

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1916.

MARKING TIME.

The failure of the Borden Government in the matter of recruiting and enlistment has now become such a commonplace that it has ceased almost to be a matter for special comment. But at the same time, the situation in some districts, particularly in Ontario, is far more unsatisfactory than is generally understood. Startling figures were recently made public with respect to the state of recruiting in the Second Toronto Military Division, by Lieut.-Col. Williams, Chief Recruiting Officer. Colonel Williams gave the figures showing the present strength of the twenty-eight battalions still at Camp Borden. It is shown that not one of all these battalions is up to its strength of 1,118 men. There is a total shortage of 8,639 men, or an average of 380 men to a battalion.

That military division has already raised 2,500 men over its estimated quota of the 500,000 that the Prime Minister declared Canada would raise in all. Yet these twenty-eight battalions were authorized, they were organized, and a vast deal of labor and expense has been devoted by those belonging to them (and all their friends) to the work of recruiting. The personal efforts of the soldiers and their friends have not availed, evidently, because nearly all those who voluntarily step forward, and all those open to the persuasion and argument of recruiting agents are already enrolled. The present strength of the eight Toronto battalions at Camp Borden is given as follows:

Batt. No.	Strength.	Required.
166th	947	171
170th	792	326
180th	957	161
198th	868	250
201st	518	600
204th	973	145
208th	851	267
216th	739	379

There is here a shortage of 2,299 men in these Toronto battalions. The twenty outside battalions stand as follows:

Batt. No.	Officers.	Strength.	Required.
110th Perth	30	713	405
114th Haldimand	33	874	244
118th Kitchener	34	618	500
122nd Muskoka	31	747	371
133rd Norfolk	31	789	329
142nd London	33	786	382
147th Grey	33	970	148
149th	32	837	281
157th Simcoe	32	1,056	62
159th Sudbury	33	1,083	35
161st Huron	31	832	295
162nd Dufferin	35	952	166
168th Oxford	31	835	283
173rd Hamilton	40	837	231
176th Niagara	33	801	317
177th Simcoe	30	778	340
186th Kent	31	688	430
205th Hamilton	32	585	533
213th American	27	383	725
228th Sudbury	35	875	243

That is to say, there is a shortage of 8,639 men in the twenty-eight battalions, or the strength of them all is but that of twenty-one battalions. There are more than enough officers, the number for each battalion having been reduced to 32. There are more than enough although, nearly 150 have been sent overseas in special drafts to there complete their training.

The Toronto Star which reproduces these figures, states that many of these battalions have been at a standstill for as long as five months, in the middle of the war—five months during which a battalion is not a battalion, and cannot train as one, during which a brigade is not a brigade and cannot train as a brigade.

"And during those five months," says the Star, "the Government has done nothing to improve recruiting and has even said nothing to encourage enlistment. All deputations urging the Government to take action have found the Prime Minister easy of access, open to conviction, ready to promise almost anything that was asked of him. But that is about all that has ever come of it. Sir Robert Borden has been deeply and earnestly considering the situation for five months, during which time throughout Canada scores of half-built battalions have been marking time and waiting to see what will turn up."

Over two months ago the Borden Government announced that it would put into effect new recruiting methods. All this time these twenty-eight battalions at Camp Borden, as doubtless many others in a similar position throughout the Dominion, have been waiting for some sign of the "new methods" which would bring their battalions up to strength, and enable them to proceed overseas. But, up to the present nothing so far as the public know, has been done! The Government is unwilling or lacks the courage or capacity to remedy this deplorable state of affairs. Is it any wonder that from the Atlantic to the Pacific Canadians are disgusted and sore at heart over all the muddling and incapacity of the men who compose what is miscalled a Government!

GERMAN PRISONERS.

The number of prisoners captured on the Somme and Verdun areas by the Allied forces is now well over 60,000. Mr. Warner Allen, the official British press representative with the French forces, who has access to the official figures, has given the total up to the end of August as 43,000. Since then the Allies have taken about 18,000 men, and more are coming in, so that the sum is now over 60,000. This is at least double the number captured in the Champagne-Loos offensive.

