

The Weekly Ontario

Morton & Herity, Publishers

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THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1915.

FORCING THE DARDANELLES.

They are reported to be debating in England at present whether the attempt to force the Dardanelles is a major or a minor operation of the war. London, like all great centres of population is rather disposed to hysteria. It may be less demonstrative, physically, than Paris. Mentally, it seems to be hardly less excitable. It has certainly shown much more inclination towards panic, on account of the Zeppelin bogey, than Paris, although Paris lies so much more open to attack.

When the assault upon the Dardanelles began, London went up in the air with expectation. When it was temporarily checked a fit of depression followed which has grown deeper and deeper until now some London papers are searching for a scapegoat on whom to lay the blame for the whole undertaking. They seem to have selected Mr. Winston Churchill for the goat's part. Probably Mr. Churchill will not object. If the onus falls on him now, his must be the credit of ultimate success. In any event, Mr. Churchill's desires will have been fulfilled, for he is one of those who would much rather be abused than not mentioned.

At this distance, it looks as though the Dardanelles operations were likely to be an early and triumphant success. If the land forces of the Allies, now co-operating with the Fleet, are at all adequate, the difficulties in the way would appear to be by no means discouraging. The forts at the western entrance of the Strait—two on each side—have already been destroyed. A small observation fort, near the Aegean was early knocked to pieces. The forts on both shores almost up to the Narrows, have been silenced. The forts at the Narrows are, with two exceptions, on the water level. The two exceptions are situated on hills to the northeast of Kilit Bahr.

From none of these forts can fire be directed landwards. They were constructed strictly for sea defence. If, therefore, the land forces of the Allies, which have got footing on shore to the west, north and east of the forts, can advance across the from five to ten miles of rugged, hilly country they will be able to overlook the forts and make them inoperable against a concerted sea assault. The whole peninsula of Gallipoli has been cut off by the seizure of the eastern isthmus, the reduction of the Bulair Lines and the occupation of the town of Gallipoli. The Narrows lie from thirteen to fifteen miles up the Strait. East of them the Dardanelles is wholly unfortified until the Sea of Marmora is reached.

The forcing of the Dardanelles, therefore, if the land forces available are at all adequate, should not be an impossible or even a very difficult operation. We confidently hope to see it accomplished at a comparatively early date. The Allied Fleet has already penetrated so far into the Strait that it commands completely the three or four miles of Narrows, between Kilit Bahr and Chanak up to Nagara, and can prevent the passage of reinforcements from the Asiatic to the European side, or up or down the Strait. Only a day or two ago the Queen Elizabeth sank, after three shots, a ten thousand ton Turkish transport, probably bearing troops. There are admittedly not more than sixty thousand German and Turkish soldiers in the Peninsula. If these can neither be added to nor supplied either by land or sea, their complete defeat should not be long deferred.

With the Dardanelles once opened and cleared of mines, and their shores occupied by Allied troops, the rest of the undertaking ought not to be difficult. The island fortifications in the Sea of Marmora, and the City of Constantinople itself would not necessarily have to be reduced immediately. It would be sufficient to mask them with naval detachments whilst the Bosphorus was being cleared to the Black Sea. The Bosphorus is only thirteen miles in length, as against the thirty-three miles of the Dardanelles. It is not nearly as strongly defended as the Dardanelles, and Russian naval and military forces would be available to assist in the clearing of it.

After that the wide ocean would be as free and open to Russia as to her Allies. Her vast accumulations of foodstuffs could at once be thrown upon the markets of the Allies and the neutral nations, greatly reducing the cost of living and relieving the financial situation. Much needed military supplies could immediately be sent to Russia from Europe and America. In

this aspect of the question, therefore, there can be no doubt that the attack on the Dardanelles is emphatically a "major operation" of the war, even apart entirely from the influence which it may have on the Italian and Balkan situations. No more promising blow could be struck at Germany, west of the Rhine, than the forcing of the Dardanelles and the resulting free entrance to and exit from the Black Sea for the Allies would prove.

We have every confidence that the great scientific stroke now being delivered in the Near East will speedily prove effective. We must decline to believe for a moment that Mr. Winston Churchill is solely or even principally responsible for it. It has far too much the appearance of being the result of sound concerted military and naval strategy on the part of the Allies, for any such supposition to be at all tenable.

