

The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 7.

Facing a New Offensive.

Gen. Maurice reports the Germans as having sixteen more divisions on the western front than the allies, but there are fewer men in the German divisions, so that in actual man-power the allies still maintain a preponderance.

The preponderance in aircraft, in munitions and in guns is also still with the allies, but is diminishing according to official estimates. "If the enemy wishes to attack there is nothing to prevent," says Gen. Maurice. The great question is whether he wishes. Sometimes the Germans tell the truth, and they have been telling their own people that they are going to Paris.

From a military point of view in Britain an attack by the enemy would be welcomed. The war-weariness evident in England and Scotland would disappear and there would be a general stimulation and bracing up in the presence of action. The slow and tedious months of winter, in which matters have apparently been going Germany's way, have discouraged the weaker sort. The food question has been serious and so has the fuel question, as with ourselves.

Towards the end of January the strike threatened by Clyde workers looked very serious. The British Shoe and Leather News of Jan. 24, commenting on the situation, thought the men would see before it was too late that they would only be playing into the hands of the enemy. It adds:

"The war cannot go on indefinitely. Almost all nations, whether belligerents or neutrals, are groaning under the burden of it; humanity cannot endure the strain much longer. The very magnitude of the suffering entailed will help to bring about the end of the struggle. Therefore, dark as the present hour is, we firmly believe that our faces are towards the light, and that the clouds may break at any moment."

The British Weekly is not quite so sanguine of an early peace, the confident as to the ultimate issue. Even if the war were to be a seven years' war, and the nation have to fight till the last man and the last shilling were requisitioned, Britons are resolved never, never, never to be slaves to Germany at any rate. M. Stevens Lausanne, editor of Le Matin, speaking on Monday last in Toronto, asserted the same determination as true of France. It were better, far better, he asserted, that every Frenchman submit to Prussia.

This spirit is far more widely prevalent than the pacifists and the sentimentalists care to recognize. The army is solid about it, and the allied governments appear to have no hesitation and no fears. Let the German attack proceed.

Allied Strategy, Perhaps.

Rumania has agreed to sign a peace with Austria. She could do nothing else. She is surrounded by the enemy and cut off from all hope of succor. She was betrayed in the first place by the pro-German government of Russia, and since then things have been going from bad to worse.

Germany, report the Italians, is preparing a new attack on Italy; and affairs in the east, with a quiescent Rumania and a chaotic Russia, are favorable to such a move.

Since the general allied war council was formed very little has been suggested as to the possible plans of the allied commanders. This is the best sign and promise we have of the state of the campaign as viewed by them. They are quietly confident. They have plans devised by the most skillful soldiers in Europe. They have invincible and perfectly equipped armies. They have the initiative, if they wish to use it. They can compel attack in any quarter they desire. The military world will be disappointed if the coming campaign does not reveal some of the most brilliant strategy of the war.

It is believed that the allied policy dictated by the general situation is one of parity until the forces of the United States are in the field. But we must not be too sure of this. It would be of enormous advantage to the whole world could the war be curtailed by a year.

Over the Grave.

Sir Edward Carson's tribute to John Redmond inspires the hope that one of the wounds of the empire may be healed very soon.

"We were not very far apart in our attempts at a settlement of the Irish question," said the Ulster leader.

Perhaps over the grave of the other leader it may be possible to find a way to close the gap that still remained between the two policies.

Another Appeal That Canada Pay Out a Lot More Money to the Grand Trunk



The above cartoon (from The Winnipeg Grain-Growers' Guide) expresses the views of our western farmers in regard to public ownership of the Canadian Pacific. But now The Toronto Globe is half-suggesting that the Grand Trunk be not branded for the present but that more public money be paid over to that road and to the Grand Trunk Pacific. And much more pointed pleadings in favor of the Grand Trunk are being printed in other Canadian papers. They are willing that Canada continue to be the goat for our railways that are in financial straits. Fortunately, the western farmers, and we believe, the western members and ministers, are for a showdown with the Grand Trunk.

