

# Journal of Commerce

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## Vodka.

Among the events of the time, few have attracted more widespread notice than the action of the Russian Government in prohibiting the sale of the spirit called vodka. From a purely revenue point of view, the step taken was very remarkable, for the Government's income from the sale of the spirit was enormous. To abandon this source of revenue at any time would be a move of importance, and it becomes all the more important when it is made in the midst of a great war, which calls for a vast expenditure of public money. The Russian Government seem to have determined that the greater sobriety of the people will be productive of conditions which will in one way or another make good the loss of revenue.

There is, however, considerable misapprehension in other countries as to the extent of the reform so courageously adopted by the Russian Government. It appears to be widely assumed that Russia has adopted a general policy of prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors, the kind of policy that prevails in some of the States of the American Union, and that has many warm advocates in Canada. This is a mistake. Russia has not become a prohibition nation. If in Canada a law should be passed prohibiting the sale of whiskey for a period, it might be regarded by many as a considerable reform, but it would hardly be called prohibition. Russia has for a time prohibited the sale of vodka, but has left to its people a large measure of freedom as respects the sale of other intoxicants.

Vodka is a strong spirit, corresponding in its character to the whiskey and other spirituous liquors known in this country. It was originally made almost wholly of rye, with only a small proportion of barley malt. The chief ingredients now have done so indefinitely, while others have stopped and rice. As manufactured, it contains from 90 to 96 per cent. of alcohol. It is, of course, diluted for use, but it could not lawfully be sold at a lower strength than 40 per cent.

In most countries the public men who desire prohibition find the revenue is not the only and perhaps the most serious side of the question. The manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages involves vast sums of money invested in the trade in its various stages, and a large army of people are interested in the business or in industries connected with it. These interests are large, and powerful enough to exercise much influence upon public opinion. In Russia, however, so far as vodka was concerned, the reformers had no such influence to contend against. The manufacture and sale of the spirit were controlled by the Russian Government. If they were satisfied to declare for prohibition there was no private interest other than that of the consumer to oppose them. The Government determined to take the plunge. How the consumer will feel about it remains to be seen. But in Russia the individual is so accustomed to submit to what the Government have decided that there is not likely to be any considerable manifestation of public opinion against the Government's action. Probably the thirty Russian finds comfort in the thought that though vodka is to be denied him he can in most places obtain a mild substitute for it.

At the beginning of the war the Government adopted, "until the completion of mobilization," a sweeping measure, closing the liquor shops of all kinds. A later order extended the prohibition of the sale of vodka until the end of the war. As respects the sale of wine and beer, a policy of local option now prevails. Communities have the power to prohibit the trade generally, and some of them have done so indefinitely, while others have stopped the sale until the close of the war.

Russia, then, has not adopted total prohibition, as we understand it here. But she has taken a long step in the direction of temperance reform, the results of which will be watched with deep interest by the rest of the world.

## Production and Marketing of Eggs.

In 1913 Canada imported 13,000,000 dozen of eggs, while last year we imported 11,250,000 dozen. The eggs imported came from New Zealand, China, Japan, the United States and Great Britain. It seems hardly creditable that an agricultural country like Canada should be unable to supply its own wants in the matter of eggs, but the Government returns show that we have been very heavy importers.

Canada can learn much from the work carried on in other countries in connection with poultry raising and egg production. For example, Denmark forty years ago exported eggs to the value of \$1,800,000, now she exports over \$1,433,000 per annum. This enormous expansion has been due almost entirely to the adoption of better methods of marketing. The Danish Farmers' Co-operative Egg Exporting Association set the standard for marketing, and today have the whole system down to a science, with the result that splendid results have been achieved. Some five hundred local societies are connected with the parent institution, the whole with a membership of over 40,000. In addition many butter and bacon factories engage in the business so that there are altogether about eight hundred societies of producers with some seventy thousand members engaged in the egg trade of that country. The local societies collect the eggs from the members, each of whom has a number, which is stamped on his eggs. Strict rules are enforced, which prevents members marketing stale or defective eggs. The eggs thus collected are sent to a central packing station, where they are automatically counted and graded, which they are tested, packed ready for export. The right thing seems a lot of work to take in connection with the shipment of eggs, but the results justify the effort.