Prisoners are, in a military sense, the same as dead men, for they cannot possibly be combatants again in the present war, so the result in prisoners gives even more satisfaction than our capture of territory. Mr. Forster stated in the House of Commons in July that the number of British prisoners of war in German hands on June 20 was 25,350, and the number of German prisoners in British hands was 25,467. Since then the Germans have gained about a thousand and Britain has added about 20,000, so the balance is now heavily on the British side.

NEMESIS PURSUES.

The consistent, tireless push of the British troops in France must seem, as an American writer says, to the enemy, the most amazing thing in the war! The German home papers, voicing reports of their correspondents at the front have each week since the Allied drive began on July 1, announced that it had been finally checked or had worn itself out against Germany's invincibility. The Kaiser told his soldiers and the Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria repeated it that the troops facing the English had the honored position in being able to beat Germany's real enemy—England. The Kaiser set the fashion in August, 1914, with his reference to "General French's contemptible little army"—Prince Rupprecht responded with his first echo in the following November: "Soldiers! You must not now lose your energy in the fight with our most hated foe (England). You must finally break his pride. He is already tired out."

Naturally Prince Rupprecht and the Kaiser are too busy to recall such utterances—indulged in not only by themselves but by countless prophets, priests and kings. Nemesis has not overlooked it. The cause, of course, is in the fact that these leaders, living in Hate Street, believe they can stimulate effort in their troops by fooling them as to the strength of their enemies—a policy and purpose which has lost Germany every trick of the war and which now weakens her arm in the hour of her greatest necessity.

CLEARING SKIES.

Have we come to the grand, cross-roads in Canadian history? Have we at last set ourselves on the straight path of clean politics and decent public life? The signs have been very hopeful of late. The United States turned over a new leaf a full generation ago. Canada, which was first led astray by the American example, long stuck to the old course. Is she at last on the turn? It looks like it. The indications are that our people have found themselves politically, and are determined to extricate their country from the hands of corrupt partisanship, to be no longer the tools of self-seeking schemers, no matter by what catch-name they may call themselves.

Within a comparatively few months Manitoba has freed herself from the shackles of as corrupt a gang of political freebooters as has ever manifested its activities elsewhere than in the United States in the old days, or in British Columbia in the most recent. The people of Quebec and Nova Scotia have in turn, during the past summer, set the seal of their electoral approval upon Local Administrations which, after long searching trial, had proved their probity and worth. Prince Edward Island has all but freed itself from the governance of highly doubtful administrators. Notwithstanding the outcome of the Carleton bye-election, New Brunswick bids fair to fall into line with Manitoba and British Columbia at the earliest opportunity.

Gangrenous political spots have been disclosed, not directly in the Government but in the representative life of Saskatchewan. They are being dealt vigorously with by the Local Administration by means of a Commission and the law.

It matters not whether proved corruptionists—either for personal or alleged "political" purposes—call themselves Grits or Tories, every patriotic Canadian should rejoice at their exposure and due punishment. It is to the interest of none but the political thieves and blackmailers themselves that any of them escape the full consequences of their misdeeds.

In Federal politics Canada has had, on the whole, bad luck. It inherited the bad traditions of the old Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Neither New Brunswick nor Nova Scotia came regularly into the Union. "Conscience" had to be salvaged with money and position, from the start. And there were men in power who had no objections to adopting such means of gaining their ends. When known corruption at last developed into open scandal Parliament and the electorate at once revealed their innate wholesomeness. But they were unfortunate both in the time and in leaders. So it came to pass that after a few years they restored to power the very unrepentant party and leaders who had not only been condemned but convicted. The inevitable followed. Corruption immediately revived and became more brazen than ever. It enjoyed full freedom, year after year, until at last, in 1896, it sealed its own doom. Those years from 1878 to 1896 were the darkest in all its history.

