

Journal of Commerce

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MONTREAL, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1915.

Heligoland

Heligoland, to which the Kaiser is said to have gone in order to supervise the commencement of the submarine blockade of Great Britain, was given by Great Britain to Germany twenty-five years ago by Lord Salisbury in exchange for a track of jungle and swamp on the Zanzibar coast of East Africa. At that time Great Britain evidently thought that the little L-shaped island in the North Sea was of little or no importance, especially as it was crumbling away under the buffeting of the North Sea waves. At the time Germany was laughed at for making such a bargain, and was openly told that in a few generations Heligoland would be only a flat desolate sand dune, hardly distinguishable from the surrounding sea.

As soon as Germany obtained possession of the island, she set to work and buttressed it on every side with ferro-concrete. Breakwaters have been constructed, a naval harbor built, while from armored casemates and sunken batteries immense Krupp guns sweep the sea for miles in every direction. This work has taken millions of dollars, but Germany believes that the money has been well spent.

The island of Heligoland lies twenty-six miles from the Elbe, Elba and Weser Rivers, and has been made into a veritable Gibraltar. It forms the nucleus around which the whole naval programme of the German Empire evolves, and defends the entrance to the Kiel Canal, and guards the doorway to Germany's great commercial port, Hamburg. In addition to being a naval base, it also possesses great Zeppelin dirigible stations.

The island is connected with Germany by submarine cable, while the sea for miles around in every direction is heavily mined. Since it came into the possession of the Germans in 1890, the island has been practically reconstructed. Great granite buttresses sixteen feet thick and two hundred and forty feet high surround it on all sides. Even the fissures in its cliffs have been bound and filled up with thousands of tons of ferro-concrete. The Krupp guns mounted on the island are said to have cost \$10,000,000, while its forty-eight fathom roadstead can hold the entire German fleet. This base is one hundred miles nearer England than any other of the German naval stations. In fact, the island has become one of the strongest fortified stations in the world, and is provisioned to stand a siege of years. Millions of rounds of every class of ammunition, mines, torpedoes, airplanes, and submarines have all been gathered there in order to make this little island—scarcely three miles in circumference—one of the world's strongest fortresses. When the war is over Heligoland must revert to Great Britain.

An Indiscreet Governor

A remarkable piece of news recently received is that which tells of an unpleasant incident in Australia. The Governor of South Australia, Sir Henry Galloway, according to a report from a London Times correspondent, "has been guilty of a grave indiscretion," having in a public speech "deprecated the Government's policy of a 'white Australia,' and urging the development of northern territory by colored labor."

It is to be noted, for the better understanding of the case, that in Australia the system of appointing Governors other than the Governor General of the Commonwealth, is different from that which exists in Canada. Here the Governors—or, as they are called, the Lieutenant-Governors—of the Provinces, are appointed by the Federal Government. In Australia the Governors of the Provinces—or States as they are called—are appointed by the Imperial Government. Thus the Colonial Office in London has a direct connection with the local governments of Australia such as does not exist in the case of Canada.

With its large experience in the management of colonial affairs the Colonial Office is usually able to send out men to fill colonial governorships who have been well schooled in the duties of constitutional government, and therefore the cases of "indiscretion" on the part of the appointees are not numerous. It sometimes happens that a Governor comes into conflict with his advisers, or with local public opinion, in matters which his position has strong lines of defence, and is not at variance with the Colonial Office ideas. Nevertheless if he is in conflict with his Ministers, or at variance with local public opinion, his influence is much impaired, and perhaps wholly destroyed. In such a case the Colonial Office will clarify the situation by transferring him to another field. He will not be marked for the displeasure of the Colonial Office—indeed, his transfer may be a promotion as respects the importance or the rank or the emoluments of his office—but his departure from the colony in which things are not going smoothly will be thus arranged for, and from his experience his successor will probably learn how to avoid the rocks on which the retiring Governor came to grief. In our Canadian gubernatorial system there are no similar means of dealing with such difficulties, for there is not the opportunity to transfer a Governor from one Province to another. If a Lieutenant-Governor should fall into difficulties with his Ministers, or with the Federal Government, we would have to fight the question out where he stood. Happily difficulties of this kind are very rare in Canada, and the need of an easy means of disposing of a Governor whose position has become uncomfortable has not been seriously felt.

