

Journal of Commerce

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1915.

Poisonous Gases in Warfare.

The London Chronicle and other British papers which have been investigating the effects of the poisonous gases used by the Germans have come out strongly in favor of retaliation.

"It is clear from all the evidence that the German asphyxiating gases possess serious military importance, and the enemy will continue to use them, probably on a growing scale, whenever conditions are favorable.

"Unless our troops are to feel that they fight an unfair battle with one hand tied behind their backs—and that is the feeling which, if justified, might destroy all the morale of even the bravest soldiers—we must fight gases with gases and do so with the least possible delay.

"Every humane person must deplore that warfare has entered on this new phase, but we cannot prevent its being entered on; all we can do is to see that our men are not put at a relative disadvantage by it.

The following description of the effect of the gas is told by a responsible British officer who visited some of the men who were disabled by gas on Hill 60.

"The whole of England and the civilized world," he says, "ought to have the truth fully brought before them in vivid detail, and not wrapped up as at present.

"There were about 20 of the worst cases in the ward, on mattresses, all more or less in a sitting position, strapped up against the walls. Their faces, arms and hands were of a shiny, grey black color.

"It was without doubt the most awful form of scientific torture. Not one of the men I saw in the hospital had a scratch or wound.

Newfoundland.

The splendid response made by Newfoundland to the Empire's call for men, money and munitions of war has attracted fresh attention to the Ancient Colony.

made to induce Newfoundland to cast in her lot with Canada, and thus round out the British possessions in North America.

During the past few years Newfoundland has been making rapid strides. Instead of depending upon fish as formerly, an effort was made to develop the mineral, timber and agricultural resources of the island.

The Germans, not content with torpedoing boats on the high seas, yesterday rammed and sank a Swedish steamer anchored off the island of Fernern.

While statesmen and economists in Canada and the United States are divided into two schools as to what immigration shall come to this continent after the war, estimates are being made regarding the population which these two countries will sustain.

The recent appeal for co-operation made by Premier Asquith should be heeded in Canada. In his speech the Prime Minister said: "This is the nation's war, and no man among us in this vast audience or among the millions of our fellow countrymen outside—no man among us is worthy of the name of British citizen who is not taking his part in it."

Among a certain class of people there is a tendency to belittle the efforts made by the Canadians at the recent fighting at Langemarck. Some superficial individuals take a good deal of pleasure in pointing out that the majority of the men comprising the First Contingent are British born.

MUNITIONS VS. MEN.

That steel, containing other steel in smaller bits and high explosive in sundry forms, is both cheaper and more effective than flesh and blood is the sensible conclusion of the allied strategists, particularly the British.

Hence the insistent purpose, expressed in both words and shillings, and both abroad and at home, to provide such overwhelming superiority in shells. The enemy first demonstrated the potency of huge shells against supposedly impregnable fortifications.

The profuse orders scattered throughout this country in recent weeks represent the external working of this policy. Sea command reserves this advantage to the allied side—and stirs the illogical ire and apprehension of the other side.

LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD.

How many men, if asked how many languages there were in the world, could give anything like an accurate answer?

The average man's knowledge or ability to speak languages rarely exceeds two besides his native tongue.

It may appear strange, but it is nevertheless true that there are over four thousand languages spoken by mankind, while the number of dialects exceeds this.

There are more than sixty vocabularies in Brazil, and in Mexico the Nahu is broken up into some seven hundred dialects.

Let us assume that fifty dialects, on an average belong to each language, and we have the colossal total of a quarter of a million linguistic varieties.

A century hence the probability is that there will only be four languages of importance in the world.

Two regiments, the names of which jostle one another day by day in the casualty lists, are in constant danger of being taken for one and the same.

They are the Cameron Highlanders and the Cameronians, and many people in England—though not in Scotland—are under the impression that "Cameronian" is a slang name for a Cameron Highlander.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Applicant—"No, ma'am. I could not work where there's children."

Madam—"But we advertised for a girl that understood children."

Applicant—"O, I understand 'em, ma'am. That's why I wouldn't work where they are."—Exchange.

An old Scotchman having a friend on a visit one day took him to see an ancient cemetery in the village—the only sight it could boast of.

A friend of Nat. Goodwin's was staying with the actor at his home in California, in the hope of obtaining relief from chronic dyspepsia.

In these days of the high cost of living the following story is not without a decided point.

The teacher of a primary class was trying to show the children the difference between natural and man-made wonders, and was finding it hard.

"What," she asked, "do you think is the most wonderful thing a man ever made?"

A little girl, whose parents were obviously harassed by the question of ways and means, replied as solemnly as the proverbial judge:

"A living for his family."—Woman's Home Companion.