WATCHFUL WAITING.

No other event could have so aroused the public opinion of the world as that spectacular murder on Friday afternoon when the Lusitania went to her doom carrying down her precious burden of women and children and unarmed men. This satanic crime stands out from the others in its enormity and its diabolical recklessness of what other nations may think or do. The German Kaiser has succeeded Abdul Hamid as the grand assassin of the world.

On every side we hear the query—"What will the United States do now?" As the London Times has already pointed out, it is not for us to direct or dictate to the American nation what their foreign policy is to be, even when their own undefended subjects are being slaughtered quite as ruthlessly as were the babies in Belgium and the school children at Hartlepool and Scarborough.

American subjects have in many cases been assassinated within the past two years in battle-torn Mexico. But the once imperious, proud, and potential United States Government has allowed the cut-throat to pursue his deadly work unmolested, and has taken up its supinely timid position of "watchful waiting."

What a contrast this has been to the policy of Great Britain. The British will stand no small amount of ingratitude, of insults to their "honor," and of foreign bullying and aggression, and never say a word. But once let any alien nation lay its unholy hands upon a British subject and the air instantly becomes thick with trouble.

Great Britain's idea of what British citizenship means is best illustrated by what Great Britain actually did in the war with Abyssinia in 1867-8. King Theodore of Abyssinia seized Captain Cameron, a British citizen, and incarcerated him in a fortress dungeon on the top of Magdala, a mountain nine thousand feet high. Britain demanded his release, and King Theodore refused. England fitted out and sent on 5,000 English soldiers and 10,000 Sepoys. They were debarked at the coast and marched across four hundred miles of a mountainous and roadless country. The army had to make its way, now under burning sun, and now amid storms of rain and sleet, through broken and perplexing mountain gorges and over mountain heights, ten thousand feet above the sea-level. Magdala was perched upon cliffs so precipitous that it was said a cat could not climb them, except at two points—one north and one south—at each of which a narrow path led up to a strong gateway.

The British soldiers crept up the mountain height, they scaled the walls, they broke down the iron gates, they marched down into the dungeon, they took this one British citizen, like a brand from the burning, and carried him across mountain, morass and burning plain, put him on board the waiting British man-of-war, and bore him back to England in safety. To rescue that one British subject cost the government of Great Britain millions of dollars and it made General Napier, Lord Napier of Magdala.

The late Senator Frye of Massachusetts in commenting upon this magnificent exhibition of governmental protection of its subjects exclaimed in a burst of eloquence— "Now was not that a magnificent thing for a great country to do? Think of it! A country that has an eye sharp enough to see way across the ocean, way across the morass, way up into the mountain top, way down into the dungeon, one citizen, one of her millions of subjects, and then has an arm strong enough to reach way across the ocean, way across the morass, way up into the mountain height and down into the dungeon, and take that one and bear him away home in safety. In the name of the dear God, who would not live and die, too, for the country that can do that?"

Who would now say that Great Britain paid too high a price to release that one British subject? The millions of dollars were paid, but it meant that the British flag was something to be honored and respected by civilized nation and barbarian alike the world over.

If Great Britain were in the position that the United States occupies now, can we imagine the British government sitting down in impotent ease. We who are British subjects know that this wholesale, culminating assassination would have been answered almost instantly with British decks cleared for action.

The American government knows well the German contention. The American government knows that American ships have been sunk, and American subjects have been brutally murdered and sent to the depths of the sea with less consideration than if they were cattle. They know that such inhuman crimes were committed even before the Lusitania set out upon that last fatal voyage.

Is "watchful waiting" to be the only answer that the American government has to give to the German assassin's challenge?

Is the comparative passivity of the Canadian government now to be succeeded by a war policy that is adequate and commensurate with our resources of men and money? Our citizenship is aroused, but the government hesitates and dallies and lingers. Surely we have played the part of spectators long enough. Our forces at the front and in training are pitifully small compared with what we might and should have done.

Leading and influential Conservatives of Belleville have already rendered a patriotic service in helping to avert the disgrace and disaster of an unnecessary wartime election. They can render a further patriotic service by bringing pressure to bear upon the government to issue an instant call for another hundred thousand volunteers.