Sir Henry Galloway, who has made the grave mistake in South Australia, is a military man. He is a Lieutenant-Colonel with a D.S.O. to his credit. Experience has shown that a military governor, unless blessed in a particularly large degree with the

saving grace of common sense, is more likely to fall into trouble than a man whose life has been spent in the Civil Service. The soldier, accustomed like the centurion of old, to issue his orders and receive the homage of obedience, may easily find himself chafing under administration of a system of government in which, in most matters, his authority is more nominal than real. There was a time when a representative of the Colonial Office could expect that in a distant colony his will would be recognized almost as law, his so-called advisers readily accepting his guidance and direction. But the age of democracy has put an end to all that. The wise Governor may, by the tactful exercise of his authority, acquire much influence with his Ministers, and may be able, without coming into conflict with them, to firmly insist upon a recognition of the authority of the Colonial Office. But a Governor who disregards the advice of his Ministers, but takes the liberty of publicly condemning their policy—as Sir Henry Galloway is reported to have done—proves that he is not the right man in the right place. Sir Henry was for a time Governor of St. Helena. It would seem that his ideas of governorship are more adapted to a colony of that class than to one of the States of a self-governing Dominion.

The privations of war are terrible. Berlin cafe owners will advance the price of beer.

Germany's navy, which is now in hiding, has proven to be a costly toy. In 1899, or sixteen years ago, she spent \$37,306,000 on her fleet, while last year she expended \$121,988,000. The total expenditure during that period was \$1,237,915,000, and yet this huge outlay of money has resulted in nothing tangible. Her fleet has been ineffective.

When Belgium refused to allow Germany to ride roughshod over her territory, and opposed her by force of arms, the Germans stated that she should have done as Luxembourg did, and allowed free passage to the German armies. Now Luxembourg, which submitted to the German demands, is appealing to the world for food in order to keep the people from starving to death. Evidently Luxembourg does not thrive under German "Kultur."

The United States expended last year \$94,229,000 on its army—a figure but slightly over half of the amount she contributed to her pension fund. Her soldiers who fought in former wars make a yearly tax on the United States treasury of \$174,483,000. This, with the yearly expenditure for the army, makes a total of over \$268,000,000. Germany's outlay for her army last year was \$292,000,000, France expended \$202,000,000, and Great Britain \$143,000,000. For the money expended Uncle Sam has the smallest army of any great nation in the world.

Great Britain has now \$4,000,000,000, or \$20,000,000,000 invested throughout the world, of which \$239,000,000 are invested in Latin America. Argentina takes the lead of these countries with \$270,000,000, which are invested very largely in railroad and tramway propositions. The British sovereign has gone into every corner of the globe, and has been a big factor in the development of the world's commerce and industry. Now in her hour of need she is able to finance herself and her allies with the interest from her foreign investments.

On this continent steps are being taken to cultivate the vacant land around our large cities. Practically every large centre of population possesses thousands of vacant lots, which, far from producing anything useful, simply grow weeds, and add to the unsightly appearance of the streets. These lots might far better be given over to the deserving poor who could grow thereon vegetables and other food-stuffs, which would materially assist them in solving the high cost of living. Municipal leadership in this matter is all that is required. Has not Montreal an alderman big enough to undertake the task?

An achievement in higher finance so remarkable as to have been impossible to other than the most expert Government financier has happened to the Post Office. British postal orders for 10s. are being exchanged in Montreal, and presumably all over Canada for a sum of \$2.43, while 5s. orders bring \$1.20. The Department having taken upon its shoulders the task of arithmetical readjustment, it is of course at once apparent that whereas 5s. is half of 10s, so also is \$1.20 the half of \$2.43! What ordinary individuals would regard as the odd cent will doubtless be useful in promulgating the teachings of the Government to the uninitiated—or in buying boots for the army.

