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MONTREAL, MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1915.

The Nova Scotian Battalion.

The discussion that took place in the House of Commons a few days ago, respecting the troubles of the Nova Scotian Highland Battalion at Valcartier, and later on Salisbury Plains, was not a pleasant one. It can hardly be claimed that the allegations of unfair treatment were fully disposed of. There was statement and counter-statement, and it will not be easy for the impartial reader upon present information, to decide just where the truth lies. On one point particularly it is obviously necessary to withhold opinion at present: that is on the part of the story which reflected on General Alderson, the British commanding officer, on Salisbury Plains. He has been reported as speaking of an interview with the correspondent, who in reply, says he sought an interview with General Alderson, but failed to obtain one. There is clearly some misunderstanding here, and there may be in other matters as well, for what the General says must be accepted as having been spoken in all good faith. Probably it will be wise for all interested to reserve judgment respecting the alleged grievances of the Battalion, until further information is available.

One thing, however, has been made clear by the recent debate. The young journalist, whose letter in the Halifax Chronicle gave rise to the public controversy, has been fully vindicated. It has been shown that he did not draw upon his imagination or rely on mere rumor, but based his article on the statements of Lieut.-Col. Struan Robertson and several other officers of the Battalion, whose letters, signed by their own hands, the correspondent had seen, and who apparently desired that their grievance should be made public. How far, if at all, these officers were justified in their complaints may have to be determined later. But that Mr. Crowell, with the information he had from responsible officers of high rank, was fully warranted as a journalist in bringing the matter before the public hardly admits of a question.

The World's Wheat Supply.

At no time in the history of the world has there been more attention paid to the production of food stuffs than now. The titanic struggle taking place in Europe, the shutting off of Germany and Austria's food supplies from overseas, together with the attempted blockade of the British coast arouses fresh interest in the problem of the world's supply of food stuffs.

Russia, under normal conditions, is one of the world's greatest grain exporters, but with the Dardanelles closed, she has been unable to ship out her accustomed supply of grain, while the increased consumption of grain by her own people will diminish the amount available for export, even when the Dardanelles have been forced. Efforts have been made to ship out grain by the trans-Siberian railway, but the freight charges make this prohibitive. Ten years ago the world's consumption of wheat was three billion bushels a year. It is now in the neighborhood of four billion bushels. For the past ten years the annual increase in the world's consumption of wheat amounted to one hundred million bushels a year; under the war conditions now prevailing it is estimated that the consumption will increase two hundred million bushels. Western Europe is said to need six hundred million bushels of wheat in 1915. Australia, usually an exporter, will have to import from forty to fifty million bushels of wheat, while Japan and China will be forced to import one hundred million bushels from India and the United States.

The world will be forced to look to the United States, Canada, and the Argentine for the bulk of its wheat for 1915. Last year the United States grew nine hundred million bushels—a record crop; Canada grew one hundred and fifty million bushels, or twenty-five per cent. below normal; Argentina has about one hundred and eighty million bushels. Canada is increasing her acreage, but at the outside will not be able to grow more than two hundred and fifty million bushels in 1915. Even under the most favorable circumstances, these three countries will not have more than four hundred and fifty million bushels for export—a quantity insufficient to supply the demands of Western Europe to say nothing of the requirements of China, Japan, South America, South Africa and other parts of the world which will be in the market bidding for our grain.

One of the big problems which has to be faced following the end of hostilities is that of increased production. One hundred years ago there were only eight hundred million people in the world; to-day there is one billion eight hundred million. The population has grown one hundred per cent in a century, while production only increased by a fraction of that amount. As a matter of fact, the world is facing the possibility of a food famine.

The Welsh Emblem.

The newly formed regiment of Welsh Guards have been greatly pleased over the King's order that their regimental badge shall be the "Leek." A crest of this delicious vegetable will henceforth be embossed on the metal badges of the caps and helmets, and be embroidered on the collars and uniforms of the officers and men. The leek is intimately associated with St. David's Day, March 1st, just as the Shamrock is closely identified with the 17th of March, St. Patrick's Day.

