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London, Ont., Saturday, Sept. 13.

The Peace Treaty Approved

Without knowing to what the country has been committed the House of Commons has approved the peace treaty with Germany. The Liberals fought for light on the question and the most they got was a statement from Hon. C. J. Doherty to the effect that the council of the League of Nations could not order the expenditure of a single dollar or the enlistment for war of one Canadian soldier without the sanction of the Parliament of Canada. While there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of this statement, it would have been infinitely more satisfactory if Sir Robert Borden had taken the House into his confidence and told the members just what had been done. Correspondence on this point was asked for, but the House was informed that there was no correspondence. Vague statements were made to the effect that Canada had reached the status of nationhood and that an imperial conference would be held at an early date to determine what that status was. In direct contradiction of this and also in direct contradiction of Hon. Mr. Doherty's statement the Government members voted down an amendment offered by Hon. W. S. Fielding as follows: "That in giving such approval the House in no way assents to any impairment of the existing autonomous authority of the Dominion, but declares that the decision of what part, if any, the forces of Canada shall take in the war, actual or threatened, is one to be determined at all times, as occasion may require, by the people of Canada through their representatives in Parliament."

The Liberals did not seek to block the ratification of the treaty. Their efforts were directed entirely toward finding out what the treaty meant, and for this they have had to run the usual gamut of abuse from their opponents. They learned from Government statements that the autonomy of Canada would not be impaired and from Government votes that it would, and the country has learned from long experience that votes speak louder than words.

Nor has it yet been explained why it was necessary to hold an extra session of parliament at an approximate expense of one million dollars to ratify the treaty. Mr. Fielding characterized the pretense that Canada must approve it as "arrant humbug." If Canada were an independent nation in the full sense of the words the necessity for ratification would be apparent, but in spite of all that has been said by the Government members Canada is not independent and never will be so long as the present British Empire exists. No more definite evidence of Canada's position is required than the clause of the peace treaty itself which specifies the parties to it as follows:

For this purpose the high contracting parties represented as follows: The President of the United States of America, by:
(The names of the United States representatives follow.)
His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British dominions beyond the seas, Emperor of India, by:
(The names of Lloyd George, Bonar Law, etc., follow.)
For the Dominion of Canada, by:
(Following are the names of Sir Robert Borden and Sir George Foster.)

Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and India follow in the same way. India, which has very little to do with the management of her own affairs, ranks the same as Canada.

In spite of all the camouflage of Sir Robert Borden and his associates, for a purpose still to be disclosed, His Majesty the King and Emperor was the party to the treaty for the entire British Empire, and his ratification was sufficient for the Empire.

Larger Fair Grounds

The Western Fair directors have a difficult problem on their hands in seeking to provide additional room for the exhibition. They must strike a balance between economy and efficiency, which is none too easy at any time, and is particularly hard at present. By adding seventeen acres, which is practically all bounded, to the east of the present park they will be able to turn around in a year and have so much extra room for the 1920 fair. They will dispossess one hundred families for whom accommodation must be found elsewhere. Director McCormick estimates that the cost of this acquisition would be about \$225,000, added to which would probably be the cost of one hundred building lots elsewhere and the removal of the houses.

The advantages of this plan lie in the fact that the present fair buildings could be used, and the other necessary buildings could be erected so that the enlarged grounds would be available complete for next year. The disadvantages are that it would be a makeshift at the best, that within a very few years much larger grounds will be necessary and that a block of land adjacent to what is rapidly becoming the manufacturing dis-

trict will be disqualified for use for either factory or home purposes.

In order to secure a site suitable for the development of the fair during the next generation it will be necessary to purchase at least 100 acres, and to go outside the city. Alderman Little estimated that this with the necessary buildings would cost probably a million and a half dollars. As against this President Gartschke estimates the cost of additional buildings on the enlarged present site at half-a-million dollars, which with the site would make a total of three-quarters of a million.

Every London resident will agree that Queen's Park is not large enough for the fair grounds, and that the buildings are not worthy of either fair or city. In design and arrangement there is nothing of the artistic and not much of the utilitarian. Even if the present site enlarged were retained the Western Fair would not take its proper place among the big fairs of the country without new buildings, of fireproof construction and erected with a view to harmony in design.

The situation seems to narrow itself down to the question as to whether an expenditure of three-quarters of a million dollars for a makeshift arrangement is preferable to an expenditure of double that amount for something big and permanent. It is a safe assumption that with an adequate site and suitable buildings the attractions could be doubled and the attendance multiplied threefold. London is well located for a large exhibition. Its agricultural exhibits at present surpass those of Toronto. In other respects except for the waterfront attractions London could be made the equal of the larger city; but this cannot be done with present buildings or present site. The great crowds which would be brought to the city by the enlarged fair would easily compensate for the expense both in direct and indirect returns.

