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TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1916.

PROCESSION IMPRESSIONS.

Wednesday's demonstration in Toronto marked the climax of the most practical movement that has ever been undertaken in Ontario to rid the province of its greatest source of waste, inefficiency and crime.

The Citizens' Committee of One Hundred have performed their duties wisely and well. As a result, the most largely signed petition in the history of the world was laid at the feet of the throne, praying for such legislation as would end or permit the electors to end our greatest social evil.

The demonstration was remarkable because of the tremendous proportions to which it reached. The day was not such as to entice comfort-loving people from their homes. A bitterly chilling wind swept down from the northwest, and all the afternoon the snow continuously fell. Nevertheless, seven thousand citizens of Ontario paraded the streets to reach the legislative center of the province at Queen's Park.

The demonstration was also remarkable for its character. Only those who believed in the cause for which they were working would have the elements, the curious and often the unfriendly gaze of the on-lookers, the slushy streets, the wearisome waits due to the marshalling and marching in busy thoroughfares of a procession several miles long.

That the procession should not be greeted with universal acclaim in a city with a mixed population like Toronto was to be expected, but that there should be hostile demonstrations on the part of the soldiers came as a most agreeable surprise.

All along the route of march there was a plentiful sprinkling of soldiers, who on a pretence of recruiting zeal, continuously used insulting epithets towards those in the procession, particularly towards those of military age who were not in khaki. They apparently did not know or did not care that many of the young men were from the ranks where there is already such a shortage of help as to threaten production in a most serious manner.

The processionists were exercising a right that has become very dear to the world over, the right of the subject to present his petitions to the throne.

Because a man is in uniform is not to say that he has the privilege of interfering with private citizens in the exercise of a legal right. The uniform should be a guarantee of good behavior and proclaim its wearer to be the guardian of order and decency rather than the ruffianly promoter of lawlessness.

It is time some one called attention to the activities of brainless recruiting sergeants who by their bumptious and insulting manner are doing the cause of recruiting so much harm that the efforts of their more moderate and intelligent colleagues are often rendered futile.

In regard to the interference with the parade the Toronto Daily Star very pertinently observed:

Some men in the parade may have been eligible for military service. But they would not be won over by attempts to pull them into the procession by violence. What would have been the blasphemous temperance man who laid violent hands on a soldier marching in a military parade and tried to force him to sign the pledge?

In Germany the military obtained such an ascendancy in the state that civilians became little better than puppets before the puppets of the Kaiser. Is Prussianism and Kaiserism to obtain recognition in Canada? It would almost seem so after reading Magistrate Denison's glorification of what the mob in khaki had accomplished and his attempt to lay the blame on those in the procession because they had dared to march up University Avenue past the Armouries.

But after all what else can you expect from Toronto, an overgrown village afflicted with chronic neurasthenia, and governed by hysteria? To expect a band of Toronto soldiers or Toronto howlers of any other class to follow anything but the cowardly impulses of the mob is to look for something you are not likely to find.

In Belleville we have had hundreds of soldiers for months past, and were it not for the color of their uniforms we would scarcely know they were in the city. Getting as they have from every walk of life and thrown promiscuously together, their conduct has been most exemplary. Anywhere and everywhere they have almost universally and both as individuals and collectively conducted themselves as gentlemen and as decent, law-abiding and law-abiding citizens. Their officers have gained the respect and won the esteem of every one by the plain, practical commonsense with which they have met every contingency.

What a contrast they present to the green and khaki-clad rowdies and cowards who assault and beat up elderly men and heaved pieces of ice from safe distance at the procession in Toronto.

It is idle to say the attack was the unprovoked impulse of the moment caused by the presence of those in the procession. The fact that the soldiers had several banners of their own already painted, does indicate that they were looking for trouble. They knew what they were looking for. Many junior officers were among the trouble makers. The whole disgraceful and indecent demonstration was probably pre-arranged and organized by the self-styled exponents of "personal liberty."

