

WEEKLY SUN

Established 1883. Evening and Weekly
J. B. WERNER, Managing Director

Published every lawful day by The Sun
Publishing Company, Limited, at their
Office, Tenth Street, North of Ross.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Daily \$3.00 a year
Weekly \$1.00 a year
TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
Business Office 54
News and Editorial 187

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1916

THE NEW YEAR

It is the custom among peoples in Christian lands at this season to review the activities of the past year and noting the mistakes to determine to avoid those known pitfalls in the future. Hence the New Year's resolutions, the huff of paragraphs and humorists the world over. Nations as well as individuals profit by this practice, and though ninety-five per cent. of the New Year's resolutions do not last the holiday out, the attempt at reform, no matter how feeble, is commendable.

The British Empire on the threshold of the year 1916 finds itself as in the opening days of the present year, in the throes of a deadly struggle. A mighty nation, fully prepared, precipitated a conflict that involved the most powerful of the Christian nations in a bloody war. The struggle begun in August, 1914, has assumed proportions unlooked for even during the closing days of that memorable year and the threatened advance on Egypt clearly indicates that the offensive has not yet been wrested from a terrible foe. The British people assumed at the outset that the struggle would be short, bloody and decisive, and though titanic efforts were put forth to enlist, arm, and train the hope and pride of the nation to achieve this glorious victory, in the light of the knowledge we have today, these mighty efforts are puny in comparison with the sacrifices that have yet to be made. A measure of conscription is about to be authorized in England and Scotland. This is a logical step following the industrial organization and in the course of time it is probable that Canada and other British Dominions and colonies will adopt similar measures to augment the forces already raised.

Mistakes have been many and costly on the part of the enemy as well as on our side and the present cabinet crisis in Britain is but a symbol of the resolve on the part of the British peoples that there shall be no needless repetition of the follies of 1915. Lessons learned in warfare are costly in human lives and treasure and make a lasting impression on the national life.

Experienced military leaders are authority for the statement that in the dying hours of 1915 the enemies' strength is on the wane. This public is anxious to believe, but there is no evident intent to allow such impression to interfere with the most thorough program of military preparations that the world has ever seen. The lesson of preparedness that Germany gave the world has been well learned, and the Allies have agreed that no separate peace shall be made by any of them, thus ensuring the completion of the gigantic task embarked on a year and a half ago with but little thought of the ultimate cost.

The New Year will certainly see the Allies a long way nearer the winning post than the birth of 1915, and ere its demise the ultimate goal should be within the range of vision or even the shortsighted.

In a material way, the year 1915 has dealt kindly with the Dominion of Canada. The financial readjustment has been largely achieved. The wave of optimism so largely capitalized by Western Canadians, has been succeeded by a clearer, saner vision. Property is now rated according to its earning power and gambling is no longer an occupation of thousands who should have been engaged in productive occupations. The wonderful crop has been largely marketed and the proceeds turned into proper chan-

nels of trade, stimulating and reviving legitimate business. The temporary activity in the manufacture of war munitions has provided employment to men in lines greatly depressed.

In war and the cost of war Canada has learned considerable. A comparatively large army has been raised, equipped, partially trained and dispatched overseas. Some of the finished product of war is shown in long casualty lists, the records of memorable deeds and in human derelicts. Mothers and fathers, wives and children have received the news of the death of loved and valiant ones, with Spartan courage, and have faced the new conditions of life thrust on them bravely and without lamentations, counting the loss of nearest and dearest as lives forfeited in the true service of the Master.

The mad hatred of the enemy from which injurious effects were anticipated has not raised its venomous head in Canada, though as the Canadian casualty lists grow there is less of a willingness to presuppose good intent on the part of the enemy people in our land and a growing disposition to treat them with severity and remove from their ken opportunities for mischief making.