The Welsh claim that St. David, their patron saint, lived on goat's milk, bread and leeks. During one battle he directed his fellow Welshmen to wear leeks in their caps in order to distinguish them from the enemy. As a result of this disguise, or perhaps as a result of the smell, a crushing defeat

was inflicted upon the enemy. At the time of the Druids the leek was regarded as a religious symbol, while going back still further in history, the Egyptian Pharaohs regarded the vegetable as a subject of special honor.

St. David, the patron saint of Wales, lived some fourteen hundred years ago. He was canonized in 1120, and is said to be buried at Glastonbury Abbey, which is now in ruins. According to some stories he was an uncle of King Arthur of the Round Table. At any rate, he plays a very large part in the life of the principality of Wales.

The American national game certainly has its thrilling moments. It is not all bluff and beer. While five of the most prominent men of Bloomsbury, N.J., were engaged in a game of poker in a hardware store, three marked men entered, held them up, and escaped in an auto with \$100.

There were 30,053 bills and resolutions introduced by members of Congress and Senators in the session which has just closed. The record shows an average of eighty-three for each Senator, and fifty for each Congressman. No wonder the nation gave a sigh of relief when the would-be legislators went home. Seven hundred of the resolutions became laws.

The Federal Department of Agriculture has issued a publication showing the actual and possible yields of various crops in Canada. By intensive cultivation, rotation of crops, good seed and better farming methods in general it is possible to increase the yield from one hundred to three hundred per cent. Surely the results to be obtained are worth while putting forth a special effort.

Dr. Rittman, an American chemist, has discovered a process by which the yield of gasoline from crude petroleum can be increased by twenty per cent. He has also discovered a method of producing toulol and benzol, the source of the important dyes, used in the silk cotton and woolen industries. When the war is over Germany's commercial supremacy in aniline dyes may be a thing of the past.

There is a good deal of controversy going on as to the origin of the word "jitney," the name which has been applied to the taxi cabs which carry passengers for five cents. The general verdict seems to be that "jitney" is Mexican for a five-cent piece, although in Kentucky it is said that the word belongs to the "nigger" language, being used by the darkies in their game of craps, the phrase "shoot a jit," meaning five cents.

February's exports from the United States were the largest in the history of the nation, exceeding the showing of any previous February by nearly one hundred millions. At the same time her imports of gold show a heavy increase. Eight months ago her exports of gold exceeded imports by over thirty millions, while last month the imports exceeded exports by nearly twelve millions. The United States is profiting by the war.

According to the latest estimates there are fourteen million Poles destitute as a result of the war, armies which have swept back and forth over their land. This is double the number of people in Belgium, which country has so greatly excited the pity of the world. Poor Poland seems destined to suffer in silence. In Russian Poland 15,000 villages have been destroyed. The country is so inaccessible as to make it impossible for neutral nations to send in supplies.

Jacob H. Schiff, who believes that the war will end in the autumn through recognition on both sides of its futility rather than through the exhaustion of the credit of the belligerents, talks more from the standpoint of a pro-German than from that of a sensible American. Great Britain alone is able to carry on this war for years, and it would not pay her to desist until she had in a measure carried the honors of warfare home to the German people as a whole.

The City of Jacksonville, Fla., recently put in force a by-law making it necessary for drug users to register with the Department of Health. Registered dope users are then allowed to obtain drugs on the order of a physician. In passing the by-law the authorities believed that they would be able to regulate and lessen the use of drugs if they knew exactly who were addicted to their use. The Tennessee Legislature has just passed a state law along somewhat similar lines.

Australia is turning her attention to the question of irrigating her desert areas. In one half of the country the annual rainfall does not exceed ten inches, but the Government hopes, by means of irrigation, to reclaim most of this land. Australia has an area of 2,974,581 square miles as compared with 2,573,800 for the United States proper, and 3,729,665 for the Dominion of Canada. Within the temperate zone the Commonwealth has 1,825,000 square miles, and 1,149,000 within the tropical zone. The country has a coast line of 12,210 miles.

