

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1917.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

It was suggested in the House of Commons the other day, during a debate on civil service questions, that few members of the House would be able, without special preparation, to pass a matriculation examination or even the entrance. It sounds rather ridiculous, but a few moments' thought will convince most people that the remark is correct. How many businessmen of this city could pass an entrance examination?

Somewhat condescendingly the grown-up congratulates the boy or girl who has passed the entrance; it is very good for the little person, and so on. But a glance at the questions which have to be answered should produce nothing but respect and warm admiration for the child in the early teens who can gain the necessary number of marks.

Belleville schools have made a really brilliant showing this year, for which both teachers and pupils deserve the greatest credit. Perhaps some credit should be given also to the weather, which was not so hot as is frequently is at the examination season.

The holidays will be thoroughly enjoyed after the hard work, and some sympathy will be felt for the unsuccessful by those who are rejoicing. It is not a disgrace to fail if the effort was made to succeed, and, for the consolation of those whose marks did not reach the pass total, it may be pointed out it is not always the ones who pass exams easily who leave the deepest and most enduring impression on their country's history. There are other trials coming in which they may be the leaders.

FOOD COMPULSION

Food Controller Hanna intimates that compulsion may be applied to Canada's food supply, to prevent waste, and enable the country to ship in greater quantities to Europe. North America must find 160,000,000 bushels of wheat in excess of the normal export and must also economize on beef. To do so substitutes must be found for these commodities.

The food controller is not likely to meet with difficulty in enforcing his order after it is drafted. Canadians will soon learn that corn bread is wholesome and palatable and most of them are familiar with the good qualities of cornmeal and oatmeal. The waters of the country abound in fish, for which, perhaps, too great familiarity has bred contempt. The people of Ontario, for instance, do not appreciate the fine whitefish and herring to be obtained from the Great Lakes. Perhaps it is because in the past the greater part of this product has been shipped to the States. As they learn the food value of the finny tribe and realize that it can be served at the table a few hours after it is taken from the water, fresh and firm, this Canadian industry will receive the recognition which it deserves.

Mr. Hanna states that he would not hesitate to fix prices. In view of the revelations made in connection with some cold storage plants there is no room for hesitation. Mr. Hanna should act on this point before he sets a limit on the quantities of food to be used and he will find he has the people with him. When the public realize that they are getting a square deal for their dollar they will rise to the occasion, and a few months of the simple life at meal time will not leave a bad taste in their mouths.

Mr. Hanna is supposed to be working in conjunction with Food Controller Hoover of the United States. If so his task is merely part of a general plan into which all the allied nations must enter. A recent article from the pen of Mr. Hoover stated that it was proposed to pool the food supplies of all the Allies with a central commission in charge and a sub-commission in each country. Under such a proposal the apportionment of food and the fixing of prices would be a necessity which Canadians will not be slow to realize.

GERMAN HATE FOR BRITAIN.

Hate for the English and Canadians surpasses all other feelings in the minds of Germans, and makes their treatment of prisoners of these nationalities more terribly cruel, more devilish than that accorded any others. The

hymn of hate was no mere momentary flash of bitterness on the part of the author, but rather a true expression of the sentiment towards the British which appears to exist generally throughout Germany. Indications of this fact have been apparent ever since the war began, but the convincing proof is offered in an article printed in an American magazine, in which the story of the capture, imprisonment, escape, recapture and final escape of two Canadians is told in detail. These two were Corp. Edwards of the Princess Pats and Pte. M. C. Simonds of Oxford County, and it is a tale to make the blood run cold with horror of the Huns.

Soon after being taken prisoner and after the intervention of a high German officer had saved them from death at the hands of his soldiers, these two men were informed: "You fellows are lucky. Our orders were to take no Canadian prisoners." Perhaps they were, in that they are still alive, but many times during their captivity it must have seemed to them that death in action would have been preferable. There is no need to enter into all the horrible details of their treatment. It is enough to say that every move which they made which could be construed into a breach of regulations was punished by the cutting down of their already starvation rations, and the infliction of physical torture of one kind or another; every opportunity to beat them or prick them with bayonets was gladly embraced, their sleeping quarters were made as uncomfortable and filthy as possible; all the most repulsive tasks of the camp were given to the "Englishers," males and females, high-born and low-born, of the civil population insulted and abused them whenever possible.

This hatred was emphasized by the better treatment of the French prisoners. These were allowed more liberty of action, were not nearly so much abused, were better fed and had all the easy labors of the camps.