The world's output of minerals in 1912 was valued at five billion dollars, of which coal contributed one half. The value of the gold produced was \$480,000,000, the British Empire contributing 61 per cent of the total. The United States led the world in the output of coal and iron, producing 481,000,000 tons of the former, and 30,685,000 tons of the latter. Great Britain came second with coal tonnage of 264,000,000, and Germany third with 255,000,000 tons. In the output of iron, Germany came second with 5,500,000 tons, France third with 7,700,000 tons, and Great Britain fourth with 4,523,000 tons. Six and a half million people throughout the world are employed in mining and quarrying, a third of whom are in the British Empire. This makes mining one of the world's most important industries.

PLUMAGE FOR MEN.

Now the masculine hat sports its tiny splash of color. Gone the plumed heavers which for three centuries dominated the world of fashion. Taboo the sweeping sombrero for street wear in the teeming cities of the east. But the students of sartorial art note with a smile, and sometimes with trepidation, that the male, while loudly protesting his indifference to the wiles of dress which are affected by "the female of the species" is availing himself more and more of the little tufts of blue or red and the dainty scarlet feather flaunted upon the starboard side of certain headgear of the prevailing mode.

Despoiled of the gorgeous raiment which his ancestors wore, his legs immersed in rather garments for which they never were molded, denied any degree of polychromatic splendor, poor man welcomes with becoming gratitude such small crumbs of comfort as this plumed hat affords.—The Boston Herald.

TARIFF PROTECTION.

All protection is morally as well as economically bad. It is of the tendencies of a system that I speak, which operates variously, upon most men unconsciously, upon some men not at all; and surely that system cannot be good which makes an individual or a set of individuals live on the resources of a community and causes him relatively to diminish that store, which duty to his fellow-citizens and to their equal rights should teach him by his contributions to augment.—Gladstone.

TO ABOLISH WAR.

In its unique position the dominant neutral power, the United States, will exercise great influence when the time comes to arrange terms of peace. If the peace societies of this country can present a solution of the problem, that day they will have a hearing under favorable conditions. A world sick of war and half-ruled by it will listen to reason, but the plan submitted must be practical.

If Europe remains an armed camp after this war is over the Continent will never recover from its effects because the masses will be crushed by unbearable taxation to pay the cost of this war and to maintain armies and navies for years to come. And they will come if the mad race for military supremacy continues thereafter; for this war has exploded once for all the theory that preparedness insures peace. Oppressive taxation and waste of years in military service will drive the best of Europe's young blood to this and other countries devoted to the arts of peace, and will give us a hold on the markets of the world through the strength of our economic position that will make us imperiously rich and powerful. We should welcome immigrants sound in mind and body, for they will need them in Europe does not profit by this terrible lesson. By standing forth, declaring the blessings of peace and showing the way to obtain them, our peace societies, should they fall in the attempt to secure the adoption of their plans, will attract to our shores those who see clearly the fate of Europe perpetually in arms. In either event the peace societies will serve our country well.—New York Commercial.

TWO-FOOT ISLANDS.

Yucatan is part of the Mexican republic, in far ancient times when the kings of the Mayas ruled in Yucatan they erected many magnificent temples. Perhaps of all Central America the Mayas reached the highest point of civilization. The population of the country to-day, to a great extent, are their descendants. That these palaces and enormous buildings were splendid in conception is evidenced by the interesting ruins. We occasionally spied these ruins along the coast. They are a paradise for archaeologists, as comparatively little is known about them.

As we drew near Belize, British Honduras, we passed dozens of little islands covered with cocoanut palms, some apparently not more than two feet out of the water. Occasionally on some we saw native huts, on others very pretty houses which are used as summer resorts by the richer people of Belize.—The Christian Herald.

SOLDIER PARLIAMENTARIANS.

Out of 670 members of the British House of Commons, 170 are now in the army, in Britain or France. So far only one M.P. has been killed in action, and another is missing, Major Morrison Bell, who used to be in Canada.