GERMANY'S COFFEE SUPPLY.

It is necessary to explain what "valorization" accumulation represents. The Brazilian coffee crop of 1906-7 was a record, slightly exceeding 20 million bags, and to endeavor to place so vast a quantity in but a limited space of time would have meant utter demoralization of prices. Under the aegis of the San Paulo Government the policy was resorted to, in 1906, of setting aside approximately 8,150,000 bags; some of this total was stored in the United States, but the bulk was put at the disposal of the Government in European ports. All of such accumulation that was remitted to the United States has been disposed of, and the European accumulation has been gradually drawn upon. At the present time the amount remaining to be disposed of is about 2,400,000 bags—say 2,828,500 cwt.—and approximately half of this quantity may be at the disposal of the German Government, either direct or through control.

While Germany may be willing, if she can, to acquire coffee at an appreciably higher price than that now current in the market, the outlook for the Coffee market, unlike that for tea, is rather for depreciation than for an advance in price. This, apparently, notwithstanding the very considerable decline in price that has been going on since the end of 1912, during the time that Brazil was so terribly embarrassed.—London Statist.

During January, 1915, horses to the value of \$7,865,795 and mules to the value of \$1,312,195 were exported from the United States, while in January, 1914, horses and mules were included in "miscellaneous" items which in all aggregated only \$609,230.

The London Stock Exchange's new year started Thursday with a reduction of nearly 700 clerks compared with a year ago. Their names have been withdrawn by their employers owing to the war.

WAR JOURNALISM IN 1915 AND 1916.

Hypersensitive people deprecate opprobrious references to "the Hun" and their Kaiser. But in spite of dire provocation, our journalists have been wonderfully temperate compared with those of the Fatherland, which are incoherently abusive. To find a parallel in this country to the Eatenwill Journalism of Germany to-day we must, it seems, look back to a century ago. "The Times" yesterday published an extract from its issue of March 11th, 1815, which exemplifies the kind of diction that has long ago been discarded by British newspapers, but which is still the high-water mark of German achievement. "Civil war," says the disinterested record, "has again been kindled in France by that wretch Buonaparte, whose life was so impolitically spared by the Allied Sovereigns. It now appears that the hypocritical villain who, at the time of his cowardly abdication, affected an aversion to the shedding of blood in civil warfare has been employed during the whole time of his residence at Elba in carrying on secret and treasonable intrigues with the tools of his former crimes in France." No such hot stuff is being served up to the Kaiser by the British Press to-day—richly though he may deserve it.—London Financier.

REAL WEALTH.

"What a glorious sunset!" There was the deepest appreciation in the words. The joy that that little lady with the grey hair took in that wonderful view glowed in the eyes that were still bright in spite of the sixty years she claimed. Her husband, just in from milking, paused at her side, and he, too, faced the glowing west with appreciation of its beauties written on every line of his face. Nature to these two evidently was a constant source of inspiration and delight.

This old couple have only been moderately successful as the world counts success. But they are rich people. Yes, very rich. Their treasure lies in their appreciation of the beauty of the sunset, the sparkle of the snow-covered meadows in the pure light of the moon, the singing of the birds, and the wonderful work of creation, which it is the God-given privilege of country men and women to in some measure guide and direct. In the love that they bear each other, and in their living interest in the changing aspects of nature, these two have real wealth that millionaires cannot purchase.—Farm and Dairy.

WELL FORTIFIED.

With an authorized force of 3,000,000 men and a blank check with which to meet expenses, Lord Kitchener is well fortified to conduct a successful campaign.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Lady.—"I've brought back this war map you sold me yesterday, Mr. Brown. It's not up to date. I've been looking all the morning for Armageddon, and can't find it marked anywhere."—Punch.

Senior.—What makes that horrible smell of rubber come from Birthday Dornies?