There was one class largely represented in the parade that even the toughs refrained from insulting. That was the Salvation Army. Nobody knows so well as the Salvation Army worker what a legacy of disaster and degradation is left by whiskey. The Army fights it as the uncompromising foe of all that is good. Their work has largely been an attempt to relieve and rescue the victims of the traffic. But they realize that they have been dealing with effects and not causes. They now

propose to reach out and remove the cause. But their work in the past has been so unselfish, so devoted, so humanitarian, so genuinely Christian that when the Salvation Army bands appeared and the blue-clad Salvation women marched briskly along, there was respectful silence even among Toronto's barbarians and cheers wherever groups of temperance sympathisers were congregated.

The Ontario desires to compliment and congratulate Premier Hearst upon the straightforward, business-like manner with which he received the deputation. There was neither equivocation nor evasion in his words.

His party was elected to power on a platform opposing such a policy. The Conservative party in 1914 proclaimed local option as the proper method of handling the liquor business. The Premier has changed his opinions since that time and it seems probable that he will be able to carry his party with him, although it is an open secret that many of his followers strenuously opposed the adoption of the anti-booze policy in the caucus.

Some members of the legislature seriously misunderstand their positions. The duty of a representative is to represent the people who elected him, not to dictate to the people what they must accept. The member is but an elected servant. When it is made plainly apparent as in this case what the people want it is the duty of the representatives to give the people what they desire in the way of legislation.

The position that Premier Hearst assumes is a perfectly logical and sensible one. The same cannot be said of some of his followers who would have him stand out in bull-headed opposition to the demands of eighty per cent of the electors.

The cabinet in its decision has acted with good sense and adopted a course that will bring it strength rather than the smashing defeat it would otherwise have encountered at the hands of a disappointed and dissatisfied people.

VOLUNTARIEM VINDICATED.

There is an idea in some quarters that the adoption of compulsory service in the Old Country means the failure of the voluntary system, but that is not a correct appreciation of the situation. The London Nation, which of course, is a strong opponent of compulsion in any form, has undertaken to vindicate British democracy and the voluntary system, and it has made out a very strong case for its position.

The Nation shows that without compulsion, six million men all told have been enrolled for the war; that is, one-seventh of the total population of the island of Great Britain. Deducting from this number about a million men for starred industries, you have some five million of actual fighting efficiency, or 12 per cent of the population. It is estimated that under conscription Germany cannot put more than 11 per cent of her population into the field, France not more than 10 per cent. This is evidence of the virility, patriotism and organizing strength of a free country.

The dazzling success of voluntarism is itself enough to reassure the timid that Mr. Asquith's limited conscription measure will have no permanent effect after the war. President Lincoln brought in conscription during the American Civil War and it was dropped with the overthrow of the rebellion. Much more surely, therefore, will the Asquith law cease to have any validity once the European war is over.

SOUTH AFRICA'S "BIT."

Nothing brings more cheer or encouragement to British hearts or is more significant of the strength and unity of the Empire in confronting the greatest crisis of its history, than the ever present assurance of the splendid loyalty and co-operation of the Union of South Africa. Within a day or two the press despatches have told us of the splendid gallantry of the South African Contingent in routing a Turkish force in Egypt, and General Botha in a recent speech in the South African Parliament bore testimony to the determination of the South Africans to do their duty and their part equally as well in fighting the enemy on the soil of their own continent.

In opposing a motion of a Labor member, which would have the effect of bringing Boer and Briton into conflict, General Botha said that he was an Afrikaner, absolutely loyal to the British Empire. As such he had experienced great difficulties with some of his friends during the past eighteen months, but he stood firm for the British Empire because he knew that the German dog spelt death for them.

Referring to the recent appointment of General Smuts to take over the command of General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien in East Africa, he said that when the offer was first made to General Smuts he told him, "your duty is here." But when General Smith-Dorrien became ill he ordered the East African campaign seemed likely to be rounded for months, he said to General Smuts: "However difficult it is for you your duty is to help." Today about 7,000 Union soldiers are in the field and there will possibly be more shortly.