Of the Peers, 180 are in active service. Three have been killed, six wounded, and two are prisoners. When you have a Parliament 350 of whose members are under arms, political truce needs no boasting.—Ottawa Journal.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

An Englishman and a Scotchman, both commercial travellers, were bragging about the importance of the firms they respectively represented. "You may judge of the extent of our business," said the Englishman, "from the fact that we spend £215 a year in ink for our correspondence." "That's nothing," said the Scotchman; "my firm saves twice that amount yearly by not dotting its i's and not crossing its t's."

Irvin S. Cobb, the correspondent and author, was talking in Philadelphia about the German "Jack Johnsons," those deadly shells which explode with a tremendous discharge of greasy black smoke.

"Those shells," said Mr. Cobb, "are to ordinary shells as a bucking horse of the plains is to a park hack. A tenderfoot once mounted a buck in Tin Can. He was hardly on before he was off again—off over the buck's head."

"What's the matter?" said Three-finger Hoover. "Why, she bucked," said the tenderfoot. "Bucked?" said Three-finger. "Bucked? Go on! She only coughed."—Washington Star.

"How do you like your typewriter?" asked a salesman of one of his customers. "It's most satisfactory!" was the reply. "I wonder how I ever got along without it!" "That's fine! Would you be willing to give me a little testimonial to that effect?" "Why, certainly, I will," and according to Everybody's Magazine, he pounded out the following: "After using this automatic Back-action type writer for three months I find it is unsatisfactorily pronounced. It pronounces me to be at least even more than the Manufacturers claim for it. During the time been in our possession, e, i, t, h, r, e, e months I have more than paid for it in the saving of time and labor." ohn i Smith.

The vicar called on O'Flaherty, who was a notorious wealthy skintail, for a donation towards buying a peal of bells for the church.

"Mr. O'Flaherty," he began, "we are getting up a subscription for a chime of bells to be attached to our church. Your friends O'Dillon, O'Doogan, and O'Doolan, have each contributed in proportion to their earnings. Surely we can expect a large amount from you, and then when the bells ring everyone will think of O'Flaherty."

O'Flaherty agreed and forthwith forfeited a cheque. One Monday he visited the vicar.

"Here, I say," he said, "those bells are no good. I was listening to them yesterday, and they didn't do what you said. They simply went Dillan-Doogan-Dillon-Doogan, with never a word about O'Flaherty!"

A HYMN TO THE NAMELESS.

(Edmund Beale Sargant, in London Times.)
Nameless the men of empire! Thine is the name,
Shine in the darkness. Britain as of yore,
Fuel are they for the beacon; thine the flame.

Lifting thy freedom out of bondage of war,
Tongue of the beacon, use us and answer tongue;
Britain speaks to her own from sea to sea,
Mother and child, lovers and old and young.

All at her word give all on the faith of the free,
Doubt and darkness without, yet peace at heart;
This is thy surety, Britain, to sons at pay.

Laughing, envying none, they salute, they depart,
Caught in the beson's glory—the nameless they.
Hark to that fiery troop! They ask at release,
"Britain, set on thy watch-hills, what of the night?"

Heal not slightly this hurt; and cry not Peace!
Peace! where only is certain peace in the right,
"Might that is lawless hath feet of iron and clay;
Never may kingdom fashioned as thus endure;
But of thy woman's love of his country say:
Honor to this! Love is the might that is sure."

"AND SO THEY WERE MARRIED."

(From the Cocoa (Fla.) News and Star.)

The wedding gifts themselves that were received by this beloved and popular bride were numerous, rich, choice and beautiful and come not only from this vicinity and the State of Florida itself, but from all parts of the country as well, evincing in what high esteem Ensign and Mrs. LaRoche are held by all, and over what a wide area their friendships extend.

The bride looked exceedingly attractive in her modish black broadcloth travelling suit, edged with bands of black fox, with which she wore an extremely pretty and becoming blouse of black lace over white chiffon, and a small chic toque which was a combination of black and king's blue velvet trimmed with paradise. One magnificent American Beauty rose, which seemed to have bloomed in all its glorious perfection for this special use, added the finishing touch to her pleasing costume.

