

## Public Opinion

### WOMEN IN TROUSERS.

(Victoria Daily Colonist.)

Among the unexpected effects of the war seems likely to be something in the nature of a revolution in the dress of women. So many of the female sex are now employed in Great Britain in avocations where skirts are awkward if not actually dangerous that the desire to wear trousers when not at work, is becoming very common and is being acted on. Fashionable women have for some time felt that they were justified in wearing trousers when on horseback, not only with a covering skirt, but without one. There seems to be a very general revolt against skirts that encumber their wearer. Whether or not the movement will extend far enough to do away with the use of skirts altogether is a matter of doubt. Most people with good taste would regard the passing of the skirt with regret, for by no stretch of imagination can trousers be regarded as graceful garments. It seems possible, however, that hereafter women will feel free to discard skirts when they see fit, while retaining them as a distinctly feminine garment obligatory on certain occasions. Already many working girls in Great Britain, who wear trousers during the day, decline to put on skirts after their work is done.

### COLLEGE MEN WHO HAVE ENLISTED.

(Ottawa Journal.)

Does not a peculiar pathos attach to a list of the killed among young university men, who were on the threshold of life full of vigor both physical and mental, looking forward with keen intellectual anticipation to the exploration of the future? Morituri Salutamur!

"How beautiful is youth! How bright it gleams  
With its illusions, aspirations, dreams!  
Book of Beginnings, Story Without End,  
Each maid a heroine, and each man a friend!  
Aladdin's Lamp, and Fortunatus' purse  
That holds the treasure of the universe,  
All possibilities are in its hands.  
No danger daunts it, and no foe withstands;  
In its sublime audacity of faith,  
"Be thou removed!" it to the mountain saith,  
And with ambitious feet, secure and proud,  
Ascends the ladder leaning on the cloud."

### THE CANADIAN INVESTMENT FIELD.

(The Wall Street Journal.)

Consider the Canadian position at close of the war. Pressure of the British government for war loans will tend to liquidate the market there as it has the London exchange, and prices will be low. Even now Toronto is borrowing at 5%, Dominion fives are on a 5% basis, and ultra-conservative securities like Ontario fives of 1920 and New Foundland fives of 1919 are on about a 4.90 basis, while city of Edmonton, a good western municipality, has bonds outstanding on a 5.90 basis that are due in 1921.

The basis of Canada's riches is fertility of her soil, and no freak of warfare can injure that, while her grain will increase in demand as population of the world grows. Farm labor has not tended to unionize and even if it could, the Canadian system of deferring strikes pending investigation has shown itself of incalculable value. Her banking system is tried and of proved worth. As an investment field, Canada is worthy of consideration.

### MEN WHO MOUNTED.

(London Spectator.)

The parliamentary head of the army, the Secretary of State for War, and so the president of the Army Council, is Mr. Lloyd-George, and he is proud to be known as the son of a poor school teacher, who has raised himself by his genius to the exalted position which he now occupies. And the military head of the army, the chief of the Imperial General Staff, who controls the operations of our five million men all over the world, Sir William Robertson, who was also a poor man's son, and entered the army as a private soldier. If these two cases do not prove that in England we have a career open to talent, nothing will.

### THE REDISCOVERY OF HOME.

(Chicago Tribune.)

Summer cottages are being boarded up, summer hotels are closed, the asters droop in the desolate gardens, and folk are rediscovering home. Home may be a mansion with a complicated domestic policy, or it may be a flat in which no serving maid has set her autocratic foot, but home is home, be it ever so many stories up in the air, and in returning to it one has a feeling of satisfaction that amounts almost to elation. The very lares and penates at which one had, last spring, looked with almost reproachful eyes, now assume fresh grace, and one no longer laments the day that one acquired them. The privacy and order, the convenience and snugness of home, which last June appeared so burdensome, even so superfluous, now fit in with one's desires and inclinations. The leaping fire on the hearth is as a living symbol of home; the book-laden table and the reading lamp tempt one to reject the proffered hospitality of friends, even though one's own hospitable instincts are vigorously awakening. One wishes to extend invitations, not to accept them. The house still echoes a little from lack of use. Therefore laughter must be solicited. The polish on the floors will be all the better for dancing feet; the very chairs and tables seem to cry out for association.

Few things are more piteous than a deserted house, and few occupations more heartening than bringing one back into the cheerful domestic scheme of things. To hang the curtains is a sort of rite; to lay the table is an invitation; to place flowers in the favored spots is to decorate one's heart as well as one's home. Those who lament the death of poetry in life really confess to their own lack of appreciation. The elements of poetry cannot escape us. They are bound up with our daily observances, and to perceive and enjoy them requires only a conscious awareness of the deep beauty of everyday things. The song of the autumn wind and the answer of the fire on the hearth are poetry enough to content any one who can feel the difference between the essentials and the nonessentials.

