaded leave the wage scale as it is until su ther increases are justified by good b waste of time and money for the c commission to attempt to increase th revenues of the carriers and to put t of financial safety and service effie

Arbitration of demands of engineer western roads, now going on in Chic to reach a decision in April. It is tenton of the presidents of these tw to move eastward, after having obtain in wages they expect in the West, success there as a