When a change came in 1896 traditions of political crookedness were almost universal. But it must be admitted by even his opponents that Sir Wilfrid Laurier set himself most resolutely to stem the set of the tide. No one can or will claim that his Administration was immaculate. No one but an unreasoning partisan would assert that it was not above intentional wrongdoing. It kept itself free from serious scandal of any kind. It restrained its camp-followers to the utmost possible limit. It did its best for the good of the country. When it left office it did so with clean administrative hands.

Of what followed, it is not at present for us to speak. We are admittedly not impartial enough to expect to have our opinions accepted by the people at large without direct proof. We believe that such proof will be forthcoming in due time, in addition to what has already been presented. We believe that that proof will be so convincing that the electorate of the Dominion will range itself in line with the electorates of those Provinces which have already pronounced for clean politics and wholesome public life.

Should we be mistaken in this opinion, much for the near future of Canada will depend on the use which the Liberal Party may make of the next term of power accorded it by the electorate. Should that party suffer itself to fall into the hands of reckless, self-seeking politicians, or into those of any but men of the best character, and firmest rectitude, Canada would indeed be in a dangerous way, and its future might well be despaired of. If to turn one set of wrong-doers out of public office should come to be only to have them replaced by another set, almost or quite as bad, the people might naturally fall into despondency.

At present, however, there is far from any need for despair. On the contrary, there is the firmest ground for hope and confidence. The most happy electoral discrimination has of late been generally shown in Provincial politics. The people at last seem to be rising above unreasoning partisanship, and attaining a solid patriotic position. They are allowing themselves to be guided directly by history and experience. They have only to submit themselves to similar guidance in Federal affairs to free Canada, from the muddy days of the past, and set her feet upon the broad highway of honor and cleanliness towards the accomplishment of her high destiny.

HUMANITY'S LEADER.

In a recent article on Mr. Lloyd George in the Greek paper Patris, M. Ventiris gives an account of a conversation he had with M. Venizelos.

"I ventured the remark that Europe had not produced statesmen of sufficient ability to conduct this world-struggle. The leader of the Liberals (M. Venizelos) assured me that I was mistaken, and he mentioned to me the name of Lloyd George. He defined him as the type of 'contemporary political prophet.' He had made his acquaintance. He was certain that the Welsh lawyer, with passionate southern eloquence, had in his blood the stuff out of which statesmen are made. His was a prophetic physiognomy, combining the special virtues of the prophets of religions and the prophets of poetry with those of the superior statesmen. 'Do not worry, dear friend,' said M. Venizelos with an enigmatic twinkle of his blue eyes, 'in Lloyd George England has what she requires. Perhaps even humanity will find in him what it needs.'"

The funniest of recent German utterances is the protest in Berlin against the new British "tank" car on the ground that it is contrary to the usages of civilized warfare.

Writing of the Somme battle, Philip Gibbs, says: "The Canadians have gained great glory by their attack. The finely-organized French-Canadians went away like wolves. Though swept by machine guns, and meeting stubborn

defence, they carried a stronghold and captured hundreds of prisoners. The full story of the Canadian victory will thrill the great Dominion like a heroic song. They were careless of death, so that they might win."

Mr. Philip Gibbs, of the London Daily Chronicle, who stands without a peer among present day war correspondents, has already given us a story of the brilliant achievement of the Canadian troops in the attack on the Fleurs line, which will stir every Canadian heart, and now he sends an account of the heroic charge of the Guards which will fill every Briton with pride. Proud indeed we may be that the sons of Canada have again proved themselves worthy comrades of Britain's famous Guardsmen.

APPEARANCES.

You mustn't judge a person by the clothes that he may wear. You might have done so years ago, but now it isn't fair.

A man may be responsible and serious of mind, yet wear a little overcoat that's belted in behind.

He may be all profound of thought and yet display with joy.

A hat that looks as if intended for his youngest boy.

That the apparel oft proclaims the man has been believed.

But now the statement with a share of doubt must be received.

You mustn't trust appearances. At present you will see

A general effort to appear like twenty-two or three;

And those who put on glasses and look solemn, as a rule,

Are principally youngsters who are not yet out of school.