Toronto Times Suspends

After a career of six months the Toronto Times, previously published for 37 years as the News, has suspended publication, thus adding another to the long list of papers which have gone out of business in recent years. Toronto now has only two evening newspapers and three morning papers.

The News was founded in 1881 and was conducted successively under the editorship of Edmund E. Sheppard, Thomas Gregg, W. L. Smith and H. C. Hocken, now editor of the Orange Sentinel. In 1903 it was acquired by Sir Joseph Flavelle and Sir John Willison left the Globe to become editor. After some years Sir Joseph became relieved of the burden and it was taken up by other Conservative interests, who have stood at its back until the present time.

The managing director of the paper, Mr. C. W. McDiarmid, in announcing the suspension, stated that it was due to the enormous increase in the cost of publication. The Times was unable longer to face the heavy bills which are the lot of every newspaper. The price of newsprint has practically doubled in two years, wages have doubled in many cases and other items entering into the cost of the business have gone up in price from 100 to 300 per cent.

Publishers faced with these rising costs have not increased the price of their product in proportion, and as a result many of them have had to go out of business. Many other papers are liable to meet the same fate unless an adjustment in prices is made. A metropolitan daily should not sell for less than \$10 a year, yet most of them are selling for \$4 or even less. The advertising rates in most cases are 50 per cent below what they should be. At the low rates prevailing publishers are able to pay expenses only by giving up the greater part of their space to advertising, which at one time was regarded as a mere side issue. It is not in the best interests of the country to reduce the number of papers to a minimum, but this is what the country is facing unless costs can be lowered or revenue greatly increased.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

When one considers the fatalities and injuries inflicted as a result of the policemen's strike in Boston the value of compulsory arbitration in wage and labor disputes becomes highly suggestive.

Sixteen thousand citizens of British Columbia signed a petition to the Federal Government asking that immediate action be taken to reduce the high cost of living. After a while Premier Borden will begin to realize that the people mean it.

The board of commerce could hardly fail to see the bearing of the tariff on the cost of living and has intimated that it may recommend that the duty be taken off bacon. It is to be feared that the board of commerce is near the end of its career.

Mr. F. F. Pardee, M.P. of West Lambton, is occupying a seat in the front row of the Opposition, Hon. Jacques Bureau retiring to the second row to make room for him. Neither he nor Mr. Fielding has had to return by way of the "penitent benches," as predicted by the Tories.

Vice-Chairman O'Connor of the board of commerce states that if manufacturers or producers are found to be exporting necessities in order to enhance values embargoes would be placed on the exportation of such goods. Mr. O'Connor seems to be convinced that this board has actual authority to reduce the prices of commodities.

After all, it appears that the extra session of parliament, from which so much has been expected, cannot terminate the war so far as Canada is concerned. The war measures act is to remain in force until peace is proclaimed between Canada and all the countries with which Great Britain is at war, including Turkey and Bulgaria as well as Germany and Austria. The uselessness of the extra session becomes more apparent than ever.

The Advertiser's Daily Short Story

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THE SHRIMP.
By R. Ray Baker.

"Has that shrimp been here again today?"

Jack Williams, with a height of 6 feet 2, a circumference of 38 and a countenance usually genial, but just now decidedly the reverse, stood at the door of the living-room and glared at his sister.

Josephine, the sister, looked up with a book in one hand and a chocolate in the other, and gave expression to a smile so sweet it would have melted an iceberg. But the brother was not an iceberg, and he refused to dissipate the frown that marred his otherwise attractive face.

"If you mean Mr. Angell—yes, he has been here," was Josephine's rather pert reply as she offered her brother a chocolate. "But please to remember that Mr. Angell is my fiancé and as such he should be treated with respect."

Jack thrust the candy into his mouth in much the same manner as old-time gunners running charges into old-style cannon.

"He won't be your fiancé if I ever get a crack at him," he growled.

"There's no use, talking, Josephine. You can't marry that shrimp. Yes, shrimp! I repeat it. The fellow who gets into my sister must be a strong man, not a lounge lizard who can't do any more than sip soda and chew candy."

"But please to remember that my brother-in-law must be able to protect his wife against the blows of the heart-les world. This same business has got to stop, that's all."

With which Mr. Jack Williams left his sister and mounted the stairs to his own room.

As the self-appointed guardian of Josephine, Jack felt he was suffering personal affronts when the attentions being showered on her by the diminutive Mr. Angell. Ever since the affair began, about six months ago, Jack had tried to meet up with "the shrimp," but so far he had not succeeded.

This situation was due to the fact that the two young men lived in different cities. The Williams home was in Thompsonville, where Jack held a position in Steel City, fifteen miles south and Mr. Angell was in business in Seymour, about the same distance north of Thompsonville.