Some time ago an automobile party was touring the back country when hunger seized the crowd.

"We want a couple of pounds of cheese and some large square crackers for a Welsh rabbit," said the purchaser, going into the store.

"Got the cheese all right," answered the grocerman, "but some of them big square crackers. How 'bout some little ones?"

"They won't do," returned the purchaser. "We must have the large ones."

"Spese ye must if ye say so," thoughtfully commented the grocerman, "but it strikes me that rabbit of your'n is purty derned pertic'lar 'bout his eating."

Many years ago I heard the following notice read out in a church in England:

"There will be a procession next Sunday afternoon in the grounds of the monastery, but if it rains in the afternoon the procession will take place in the morning."

Among mixed metaphors the most delightful I think I have ever heard was the statement of a town councillor in a Hampshire town some years ago during a discussion on projected expenditure on town improvements.

"Gentlemen," he said, "we will have nothing to do with it; it is but the hind end of a white elephant."

A distinguished leader of the Ulster party, writing to me some time back, said:

"Before the home rule bill is enforced, Asquith will have to walk over many dead bodies—his own included."—London Spectator.

(Marjorie Wilson, in the Westminster Gazette. The King has called the Devon lads and they are answering him.)

But shadows seem to bide this way, for all the sun shall shine.

For there's Squire's son have gone for one, and Parson's son—and mine.

I mind the day mine went from me—the skies was all a glow—

The cows deep in our little lane was comin' home so slow—

"And don't ee never grieve yourself," he said, "because I go."

And watch the road that Jan went up the time he went to war.

That when he'll come again to me I'll see him from afar.

And in my chimney seat o' nights, when quiet grows the farm,

I pray the Lord he be not cold whiles I have fire to warm—

And give the mothers humble hearts whose boys are kept from harm.

And then I take the Book and read before I seek my rest.

Of how that other Son went forth (them parts I like the best).

And left His mother lone for Him she'd cuddled to her breast.

I like to think when nights were dark and Him at prayer may be.

Upon the gurt dark mountain side, or in His boat at sea.

He worried just a bit for her, who'd learnt Him at her knee.

And maybe when He minds her ways, He will not let Jan fall—

I'm thinkin' He will know, my boy, with his dear ways an' all—

With his tanned face, his eyes of blue, and he so strappin' tall.

—Browning.

FROM "A GRAMMARIAN'S FUNERAL." "That low man goes on adding one to one His hundred's soon hit.

This high man, aiming at a million Misses an unit.

That, has the world here—should he need the next, Let the world mind him;

This, throws himself on God, and unperplexed Seeking shall find him."

—Browning.

OUR IMPREGNABLE BANKS.

It may be safely said that never in the whole of their history have the great banking institutions of this country been in a sounder and better position than at the present time.

Truly a marvellous condition of things after the crisis of the start of the war, and when the history of the war comes to be written in full there will be much said about the great bankers of the country who, working with the Government, were able steadily to allay public anxiety and bring about a feeling of absolute trust and confidence throughout the kingdom.

Only those who know can speak of the anxiety of that time and the manner in which the whole of the leading bankers combined, working night and day, to straighten out the position and to inspire that confidence, which has been fully justified by events, in the minds of the public.

To understand fully what has been done the earlier position may be briefly surveyed. Germany had been preparing for war and hoping for financial collapse here by selling an enormous amount of stock, drawing upon our gold reserves, and entangling this country in various complicated matters.

Then a lengthy Bank Holiday was declared, which was certainly no holiday for the bankers, who were in constant consultation. There were talks of a run on the banks, but it has to be freely admitted that the public responded well to the call of financial patriotism.

After the time of stress had passed the idea that this country should endeavor to capture a certain part of the trade of Germany led to criticism being directed against bankers, and many traders declared that bankers would not grant the facilities necessary for an enlarging business.

Here, again, the policy of the bankers has proved correct. In the haste of the moment they were misjudged and called over-cautious, while at the present time every trader who has work in hand knows that he can obtain all reasonable facilities from his bankers.

Although the crisis has passed there is no question that more attention will be paid in future to the keeping of larger gold reserves. Sir Edward Holden is one of the most powerful advocates of this policy, and has time after time impressed the matter upon the city with vigor.

Depreciation of investments is naturally a matter which has keenly engaged the attention of bank directors, and has been dealt with in various ways; but, whatever the method, all shareholders may rest assured that ample provision has been made for any temporary or permanent loss in this direction.