General Botha pointed out that the assistance granted by South Africa was greater than many realized. The Union was bearing the expense of recruiting, equipment, salaries and the maintenance before the contingents left the country, besides giving Colonial pay to the East African Contingent. Altogether \$12,500,000 had been expended by the Union treasury. It is one of the best sources of strength for the British cause that we should have in South Africa at this time statesmen so loyal to the Empire and so capable of doing their duty, both in the administrative offices and in the military role on the battlefield.

THE VERDUN GAMBLE.

There seems to be a remarkable agreement between the military critics and observers that a failure of even battle of Verdun is over, and the issue settled, for the prestige of Germany. It cannot yet be said that the battle of Verdun is over, and the issue settled, for the enemy appear to have resumed the offensive, but so far, at least, the Kaiser has failed to achieve a victory. Foot soldiers, as one Paris correspondent points out, have become once more, as throughout history, the decisive factor of warfare, and the same writer adds, two facts stand out clearly from three weeks' orgy of slaughter. The first is that German artillery cannot silence French, and the second is that if sacrifices are ignored and reserves are sufficient, infantry can advance, despite the artillery and, because of the practical obsolescence of the mitrailleuses, may only be checked by infantry.

"Should Germany win five Verduns," the writer argues, "she cannot escape defeat now that the Allies have learned that bloody lesson. Sooner or later the Allied workshops will deliver the needed quantity of guns and munitions, and the Allied Army will attain sufficient numerical superiority. Then will come a series of these blasting attacks, terribly expensive, but

culminating inevitably, according to opinion in France, in Germany's downfall. In the last resort only her infantry can save her, but her infantry has been wasted like sand from the banks of the Marne to the Riga swamps."

What then was the motive behind the German attack at Verdun? Was it a military operation undertaken for a purely military purpose? Or, was it a demonstration intended primarily to influence opinion outside of Germany, and to strengthen the logic of the German arguments in favor of an early peace?

Mr. Frank Simmonds, the military critic of the New York Tribune undertakes to solve the problem. He expresses the opinion that from a strictly military point of view the capture of Verdun would materially improve the German position on the Western front. It would break the great French salient which has stretched since September, 1914, to the northeast, east and southeast about Verdun—running in the form of a half circle from Brabant, on the Meuse north of the French fortress, to St. Mihiel, on the Meuse south of it. The most easterly point of this semi-circle is almost within artillery range of Metz, the chief German base in Lorraine. So long as the French salient is held the safety of Metz is compromised.

At St. Mihiel the Germans drove late in 1914 a long, thin wedge into the French line. At the tip of this wedge they held the banks of the Meuse. But they are cramped into an uncomfortably narrow space by the French forces holding the southern curve of the Verdun salient and other French forces stretching east from below St. Mihiel to a point directly south of Metz. Pressure on this German wedge would be relieved and the German line would be advantageously straightened and shortened if the French should be obliged to retire from Verdun and take up new positions to the westward on the line of the Aire.

But the truth undoubtedly is, as the New York Tribune says, "as a guarantor of victory which she must have to win the war—to get the peace which she desires—even the capture of Verdun would prove illusory. It would probably turn out to be as barren in the large strategic and political sense as was the occupation of Poland of the overrunning of Serbia." But, Germany, has not captured Verdun. She has driven her line forward to some extent, but she has done so at the appalling cost of her bravest and best troops. If, as appears to be the case, she sought a decision on this desperate gamble, she has fallen far short of success. Germany, it is true, has shown that she is still powerful in attack, but the battle of Verdun may and probably will prove to be the real beginning of the end.

AT PRESENT.

As an opening of the spring campaign in the West the Kaiser seems to have shot his first great offensive bolt at Verdun. It fell far short of the intended mark. He may try a second or another shot in the same quarter but he will be discouraged by his initial mis.