Amidst the good wishes and congratulations of numerous relatives and friends Ensign and Mrs. Francis Arthur LaRoche left on the southbound evening train for their wedding journey, and their destination is understood to be the magical Isle of Cuba, that land of—

"Mellow moons and happy skies,
Breadths of tropic shade, and palms
In cluster—knots of Paradise."

Just before the train which was to bear the recently wedded pair on their bridal trip left the Cocoa station the rain happily ceased, and there burst from the ebon vault above Heaven's myriad stars—those always-loved "Forget-me-nots of the Angels"—all gleaming and glittering like "a million little diamonds," symbolizing, as it were, as many and like joys which all their kind friends everywhere trust may forever sparkle in life's glass for this lovely bride and her chosen husband.

HOW KHAKI WAS DISCOVERED.

Khaki, the color of which will render our soldiers so difficult to see, was discovered by a happy accident. The British troops in India wore a cotton uniform, which when it was new, was khaki in color, but after a visit to the laundry was indescribable. A Manchester businessman, discussing this defect, remarked "casualty that a fortune awaited the man who could find a khaki dye that neither sun, soap nor soda would fade. A young officer heard the remark, hired a skilled native dyer and began his search. Years passed in fruitless experiments, till one day, passing over a heap of rags, relics of their failures, they chanced upon one piece which was still khaki, though the laundry had worked its will. But it had received no special treatment so far as they knew, except that it had fallen into a metal dish. This was the secret. The metal of the dish and the chemicals in the dye had combined to produce that fadeless khaki color which makes our soldiers invisible and turned the lieutenant into a millionaire.—Glasgow Times.

OUR DUTY.

In this month's bulletin of the Commission of Conservation is set forth the following concise statement of the duties which confront the Canadian people:

Conservation and development of her water powers, minerals, forests and fisheries.

Large increase in farm production.

Increase in live stock production.

Cultivation of the garden plot.

Purchase and use of goods "made in Canada."

Provision for technical training of her sons and daughters.

Further advances in providing sanitary homes and clean cities for her people.

Extension of the "safety first" movement.

Further reduction in fire losses.

Business as usual.

These are duties which make their own appeal to every Canadian who takes thought for the future of his country.

GERMAN DYE-STUFFS SUPREMACY.

The Germans seem sure of their dyestuffs industry, whatever terrible things may happen to their empire or to the house of Hohenzollern. The English project to start a dyestuffs industry with the financial assistance of the government has failed because no English capitalists will go into the business and risk the dreaded German competition after the making of peace, unless the government will impose a protective tariff on imports. In this country the dyestuffs situation is exactly like that in England. No protective duties, no American dyestuffs, that they are afraid to take advantage of the war's paralysis of German trade in order to build up industries of their own without permanent government aid.—Springfield Republican.

KING ALBERT THE HERO.

The world can make up its mind concerning Albert. He has not spared himself in the struggle. He has fought for what he believed to be right, with the drawback of generally fighting at big odds. When the time comes to square up in peace there will have to be a settlement with Albert.—Pittsburg Despatch.

The Day's Best Editorial

A GOOD SLOGAN—"BUILD NOW."

In the appeal issued by the industrial commission of the city council those who are contemplating new construction, extension, or repair work are urged to start work at once. Similar advice has been given by New York and Boston committees on unemployment, and it has been heartily endorsed by efficient men of affairs.

"Build now" ought to become a national slogan. The Manufacturers' Record, a national periodical published at Baltimore, is pushing this movement with vigor and intelligence. Results worth recording have been attained already. For example, firms engaged in the building trades in August have united in an advertisement offering reductions in prices—the ceiling in detail that construction at this time, owing to the conditions in the labor and material markets, would mean a saving of from 15 to 20 per cent.

A few months ago it was necessary to appeal to the courage and far-sightedness of business men and to argue from "the basic soundness" of American industrial and financial conditions. To-day the facts of the money market and the foreign trade speak for themselves, and the "build now" slogan is an appeal to the more common sense of men who, while planning new construction or improvement, are waiting for the sake of waiting—or because of excessive timidity.