Is parliament to be summoned to devote some more money for the Grand Trunk and then prorogue as quickly as possible, with the railway problem still up in the air? The World does not think so, but The World cannot but observe an almost hysterical haste in some quarters to have the session over and done with without coming to grips with the railway situation. It is suggested by our good neighbor, The Mail and Empire, that the members of parliament would be more usefully employed in planting corn and hoeing potatoes than in making speeches at Ottawa. The Toronto Globe sees difficulty in expropriating the Grand Trunk, and insists that the government should try its hand at negotiation. In regard to the suggestion made by The World, and seconded by The Winnipeg Free Press, that the government should refuse to give any more handouts to the Grand Trunk, and thus force that system into liquidation, The Globe says:

The suggestion that the Grand Trunk should be forced into liquidation by a withdrawal of light government financial assistance at a time of crisis, when private loans are unobtainable, is one that ought not to be considered at this stage of the proceedings. If the owners of the C.P. were to spurn the liquidation of seeing their road bought in under the hammer because of the failure of the government to meet its financial charges, there is every reason for extending light treatment to the Grand Trunk, which did great services in the opening-up of eastern Canada, and has hoisted potatoes in making speeches at Ottawa. The Toronto Globe sees difficulty in expropriating the Grand Trunk, and insists that the government should try its hand at negotiation. In regard to the suggestion made by The World, and seconded by The Winnipeg Free Press, that the government should refuse to give any more handouts to the Grand Trunk, and thus force that system into liquidation, The Globe says:

And this brings us to the nub of the Grand Trunk situation. At this coming session of parliament the road must either be taken over or it must receive another substantial hand-out from the public treasury. During the past few years we have heard a great deal about financial assistance to the Canadian Northern, but we have heard very little about the hand-out to the Grand Trunk. The Canadian Northern went ahead every session, made the fight, took the abuse and finally got a vote. Then in the dying days of the session the Grand Trunk cried "me too," passed up its plate, got a big helping from the man who was carrying the turkey and then quietly went away to enjoy the feed. When the proprietors of the Canadian Northern came back in 1917 for another helping the government took their road away from them, but in the midst of the excitement the little old Grand Trunk passed up its plate and got the usual generous helping of white meat, oyster stuffing and cranberry sauce!

Turn up the sessional laws for the past three or four years and you will be astonished to find how busy parliament has been paying out money to and for the Grand Trunk. The loans we admit were made to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, but the old Grand Trunk owns all the capital stock of G.T.P. These loans enabled the Grand Trunk Pacific to make up its deficits in operating expenses and to pay its fixed charges. A considerable part of this burden should have been borne by the parent company. But the good old easy company paid it all.

Perhaps the government had little choice in the matter, as the Grand Trunk could not put up for its share of the burden. Indeed today the Grand Trunk is in the same position and the government must either take over the road or pay out more millions every year.

In 1914 parliament guaranteed the Grand Trunk Pacific bonds to the extent of \$16,000,000, loaned the company \$8,000,000 in 1916 and \$7,500,000 in 1917. Perhaps the G.T.P. has not gotten all the money from the bond guarantee, but we knew the government advanced \$10,000,000 in cash upon that guarantee in August, 1914. So if we only count the

cash account in tabular form since the war commenced runs like this:

In 1914	\$10,000,000
In 1915	8,000,000
In 1917	7,500,000
Total	\$25,500,000

The fixed charges of the Grand Trunk Pacific amount to about \$6,000,000 a year. The road does not pay operating expenses and therefore the bond holders must collect from the Dominion Government and the old Grand Trunk. The Dominion Government has guaranteed Grand Trunk Pacific bonds to a large amount and the old Grand Trunk has commitments of the same kind aggregating some \$70,000,000. Year after year the government "loans" to the Grand Trunk Pacific money enough to make up its deficits in operating expenses and to pay the interest on its bonds. The Grand Trunk does not advance a dollar nor does it pay the interest upon the G.T.P. bonds it has guaranteed. In fact, it is not able to do so. If the government ceased to shell out the money for a single year the Grand Trunk would go into liquidation and Pacific would take over it. Both roads during next season. And at the same time the government takes over the gas plant of the Wallaceburg, Ont. Works, and seals it up. It is almost impossible to get next fall. The government, instead of co-operating, is throwing embarrassments in the way.

MERCHANTS ARE INDIGNANT

Displeased at Fuel Controller's Light-Order for Stores.