TOURING CARS WILL BE IN DEMAND.

More automobiles have been sold in Belleville the past few weeks than has been the case in any season since the benzine buggy first came on the market. It is not for us to say whether this is an evidence of prosperity or a competition in extravagance. It is probable that the great majority of the purchasers can well afford the outlay and that with many the "mobe" will be more a means of facilitating business than of pursuing pleasure.

The sales, in the midst of all this talk about depression, hard times and war stringency, are really an occasion for surprise, but it will occasion greater surprise if almost every dairyman in the district does not provide himself with a limousine or a high-grade touring-car in the near future.

On Saturday the punky, tasteless, April fodder cheese sold on Belleville board for eighteen and three-eighths cents a pound. This is almost double the regular price that has prevailed in former years for this poor imitation of real cheese, and high record price by big odds over any preceding year. Coupled with this is the additional fact that the remarkably warm weather and frequent showers have produced a luxuriance of pasture that was not equalled at any time in the growing season of 1914. There was a great scarcity of fodder for cattle last year, and therefore the coming of early pasture was never more needed or welcome or profitable.

Automobile salesmen will do well to interview the dairymen farmers without delay.

PRACTICAL PATRIOTISM.

While there are too many who are using this war as a convenient means for supplying their pockets with a long-green lining, we should not gather the impression that any large proportion of the people belong to the grafting species. The recent magnificent response to the appeal for the Patriotic Fund in Belleville shows that the heart of our citizenship beats true and that the great majority are willing to do their utmost, without hope of personal profit, unselfishly, and unostentatiously, to assist in the great work of fighting the national battle for existence.

Among those who are contributing in various ways, we feel like giving special acknowledgement to Mr. W. B. Northrup, M.P., who has donated his beautiful and capacious residence on Front Street North as a home and hospital where badly wounded soldiers will be accommodated in the period of convalescence. This is an evidence of practical patriotism, which, after all, is the only kind that counts.

This is not the only patriotic service that Mr. Northrup has rendered to his country at this particular time. He has been among that small group of Conservative members of the Commons who have strenuously opposed a wartime election. His attitude in regard to a premature appeal to the electors was clearly demonstrated in the published reports of committee proceedings during the last session of parliament. It often requires more courage to fight the would-be mischief-makers in one's own household than it does to fight the open and avowed enemy.

The Lusitania carried no guns and was in no sense an auxiliary cruiser. Some time ago the United States Government announced that liners carrying guns would be interned, and since then no trans-Atlantic liner flying the British flag has been armed.

Lord Rosebery, in a speech in Edinburgh the other day, said that there was at one time an idea that Lord Kitchener was opposed to "Bantam" battalions. He mentioned this to Lord Kitchener, and received a letter in reply which began as follows: "If anyone says I am opposed to Bantams he is a liar." Anything more concise or expressive as a renunciation of

a heresy, Lord Rosebery added, I cannot conceive.

There is no doubt that the already greatly lessened prestige of the government has been further decidedly reduced by all this incendiary election talk in the midst of war. It has been many years since the Canadian people showed such unanimous impatience and extreme dissatisfaction with any governmental proposal as that to force an unnecessary election contest while we should be giving our united energies to fighting our powerful enemies abroad.

It now looks as if the proposed June Election had been cruelly electrocuted, not because the necessity for it was any less pressing than before, but because the government realised that they would encounter a smashing defeat if they attempted so transparent a scheme of playing Germany's game. It is morally certain that had they gone on with their Germanic proposals that they would not have been able to secure a majority in any province of the Dominion, not even in Ontario.

If, however, it is the intention of the government merely to postpone an election until September they might far better have gone to the polls now and have it over with. Ever since the war started the government has been dangleing this election possibility before the country and it is bad for the very serious business we have in hand. Let us either have an election or an end of election talk.