As has been wisely said, this world is but a fleeting show;

We are optical illusions, as upon parade we go. And perhaps it's just as well for us to do the best we can,

And help improve the scenery upon the modern plan.

—Washington Star.

THE DESERTED PASTURE.

I love the stony pasture That no one else will have, The old grey rocks, so friendly seem, So durable and brave.

In tranquil contemplation It watches through the year, Seeing the frosty stars arise, The slender moon appear.

Its music is the rain-wind, Its choristers the birds, And there are secrets in its heart Too wonderful for words.

It keeps the bright-eyed creatures That play about its walls, Though long ago its milking herds Were banished from their stalls.

Only the children come there, For butter cups in May, Or nuts in the autumn, where it lies Dreaming the hours away.

Long since its strength was given To making good increase, And now its soul is turned again To beauty and to peace.

There in the early springtime The violets are blue, And adder-tongues in coats of gold Are garmented anew.

There bayberry and aster Are crowded on its floors, When marching summer halts to praise The Lord of Out-of-doors.

And there October passes In gorgeous livery,— In purple ash, and crimson oak, And golden tulip tree.

And when the winds of winter Their bugle blasts begin, The snowy hosts of heaven arrive To pitch their tents therein.

—Bliss Carman.

WHERE "DUTY" FAILS.

A life constrained by duty is a life of bondage. It is not a life lived in the glorious liberty of sons of God. When the love of Christ constrains, duty is always done,—in full, abounding measure,—but it is never done as a "duty." For another spelling of duty is "law," and it is holding many an earnest Christian in daily bondage. "A day of faith unflinching, trust complete Of love unfeigned and perfect charity, Of hope undimmed, of courage past dismay, Of heavenly peace, patient humility,— No hint of duty to constrain my feet, No dream of ease to lull to listlessness. . ."

—The Orange Sentinel.

WHEN A JOKE IS NOT A JOKE.

Everybody condemns the angry man or woman who shoots at boys and girls caught in the act of stealing fruit from the trees, and these same people would highly commend the sending to jail of the same lawless children if they were caught stealing identically the same fruit after it had been put on sale in a store. Many people take to horticulture in the later period of life. It takes a year for a crop of apples, pears or grapes or any other popular fruit to ripen, it takes several years to start the trees. A bunch of little thieves can in one day destroy the efforts of a whole year made by some one who has very few years left. To the grower of the trees it is an immeasurable disappointment. To the public it's a joke on the old man. The question is why in the world the joke doesn't extend to the grocer? Why let lawless children help themselves from the baskets in his store? It's the same peaches.—Hartford Courant.

A DEVIL WAGON OF WAR.

In the steel-clad car which the British have launched against the German militarism gives birth to a new monster. General Haig terms it a "super-dreadnought of the land," and perhaps it is best visualized by conceiving of a rude battleship such as the old Confederate ram Merrimac cruising over a battle-field, smashing trees, crushing everything before it and belching forth death into the enemy trenches. Or again, it is a steel-ribbed armadillo or a mammoth mechanical caterpillar, according to the bent of the imagination. Yet from any point of view it is a very devil wagon of war, well exemplifying the Chinese military principle of terrifying the enemy. No doubt the Germans in the trenches when this devastating monster descended upon them, may have felt as the Trojans felt when the wooden horse disgorged the mail-clad Greeks. Here was something worthy of Essen, an enemy war-device matching their own great guns and poisonous gas in novelty and deadliness.

And in fact, in the matter of making a business of war, the Allies appear to have fully caught up with their foe. The lessons of Prussian preparedness with war machinery have been learned and applied, and there is no longer the old inequality of munitions and artillery. In the creation of this deadly and grotesque fighting monster, British inventive genius must be said to have outdone even Krupp resourcefulness.—New York Herald.

A TAX ON CATS.