To the women of Canada as well as to the men has come a breath of vision denied in less strenuous times. They have risen to their opportunities for service with true womanly courage and wherever the lion's whelps face the foe their thoughtful assistance evokes words of warmest praise and thankfulness for such a noble womanhood. In a larger degree than ever before women are carrying the burden of the nation. New opportunities in business and professional life have been opened to them and they have not been slow in adapting themselves. They have borne a noble part in their attitude towards recruiting, and though they have watched the departure of sons and husbands with aching hearts, they have never urged any less than that a man should do his whole duty, as he sees it. In relief and patriotic work, they have performed wonders as well as providing for the heartening and comfort of the men in the trenches to a much greater degree than military plans take cognizance of. On the women of Canada and the Empire the war has had an enriching and ennobling influence. To the higher things of life they have turned in a marked degree, in the year now closing.

A spirit of service, an understanding of the inward meaning of the word, has been vouchsafed to the people of this fair land and thousands who formerly wasted their health and happiness in the pursuit of selfish pleasures are working by day and planning at night, to be of some assistance to their less fortunate fellows. True as this is with reference to the dying year, 1915, will undoubtedly see many more lives consecrated to the service of suffering humanity and a more universal spirit of service aroused. This will tend to offset the callousness arising from the cheapening of human life incidental to a world-wide war.

In the Province of Manitoba the year 1915 has been a memorable one in many phases of life. The political and social life of the people has been purged and cleansed. Once proud leaders have been shown as very human and frail. Social, political and economic questions in the light of a world catastrophe have assumed a different aspect. Reform movements have made strides impossible under a less aroused public conscience, the whole tending towards better conditions of life.

In civic circles the end of the year brings few changes. The same wise councillors who guided the city through trying days of the year 1915 will govern. There will be no great public undertaking accomplished or undertaken, but attention to detail and the smaller outlays should improve the financial condition and put the civic finances on a more satisfactory basis. In the midst of a general prosperity this may at times be a difficult undertaking, but the civic fathers are equal to the task.

Into the life of the average citizen the year 1915 will bring many changes. With the possibility of a modified measure of conscription and the certainty that larger numbers of the virile youth will take up the defense of home and loved ones, an even greater sobering influence will be felt. As the spring days come and go and great offensive measures are launched against the dreadful Hun, personal sorrows will be merged into national mourning. This the wise mother, thoughtful father and loving wife glimpse as they bid farewell to khaki-clad lads or wait anxiously for casualty lists or letters from gallant men whose last message they all unwittingly received some time previously. The prospects that the enemy may be driven within the borders of their own lands and that they be even conquered and subdued in the coming year is the one great prospect, of a beam of dawning sunlight in a weary world dripping in gore. That we shall have a victorious peace in 1916 is the hope which springing eternal in the human breast makes life worth living.

WELCOME VISITORS

Brandon is entertaining this week a gathering of men whose importance in the development of the Province of Manitoba cannot be over-estimated—the grain growers and live stock breeders. Several hundred members of the various breeders' associations and the grain growers have arrived and more are coming on every train to participate in the educational program that has been provided. Our friends from the rural districts are not out for a holiday, they have come to Brandon actuated by a sincere desire to increase their own efficiency and add to their knowledge of their industry. The gathering is composed of the leading men in their various lines of agricultural life in the province and has been eagerly anticipated for some time. The addresses are made to careful, thoughtful hearers, who are weighing with critical care each statement by the experts who are giving the principal addresses.

While the assembled agriculturists are not out for a holiday, each one of them plans some little relaxation from the routine of the daily round on the farm and following his own particular bent is seeking it. The citizens of Brandon should as far as possible assist in making their stay in the city pleasurable and profitable. It should always be borne in mind that each breeder or grain grower is a business man whose good will and patronage is of material advantage to this city and every courtesy should be extended to them.

ENEMY FAILURES

There are two ways of looking at the war, one of them favorable to Germany, the other cheering to the Allies. If we regard the fact that in sixteen months of fighting Germany has occupied enemy territory as great in extent as the German Empire, that an enemy population of perhaps 30,000,000 is under her control, that with the exception of her colonies and a little strip of Alsace there has been no fighting on the Continental soil of Germany, it is not to be denied that the powerful German war machine has achieved wonderful results. On the other hand, Germany has not won a single decisive victory since the war began. She has destroyed Belgium and with her allies has overrun Serbia, but it was not to destroy Belgium or Serbia that she went to war. One of her objects was to destroy the Belgian and Serbian campaigns she has lost as many soldiers as she has killed and captured.

