

WEEKLY SUN

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

In civic circles the end of the new year brings few changes. The same wise councillors who guided the city through trying days of the year 1915 will govern.

Into the life of the average citizen the year 1916 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.

With the passing of this 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.

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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.

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 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.

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, and 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.

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.

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.

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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."

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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."

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.

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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.

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LETTERS OF INTEREST

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.

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 or 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. Shriver estimated 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.

The first meeting of Elton Council was held in Forrest Hall on Tuesday, January 4th. The members present were: Councilors 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, Belgian 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. R. Waugh that the Council is not responsible for the account rendered.

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 \$1.50. 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.

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.

We believe that Mr. Wilson is misinformed. We think that more than twenty per cent of the German-Americans normally vote the Democratic ticket.

But there can be no doubt that the German-American vote is the backbone of the Republican party. No Democratic candidate can be elected without the solid South. No Republican can be elected without the German-Americans and the Swedes of the Northwest. It is conceivable that Mr. Wilson may be elected in spite of the German-Americans; it is inconceivable that any Republican can reach the White House without the German-American vote.

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 it is rapidly approaching for the United States in its dealings with the great world-wide world autocrat of Europe.

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.

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

Service First. You want competent, honest service. When you get that you get what you pay for, whether it's shoes or an eye examination. Otherwise you are cheated either by yourself or the other fellow. BE HONEST WITH YOUR EYES. They serve you well. They are worth thousands of dollars. When they are in distress, and need help, do not be stingy with them. Give them the best service money can buy. There's the kind of service everyone gets from— CROWE "The Eye Expert" McKenzie Bldg. Ground Floor. 36 NINTH ST. PHONE 1212