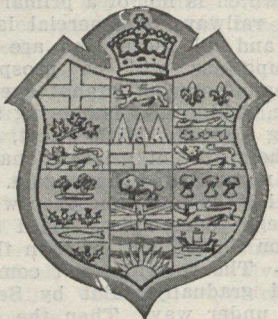


THE CANADIAN COURIER



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A New Bird

WHETHER the editor of the Toronto Globe has discovered a new bird or a new variety of aeroplane is not clear, but it is one or the other. In the leading editorial on Monday morning this sentence appears:

"Education has dropped its plumblines into the depths of the human spirit and strained its wings to scale the heights."

The latter part of this Janus-like metaphor seems to refer to a bird, but birds do not always carry plumblines. Therefore, one must conclude that the editor is comparing modern education with the most modern of aeroplanes.

Germany's Sarcasm

NO finer touch of irony has been made in any war message than Germany's offer to submit the United States' contentions, re the Lusitania, to the Hague Tribunal. For a nation which has violated nearly every rule laid down by that body, despite its own signature of approval, this is a bold suggestion. The United States would be a most trustful nation if it would harbour the thought for a moment that Germany would recognize any adverse award by the august authorities that meet at the Hague.

The United States is not likely to go to war with Germany. Yet short of war, there are several courses open to that country which are more certain than references to the Hague. For example, there is a hundred million dollars' worth of German shipping interned in United States ports which could be confiscated any day. The United States could make good use of these vessels at present, and any adjustments of their claims and German counter-claims could be made after the war is over.

Will Finish in Style

NO more splendid phrase has been coined in this war period than that sent over by Lieut.-Col. E. W. B. Morrison, of the Canadian artillery. Colonel Morrison was editor of the Ottawa Citizen for years, but his enthusiasm for soldiering took him to South Africa for the campaign of 1900 and eventually led him into the Militia Department. Writing home after Langemarck he said, "Whatever may happen, I think Canada can depend that we will finish in style."

Such a phrase is an inspiration. To those of us who are forced to stay home and miss the glory of it, there is a lesson. We, too, must finish in style. Whatever must be done to support our soldiers abroad, whatever is necessary to produce the supplies that are needed, whatever is advisable in the Empire's interest must be done, no matter what the cost. We, too, must finish in style, even if that should mean the effacement of our most thrilling occupations—the playing of petty politics and the scrapping over political patronage.

Saskatchewan Demurs

AN editorial in the Regina Leader, and several letters from subscribers have protested against some comment in these pages on hasty legislation in that province. The language used in the Courier was either obscure or inadequate. The charge was made that Saskatchewan was going ahead too fast in experimental legislation. The answer comes back that Saskatchewan has not yet adopted initiative and referendum, woman's suffrage or prohibition.

Let us examine the answer. A law was passed as the Courier understands, providing for initiative and referendum, subject to a plebiscite. The plebiscite was taken and was not favourable. Can it fairly be said that the Saskatchewan Legislature has not

approved of this fad? If they had disapproved, they would never have allowed it to go to a vote of the people.

With regard to woman's suffrage, the Premier has said that he is in favour of it, and if we mistake not, all the politicians have declared for it. Now they are trying to evade by saying "Perhaps the time is not ripe."

As for temperance legislation, Saskatchewan has had a commission which reported recently in favour of the Liquor Dispensary System of South Carolina. The Government has declared in favour of some such system. To the people in the other provinces this looks to be "hasty."

The Courier is not opposed to temperance reform, nor even to woman's suffrage. Nevertheless, all reforms, as experience proves, must be based on genuine conviction in the minds of the people before it can be a success. The people of Saskatchewan do not understand the South Carolina system, and cannot be in favour of it. The women of Saskatchewan are no more ready for the suffrage than the women of the other provinces.

That is the whole story. Our legislatures should cut out the fads which have made the State Legislatures to the south ridiculous. There is plenty to do in promoting settlement and increasing the domestic happiness of the people without making laws embodying new and untried theories.

Propagandists

WHAT Canada needs is fewer wish-washy, chicken-hearted leaders, and more propagandists of the Lloyd-George type. Perhaps the finest example of propagandism in recent times is the work done by Hon. Martin Burrell and Dr. C. C. James in connection with the "Patriotism and Production" campaign. These men know what Canada ought to do, and they went out and held one or two thousand public meetings to bring the news to the people. They solicited the help of the newspaper

GROWING!

This is the first issue in Volume XVIII. of The Courier. You will find some day that Volume XVII. is one of the most valuable volumes ever issued in Canada. It contains a history of stirring times.

editors, the provincial agricultural authorities, the farmers' institutes, and every other body or society or set of individuals that could help. They got the message over to the farming public quickly and effectively.