Germany's first great failure occurred a little more than a month after the war began, when she was defeated at the battle of the Marne, and was blocked in her advance upon Paris. Had she succeeded in breaking through and occupying the French capital she would have been in a position to inflict enormous losses upon the Allies, although even this capture would not have been decisive, so long as the French armies remained in the field. Another crushing failure was the escape of the Russian armies. She seized Russian Poland, but merely added to her difficulties, since she greatly increased the length of her front and the line of her communications. But future historians are likely to say that Germany's great failure occurred upon August 5th, 1914, when the British Grand Fleet put to sea. In such strength that Germany dared not attack it. Her efforts with her submarines are a credit to the ingenuity of her marine engineers as they are a lasting disgrace to those who permitted the attacks upon merchant vessels. Against the capital ships the attacks of the submarines were in vain, and when the submarines failed Germany's whole navy failed. If it should require ten years to crush Prussian militarism the fact remains that so long as the British navy commands the seas victory for Germany is an impossibility.

A CRISIS PASSING

The successful passing of a political crisis is seldom noted in official statements, but is reflected in unofficial reports. It is satisfactory to find, in the dispatches from London, that the political tension there has been relieved and disturbers rebuked by the discovery of a way out of the difficulties brought forward by the question of conscription.

The decision of the government, to introduce a moderate form of conscription, ought to please both sides of the controversy. The conscriptionists will regard it as "the thin end of the wedge," while those opponents of compulsory service will rejoice in the failure of the most determined attempt yet made to commit the nation to unrestricted conscription.

With the passing of this crisis, the political air should be cleared to a considerable extent. The government, having withstood the storm, should become stronger. Mr. Asquith's coming announcement will be awaited with interest, but without that feeling of concern noted so widely of late.

The attitude of the labor men is the uncertain element, and yet labor representatives have said nothing in the past incompatible with the acceptance of Mr. Asquith's new legislation if it is put forward in the right way.

SYSTEM AT FAULT

Lloyd George recently told the trades unionists in Glasgow that unless they are allowed the employment of more unskilled workmen, "Either we must tell the soldiers that we are sorry that we cannot get the guns to enable them to continue throughout 1916, owing to the trade union regulations, or we must tell them that if they manage to hold out for another year perhaps American workmen will help us get a sufficient supply for 1917." On Sunday a returning Canadian officer told an interviewer in St. John that "In munitions and artillery already the British army is vastly superior to the Germans."

In this conflict of opinion it has to be supposed that the Minister of Munitions knows what he is talking about, and that the officer was giving merely a local impression gathered from events along the part of the line where he had been employed. This divergence of view is no greater than has been common among British ministers, members of parliament, officers and newspaper editors. At the war began, as to the requirements in men and munitions.

The fault is not in the parties giving the opinions but in the system the British authorities have been trying to follow. Under the German system the Government tells everyone what to do and he does it whether he wants to or not. In France the Government frankly announces what must be done if France is to be saved, and every one does his part because he does not want France to be killed. In Britain and Canada someone has been declaring one day, with an appearance of knowledge, that things are going admirably; and some one else the next day has been shouting that unless we do more we are beaten.

National efficiency may be attained under direction of a wise tyranny; or by the voluntary effort of people who know exactly what they must do to be saved. It cannot reasonably be hoped for under a system which urges them to greater efforts while they are at the same time being told that greater efforts are not necessary.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

The past year will be memorable in Canadian annals because it witnessed the opening for traffic of two new transcontinental railways. In the Dominion, namely the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern. In other times such events as these would be deemed to be remarkable evidences of Canadian progress, as indeed they are; but as part of the British Empire we have had our attention so concentrated upon what has been transpiring in the Old World, that the addition of two great arteries of transportation to our existing facilities received only passing attention. The opening of these railways cannot have a revolutionary effect such as resulted from the opening of the Canadian Pacific, but they will do a great deal toward the development of Canada.