The Retail Merchants' Association is indignant over the Fuel Controller's cutting down of window lights. "There is no curtailment of inside lighting, just the lighting of the windows," said W. C. Miller, secretary. "The streets look like an approach to a graveyard, instead of a busy section of a city. We have made up our mind about this. We are going to have our windows lighted, and if the Fuel Controller says otherwise, we will have to go to court."

VETERANS' DANCE AND EUCHE.

West Toronto Branch Enjoys an Evening at St. Julien's Hall.

The West Toronto branch of the Great War Veterans' Association held a very well attended dance and euche at St. Julien's Hall on Tuesday evening. Seventy-five couples were on the floor, and euche fours were seated at ten tables. The proceeds of the dance amounted to about \$40. The committee in charge were Comrades W. Knight, R. Walker, M. Vassell, E. Mackintosh, W. Bennett, J. Bennett, and W. Lenehan. Mrs. Howell, vice-president of the women's auxiliary; Mrs. G. Gustar, Miss Spradlin, Mrs. White, Mrs. Dawson and Miss Zella Kidd.

MAY REMIT TAXES.

Hotels Which Provide Public Lavatory Accommodation May Benefit.

It is probable that \$70,000 will be inserted in the estimates this year to remit taxes to hotels which will throw their lavatory accommodation open to the public. Daniel Chisholm, property commissioner, made this recommendation last year, but no action has been taken by this year's board of control. The plan would serve a dual purpose, first in helping out many of the standard hotels which were hit by the temperance act; second, in providing much-needed additional lavatory accommodation.

ENTERTAIN SOLDIERS.

An excellent concert was given on March 5 at the Spaulding Military Hospital to the soldiers and their friends by the Fred C. Rocks Concert Company. Glee, quartets, duets, solos and cornet solos formed the program, which was much appreciated. Those taking part were Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Rocks, Mr. and Mrs. Green, E. Tomlinson, Alf Lockhart and W. Hawkes.

NO MORE COAL ORDERS.

No more coal orders will be taken by the city after tomorrow, Daniel Chisholm, property commissioner, announced. The department has received nearly 8,000 orders since January 1, but the situation has been relieved to a great extent during the past week.

not secure money from private investors. Does The Globe seriously pretend to say that any private investor would lend the Grand Trunk Pacific \$100? Does The Globe pretend to say that the Grand Trunk Pacific could be sold at one-third of its cost to any investor in the world except the Dominion Government? If a man were given the Grand Trunk Pacific tomorrow for nothing, he'd have to pay \$65,000,000 during the next ten years for the mere pleasure of running it. And if The Globe has 'sobs' for the shareholders, has it none for the Canadian people who are now carrying over five hundred millions of dollars of obligations loaded on them by the Grand Trunk and now repudiated by that concern?

LIGHT ON MAJOR BOEHM

Altho Not Able to Go to Front as Fighter He Took Official Photographs of Canadians.

The West Toronto branch of the G.W.V.A. recently criticized Major Boehm, on the ground, of lecturing at the various recruiting and other centres of the United States upon the front line trenches without having been to the front himself. The receipt of a communication from N.E.R. Knight throws light upon the matter, and points out that altho the major was unable to go over with the C.P.F. he did yeoman work for the country in the matter of securing first-hand pictures of Canadians on the firing line. These were taken at very great risk and under the auspices of the National Memorial Association. In the course of his communication Mr. Knight says: "Altho Major Boehm was not a combatant officer he spent a number of months in the front line trenches, busy at the dangerous work of securing actual photographs of the Canadians fighting."

W. E. Turley expressed his belief that until the major had assured the West Toronto branch that the statistics attributed to him by The Bulletin more than made up for his no retraction of the charge of the branch was in order.

Lieut.-Col. Hardy, president of the York County District of the G.W.V.A., stated that the matter was being given his most earnest consideration.

MUCH INCONSISTENCY ABOUT FOOD CONTROL

Carrots Bought in Small Lots Cost Four Dollars a Bag, and Other Things Accordingly.

"There is a great deal of inconsistency in the food control business," said W. C. Miller, secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association. "The government calls for people to use carrots, and they do. Carrots are sold for about 10 pounds for 25 cents. A woman went into a store and bought a nickel's worth of carrots, weighed them and then reported that she was charged \$4 a bag, and the food controller promises an investigation. But, at the same time, the restaurants charge 20 cents for half a grapefruit, which is about \$38 a bag, while the cost is only \$2.50. There is nothing done about it. Then next week there is a meeting to prepare for the next season. And at the same time the government takes over the gas plant of the Wallaceburg, Ont. Works, and seals it up. It is almost impossible to get next fall. The government, instead of co-operating, is throwing embarrassments in the way."