It is evident that the best of all remedies for unemployment now possible—as any larger scheme requires time and careful preparation—is the hastening, the advancing, the pushing of builders, manufacturers, and merchants' construction and repair work. "Do it now" has a new meaning, and the heads of business houses who are teaching this doctrine to their young men have the opportunity to give them a most impressive and effective object lesson and example.—Chicago Tribune.

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THE DYING OPIUM TRADE.

The opium trade in Hong Kong in 1914 was characterized by the complete cessation of imports for the trade generally and a combination of the dealers in opium to force up the price of the drug and get rid of their present holdings at figures which mean large profits. The close of the year found on hand in Hong Kong and Shanghai a total of about 7,800 chests, as compared with 14,375 chests at the close of the year previous and upward of 30,000 chests at the close of 1912.

Stocks of Persian and Turkish opium were reduced during 1911 from 829 to 121 chests. Most of the dealers in opium in Hong Kong have arranged to quit the business entirely, but there is more or less business in the drug among Chinese firms, which will doubtless continue indefinitely.

CAPABLE OF MAGNANIMITY.

There has never been any real ground for the falacy so commonly accepted by even intelligent Germans that England snapped at an opportunity of crippling an industrial and commercial rival. We hope and trust that in the final settlement England will convince all Germans that she had no such ulterior and unworthy aim. England is wholly capable of altruism and of magnanimity, despite all the Hymns of Hate that can be written between now and the close of the war.—Brooklyn Eagle.

ARE THEY SINCERE?

The W. C. T. U. declares that it decries the exposure of Canadian soldiers to the seductions of the canteen more than their exposure to German shells and bullets. We wonder if there were any mothers of Canadian soldiers who subscribed to this declaration, and if so, whether they were sincere in subscribing to it.—Hamilton Herald.

BRITAIN NOT TO BLAME.

Great Britain has certainly committed no violation of the principles of international law that would justify Germany in suspending the rules providing for the safety of the crews and passengers of enemy merchant ships overhauled or hailed by her war vessels.—New York Sun.

QUITE ANOTHER STORY.

German protagonists who are crying out so loudly against the use of neutral flags by the British have maintained a discreet silence concerning the German use of neutral flags in laying the mines that have brought destruction to so many neutral ships in the North Sea.—New York Herald.

A CONTRAST.

I by the lapping of my household fire.
You in the trenches, starved and stiff for cold.
You by fatigue in few days grey and old;
I with my strength no needs, no calls require;
I wrapt in all the peace of heaven entire.
You with Hell's powers of darkness fold on fold.
You lacking all that life most dear can hold.
And I with all my utmost heart's desire.

But God shall strike the balance: I have had
My good in this my lifetime—all and none.
Have selfish cunning advantage from your strife.
While you, brave heroes, on that further shore
Shall find all good has equalized all bad;
Death may be mine—but yours eternal life.
—H. D. Rawnsley, in the British Review.

They do not, However, Un
Current Drawbacks—D
Washington Still Ex

WILSON IS CRITIC

Democrats Tired of Presidential Lash
for a Fall—Some Confidence in
Before Year is Out—Commission
Have Enlarged Investment
Business.

New York, February 22.—With net
aggregating several hundred million dol
care of banking interests desire a
market. I understand, however, that
will give greater encouragement to co
allies at the Stock Exchange. To put
the time is near when the bull side w
family for profit. Adverse factors to
uncompromisingly for prevailing prices
tion of the past year.

Politics—at that they do not under
rent drawbacks. In high circles the
less distrust of Washington. It is
come more in contact with represen
business and not be impressed by the
opposition, for example, to the ship bi
been struck by the manner in which
the President's position in this matter
understand his persistent advocacy o
which has not such general disapprov
ment men. Time and again, President
his ignorance of business. Y
Purchase measure he has stood out
have spent their lives in business are
by opposed.

Business—"He is the boss of bosses."
of a leading New York merchant in a
Wilson's course in this legislative mis

Revol—According to some Washin
the Democratic leaders are tired of
lash. They do not hesitate to say the
It is riding for a fall, and I understand
quiet talk at the Capitol for a revolt am
in both Houses. The new Congress,
has a materially reduced Democratic
ity also