What is it, one wonders, that has engendered this hatred for the British among the Teutons? Perhaps the answer is fear. Britain long has stood in Germany's path, a barrier to her world dominion. When the British sprang to the side of France and Belgium at the outset of the war, this fear became more acute. Was the kaiser's long-planned coup to be foiled by this little nation? The armies and the people were ordered to hate, to despise and to wipe out the protector of other nations. As the war progressed and British strength increased, the fear and hate became stronger, and it may be that they are now more bitter than ever before. But, it is the fear which is gaining the upper hand, gripping the Teutons, who will soon realize, if they have not begun to do so now, that every cruelty must be paid for in the end. If Britain knew all that has been done to her men taken prisoner, it is to be feared a fearful revenge would be taken.

SACRIFICE

One of the city ministers a week or two ago, speaking of the heroes sacrificing themselves in the war, said:

"We spend too much time thinking what short hours we can work, what wages we can get, how we can increase our dividends. May God deliver us from this spirit."

The trouble is not only that people are inclined to do as little as possible and get as much as possible for it, but that this spirit is generally approved and expected as a matter of course. The man who is willing to work more than the prescribed time, or to do anything at all for nothing, is viewed as below par or a silly fellow or a nuisance or even a criminal. It is the man who says he will do nothing for nothing that is respected; the other man comes in for contempt. Works of supererogation are by no means in favor. The man who pursues frankly the purely selfish plan of life and work is regarded as a man of decision, one who knows his worth and exacts it, a reasonable and comprehensible being a "strong man." The other man is weak and worthless, a reprehensible being, a laborer unworthy of his hire. He seems to put a low value on himself, and is accordingly so estimated by others.

Generosity is weakness, and invites injury. They take advantage of you. No wonder, then, that even persons naturally generous and unselfish endeavor to show themselves able to measure up, or down, to the generally required standard of self-seeking, insistence or hire, and such meanness. It is not difficult but dangerous to be generous in matters of work and pay.

GIVE THEM MANNA.

Could not airplanes be increasingly used not only for reprisals and destruction of works in Germany, but also for the spread of useful information in that benighted land of kultur? All over darkest Germany, particularly Rhenish Prussia and eastern Prussia, which are near the frontiers, paper bombs of assorted knowledge might be dropped almost as regularly as Mrs. John Wilson is visiting friends in Toronto. These capsules of

condensed education would perhaps do much good, especially from now on, when the German mind is growing more receptive to external light as the lines held by the Huns recede.

Photographs of German prisoners in England, of British ports and shipping doing the usual business in spite of all submarine attacks, and of the American mobilizations when they come should be of interest to Fritz. Self-damaging statements of all sorts, as they drop from the lips of Germans in authority every now and then, admissions as to whose war this is, who really made it, their designs, foreign and domestic, such stuff as this might be distributed in the greatest possible circulation.

Such a literature would supplement and correct very usefully the native German press. It might even injure the circulation of the native article, as it would be absolutely free of charge to all customers. Bits of moral and religious instruction, social uplift, etc., might advantageously be worked in for the improvement of the enemy's character and temper.

LOSS BY FIRE.

Conservation of resources. The phrase is becoming almost tiresome because of the insistence with which it is brought before the notice of the whole nation, and yet the importance of the subject warrants all the publicity which can be given it, and never more than in this year.

Periodically statistics are given out regarding the loss Canada and the United States suffer by reason of forest fires, frequently due to carelessness. But there is another fearful annual loss from fire which costs this northern half of America dearly; that is the loss of buildings and contents. The figures covering this are startling in their magnitude, especially those dealing with the United States. The statement of the chairman of the actuarial bureau given before a recent meeting of the United States National Board of Fire Underwriters, shows that in 1916 the insurance companies paid claims on this kind of fire amounting to \$223,487,611. The claims totalled 397,000, or about three fires in every four minutes. As the average loss was approximately \$565, the loss for each minute of the year was \$424. This does not include loss of buildings or contents where no insurance was carried.

In Canada the total loss for the same kind of blaze, computed from the claims paid, was \$13,670,527 in 1915; the figures for 1916 were not available, but were probably in excess of those for the preceding year. This total works out at \$26 a minute.

The reason for the much greater loss per head of population in the United States, \$2.25, as against \$1.75 in Canada, is probably the greater numbers of large cities, where fire is more liable to break out, and does much more damage when once started.

When one tries to picture the destruction of timber, steel, bricks, etc., which is included in the loss of all this property, the result is appalling. Labor is engaged in rebuilding which could be utilized probably in production of other necessities, and the forests and mines must be depleted to replace the destroyed products.

How can this terrible loss be reduced? Nearly every town or city has its efficient fire department to cope with outbreaks. Sometimes the efficiency of these could be increased by the addition of more men or apparatus, but the expense is too often viewed with alarm by the governing bodies. Perhaps individual care could do more good than anything else, and it may be that in the near future an educational campaign with this as an object will be launched.