As we have a haphazard, hit-and-miss, happy-go-lucky, indifferent way of producing and marketing our commodities, with the result that we are unable to grow sufficient of certain lines of food-stuffs to feed our own population. On the other hand, a country like Denmark, which has adopted co-operation in gathering and marketing her produce, has prospered enormously. That little country exports immense quantities of eggs, butter, bacon and other produce to Britain and other countries, while our great agricultural country is forced to import eggs and butter.

That there is an immense market for all the eggs we can produce goes without saying. There is first our local market, capable of taking the eleven or twelve million dozen which we import each year. There is then the great outside markets. Great Britain alone consumed in 1914 eggs valued at \$24,500,000, of which \$10,500,000 were imported. Russia sent the largest number of eggs, next came Denmark, followed by practically all the countries in Europe. There is room in Canada for a big increase in our egg production.

Although the Panama Canal has only been open for six months, and for a portion of that time only partially in operation, tolls have reached the very respectable sum of two million dollars. The possibilities of it as a great trade route are almost unlimited, and as time goes on the number of vessels using the canal will increase.

Last year water-borne commerce of the United States to the value of \$2,023,340,000 was carried under the British flag, \$522,137,000 worth under the German flag, and but \$368,360,000 under the American flag. On a percentage basis Britain carried 53.45 per cent., Germany 13.70 per cent., and the United States 9.26 per cent. The neighboring Republic is dependent upon Great Britain for her carrying trade.

The first step in the segregation of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's property took place yesterday, when application was made to Parliament that incorporation be granted to the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services Limited. It is proposed to transfer to this company the management and direction of all the Canadian Pacific steamships. Apparently Canada's biggest corporation is becoming too big for the direction of any one individual.

Within the past few days the United States celebrated the birthdays of her two greatest men, Washington and Lincoln. The Chicago Tribune asked nine hundred representative citizens to say which of the two was the greater. Out of the replies received 532 expressed the opinion that Lincoln was the greater, 113 voted for Washington, while 209 considered them equally great. Outside of the United States the world generally regards Lincoln as being the greater man.

Actions have been taken against the directors of the defunct Dominion Trust Company for complicity in the disastrous failure of that institution. Mr. Clubb, the president of the Dominion Trust Company, has written to the British Columbia papers denying a share in the guilt, although he admits that one of the company's auditors had sent a letter to the president and directors on August 31st. Mr. Clubb states that this letter had been received by the managing director and suppressed, and that he knew nothing of it until October 6th, when he was told of the letter by the auditor who sent it. Apparently there is a whole lot of rottenness connected with the Dominion Trust Company's affairs, and neither the shareholders nor the public will rest until all the guilty are brought to justice. If this includes all the directors, they must suffer. Dummy directors are out of date. We need directors who will direct.

The courage and heroism of King Albert of Belgium have excited universal admiration. All the nations, with the exceptions of Germany and Austria, have sought to honor him. The latest nation to confer an honor upon him was Japan, who presented him with one of the finest of their world-famous swords. The blade was made four hundred years ago by the greatest sword maker of the day. These Japanese swords are so keen edged that a silk handkerchief fluttering downwards would be cut in two pieces if it came into contact with the blade. As a matter of fact, nowhere in the world are there such perfect blades made as in the "Land of the Rising Sun," and in no country does the sword hold such a high place of honor as in Japan. For these reasons their gift of a jeweled handled, finely tempered sword to King Albert probably means more than the ordinary decoration which one country bestows upon the honored great of another land.