That the Verdun assault has been a tragic failure for Germany seems now to be beyond doubt. General Joffre has not been ruffled by it. He made no draught upon his general reserves. He relied upon his first line troops and their ordinary supports for victory; and was not disappointed. The Kaiser put forth a tremendous effort. His reward is applause from the "official" clappers of Berlin. But their hailing clappings are drowned by the moans of the friends of the scores of thousands of Germany's best soldiers who have been butchered to make a Berlin holiday.

The Germans shattered and entered the extreme northeast outer fort of the Verdun defences. They have been driven back far beyond it, leaving two thousand of the Kaiser's famous "Brandenburgers" as virtual prisoners within its ruins. Many, if not most, of the other "Brandenburgers" are lying around on adjacent fields and hillsides, oblivious forever of the Kaiser and of "Kultur." The German forces have made an advance of a little less than two miles, on a ten mile front, to the north of Verdun. They have made a smaller advance on a shorter front to the east of Verdun. All the other protecting forts of Verdun are still in French hands or under French control. For what they have won, the Germans have paid the tremendous price of one hundred and seventy-five thousand casualties and one hundred thousand lives of their best remaining troops. France won five miles on a fifteen mile front, in Champagne, last autumn, for a loss less than one-tenth as great. This is to say, the Germans by their recent onslaught won less than forty square miles of French territory as compared with seventy-five square miles of German territory won by the French in Champagne in their last great advance. There is nothing depressing to France or cheering to Germany in the battle of Verdun up to the present date. But of course it is not yet definitely ended.

Midnight of the first of March has come, and gone. So far as the Germans are concerned, March entered like a lamb. They killed one nine-month-old baby in Southeastern England on that day, and no doubt badly frightened a number of nervous old people. It was "frightful" but not otherwise impressive. The "horrors" of their press agents have as usual been extreme. They have developed and mobilized whole squadrons of "commerce raiders" on the spur of the moment. They have "gathered them in" from the four quarters of the globe. Their invisibility makes them all the more "frightful." The German "ghosts of the ocean" are almost as terrifying as those of the ordinary graveyard. And they have been summoned from the vasty deep, in shoals, by Germany's press agents. But perhaps the British Navy and Britain's commerce may survive. Let us not abandon hope!

In the meantime, it is surprising that Germany tolerates the presence of Allied forces at Saloniki. It was understood not long ago, that she was opposed to their presence in that vicinity, and intended to "remove" them. Peradventure she is short of constables with sufficient breath to serve a writ of ejectment on them. There, at all events, they remain without molestation. And the promised German expeditions against Egypt and to Bagdad—they seem to be long in commencing. The season is rapidly advancing. The yernal equinox is at hand. It will be very hot for German campaigning in the direction of either Egypt or Bagdad hereafter. Are they not missing their opportunities?

Germany, however, is not diplomatically dead by any means. She has sent an "ultimatum" to Portugal. Could aught demonstrate more conspicuously her "will to power?" The Kaiser, with "a world in arms" against him, is ready to "take on" another opponent. This latest act of valor on his part hardly compares, it is true, with his glorious onslaught upon Belgium at the beginning of the war but it is "a good second" considering he cannot get at Portugal at all nor see at him to any material extent. The rulers of Portugal appear to have made use of only half a sheet of "small note" on which to tell the Kaiser in effect to "go and chase himself." It is to be feared that they may have hurt the Kaiser's feelings by their brusqueness.

Russia continues to hunt the Turks, in addition to getting ready for a German chase in the spring. She has, incidentally, established tribunals for inquiry into Armenian "wrongs." Turks, convicted before these tribunals, will, it is understood, be granted unrestricted right of appeal—after the sentences passed upon them have been executed.

The indications all are that "the sick man of Europe" is beyond recovery this time. His constitutionally delicate neighbor "Tino" of Greece, has hesitated far beyond the losing point. Roumania is threatened with a like failure of strength to take advantage of the tide of her affairs which might have led on to fortune. Bulgaria is quite too much "in the tide" into which she has plunged too soon, and which has given her cold shivers. She now seems disposed to crawl out on "any bank." Italy is attending successfully to business at the usual stand, much to the profit of herself and her Allies. And even President Wilson may presently surprise everybody. We shall wait and see.