COME AGAIN

The visit of the members of the Grand Lodge of the Masonic fraternity to Belleville leaves behind memories that are doubly pleasant. The city has never entertained more ap-

preciative guests. The hearty efforts upon the part of the local members of the order and upon the part of the citizens generally to extend to the visitors every possible attention and courtesy was amply repaid in the expressions of grateful acknowledgment heard on every side. This will also mean a continuing harvest of good-will and gratitude towards this city, that will be province-wide in its extent.

The resolution of thanks, passed on the last day of the convention, was far more than a mere formal vote of thanks to the city and the citizens for their hospitality and entertainment. It was a real human document expressive of the grateful appreciation of all and by far the strongest statement of that nature that has ever been passed by the Masonic Grand Lodge.

Where everyone did his part so well it is perhaps invidious to make distinctions but we feel that special mention should be made of the work of the district deputy grand master, Mayor Ketcheson, who both as chief magistrate of the city and as head of the order for Prince Edward district gave his best efforts to make of everything the conspicuous success that everything became. Nor must we except from this statement Mr. J. Wilfred Holmes general secretary of the committee who labored and planned early and late to complete arrangements to the minutest detail.

And, after all is done, was it not worth while? Cordial welcome and attentive courtesy to visitors is more than mere hospitality. It is exceedingly good business. The visitor who goes away with a good impression becomes a living advertisement and promoting agent of the place he has visited.

And this further thought occurs—why not make Belleville a regular convention city? Why not have all the Belleville members of secret orders, business associations and religious bodies strive upon every possible occasion to bring conventions to Belleville whenever it can be done? We believe it would be for our city a means productive of much ultimate good.

Five Germans have been arrested in Missouri, charged with selling court plaster laden with tetanus bacilli. This must be some of the hidden hand.

The United States will not have a press censorship. At least it will only censor the press by request, and control the outgoing news. It has confidence in its press to do the right thing.

The capture of four German merchant vessels by British destroyers in the North Sea is a rather surprising event. If German merchant ships are going to venture to sea, there will be compensation for the destruction of British shipping.

Conspiracy entered into between the Conservatives and Nationalists to beat Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the last election? Perish the thought! Read the Conservative papers and be assured that nothing was or is so abhorrent to Sir Robert Borden and his followers as the Nationalist creed. To class them with Bourassa, Lavergne and company is an unwarranted insult, they say; one which has not a semblance of fact as a basis.

PROSPERITY

It's easy to haul on the level,
 A skid-road that's smooth as a floor;
 You may have to work like the devil,
 And pull till your shoulder is sore;
 An' even a hill may not beat you,
 A little upgrade now and then—
 But there is a road that will test you,
 The test of both horses and men.

An' that is the downgrade, my brother,
 The place where you don't have to pull;
 The easy road, somehow or other,
 Is one that of trouble is full.
 The road up the hill you can master,
 The long haul that's level may beat,
 But when things are pushin' you faster—
 That's when you must keep on your feet.

Hard luck seldom conquers a fellow,
 A fellow, the regular kind;
 But when you will quit, if you're yella,
 Is when things are shovin' behind.
 Right then is the danger of ditchin',
 Is when you are wantin' to run—
 So brace yourself in the britchin',
 An' keep in the middle, my son!
 —Douglas Malloch, in the American Lumberman.

SHANNONVILLE

The lawn social given by the Women's Institute on June 27th, was a grand success, proceeds \$120.00.

Miss Florence Bell of Striffling, has returned home after spending some time with her cousin, Miss R. McDonald.

Mrs. John Wilson is visiting friends in Toronto.

We are sorry to report Mrs. Mc-

Alister not so well.

Mr. Geo. Winters of Trenton, spent a day this week in our village.

Mrs. H. Sharpe and son of Superior, Wis., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Taylor.

Mr. Theo. Woodcock, a farmer of Northbrook, who suffered a com-

pound fracture of the leg in an accident on Sunday at his home, died this morning at the General Hospital, Kingston. When Mr. Woodcock was first taken to the hospital, it was supposed that the bones would set and that his recovery would be rapid. But later it was found necessary to amputate the limb and the patient died from the shock.

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STEAMER "ARRESTED"

The new steamer John Webster, named after the Federal member for Brockville, was placed under arrest at Brockville on orders of the Admiralty Division of the Exchequer Court, at the instance of W. G. Jarman, who claims \$862.80 for damages to his motor launch at Cedar Island when the big craft rammed the little boat. The owners refuse the claim as excessive and refuse to pay the amount. After five hours detention, the Webster was released on two thousand dollars bail.

QUEEN'S PROFESSOR DEAD

Prof. Nathan F. Dupuis, a former professor of Queen's University, died last Friday at his home at Long Beach, Cal. He was a gifted writer, a wonderful mathematician whose text books are in general use today and a learned astronomer. He was 81 years of age and was one of the best known and ablest professors Queen's ever had.