Every Sunday Jack came home to visit his father and sister, and the same day always saw "the shrimp" a visitor at the Williams residence; but Josephine's "guardian" could never make connections between the two cities as his sister's wooer, because the only Sunday train from Steel City arrived just fifteen minutes before the only Sunday train for Seymour had left.

Mr. Williams, Sr., declined to take a hand when his son approached him with the matter of Mr. Angell's courtship. "Leave it to Josephine," he advised. "She can take care of herself. It's up to her to be her own judge of whom she wants to marry. Anyhow, the more you try to lower this young man in her estimation the stronger she'll be for him."

But Jack was resourceful, and he managed to bring the neighbor boy to the ship who posted on the comings and goings of the man who had designs on Miss Josephine's affections, and who, if it appeared worth anything, had been successful in his efforts.

A full-length camera picture in an album gave Jack an idea of his prospective brother-in-law's appearance, but Josephine refused to enlighten him as to the matter of her fiancé's courtship. "He could have obtained the information by some means, no doubt, but he hesitated to appear in the light of a meddler outside his own home."

"But before I let my sister marry a weasel-faced, puny pigmy, I'll go over there and slap him cold blood," was Jack's oft-repeated threat. He really did not intend being meddling, and he had his sister's interests at heart, and felt bound to look out for her.

"Now it's time to act," young Mr. Williams told himself as he washed up from the train trip, following the dialogue that opened this tale. "I'm going after the shrimp this week sure, if I can possibly get away from the job long enough."

In the meantime the shrimp was draped between two seats in a parlor car, watching passing scenery with one eye and a page of a magazine with the other. He was certainly not very prepossessing to look at, if one were in search of muscular splendor.

His face was handsome in a way, but he looked too small and frail to withstand the battering blows dealt out in the world.

Arriving at Seymour he had dinner and then escorted his mother to church. From there he went to his room in the hotel, and from the pulpit it could be seen that this visit to the house of worship was not merely a matter of duty. He was enjoying himself in the way a person is supposed to enjoy himself in such an edifice.

Monday morning the shrimp shaved, consumed a rather meagre breakfast and went down to his office about eight o'clock. After opening the mail he went into a back room, where he partook of some physical exercise, using various gymnastic appliances. The shrimp certainly was not neglecting his physical wellbeing.

During the day Mr. Angell had frequent callers, most of whom he escorted to the back room, instructing the office girl to permit no one to disturb him. This was his daily routine, and appearances were that Mr. Angell was an exceedingly busy man.

About 1 o'clock in the afternoon he was enjoying a respite from his business activities, being engaged in reading a page of the second section of a newspaper. His legs were stretched out on his desk at a comfortable angle, and he was smoking a big pipe which looked as if it might swallow him at any minute.

But Mr. Angell's relaxation was disturbed by a very strong thump on the door. A notice painted on the frosted glass invited all-comers to enter, but this particular visitor evidently did not see it.

In fact, he was too much disturbed to pay attention to signs. If he had noticed one that hung out in front and had connected it with the man of whom he was in search, the affair might have terminated differently than it did.

"Come in," said Mr. Angell in a weak little voice.

Jack Williams strode into the office and stood with arms akimbo, glaring down furiously at the occupant of the chair, who retained his reclining posture.

"Looks here!" roared Jack. "You've been waiting to get me for some months. I'm not going to say much, but I figure on acting openly. You're engaged to my sister and I hereby announce to the world that there isn't any shrimp going to marry her. A man's got to be strong and healthy, and able to take care of himself and her. If you can do it, you have my consent; otherwise—you quit, see?"

"I believe I comprehend," responded Mr. Angell, removing his feet from the desk and emptying his pipe, and folding the paper neatly on the desk. "Will you kindly step into the next room?"

Shortly after the evening meal, Josephine was reading the same book and eating from a different box of chocolates, when her brother walked into her presence.

Across one eye was a bandage and part of his hair was plastered to his forehead with blood. Furthermore, he limped.

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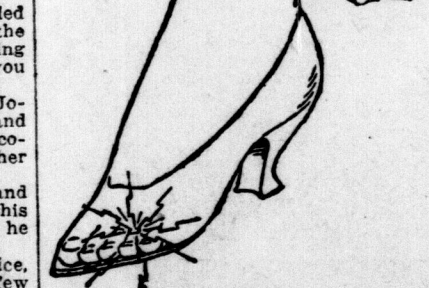
shrimp; and I'm here to proclaim that he has demonstrated his ability to look out for himself and for you, too. Why didn't you tell me he was a former featherweight champion of the United States, at present engaged in the pleasant business of instructing white hopes in the gentle art of boxing?"

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