IRISH HEROES.

Mr. John Redmond, the leader of the Irish Nationalists, who had won by his patriotic and whole-souled efforts for the cause of the Empire in this Great War, a proud place in the galaxy of Empire statesmen, has written for "The Irish at the Front," by Michael Mac-lough, a preface which the British Weekly, the organ of the Nonconformists, says will rank with Mr. Lloyd George's famous introduction to "Through Terror to Triumph" as a work of real historical importance. It will be quoted with his great speech at the outbreak of war by every writer who attempts to picture the manner in which a really United States met the Prussian challenge.

"It is," says Mr. Redmond, "these soldiers of ours, with their astounding courage and their beautiful faith, with their natural military genius, with their tenderness as well as strength; carrying with them their green lags and their Irish war-pipes; advancing to their charge, their fearless officers at their head, and followed by their beloved chaplains as great-hearted as themselves; bringing with them a quality all their own to the sordid modern battlefield; exhibiting the character of the Irishman at its noblest and greatest—it is these soldiers of ours to whose keeping the Cause of Ireland has passed today. It was never in worthier, holier keeping than that of these boys, offering up the supreme sacrifice of life with a smile on their lips because it was given for Ireland. May God bless them!"

"The Irish Guards at Mons, the Royal Irish Regiment at Ypres, the London Irish at Loos (arriving a football before them as they charged, the boys in the trenches before the charge holding out their matches with which they had lit their cigarettes to show each other that their hands were not shaking), the regular battalions at "V" Beach, the new "Service" battalions of the Tenth Division at Suvla, I name out a long list.

"To General Mahon's Division, composed exclusively of new levies who were civilians when the war began, thousands of Nationalist families in Leitner, Munster and Connaught represented in its ranks—the terrific open fighting at Suvla Bay (which began with the shelling of the lighters at the landing and the bursting of chains of contact mines as they set foot on shore) was their first experience of being under fire. Undismayed, their coolness undisturbed, they formed for attack as if on parade ground."

Captain Thornhill, himself a representative of those magnificent Australian and New Zealand troops whose prowess has been another of the revelations of the war, wrote of the Irish:

Their landing at Suvla Bay was the greatest thing you will ever read of in the books by high-brows. Those that witnessed the advance will never forget it. Bullets and shrapnel rained on them, yet they never wavered. The way they took that hill (now called Dublin Hill) was the kind of thing that would make you pinch yourself to prove that it was not a cheap wine aftermath. How they got there Heaven only knows. As the land lay, climbing into hell on an aeroplane seemed an easier proposition than taking that hill.

When it was decided to occupy Saloniki and to march to the aid of the Serbian army it was the Irish Division, under their splendid Irish commander, General Sir Bryan Mahon, that the place of honor for this desperate enterprise was given. Acting as a rear-guard against an army ten times their number, they did what was neither expected nor counted upon. But their instinctive military genius, as well as their courage and determination, came into play; and they need up the overwhelming enemy for so long and with such skill that the entire French and British forces were able to withdraw safely to their defensive positions without the loss of a single gun or a single transport wagon.

Mr. Redmond has lifted the veil on the glorious part of his countrymen in the war and has paid them eloquent tribute. But, best of all, it is a tribute in which we are all proud to join heart and soul. All the Empire honors the heroes of Old Ireland, soon to see, we believe, the happy days which will crown victory against her enemy and union at home.

A MOTHER'S VISION.

Sitting alone in the freight, with aged head bent low. Over some little garments that were worn in the long ago.

A woman, old and faded, was dreaming of other years. And the faces of absent loved ones she saw through a mist of tears.

All was silent; no echo of footfalls swift and gay; The dancing feet of her children had wandered far away; Busy and happy and thoughtless, they were scattered far and wide; All grown to be men and women—save the little boy who died.

It was strange that of all the children, he should feel tonight so near. His little grave had been covered by the snows of many a year; Yet she fancied she saw him enter; that she saw him standing there. His blue eyes clear and smiling, the light on his curling hair.