## SEND MEN!

"It isn't money we want. But we do want men, and we must have them. We must carry a whirlwind of fire among the foe. We must crush the ungrateful rebels who are pounding the Goddess of Liberty over the head with slung shots, and stab her with stolen knives." We are all in the same boat. If the boat goes down, we go down with her. Hence we must all fight. It ain't no use to talk now about who caused the war. That's played out. The war is upon us—upon us all—and we must all fight. We can't reason the matter with the foe—only with steel and lead. When in the broad glare of the noon-day sun a speckled jackass boldly and maliciously kicks over a peanut-stand, do we reason with him? I guess not. . . . We must save the Union. And don't let us wait to be drafted. The Republic is our mother. For God's sake, don't let us stop to draw lots to see which of us shall go to the rescue of our wounded and bleeding mother. Drive the assassins from her throats—drive them into the sea.—From Artemus Ward's "The Draft in Baldinville."

## IF THIS IS NEUTRALITY!

The "Neutrality Mass Meeting," held at Symphony Hall, under the auspices of the German-American National Alliance, was a "mass meeting" all right enough—fully 4,000 people crowded the hall—but it wasn't "neutral" and it wasn't "German-American." It was German. The spirit of the meeting seemed to be that while it was called to promulgate "neutrality," what it wanted was "Deutschland Ueber Alles," and that even the United States must do nothing to hinder the securing of this end. If this meeting really was "for" neutrality, all our many other safe and sane, well-conducted citizens of foreign extraction and our native as well will hope that the German-Americans will not decide to call, later on, a meeting "against" it.—From The Boston Traveller.

## RAISING A TEMPERANCE COMPANY.

Lloyd George to 3rd Batt. Welsh Regiment:  
"I earnestly commend the admirable proposal to my fellow-countrymen, who have a special interest in this conflict for the preservation of the integrity of small nationalities, and am sure that your appeal for recruits will meet with an enthusiastic and immediate response. Gwell angau na crywylld (Death before dishonor)."

## WHAT THEN?

Neither Italy or Roumania has entered the war yet; but Italy is obviously preparing herself, and Roumania has accepted a loan from Great Britain. Italy refused German aid in the late earthquake disaster.

Italy was allied with Germany and Austria, but as she declared, it was a defensive and not an offensive alliance. And so Italy has remained neutral. But now that Turkey, by sending an army against Egypt, has menaced Italy's North African possession, Tripoli, nobody would be surprised if Italy finds a good excuse for joining in the war. It is understood, however, that Germany has warned Turkey to do nothing hostile to Italy.

If Italy and Roumania declare war on Turkey, what then? There are those who believe that it will be the "last page of the last chapter."—Southern Lumberman.

## GERMANY'S AMAZING NOTE.

In a few words this amazing note means that Germany does not intend to be governed by the rules of civilized warfare in the extensive "zone" she has proclaimed, and that she will acknowledge no responsibility if neutral ships that fall to keep away are torpedoed and destroyed. If the design is to frighten neutral shipping it may succeed with weak nations, but the United States would be untrue to its traditions and in the sight of all nations it would show the white feather if it did not enter a spirited, vigorous and emphatic protest against the proposal of Germany to "run amuck" in British waters and blindly strike at friends found in her pathway as well as at the armed enemy.—New York Sun.

## GERMAN AUDACITY.

The neutrals have been told, through us, that unless the British grip is itself frightened loose by the submarine threat, the sole remaining way is for the neutrals themselves to force England to accede to the German desires. The neutrals are thus to put pressure upon one combatant in favor of another, as the price of not having their own rights trampled by that other. This is indeed audacious. Less audacity awakened our righteous resentments a hundred years ago.

Is this not affronting neutrality upon both cheeks?—Boston News Bureau.

## "A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Stamp, stamp, stamp, the boys are marching. And those of us who stay at home must pay.—Toronto Globe.

Improvement in imported cigarettes is reported since the war stopped their coming over.—Philadelphia North American.

Didn't they "short-change" the Boston man to whom they awarded a single hero-medal for saving the lives of a cat?—The Evening Wisconsin.

"Pa, a man's wife is his better half, isn't she?"  
"We are told so, my son."  
"Then, if a man marries twice there isn't anything left of him, is there?"

Prof. Frazer of the University of Illinois had to resign from the faculty in order to win his bride. Taking leave of faculties during the season of wooing, however, is by no means unusual.—Chicago Herald.