These are the dark days of the war, and we are suffering bitter disappointment because one reverse or disaster has been following another for nearly three weeks past, just at the time when we had been looking for the beginning of the end. The loss of the Lusitania yesterday afternoon, it is to be feared, will have an effect on public opinion out of all proportion to its importance. On the other hand if pessimism is succeeded by determination greater than ever, the loss may be a blessing in disguise. We have all along maintained that Canada as a potential part of the British Empire was not doing more than a fraction of its duty. Had we done our fair share, as England is now doing it, we would already have in the field, or well advanced in active training, fully half a million men, instead of only a hundred thousand. It is to be hoped that the deep necessity now lying upon us will be realized to the full by the leaders of our government and by the humblest citizen. It is not a time for pessimism but forcible action.

If Great Britain could only utilize the services of some of those stalwart patriots and astute strategists, who congregate every morning, afternoon and evening around the four corners of Bridge and Front Streets, the war would be brought to a speedy termination. They have forgotten more about the fine pints of strategy than French or Joffre ever knew. So much wisdom and energy going to waste at this time of patriotism, production and acute military necessity is a shameless piece of extravagance or lack of foresight, or both.

Kinsale, Ireland, May 10.—The Coroner's jury which has been investigating the deaths attendant upon the loss of the Lusitania, at Kinsale, Ireland, returned the following verdict yesterday:

"The jury find that this appalling crime was contrary to international law and the conventions of all civilized nations, and we therefore charge the officers of the submarine and the German Emperor and the Government of Germany, under whose orders they acted, with the crime of wilful and wholesale murder."

REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

Laid in their Lowland graces with flowers decked, Brave sons of this Dominion nobly rest, Fallen in freedom's cause—nor danger recked Where duty called, and people were oppressed.

Oh! heave no sigh and make no moan nor weep, Such annals of the strife, are writ in stone, As those accomplished by the brave who sleep In Flanders, and in peace—but not alone.

For ye do ill to weep for conquerors, dead, Their lives meant gain for all; then shall ye moan?

Would ye that they had feared to face the lead And like to cringing cowards stayed at home?

Garland their graves, and thank your living God That ye could give your mother-love, your boy, To fight, and then enrich the battle sod, Oh, pray away your sorrow—cherish joy!

When rivers flow no more and blossoms cease To garnish homely fields in glad spring day, When love of youthful hearts shall fail to please, Their face shall pass—but not till then—away. —Matthew Wayman.

Other Editors' Opinions

THE LEAST EXCUSABLE BELLIGERENT.

To persons of neutral mind today presents a curious and no admiralable spectacle. Most Americans, perhaps, look on her pretensions to enter the war with tolerance. They feel that her participation will not really change current of events, but will make the end come quicker. But even those who believe Italy may thus be acting for the best interests of the world are inclined to give her little credit for her conduct.

The plain fact is that Italy is playing a role which history will probably call dishonorable. In no other development of this complex war has there been an exhibition of such cold-blooded opportunism, such indifference of a nation to considerations of morals and honor that a private citizen usually considers binding.

Every other nation entering the war has done so for some ideal which neutrals can understand and even sympathize with. The German people, rightly or wrongly, believed they had to wage an apparently aggressive war for the sake of their own safety. Austro-Hungary doubtless felt the "Slav peril" as a real thing, and considered her aggressions against Serbia as broadly defensive. Russia, though actuated partly by jealousy and fear of the growing power of Germany and Austria, seems to have been moved no less strongly by a racial sympathy for her fellow-Slavs of Serbia which is unselfish and admirable. France, of course, had to fight for her life when attacked. Of Belgium's justification there is no question in America. As for Great Britain, she was evidently influenced at least as much by a desire to save and avenge Belgium as by a desire to crush her greatest rival while there was a chance.

Italy has no such quarrel as any of these nations. And in the light of her recent history, her entrance into the Armageddon is hardest to justify. She is fighting for an "ideal," to be sure—for what her statesmen call "Italy's national aspirations." That means, she is fighting for an enlargement of her territory. It is to her credit that the territory she demands, the provinces of Trieste, Trentino and Dalmatia—are mostly Italian in population, and in a perfectly reorganized Europe those "unredeemed" provinces ought to be joined to Italy for good. But for all that, the fact that Italy undertakes to wrest them from Austria at a time when Austria is prostrate; she demands them not from a recognized enemy, but from an ally; and she alleges no offense—she simply wants the territory.