The idea of taxing of house cats seems never to have occurred to local ministers of finance and makers of revenue, yet the dog has long been a subject for municipal revenue. There are many people who would vote that the cat is a legitimate subject for taxation. In addition to the unearthly noise they are capable of when "civilized" animals are asleep, they are chicken thieves and do damage to plants in gardens. Also they are purveyors of disease germs. Just at present New York State is in the midst of a campaign against felines. In Syracuse alone over 1,000 cats were destroyed in 2 weeks. The infantile paralysis epidemic is believed to be transmitted by the house cat.—Bowmanville Statesman.

ECONOMY.

These be economical times! From the high places in Ottawa the cry has gone forth to "save, save, save," and the people proceed to conduct themselves accordingly. But each man does it in his own peculiar way. A Dominion Minister figured that living is cheaper in England, so he crosses the ocean and does his saving by touring Scotland and Ireland. And that his economy may be more far-reaching in its effects, he takes along a couple of secretaries and an aide. A provincial Premier and an Opposition leader also discover that economy is bettered by the absent treatment, and proceed to spend their time and money amidst the enlightening influences of the British Isles.

The spirit of economy as propagated by the leaders is evidenced by their followers. A Canadian parliamentary delegation recently viewed London, the trenches and other points of interest in the Old World, while a similar party from Australia is at present doing Canada.

Corporations, not having souls, act differently. The coal man decides that economy is such a good thing that it should not be confined to the few, so he does his bit towards spreading it broadcast by raising the price of coal. The meat baron helps along the good work by boosting the price of meat. Even nature furnishes a little aid by curtailing crop production. The net result is that the ordinary wage-earning individual must economize or starve. He economizes. All of which goes to show that calls from high places do not fall upon deaf ears.—Toronto Telegram.

FIRE INQUIRY BEEN CONDUCTED

Johnson Brothers money at Bank Inquiry

The inquiry into the fire which destroyed the Johnson Brothers' money at Bank Inquiry was conducted yesterday by the available evidence. Acting fire marshal conducted the examination. W. C. Mikel, K.C. livernmen.

Mayor H. F. K. that he was in the burned building three companies. The policy on the \$2,500. Percy more insurance but not granted as the thought sufficient. ness of an attempt place but he (himself) trace of fire. Witness This was probably fore the fire. The ed at \$2,250. After claimed the loss was 000. Asked as to how might have been discovered Mr. R. and witness said he thought the stable ed. He did not go before the discovery. "How long after go down the street you noticed the fire?" "I don't think it minutes."

To Mr. Mikel, he saw Percy Johnson heard Mr. Laffer noise as of horses to Sergeant F. J. N. talk a month before Mayor Ketcheson report that Percy Johnson as to attempted firing. The sergeant inquired who pointed out a separate fire he said ed. Percy did not po that would lead to Percy thought the eleven horses burned he said the destroyed cluded six horses, one eleven buggies, one hack, fifteen cutter slings, two express baggage sleighs, one one jaggig cart, 23 fifteen strings of bells, two dozen whips, two five rubber robes, paints, oils and yarn articles.

Joseph Lasse, em C.N.O.R. was called little testimony as to town on the night of Mr. A. S. Largo, said that for three months August 14th, five loas Johnson Bros. passed ket scales, none of The last load in Ju been new cut hay.

Frank Johnson, one ners of Johnson Bros, he returned to the pre and went away to De his auto. He was not that evening. Witness of the small fire nor of until told later.

Witness knew of no any threats, or having the building. On the 14th of Aug between \$800 and \$8 they owed the Standar and the others about \$ About one hundred do was also owed.

The barn contained loads of hay and one nity bushels of oats. S hay was green. He could give no re fire.

Edward Bolyea, who scavenger, testified that 15th he found six carom mams in the burned b removed them to the g ring lot.

Percy Johnson swore the fire he had driven Foxboro, arriving at the twenty-five to ten in George Taylor was in the Percy went in. He horse and then all wen stood at the front a horse drove in at about tween that time and 9. out with the grey mare matters up to Ann stree round by Dundas, Ann. Front took about fifteen He was not smoking that evening.

He had previously st fire himself in the hay was at 3 a.m. and the v and they were within a of one another. No one posed to be there. Both were reported to the pol insurance agent.