"What is the matter with your old cat? She looks disconsolate these days."  
"Paw hurt her feelings dreadfully. Brung home a mousetrap last week. I told him not to do it. Cats has got their feelings same as anybody else."

In 1863 a party of Confederate Rough Riders under Col. Mosby made a raid inside the Union lines at Fairfax Courthouse, about 20 miles below Washington, and captured Brig.-Gen. Stoughton; also 80 cavalry horses.

A friend who called upon President Lincoln soon after found him deeply regretting the affair.  
"Yes, Mr. President," he said in sympathizing tones. "It was a most unfortunate thing the capture of the general."

"Oh, I wasn't worrying about the general," replied the President, with a characteristic wave of his hand denoting dismissal of the subject. "I can make a general in 30 seconds with the scratch of a pen. But it's those 80 horses. I can't make horses."

Two nurse-maids were wheeling their infant charges in the park when one asked the other:  
"Are you going to the dance to-morrow afternoon?"

"I am afraid not."  
"What! exclaimed the other. "And you so fond of dancing!"

"I'd love to go," explained the conscientious maid, "but to tell you the truth, I am afraid to leave the baby with its mother."—Harper's.

"Have you a nice cucumber?" asked Sandy, as he entered the market garden.  
"Yes, here is one," replied the gardener, "that will be ninepence."

"Too much. Have ye no' one for about tuppence?" The gardener showed him a small one on the vines. "You can have this one for tuppence," he said.  
"All right, here's the tuppence; but don't cut it off. I'll be calling for it in a fortnight."

## GIVE ME TO WRITE OF SIMPLE THINGS.

(Percy Thomas in the English Review.)  
Give me to write of simple things,  
Babes of the heart-imaginings:  
Mine be the fairy-sandalled song,  
Gossamer-dight as it trips along.  
Give me to sing of a little child,  
With laughing eyes and ringlets wild,  
Playing mid sunbeams on the grass,  
Chasing the butterflies as they pass.  
Give me to sing of the little waves  
The daisies adorning that babyland.  
Give me to sing of the little waves  
That softly ripple in sandy caves.  
Give me to sing of my tiny boat  
With the milk-white sail, as it flies aloft,  
Still, 'neath the moon, by the rocks below  
Where the mirror-like waters ebb and flow.  
Give me to sing of the tranquil hour  
When midnight comes with soothing dower  
Of often fancies wandering by  
To the bourn of dreamland tenderly.  
And give me to sing at last of love:  
But not of the passion that soars above  
To flash like a meteor through the sky,  
But of love that prospers fully;  
Of love that comes to a dainty maid,  
And a boy who is bold yet half afraid,  
Who wooes with laughter and wins a kiss  
Whilst her love is yet but a chrysalis.  
The simplest songs give me, O Muse,  
Whatever other men may choose.

## CLOTHING THE SOLDIERS.

Sir Robert Burden in his reply to Mr. J. G. Turfitt in the House of Commons on Friday regarding an appeal to the public for socks and other clothing for the Canadian soldiers stated that the member for Assiniboia preferred to cast discredit on the Government rather than ascertain the facts from the Militia Department. The Canadian troops, said the Premier, were getting the same clothing equipment as the British army. In Great Britain as well as here the soldiers were being supplied with comforts by private effort.