It cannot be said that the joint stock banks were ever seriously squeezed in the consequence of the war, and the reason for this is their great stability and the acute minds of their administrators, who were able to meet and to grapple successfully with such gigantic problems.

At the present time their balance-sheets show unexampled strength in every direction, while all bankers have a proud record in the manner in which a crisis was faced and overcome.—London Chronicle.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 5.—The number of idle cars on the Pennsylvania Railroad System showed an appreciable decrease during April.

BETTER PROPORTIONATE DECREASES IN IDELE CARS DURING APRIL was shown on the system's lines in the east.

With the scars of South Africa covering his body, Sergt. Edwin Cooper has been already wounded more than half a dozen times in two different engagements in the great world war.

BANK OF MONTREAL

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT CAPITAL paid up - - - \$16,000,000.00 REST. - - - 16,000,000.00 UNDIVIDED PROFITS, - - - 1,232,869.42

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The Day's Best Editorial

SUBMARINE WARFARE A FAILURE. (New York Sun.)

That "submarine warfare" on British shipping is tactically a losing game is indicated by the failure of the Germans to sink merchant steamships of large tonnage and to interfere with the transportation of troops across the Channel.

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LUSITANIA'S LOSS HIT MARKET

Most Disturbing Item of has Received for Time LIST HAD BEEN

New York, May 7.—Market v. Haven, 64% off 2% from to-day's h. 51% off 5%. Westinghouse, 78. off 10% off 4%. Bethlehem Steel, 130.

(Exclusive Leased Wire to Journal) New York, May 7.—Volume of trade half hour was comparatively light portion of it was concentrated in the general tendency after the first however, was in the direction of improvement slight as to be hardly noticeable trading in U. S. Rubber was quiet stock sold down to 2% to 6%.

New York, May 7.—Towards the close of the general market weakened on result of pressure of stock as of the buyers to add to their lines, pending the situation in the Far East. Rock Island was a weak feature, 2% to 2 1/2% and its decline following that of a revival of the rumor of liquidation of the latter company who is also a Rock Island stock and is said to have liquidated part of his holdings in order to protect his interest in the

New York, May 7.—During the market was very dull without a definite price. Dealings such as they were pign among room traders for the most part interest for the time being seemed to entirely disappeared.

It was rumored on the floor that the is said to have sold Rubber and Rock I been a seller of long stock in other part ket, and that his sales in the past amounted to as much as 50,000 shares.

An advance of 2 1/2 points in Mexican 82 excited little interest even among floor. Goodrich was firm, notwithstanding in U. S. Rubber, and it was asserted that business is still in a very prosperous Canadian Pacific showed moderate which it was inferred that London is disturbed over Germany's claims of incases, and that the dividend on the st declared at the regular rate at the forth- ing of the directors.

New York, May 7.—Just as the market to develop strength in the early afternoon was received that the Cunard Line had sold off sharply on publication of that it taken for granted that the vessel had been the same neighborhood on Thursday.

Bethlehem Steel was strong feature announcement regarding the Lusitania, hav points above previous high record. T tributed and to reported receipt of a very tional war order within the past few d would depict Japanese terms might have good effect marketwise had it not been followed by the very disturbing report r big trans-Atlantic liner. This was regard the most disturbing pieces of news that has received for a considerable time pas

VIOLENT BREAK IN COTTON PRICES FOLLOW LUSITANIA New York, May 7.—Cotton prices dur broke broke violently, following the con the disaster to the Lusitania, and were to 20 points from yesterday's close.

N. Y. COTTON RANGE. Open. High. I May 885 945 July 955 976 October 995 1016 December 1018 1035 January 1020 1036 10

LACKAWANNA BONDS SOLD The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western has sold to Kean, Taylor & Co. \$2,250,000 and Essex first refunding 3 1/2 per cent. 1,000.

CROP PROSPECT BRILLIANT Minneapolis, Minn., May 7.—More rain red generally over Minnesota, and North Dakota. Crop prospects are excellent.

NEW YORK STOCK SALES. New York, May 7.—Sales of stocks fro to 2 p.m. to-day numbered 534,652. Thur 412. Wednesday, 602,788. Bonds to-day Thursday, 2,871,500. Wednesday, 3,652,000

HOLLINGER GOLD MINES, LIM (No Personal Liability.) Dividend No. 24. The regular four-weekly dividend of 4% outstanding capital stock has been declar 20th May, 1915, on which date cheques will 12th May, 1915. DATED 5th May, 1915.

D. A. DUNLAP, Secretary-Treas. HOWARD K. ROSS, E.C. EUGENE R. ROSS & ANGERS BARRISTERS and SOLICITORS Coristine Building 20 St. Nichol