Junior.—Oh, that's just some sophomore holding a freshman's neck on the radiator.—Pennsylvania Punch Bowl.

One dish especially pleased the Englishman, a rich stew of onions, pork, mushrooms and a dark, tender, well-flavored meat. The Englishman ate heartily, regaling Tit-Bits. Then he closed his eyes and lifted his hands, with an air of ecstasy. After this pantomimic compliment to the dish he said, interrogatively, "quack, quack?" "No, no," said the Chinaman; "bow-wow!"

It was truly a terrible state that little Johnny presented himself at the doorway.

"Why, whatever have you been doing?" exclaimed his mother.

"Couldn't help it," sullenly replied Johnny. "We had a free fight."

"Whatever for?"

"Well, you see, there's seventeen fighting nationalities in our school, and only one remained neutral!"—Answers.

Apocryphal of a certain rich man's purchase of a mine for \$400,000 that he sold for \$80,000,000, a Chicago broker told, rather bitterly perhaps, an apocryphal story about him. "When he was a baby," the broker said, "his mother used to sing him to sleep. 'Sing a song of sixpence,' was the lullaby she employed. As soon as he learned to talk, his first logical remark was an interruption to this lullaby. 'Sing a song of sixpence,' crooned his mother. And the baby, shaking his little head and smiling in a wheedling way, said: 'Make it a quarter, ma, and I'll go right off.'"

Many veterans can recall the powerful and persuasive eloquence of Colonel Morrow, of Detroit, when he was calling for patriots to enlist in the Civil War. Just after the battle of Fredericksburg a deserter was brought before him. Nothing so roused the colonel's indignation as a wilful desertion or cowardice, and he turned on the weak-kneed soldier in a towering rage and said: "What do you mean by deserting your post in the hour of your country's peril? Have you no feeling of patriotism? Why did you ever enlist if you are such a coward?"

"Well, colonel," said the soldier. "If you want to know I'll tell you why I enlisted. It was that damned speech of yours at Livonia."—Argonaut.

WRING, WRING, WRING.

Wring out, wild Belle, thou laundress mine,
The clothes that languish in the tub—
The few that have survived the rub:
Wring out the garments coarse and fine.

Wring off the hooks, wring off the eyes,
Wring off the buttons by the score;
(That's what we sewed them on there for)
Wring off the tapes and ribbon ties.

Wring off the crocheted linen rings
That Aunt Matilda made by hand;
Wring off Grandfather's collar-band,
Wring off poor Susie's apron-strings.

Wring both hems off the pillowcase,
Split up the sheets and kindred stunts;
Ring in two petticoats at once—
Wring off a dozen yards of lace!

Get thirteen stockings wound around
The wringer rolls, then start to pull;
Get both the cog-wheels full of wool
Then wring your hands in grief profound!

Wring something off the livelong day!
You do more damage than the pup!
Ring out, before your time is up—
Ring in a kick for higher pay!

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

CORRESPONDENCE

MEN WHO HAVE MADE GOOD IN THE WEST.
(Guy Cathcart-Pelton.)

Edmonton, March 22nd.

To one passage in the correspondence of S. L. T. Harrison, of Moncton, I must take exception, and that passage is this: "There is not one concrete case of a successful life that I have ever seen." This in comment on the stories from the West.

The successful newspaper man whom I referred to has one of the biggest ranches outside the town of Wainwright. In days gone by he has represented the Dominion Government at various exhibitions and public events in various parts of the world. The Journal of Commerce has his name.

If Mr. Harrison wishes it I will send him for his personal satisfaction the names of a couple of dozen Western farmers together with their addresses, all of whom have in less than eight years made themselves financially independent and any of whom could sell out to-day at from \$50,000 to \$150,000 if he desired.

Mr. Harrison is mistaken in his belief that the Western farmers want to sell out to some wealthy European. I have met them by the hundreds and I have found that a majority of them wouldn't sell out and leave Alberta at any price. I know of many of them who tried the East, who tried the United States, who tried Mexico and California, who have come back to Alberta and who declare that Western Canada offers the biggest inducements in the world to the agriculturists.