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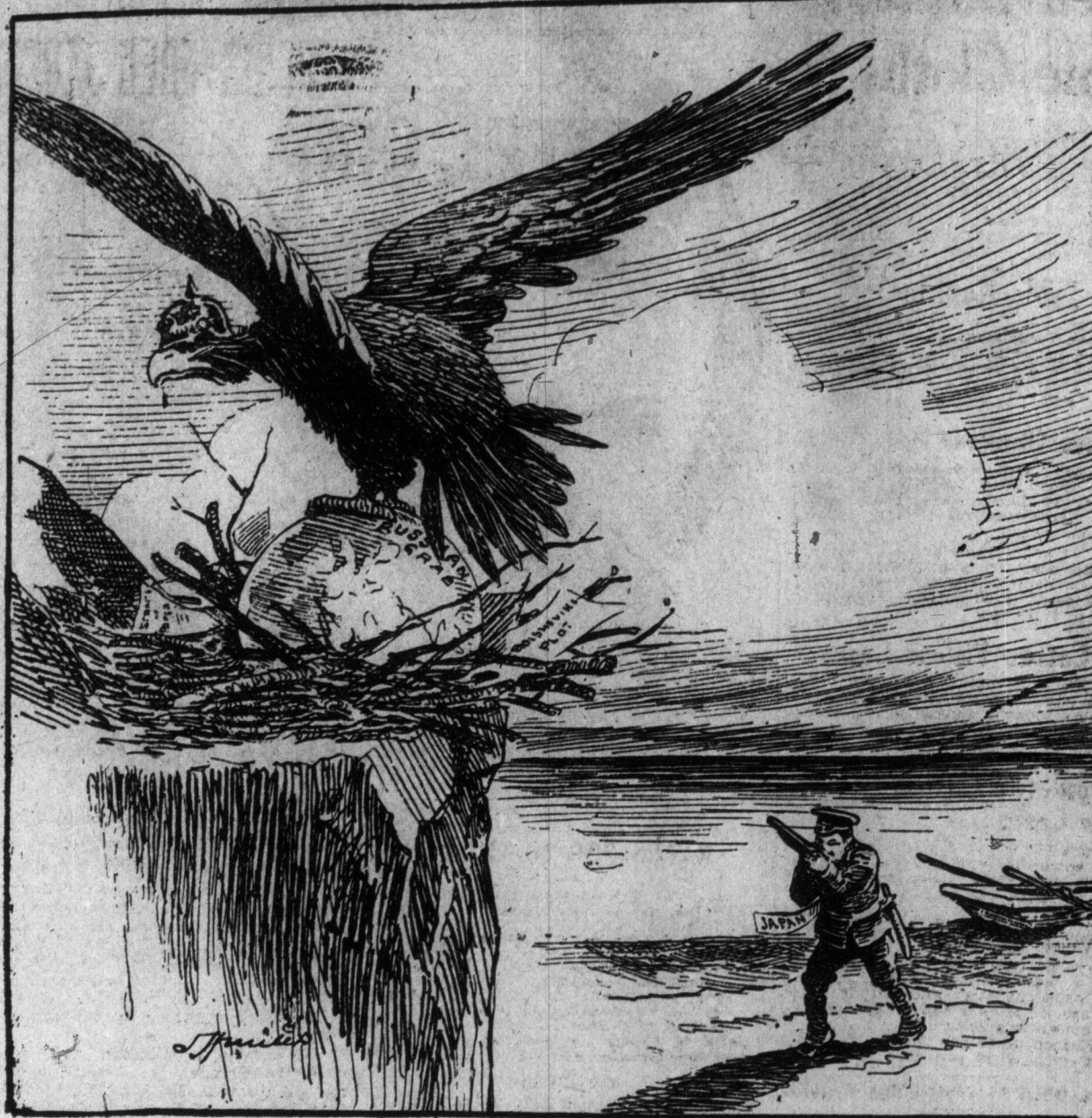
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CATCHING HER ON THE NEST



THE WOMAN WHO CHANGED

BY JANE PHELPS

My First Lesson in Social Customs

CHAPTER XXII.