JOHN KNOWS FINANCE

When it comes down to finance, your uncle, John Bull, knows all the tricks "and then some." A few weeks ago we were told that the British Government proposed to mobilize the securities held by the people, and the probability is that not one person in a hundred knew what this meant. What follows will illustrate it. John, by reference to his income tax returns, can tell pretty accurately what American securities are held by the people of the United Kingdom. He also knows that these securities yield about four and one-half per cent. on an average, and so he says to the holder: "Lend us those securities for a couple of years and I will give you my bonds for them and pay you five per cent." This looks good to Mr. Holder and he takes the bonds and lends the securities. Then John carries a bundle of them over to New York and puts them up as security for a loan at four per cent. He does not take the money home with him because he wants, it to use in America. How this works out is as follows: John has paid the British holder of the securities five per cent. and he pays the American lender of the money four per cent.; but he gets a four and one-half per cent on the borrowed securities, which makes the net cost to him for the borrowed money four and one-half instead of five per cent., or more than he would have to pay if he were borrowing cash on bonds. Moreover, as borrowing money on high class securities in an ordinary banking transaction there are no brokerage or underwriting fees to be paid. John has already borrowed \$50,000,000 in this way, and in the two years for which the loan will run he will have saved about \$1,000,000 just because he knows how to finance. You may be able to "teach your grandmother to show eggs"; it may be possible to show John methods in raising armies, but you can't teach Uncle John anything about financing.

A REVISED GERMAN VIEW

Writing to the German press, Herr Ballin, director-general of the Hamburg-American line and close friend of the Kaiser, calls it "a cruel and idiotic war." This is a different attitude towards war than the one taken by those German professors and philologists with the impossible names who convinced their German people that to fight was the highest national inspiration.

Herr Ballin himself is in a good position to pronounce upon the folly of the war from Germany's standpoint. As head of the Hamburg-American line, he finds his ships tied up in the harbor, with the sailors eating their heads off. Worse than that, the German navy is in the same position. From the standpoint of Herr Ballin, it is surely a cruel and idiotic war.

When pan-Germans like this one begin describing the war as "cruel and idiotic," it is time to take note of material successes for the Allies. When they toasted "Der Tag," the Germans did not think they were celebrating some future April 1st.

THE MOVIES

Though it is only a few years since the business of film-producing was established, it has grown by gigantic leaps and bounds, the extent of which can be judged more readily by the comparison of the sums of money spent in picture production than and now. Los Angeles is the recognized big home of the picture show in America and the history of picture-making there is characteristic of the business in any of the producing centres.

Film production had its start in a very humble manner. "The Count of Monte Cristo" was the first play to be staged, and the very first picture actor, so we are told, was an erstwhile hypnotist in a dime museum, who agreed to give his services for the sum of \$150. For this magnificent remuneration he had to endanger his life by plunging into the surf from a large rock, so that the moving picture might be taken coming up out of the deep and foaming waters. Unfortunately the water was deeper than the actor expected, and he was no swimmer. The undertow carried him out to sea, and out of the film as well and bringing him back, battered him upon the rocks. He was very game, however, and realizing that a reel of film had been spoiled consented to do the thing over again for fifty cents. In those early days it cost just \$300 to stage "Carmen," actors, scenery, costumes, properties, the raw film and salaries of producers, all included. Now, only a few years since this modest beginning, the sum of \$15,000,000 is spent in Los Angeles annually in the production of films.

GERMAN INFLUENCE IN U.S.

In considering the attitude of politicians in the United States to the world war, and politicians dominate Federal and State Councils, Canadians have paid little attention to the political factors in that great democracy. The following statement from the Fatherland, that noble assistant to the father of lies, is instructive.

"Mr. Wilson is practically an Englishman. Moreover, he believes that from the point of view of the Democratic party the German-American vote is a negligible quantity. His closest political adviser has assured the editor of the Fatherland that only twenty per cent of the German-American vote is Democratic, while eighty per cent is Republican."