Mr. Harrison asks: "How do they live?" I will tell you. It is an actual fact that practically every farmer who has lived at least five years in the West on his farm has an up-to-date house, two or three teams of fine driving horses, valuable riding horses, handsome carriages and many of them have individual electric light and water plants on their farms. Any gasoline engine company doing business in the West can testify to the truth of the statement that a large number of the prairie farmers are putting in electric lights and water systems in their farm houses.

The average man can make a success in the West by taking a farm on easy payments, either from a private owner or from the Canadian Pacific Railway, and by starting in with a couple of head of cattle, a half dozen hogs and a desire to make good. Many of the richest men of the West were originally homesteaders and I believe it is a fact that more solid fortunes have been made by farming in the West than by speculation. As for the Eastern farmers having pianos, so also have the Western farmers and many of them have automobiles. Mr. Harrison speaks of the Easterners sending their children to college. He apparently doesn't know that the Universities of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta are filled with the sons and the daughters of the farmers of these provinces. The Western colleges and universities are all crowded and crowded to capacity. There are no finer agricultural, technical, musical and general courses in the Dominion, than those in the colleges of the West. And more than this, many of the students of the Ontario colleges are sent East from the farms of the West.

I am aware that an impression has been scattered through the East that the farm life in the West is unbearably hard. Too much stress has been laid on the life of the homesteader who had a farm 80 miles from civilization in the remote inland. True, the life of that man has been lonely. The per capita production at \$185 looks small because over half of the population of the West is in the cities. In my previous article I answered Mr. Harrison's questions as to where the money comes from. It comes from hogs, from cattle, from wheat. I would like to take Mr. Harrison through Alberta and Saskatchewan and show him a hundred head of cattle in one herd feeding in the open in the middle of January and so fat that their sides are fairly bulging. I would like to take him to one of the little towns on the weekly "Hog Day" and show him the hundreds of hogs being shipped to market. Most there not be something tangible behind the ever-increasing packing plants of Calgary, of Edmonton, of Moose Jaw, of Winnipeg? And also must there not be some tangible thing in addition to supplying the biggest packing plants of the West, still has something over to ship to the packers of Montreal and to the packers of Chicago? Must there not be something tangible when the Government at Ottawa erects the biggest elevators in the world to store the grain shipments and take care of the crops?

THE COMMUNIST FOR SPRINGFIELD?

The commission of 100, which has been considering a new charter for Springfield long and carefully, now recommends the city manager plan. The vote in the commission was 58 to 42, and the minority is bound by the vote to make no antagonistic report. The vote was taken by mail, giving every member a chance to think it over and vote in the presence of his conscience and judgement only. We should like to see a strong, intelligent, progressive and yet conservative city like Springfield try out government as a business managed by a competent man with power and responsibility. Many cities need some sort of a change and this may be the very thing for them. Good management means economy and efficiency, and that is the most important thing in municipal business as well as in private business.—Waterbury American.

THE THOROUGHNESS OF ITALY.

One of the wonders of the time is the cold-blooded and calculating deliberation of the Italian Government in getting ready for war. It appears to have prepared for every possible eventuality. It has worked methodically, and according to what must have been a definite plan arranged months in advance. It has made each move in logical order, has carefully restrained every outburst of popular enthusiasm that seemed dangerous to its plans, and has as carefully seen to it that the repressive measures were not of a nature to dampen the enthusiasm of the people. Little by little it has drawn the lines tighter and tighter against the nations which are presumed to be its prospective enemies, crippling them here, hampering them there, but always avoiding an open break and always having at hand some convenient explanation or excuse. And while making ready for war it has kept the way open for a peaceful adjustment of the conflicting ambitions and interests which seem to have brought the kingdom to the very verge of the big conflict that has claimed every great European power except itself. Even now one may not feel absolutely certain that Italy has definitely decided to fight and that it may not still be trying to obtain its demands through preliminary pressure which will give some foretaste of what the Germans and Austrians may expect if the break actually comes. Italy's game is almost painfully perfect.—Detroit Free Press.