At 10 o'clock the next morning I sat primly waiting for my etiquette teacher to arrive. In spite of all that Evelyn had said, I was not yet resigned to the lessons nor to the idea. But I should have to go thru with it; that was unavoidable.

"You must learn to quell a certain spontaneity; it's almost a golden rule, never show any enthusiasm, then next week there is a meeting to prepare for the next season. And at the same time the government takes over the gas plant of the Wallaceburg, Ont. Works, and seals it up. It is almost impossible to get next fall. The government, instead of co-operating, is throwing embarrassments in the way."

"You must be careful that you do not criticize women older than yourself," was another of her rules. I knew that they not marry a girl in their own sex, brought up just as their mothers would bring them up, instead of going into the country and marrying just the opposite kind of a girl. I laughed and talked and joked a great deal more than I did now, yet George never criticized me. I can't understand it.

"Neither can I."

"I'll provide a Man."

"Perhaps they saw we needed polishing off and that's why they married us. But never mind, I have had news for you."

"What is it? Don't you dare tell me that you won't come to my party!"

"That's just it. George has an engagement." I blushed. It was the first time I had ever lied about him.

"Won't it make an odd number?"

"No, goose! I won't let it," and forthwith she began to name over different young men she thought she could invite to take George's place.

Before she left she had decided upon Van Dyke Lawrence, a young man whom she described as being particularly desirable as a guest.

"He is very popular, however, and perhaps I can't get him."

"Have you invited Merton Gray?" I asked.

"My net! he'd never come! Why he's

won't have any to show. She hasn't a man sure."

Evelyn laughed merrily. Then said:

"I guess we are apt to show our feelings too plainly, Helen. My mother-in-law told me almost the same thing. She said that 'the public didn't care to be bored with gushing girls'."

"Didn't it hurt you dreadfully to have her talk like that?" I asked, really shocked.

"Yes—until I thought of how much Kurtis cared for me and how anxious he was that his people should like me—they never had a daughter—then I told her I would try to be more dignified. You see, I reasoned that as Kurtis had always been brought up with those notions, perhaps he might be ashamed of me if I was—well—like I was at home."

"Do you know, Evelyn, I have thought just the same about George. But one thing puzzles me dreadfully. Why did they marry us? Why did they not marry a girl in their own sex, brought up just as their mothers would bring them up, instead of going into the country and marrying just the opposite kind of a girl? I laughed and talked and joked a great deal more than I did now, yet George never criticized me. I can't understand it."

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"He is very popular, however, and perhaps I can't get him."

"Have you invited Merton Gray?" I asked.

"My net! he'd never come! Why he's

one of the most sought after men in town. Do you know him well?"

"No, I met him at Mrs. Loring's dinner. We got on famously, however. I liked him so much. He was so like the boys at home."

"I'll just call him up from here if you will let me. If I am fortunate enough to get him I shall tell him he is to take your husband's place. The I don't believe for a minute he'll come to my little party."

"Try him and see," I said, somewhat sure that he would accept.

"All right, here goes," and she called Mr. Gray's studio. He was in, and I stood by while she gave the message. Altho I listened I could not catch what he said, but I distinctly recognized his voice.

Tomorrow—An Unexpected Pleasure.

NO CIVIC LUNCHEONS FOR GUESTS THIS YEAR

Brother of Pte. W. A. Bartlett is Refused Civic Insurance—Tax Collection Plan Unchanged.

The board of control yesterday reported against Ald. Risk's resolution, asking that taxes be collected in four instalments instead of three.

Adopting Controller O'Neill's motion, the board decided that, as a measure of economy, no visiting delegations or conventions would be banqueted at the expense of the city this year.

Ernest Bartlett, brother of Pte. W. A. Bartlett, who died on October 27 from illness brought on by a chill contracted at the armories while undergoing physical examination, appeared before the board to ask for the insurance on his brother's life. Mr. Bartlett had previously been a member of the 70th battalion and was discharged in October, 1916. As he had been out of the army over six months, the city has no liability, and Mr. Bartlett was so informed.

MAY GO OVER.

There is a possibility that the city's revenue bill may be left over until the next session of the legislature. Friday is the last day for introducing private bills, and the city's bill has not even received the endorsement of the board of control.