"Mr. Roosevelt's position is more difficult to understand. Mr. Roosevelt cannot be blind to the importance of the German-American vote. Moreover, Mr. Roosevelt, unlike Mr. Wilson, is not an Englishman. His dislike of the English was so pronounced that he found it necessary when he entered the White House to make a secret pledge to himself not to let his anti-party interfere with his duties. Mr. Roosevelt did not discover his English heart until the Morgan interest made our country a base of supplies for the Allies."

"Evidently Mr. Roosevelt treasures the good will of the Morgan interests which have been 'so friendly' to him more than the German-American vote. Or perhaps Mr. Roosevelt is acting under a mental obsession. Perhaps he is not a free agent. He certainly underestimates the intelligence of the German-American voter. If he deludes himself into the belief that a few patronizing references to German efficiency can atone for his incessant slanders of Germany and the Germans."

DO NOT FORGET BELGIUM

Canada is asked to do something for Belgium and the Belgians. The appeal is a most powerful one, whether it is based on humanity, on justice, on international law and order, on policy in the highest sense.

Germany is fully aware of the strength of the Belgian case, as is proved by Dr. Bethmann-Hollweg's silly attempt to compare Albert of Belgium with Constantine of Greece, and to speak as if the Allies going to the aid of Serbia were in the same position as Germany seeking to strike France through Belgium.

Belgium is the type of the keeper of faith, the upholder of international law, the martyr of international justice. We must never forget Belgium. If we should do so we should weaken our hold upon the great principle for which we entered this war, which alone can justify war.

We are asked to give, not in the name of justice alone, but in the name of humanity, "a bag of flour." So much for a Belgian family; so little for Canadians, whose production of wheat runs into hundreds of millions of bushels. The money value is placed at two dollars and a half. A bag of flour may mean two months of life to some Belgian woman or child. The Belgian case is our case. The voice of humanity and the voice of justice plead for Belgium.

LEST WE FORGET

We have read somewhere that next to a certain catchy tune with absolutely meaningless words, the most popular song with the soldiers at the front is "Keep the Home Fires Burning." The writer who tells this says it is popular not only because of the haunting melody, but because it expresses the unspoken hope of those who are far from us. That their thoughts turn homeward often we may feel well assured, and that they may wonder what we, who must stay at home, are doing against the time when we shall welcome them again is as certain as anything can be. A Brandon boy occasionally in his letters home shows by something he incidentally says, that in the arduous hours he spends in the face of the enemy, he finds time to ask himself if when he comes back he will find things just as they were when he left. He may even try to surmise what we may be doing to make his homeland better worth the sacrifices which so many of its sons are freely offering. Let us do what he sings and "Keep the Home Fires Burning."

ANOTHER NOTE

President Wilson of the United States has another diplomatic trouble on his hands, this time more serious than any which preceded it.

On Saturday an unknown submarine torpedoed a British P. and O. liner in the Mediterranean. The dastardly deed was accomplished without warning, the submarine not even being seen by any of the passengers or on the victim. Among those lost was a United States consul.

Of course, following his usual practice, President Wilson will wait before writing a note until it is shown what flag the submarine flew, and whether there was warning given. In this case he may have to wait a long time to discover an answer to the first of these queries; possibly he will never find out.

But why should he wait? There are four nations at war against the Allies just now, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey are all their sworn enemies. Undoubtedly the underworld craft belonged to one of these four. With Germany and Austria the United States has already had its submarine argument. In the case of the others the directing influence in matters of war is German. German generals head the land forces of both Bulgaria and Turkey and German naval officers are in charge of the Turkish navy.

In the final analysis Germany is responsible for what is done by any one or all of the members of the Central Powers quartette. And it is to Germany that President Wilson should look for an answer to this last exhibition of Teutonic frightfulness. There comes a time when patience, either in the individual or the state, ceases to carry on it the brand of virtue and becomes rather a symbol of weakness and cowardice. In the minds of many that time is rapidly approaching for the United States in its dealings with the great would-be world autocrat of Europe.

OPEN COMMITTEES

The decision by the City Council of the deciding vote of Mayor Cater, to hold open committee meetings, is a step forward. It is an announcement by the Council that one year in office has convinced a majority of them of the advisability of so conducting public business as to avoid every breath of suspicion. The 1916 Council, elected by acclamation, the greatest possible endorsement, have taken a great step forward. They have nothing to hide, they proclaim by their action and their proclamation is accepted in the spirit in which it is made. An auspicious opening for the new year.