The Day's Best Editorial

THE THOROUGHNESS OF ITALY.

Great Britain's output of new merchant ships in 1914 decreased 248,600 tons over record year of 1913, but 1914 building of 656 vessels of 1,683,553 tons compares favorably with any other good period.

Nearly 1,000,000 parcels post packages were handled by the Post Office Department during 1914.

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DRIVING AWAY THE BIRDS.

By shooting the birds and frightening them away from loud noises, many rural communities are finding themselves short of one of their chief attractions—bird life. Such a condition of affairs is due solely to ignorance. Birds as a rule are the farmer's best friends. The injury they may do to small fruits and growing crops is more than compensated by their removal of worms and insect pests. In the biological survey included in ex-President Roosevelt's message to Congress these facts were shown. It was found on investigations that there are forty-three species of birds that prey upon cotton boll weevil, fifty-seven species that prey upon scale insects which attack fruit trees. Cuckoos and orioles destroy leaf-eating caterpillars. Hawks and owls destroy grasshoppers and mice. Woodpeckers, the larvae of wood-boring insects. It is proved conclusively that the great majority of birds are more of a help than an injury. It is no common sight, in the country, to see the body of a hawk or a crow nailed to the farmer's barn-door, while a mounted owl is often used as a household decoration. Suburban Life.

THE CENT BELT EXTENDS.

About 20 years ago in writing about the east we named it the cent belt, and this phrase is now in universal use. At that time we did not think that the borders of the cent belt would ever be extended to the far west. But that has come to pass, for the old day the banks in Nelson began paying out copper. It is now about time for the old trail blazers to cash in and climb the shaft to the new Jerusalem, where the dealer only pays in gold, the music is free and the angels dance on the clouds. The poor little cent belt, bless his red face. He must feel like an orphan in a strange land, and will rob many a collection plate and bargain counter.—Greenwood Ledger.

AWAKENING.

The Sultan used to think it was easier for a Mohammedan to pass through the eye of a needle than for a Christian fleet to enter the Dardanelles. Now he doesn't.—From the Philadelphia Telegraph.

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TO-MORROW.

"To-morrow," he promised his conscience, "I mean to be good."
"To-morrow I'll think as I ought to; to-morrow I'll do as I should."
"To-morrow I'll conquer the habit that holds me from heaven away."
But ever his conscience repeated one word, and only, "To-day."

To-morrow, to-morrow, to-morrow, this day of mine, day it went on:
To-morrow, to-morrow, to-morrow, till you're like a vision, was gone:
Till age and passing had written the message of fate on his brow.
And forth from his shadow came death with the pale, less syllable, "Now."
—Justin McCarroll.

PRICES HELD WHEN TRADING

This Action of Stocks was Considered a Sign

ACTIVITY IN N. Y.

Anxiety on Exchange Question, Would Pay for its Unexamined Been Relieved.

(Exclusive Leased Wire to Journal)
New York, March 29.—At the close of the day the market was active and strong with a decided rise in commission house business. The extraordinarily favorable statement when it was published on Saturday evening was made by 1,000 shares at 75 compared with 74 1/2 at close of previous day. Motor issues were helped by report that there are now 1,754,570 automobiles in the United States, an increase for the year of 1914. General Motors opened 4 1/2 at 122, points in two days. Maxwell Motor at 25 and Maxwell second gained 1/2.

New York, March 29.—The general market was active and strong with a decided rise in commission house business. The extraordinarily favorable statement when it was published on Saturday evening was made by 1,000 shares at 75 compared with 74 1/2 at close of previous day. Motor issues were helped by report that there are now 1,754,570 automobiles in the United States, an increase for the year of 1914. General Motors opened 4 1/2 at 122, points in two days. Maxwell Motor at 25 and Maxwell second gained 1/2.

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