### THE STATESMAN'S GAME.

(New York Post.)

War is the statesman's game, wrote the bitter poet of a hundred years ago, but could he write it now? Would he not have to admit that the statesman's game today is golf? Asquith, Lloyd George, Balfour give it as their favorite recreation. And American public men simply could not live without it. The links will do for them whatever they want in a physical way. If Taft desires to reduce weight by 100 pounds or so, he devotes himself to golf and the thing is done. Hughes comes back from a speaking tour worn out and with a "ragged" voice, and flies to the links to build himself up. President Wilson counts that day lost when he cannot get in a round to make him forget the cares of office and the curses of his opponents. Only the Colonel abstains. "Not a man's game" was his contemptuous description of golf. But he may yet be tempted to beat his spear into a niblick. What a sight for gods and men it would be—the Colonel struggling to get his ball out of a deep trap!

### WILSON'S LITERARY FAULT.

(Toronto Star.)

The literary instinct has been a hindrance to President Wilson. It has led him into writing letters when he should have called a policeman. It has caused him to coin phrases that people cannot forget and will use against him, such as his own "watchful waiting," and "too proud to fight." These words, used as he used them, ornamented his deliverances, but used by his enemies against him, they are capable of a derisive use that is very destructive.

### ACTIVE AND PASSIVE NEUTRALITY.

(Toronto World.)

There would have been no trouble and no complaint about German submarines in American waters, had the United States Government taken the same stand as Holland has done. Holland stated her position shortly after the war began, and refused access to Dutch ports or waters to the warships of any of the belligerent nations, except under stress of weather or damage, or when by reason of distance from their bases they needed food or fuel.

### THE THRIFT FARMER.

(From the Washington Post.)

Financial journals have recently taken up the cudgels for the farmer, dissipating the growing suspicion that the tillers of the soil have been succumbing to the temptation of sudden prosperity and burning up much gasoline in joyriding.

The evidence that has been gathered shows that the farmer has lost none of his thrift. While it is true that the purchases of automobiles for the rural districts are enormous, it has been found that many of the farmers are using the motors for farming purposes.

The rural demand for merchandise and material is about normal, considering the buying power of the farmer, but his standard of living has advanced in pace with the improved standards of farming.

A banker dealing in farm mortgages points out that the supply of mortgages is about as usual, but that more persons want to purchase them. The only alleged extravagance that has been uncovered against the farmer is to be found in the sudden increase in the automobile trade in the farming sections, and the financiers have definitely concluded that the tillers of the soil are saving more in time than the cost of upkeep and gasoline. The farmer is as thrifty as ever. He is turning the luxuries of the city into the necessities of the agricultural section.

### KULTUR AND SCIENCE.

(Mail and Empire.)

German kultur is again to the fore in the exploit of an aviator who dropped foodstuffs infected with cholera germs in a Roumanian town. It has already to its credit such actions as the poisoning of wells in German South-West Africa, the plot to infect French soldiers with the tubercle bacilli, and other heinous offences against international law. In the opinion of an English scientist, the militarism of Germany and the science of Germany spring from the same source, and he says that he fears the one as much as the other. . . . Letters that have appeared from time to time from German scientists and philosophers and educationists and preachers show that this German spirit pervades all ranks and is by no means confined to the military caste. In the face of this evidence it is hypocritical folly to say that we are not fighting the German people, but some vague and pernicious idea that has taken possession of the military leaders of Germany. We have had too much German worship in this country in the past, and even now there are efforts on the part of some pacifists to restore the shattered fetish.

### WHAT THE LETTERS SHOW.

(Boston News Bureau.)

A nation at war can divide her people into four parts—those who are always ready to fight, those who can be stimulated to fight, those who will not fight, and those who will run away or surrender.

Germany, with casualties approaching 4,000,000, has lost the stronger part of her fighting material and the numbers at the bottom do not count except in the census.

In the Verdun fighting this year, the French have gathered thousands of letters from the German dead. A volume of them have been photographed and published, and every letter is one of despair.

Is it possible that Germany has awakened to this situation? It is not conceivable that Germany can today consider a surrender. This is what the outside world demands of Germany—surrender of militarism, possibly of the Hohenzollerns, and certainly of the territory which she has invaded under no right of either God or man.

### ADOPTING PRISONERS.

(Vancouver Daily News-Advertiser.)

The custom of adopting Canadian prisoners of war is worthy of acceptance. A person or group of persons undertakes to provide for one or more Canadian prisoners in Germany. This plan makes it certain the prisoners adopted will be supplied from time to time with necessary articles of food and clothing. For example, six prisoners have been adopted by the Cowichan ladies who send forward regularly the means to provide for the soldiers in captivity. In another place a few persons are taking care of one adopted prisoner. If this plan were generally adopted it would go a long way.