The Hon. (now Sir) Clifford Sifton, was a propagandist once. About 1897 everybody in the country knew that what Canada needed by more population. Every provincial premier knew it. Every member of the Dominion House of Commons knew it. Every business man knew it. But Clifford Sifton was the man who went out and brought the new citizens in. He became a propagandist for Canada in the United States and Europe.

Canada needs a commercial and industrial awakening. Canada needs a new chief propagandist who will start another constructive era. Canada has the railways, the harbours, the canals, the farming land and other natural resources, but there is no one preaching the gospel of development. Each citizen is doing something, but the country lacks a national leader. The effort is spasmodic and pocketed. A big propagandist would gather up all the forces and com-

bine them into one huge engine which would carry Canada into its newest and greatest era.

The Admiralty Leaders

RIGHT HON. ARTHUR J. BALFOUR and Admiral Sir Henry Jackson are now at the head of the British Admiralty instead of Winston Churchill and Lord Fisher. That Churchill should go is no surprise, but that Lord Fisher should retire is something of a surprise. The "underground" explanation that he signed orders given by Churchill though he did not approve of them, is hardly sufficient. Yet, these are the cold facts.

Of course, Canadians could not man a navy, much less build it or manage it. We didn't have the experience, to say nothing of the lack of brains and intelligence. Still it seems doubtful if our statesmen at Ottawa, inexperienced as they may be, could have done much more in the way of bickering and disagreement than the statesmen of London.

However that may be, let us hope that Mr. Balfour and Admiral Jackson will do better. Everybody in Canada recognizes that the freedom of the seas lies with the British navy, and that our stake in that freedom is of the first importance. No part of the Empire will rejoice more loyally than Canada if the new leaders and the new policy bring greater efficiency and ultimate naval triumph. We may still discuss the mystery of the Iron Duke, the mystery of the Audacious, and the mystery of the first attack in the Dardanelles, but the Canadian heart beats true in its appreciation of the brave men who have kept the flag flying upon the open seas.

The Baby's Jam

A LONDON newspaper poet protests in rhyme against the censorship which tells only half the truth. He wants to know the whole truth, the best and the worst of it. He hates having anything nasty hidden in a tablespoon of jam. His last couplet runs:

"The bits of 'arf truth doled out now, to us, ain't worth a damn,
So give us powder fit for men and chuck the baby's jam."

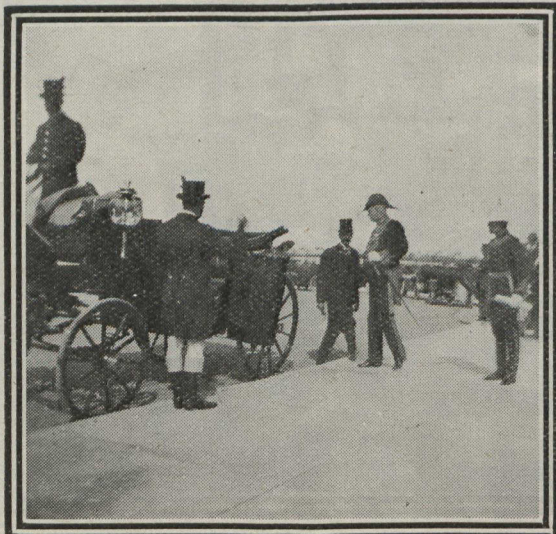
Perhaps no finer example of "the baby's jam" was the rush of everybody around the official London circle to cable their congratulations when the Canadians made their stand at Langemarck. They never said a word about the huge losses, and never a word as to the blunder that caused such a tremendous sacrifice of human life. All they had to say was to the effect that the men, who were so bumptious and lacking in discipline at Salisbury that they were not worth moving out of the mud and miasma of a swamp, had suddenly proved that they were heroes.

Let us admit that these officials have treated us no worse and no better than they treated the people of Great Britain and Australia. Their conduct has been uniform enough. But it seems a bit childish.

The Canadians we now know were unsupported by adequate reserves of either infantry or artillery. They were without protection against the gases which, three weeks earlier, were mentioned as being probable by the "official eye-witness." This one division of 18,000 men were opposed by four army corps, or 160,000 men, in spite of the much vaunted superiority of British aeroplane scouts. They were without adequate supplies of ammunition, and some of them went three days without food or sleep. They suffered untold agonies and endured terrific punishment.

Yet not one word of explanation in the month that has elapsed. We are expected to believe that this is a necessary result of a great war, and that no one blundered. Under these circumstances most of us will echo the words of Dick Richards and ask them to "chuck the baby's jam!"

OPENING SASKATCHEWAN'S LEGISLATURE



Governor Brown (Windsor uniform) and Premier Walter Scott after inspecting troops.



46th Expeditionary Force Battalion in front of Parliament Buildings at Regina. (See page 16.)