When Italy forsook her allies, Germany and Austria on the ground that their war was aggressive, and she was not pledged to help them in such a contest, the neutral world approved. If she had maintained neutrality, she would have set a noble example to the world. But to turn on her recent ally, in that ally's darkest hour, without cause of offense, without pretending to avenge a wrong—unless it be ancient, half-forgotten wrongs—that can win her no foreign praise.

The unanimity of Italy for the war is half calculating statesmanship that does not feel itself obliged to weigh moral consideration, and half the enthusiasm of an unthinking populace drunk with the false wine of militarism. Modern Italy has the reputation of never having made a diplomatic mistake. Its people are not yet sufficiently used to their new freedom and nationality to feel the responsibility of it. The nation is dreaming of its ancient glories when Rome ruled Europe. The world has despised Italy, in the long ages when she was under the heel of upstart nations; now Italy her youth revived, will show them whether she is to be scorned or whether she is a world-power! So she will seize what she wants of Austria, as she seized Tripoli but lately.

And to gain the husk of territory, she will sacrifice the kernel of domestic development and prosperity. The money the war will cost her would suffice to finance steamship and railroad lines, to dredge rivers and harbors, to build docks and warehouses, to open mines and erect factories. Her banking, industry, transportation and commerce today are largely in the hands of foreigners. Yet she turns away from these opportunities for peaceful, productive conquest to squander her borrowed money and her wealth of young manhood in a deceptive quest for mere territory. —Bisbee (Arizona) Review.

Mother Graves' Worm exterminator will drive worms from the system without injury to the child, because its action, while fully effective, is mild.



RIVER VALLEY

Mr. and Mrs. Bob... ing a few days at Mr. Robert Cullon... Mr. Royal Herma... Mr. Clarence Cha... who has volunteer... service spent last Su... here.

Miss Mary Dibby sp... Miss Lucy Boulton... Mrs. Perry, of To... a few days at Mr. Jo... The well-drillers... luck at Mr. Dettlor's... Smith is having a we... Miss Violet Richar... days in Frankford...

We are glad to s... gaining real well after... The Women's In... May meeting at M... shaw's when new off... for the year 1915:— W. H. Hanna; 1st... Earl Morrow; 2nd... T. J. Smith; Ses... Sager; Directors, Mr... Carlyle, Mrs. Bout... Hoard.

Mr. and Mrs. Bu... daughter, Mrs. Ha... last week. Mr. Harry Taylo... night in town. Mr. Cooney's hor... automobile on... and ran away sma... but no one was hurt... Mr. Wannamake... staying with his... Hiram Rosebush.

Miss Pearl Hone... is spending a... Ben Clarke's... Mr. Frank How... Selden Homan's on... Mrs. Jon Vandew... A. Ross's last we... Mr. and Mrs. Ar... Master Fred, Wel... and Mrs. W. E. Va... took dinner at Mr... Sunday.

Miss Rutledge h... days with Mrs. A... The Y.P.S. of th... entertaining the th... on Wednesday eve... Miss A. Hamilt... visiting at Mr. N...

STIR... A number fro... church at Ivanhoe... among whom we... Inroy and Miss Ell... ley Wright and Mi... Wallace McInroy... Gay, Mr. Sandy N... Eliza McInroy, M... Warren Haggerty... Foster Wilson, Ar... Murray Wright... Miss Bessie Wri... are spending a... ville.

Mr. Perce Tumb... John Wright's one... business. Mr. Clarence S... Man., was the gre... uncle, Mr. and M... Saturday, and le... Tuesday. He ha... overseas service a... the 2nd Signal Co... Mrs. Thos. Smi... say, who has been... monia, is recoveri... Miss Jessie Park... ited her friend, M... week end last we... Miss Edith Bush... her sister, Mrs. H... Mr. and Mrs. W... Glen Ross, were th... last Saturday.

On Sunday after... Mrs. Will Cooney... going to the for... horse became fright... ran away and thre... received a shaking... Mr. Robert Car... Point Ann, who h...

Time... the unequal... best corre... so common... serious sick... irregular a... Bee... have a great... entire satisf... you that you... spirits and ge... Try them, an... An In... Prepared... Sold e...