It must not be forgotten, however, that the appeal in question was made by Hon. Mr. Perley, one of the Cabinet Ministers now in London, and that in an implied sense, at any rate, it was an appeal by the Government. And this, after all, is the real point. Mr. Turfitt was surely within his right in asking why the Government did not see that the men at the front were properly equipped. The fact is that if there is room for private aid in the matter of clothing our troops properly the Government of the day would just as well be doing its duty by the men to just that extent. What is being done by the people of Britain or of India or of Serbia for their troops, outside what the respective governments of these countries are doing, is really none of our business. It may be custom or an indication of the place of the soldiers in the affection of the public—but it is not war. The government of any country would not seem to be justified in sending troops to the front and leave part of their equipment to the charity or generosity of the public. In the purchase of boots, rifles, clothing or any other matter where contracts are given out the people are not consulted; the military heads are quite competent to give out large orders for materials of all sorts. The Government is prepared to tax the people heavily in order to secure funds to carry on the war. There is no reason whatever why the people should be asked to supply funds to equip the soldiers and then be requested to contribute some of the equipment their funds are intended to purchase. The public is ready to give to the extent required in order to see that the men at the front are properly and comfortably clad as well as adequately equipped. It is as reasonable in the circumstances to ask the people to subscribe to a fund to purchase rifles as to ask them to send socks, undershirts, mittens, or any other articles of clothing needed in the soldiers' business at the front. There is no reason either to drag party or sentiment into the matter. War is a business and it is the first duty of the nation at war to feed and clothe its fighters properly. If we are really proud of our soldiers we will not make them the needy recipients of what must only be construed as public charity. Let Parliament do its full duty in this matter; the country can be counted on to approve.—Ottawa Citizen.

## THE HIGH COST OF LIVING: AN AMERICAN VIEW.

(Johnstown Democrat.)

Thousands of acres which ought to be producing poultry or other food materials have been given over to speculators and practically withdrawn from use. If the interest on farm land speculatively valued at \$500 an acre is figuring into the cost of growing grain or raising chickens, of course it will be hard to come out at the end of the year with a profit. One of the big troubles has arisen right here. Farm lands all over the country have advanced enormously, this advance in whole states having in some cases been as much as \$300, 400 and 500 per cent. Around our cities and larger towns vast areas have been withdrawn entirely from productive use and agriculture driven to less advantageous points, the town lot boomer having supplanted the husbandman. . . . Even the market gardens in many instances have been forced back and back by the town lot boomers. It is impossible for the user of land to pay the price demanded or the rent the speculator would extort.

Few students of the high cost of living have taken this phase of the question into consideration, yet it is a very obvious and a most important phase. . . . If the high cost of living problem is to be solved at all, it must be done by squeezing the water, not alone out of corporation stocks and bonds, but also out of farm land values. The single tax would do this most effectually.

## AN ANGRY TEUTON.

"English, the bastard tongue of the canting island pirates," says the Deutsche Tages-Zeitung, "must be swept from the place it has usurped and forced back into the remotest corners of Britain until it has returned to its original elements, those of an insignificant pirate dialect. Otherwise the culture of mankind will stand before a closed door and the death knell sound for civilization."

## SPRING POETS.

It will not be many days now before the spring poet will be competing with the war bard for the popular ear, and a preferred position, top of column, next pure reading matter, in the newspapers. The change, for a while at least, will not be so very disagreeable.—Calgary Albertan.

## The Day's Best Editorial

### GERMANY'S INVASIONS.

That seventh and latest threatened invasion of England, directly or through her maritime commerce, by submarine attack, must now be put into execution or classed with the six preceding threats. It is worth while to recall what those threats were, particularly in view of their virtually negligible military value:  
First—The British Empire, being held together by imperial power, must break up as a result of war with united and homogeneous Germany. India, South Africa, Egypt and Ireland were to fight England for their freedom at this heaven-sent opportunity; while Canada was to annex herself to the United States, and Australia would seize the chance to declare her independence.

Second—England's commerce would be invaded, and largely destroyed, by the roving warships of Germany.

Third—The English navy would be worn down by piecemeal destruction, called "attrition," until the German fleet could safely give battle to what was left of it.

Fourth—A fleet of Zeppelins would invade England, attacking her coast defences, and laying waste her greatest cities.

Fifth—On the taking of Dunkirk and Calais, new Krupp guns, mounted on the continental coast, would shell the opposite English shore, making a special Krupp invasion of England.

Sixth—A fleet of transports was forming for the land invasion of England by the German army.

The war has now progressed more than six months, without any material development from these threats. It is to be taken that the Threat Department of the German General Staff in the Wilhelm Strasse is a specimen of the wonderful efficiency of the great war machine?—Wall Street Journal.

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