Letters of Interest

Editor Brandon Sun:
Sir:

Under the heading of Charges Against Parks Board Superintendent Not Substantiated, in issue of 28th inst., we would like to ask why the resignation of the Parks Board Superintendent was not mentioned in your article? On the charges having been made, when at a recent meeting called to hear the same, the above mentioned Superintendent sent in his resignation and it was read by the City Clerk. Was that not an admission of his guilt? If he were innocent would he not have been there in his own defence instead of the course he chose? The writer was present to answer any question the board might ask on the subject. The matter was then shelved, but at a meeting of a part of the Parks Board on Monday, 27th inst., I was not invited to be present to defend the charges which to a great extent were refuted by the Superintendent.

As to the columbines, I would ask where were these plants grown? Who cared for them? Where are they now? Would not an estimate of ten cents each be a very good price for 1,500 plants "a few inches high, when half an ounce of seed was donated to the city and that nearly a year after the labor had been performed on city time for the Parks Board Superintendent on his private property. We would also ask you to look into time spent at this work to see how it compares with the amount mentioned by the Superintendent.

I would ask how Mr. Shivers estimates my time, when the man who started two and a half days later was paid twenty-five cents per hour was paid full time when I was only allowed twenty cents per hour after being paid all other charges at twenty-seven and one-half cents per hour which I was hired this year for. Further, I am ready to go before the Parks Board at any time and can prove my charges if given a chance.

Trusting you will find room in your valuable paper, I am,

Yours respectfully,
H. F. McCORMICK.
Brandon, December 28th.

Elton Municipality

The first meeting of Elton Council was held in Forrest Hall on Tuesday, January 4th. The members present were: Councillors Brooks, McGregor, Robertson, McDougall and Webster, with John Crawford, Reeve, in the chair. After the newly elected members had signed their declaration papers, the Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting and on motion of C. E. McDougall and John Webster, were declared carried.

Communications were received from C. W. Rowley re Boy Scout Movement, Aid Society, Relief Fund and the Children's Aid Society, asking for grants that they may be able to continue their work; and Dr. R. Waugh, Carberry re account.

J. Webster—C. E. McDougall—That Dr. J. H. Edmond be appointed Health Officer for 1916.

A. M. Robertson—D. S. McGregor—That M. C. Werner, J. G. Davidson and H. L. Powers be re-appointed constables for 1916.

C. E. McDougall—John Webster—That each councillor be and are hereby appointed road commissioners for their respective wards.

D. T. McGregor—F. Brooks—That the assessment roll of 1915 be revised and adopted for 1916.

A. M. Robertson—F. Brooks—That the Secretary is hereby instructed to notify Dr. Waugh that the Council is not responsible for the account rendered.

J. Webster—C. E. McDougall—That the communication from the Boy Scout movement be filed.

C. E. McDougall—A. M. Robertson—That we grant the sum of \$25.00 to the Children's Aid Society.

D. T. McGregor—John Webster—That we grant the sum of \$200.00 to Belgium Relief Fund.

D. T. McGregor—F. Brooks—That the financial statement of the Secretary-Treasurer for the month of December showing a cash balance on January 1st of \$3,572.23, be accepted.

C. E. McDougall—A. M. Robertson—That the Reeve and Councillor Webster be a delegation to interview the Government re grant for road improvement purposes.

D. T. McGregor—F. Brooks—The Secretary is instructed to write the School Boards within the municipality for an expression of opinion re Medical Inspection of Schools.

C. E. McDougall—John Webster—That the following accounts be paid: J. M. Allan, election expenses, \$43.00; Hon. T. D. Cumberland, certifying voters' lists, \$3.00.

J. Webster—D. T. McGregor—That we now adjourn to meet at Forrest on Tuesday, February 29, 1916.

J. M. ALLAN, Sec. Treas.

The mosquito isn't the only bore who sings at his work.

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