And a voice spoke from the silence, saying: "This for you I kept; But my meaning you could not fathom when for your child you wept; The living have left your hearthstone, but with you he shall abide In the beauty of deathless childhood, your little boy who died." —Gertrude Hockbridge, in the Christian Herald.

Other Editors' Opinions

BELLEVILLE OPPORTUNITY.

Experiments which have proven successful may make Belleville, Ont., the Pittsburgh of Canada. For the past twelve years City Engineer J. W. Evans has been laboring to perfect a process that would enable iron men to utilize the vast deposits of titaniferous iron ores found around Milbride in the township of Tudor. Recently the Tivoli Steel Company was organized, a blast furnace set up and experiments made with the Evans process with the result that it is claimed a remarkably high grade of steel has been found especially adaptable to the manufacture of cutting tools. The industry is still in its infancy, but half-a-ton daily being turned out, but a movement is on hand to enlarge the works and go into the manufacture of steel on a large scale.

Belleville is one of the prettiest and most delightfully located cities in Canada. Snuggled in near the head of the Bay of Quinte it is endowed most bountifully by nature. Its harbor gives it transportation by way of the Great Lakes and the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railroads connect it with the outer world by rail. It is also a center for two or three small roads running back into the interior, one of them the C.O.R. tapping the iron ore fields. It is surrounded by one of the richest and most fertile farming sections in the Dominion.

All that has been needed to make Belleville one of the big cities of Canada has been a discovery such as is herein recorded.—Oswego Palladium.

CAUGHT AT IT.

The secretary of the Brewers' Association, who gets up all of the fancy figures showing how prohibition has ruined Kansas, spent a night in jail in Pennsylvania this week for refusing to produce some records, which the court wanted. He was therefore declared to be in contempt of court. Mr. Fox has had a contempt for facts for a long time.—Wichita (Kansas) Beacon.

SENDING BACK THE TOO YOUNG.

It is stated that nine soldiers are being sent back to Guilford from England because they are under age. Soldiers back from the front arrived in London, Ont., Tuesday and state that of a party of thirty-eight with which they came over, no less than thirty-three were young fellows who were being sent back from England because they were under the age limit.

This is a serious matter. Boys may deserve credit for the spirit they show in offering themselves for enlistment while under age, but the duty rests on the military authorities to see that they are not enrolled, equipped, trained, transported to England, only to be brought back again as too young for war service. There is a large waste here of money, equipment, and the services of those who do the training. In present enlistments and in the battalions already formed and in training here, the youths under age ought to be weeded out. Even in England and France they are not calling boys to war, and it should not be done in Toronto.—Toronto Daily Star.

THE "STAR" FALLS INTO LAMN.

We are delighted to learn, as we are very sure thousands of readers and friends will be, that The Toronto Daily Star management has decided to put into effect the policy of excluding all advertisements for the sale of liquor. Inasmuch as Mr. Joseph E. Atkinson, President of the Star Publishing Company, is a Durham old boy having spent his boyhood in Newcastle, we have long felt that The Star should follow the lead of his home county and throw all its influence on the side of Temperance Reform. Possibly the disgusting trash that the Ontario Liberty League has been publishing as advertising in such newspapers as will accept the misrepresentations—rubbish—and serve it out to their readers has helped to bring The Star management to a decision. The rise of The Daily Star has been most phenomenal in Canadian newspaperdom, having attained before the war over 100,000 circulation, leading all the Ontario dailies in circulation. Now that The Star has become an anti-liquor newspaper we shall expect to see thousands more of the best people in Canada becoming friends and supporters. Long live The Star.—Bowmanville Statesman.

Bitten by Dog

Early last evening, the fourteen-year old daughter of Mr. Benjamin Simpson, Church street, was bitten on the leg by a mongrel collie dog, said to belong to a Mr. McCarthy of the same street. The little girl was going to a nearby grocery, accompanied by the family pet dog. The collie attacked it and in trying to drive off the yellow dog, the girl drew the animal's attention to her with the result of a bite.

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