

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

Morton & Herity, Publishers.

THE DAILY ONTARIO is published every afternoon (Sundays and holidays excepted) at The Ontario Building, Front St., Belleville, Ontario. Subscription \$3.00 per annum.

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO and Bay of Quinte Chronicle is published every Thursday morning at \$1.50 a year or \$2.00 a year to the United States.

JOB PRINTING—The Ontario Job Printing Department is especially well equipped to turn out artistic and stylish Job Work. Modern presses, new type, competent workmen.

Subscription Rates

(Daily Edition)
One year, delivered in the city \$5.00
One year, by mail to rural offices \$2.50
One year, post office box or gen. del. \$2.00
One year, to U.S.A. \$2.50

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Business Manager. Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1918.

THE FUEL PROBLEM AGAIN.

When The Ontario called attention to the very serious nature of the fuel situation in Belleville a couple of weeks ago we were accused of sensationalism and having a desire to stir up a panic.

Such charges matter little, as they come from people who believe the correct policy is to sit around and do nothing for fear of hurting the feelings of some supersensitive individual. They call that sort of thing "optimism." Those who recommend that reasonable precautions be taken to meet a well foreseen contingency, they call "knockers." They believe that the correct thing to do is to take nine stitches where one would do just as well, if taken in time. We have a superabundance of "optimists" at Belleville.

We are now in the grip of a coal famine which does not show any tendency to become less stringent as the days go by. The trouble is not of recent origin but started nearly two years ago and has gradually grown worse until we have reached the period of enforced hollidays and freezing in our homes. No prophetic vision was required to foresee its coming.

There is little satisfaction to be gained by swearing at the coal-dealers. Swearing will not bring coal to us or heat our homes. The dealers have been doing their best to procure supplies for us but have not succeeded in securing enough to fill out all our requirements. The same is true of many other towns which have even worse shivers than we have here.

The weak link in the chain in the transportation system which has pitifully broken down.

Our local fuel controller has a most difficult duty to perform. It is a duty in which there are no precedents for guidance. He has to work out his own system. Mistakes have been and no doubt will be made. But we feel sure that Mr. Willis is certain to do his best to carry out his work with fairness, firmness and good judgment. The public should refrain from harsh criticisms until he has had a reasonable time to work out a workable and equitable system. The Ontario has received many invitations the past few days to join in denunciation of controller, dealers and everybody concerned with the combustion business, but we feel that this is not the proper time to engage in any crusade. If, however, there are persistently wrong conditions and the local dealers or authorities are to blame, The Ontario will not hesitate to do its duty as a public journal.

We would suggest that parties having grievances on account of fancied favoritism or of unjust treatment should lay their case in a reasonable way before the controller and see if redress cannot be had in that way. Those who can suggest improvement in the plan of distribution of supplies ought also to give their ideas expression.

We would like to see more energy displayed by the special committee of the council, having the fuel-depot in charge. There is no reason why a force of fifty men should not now be engaged in securing wood from our superfluous shade trees. There are several hundred needy families in the city who would willingly pay good prices for the wood rather than freeze. It is not true to say that the green maple cannot be burned. With a little preliminary drying in an oven it forms a most satisfactory fuel. Give the people a chance and they will attend to the burning of it. Overhanging wires and over-sentimental property owners will give trouble at places but these should not be allowed to interfere with the plain discharge of duty.

The Ontario is not among those who consider that it was a crime for the city to establish a fuel-depot. Many have objected to it on the ground that the council had no more right to engage in work of this kind than to establish bakeries or go into the hardware business.

Let us briefly examine the question. In this northern climate fuel is as much a necessity of life as bread, meat or clothing.

During the time of war, there are certain conditions that may arise which might make it justifiable for the government or the mun-

cipality to take over the distribution of the necessities of life. The most important of these conditions are two in number—

(1) When dealers in the necessities of life are exacting an undue profit.

(2) When dealers fail to procure adequate supplies of the necessities of life for the use of the people.

Because the dealers in coal failed to secure adequate supplies of that fuel and famine conditions appeared inevitable it became necessary to supplement their efforts by the best organized efforts of the municipalities.

It was not the fault of the dealers that famine conditions threatened in Belleville, Peterboro, Toronto and elsewhere. The dealers, as mentioned above, were the victims of circumstances, but the net fact was that they failed and it became necessary for municipal councils to supplement their efforts.

That is what was done here. There is no reason why the dealers or anyone else should view the movement with hostility. There should be co-operation, for the best efforts of all are needed to stave off absolute famine.

AN APPEAL TO EMOTIONALISM.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, having heard from the lips of a wounded British officer, who was a prisoner in Germany for some time, of the atrocious treatment meted out to British officers in the enemy country, felt his blood boil at the recital, and had renewed within him a fierce hatred of all Teutons. Believing that this will be the effect on all Britons who hear the stories in the humanly-moving language of those who have suffered instead of in the cold, official reports, he strongly advocates having similar authentic stories, signed by those who have witnessed or experienced the brutality, scattered broadcast throughout munition works, ship-building yards and other places in order to spur on the workers to greater efforts. He would add to these pictures portraying the atrocities and have them posted in all factories.

Sir Arthur evidently believes that emotional stimulants are required in order to bring the best to the surface among the workers. Perhaps, in his anxiety to do everything possible to win the war, he has overlooked the fact that the Britisher is not emotional by nature, but more apt to form a decision; and stick to it through thick and thin than to get all "on edge" over a story or a picture.

It would be safe, probably, to say that there is no British workman who has not heard or read of German brutality at its worst, and who has not discussed it in language whose warmth left nothing to be desired. Thousands upon thousands of them see the dead bodies of helpless infants, slain by the Huns, reflected in every piece of work they complete; of wounded brothers stabbed to death and sisters torn by fragments of shells. These need no pictures; they have the realities ever before them.

Stimulants all have their reaction: the man whose frenzy is roused to the highest pitch by speech, story or picture today is not so deadly tomorrow as he has decided, calmly and coolly what he will do and goes about it with terrible, speechless earnestness. It is the cool, bulldog tenacity of the race which has won victories, not the temporary desperation born of emotion.

It should be said that Doyle's principal purpose in his suggestions is to bring the awful tragedies home to workers in Sinn Fein districts, and in hotbeds of socialism and pacifism. Even in these places there has been no lack of stories or pictures. Every newspaper has carried accounts of Hunism, and most of them have shown portrayals of actual crimes committed.

The war has gone on too long for sensationalism to have much beneficial effect. It has become a grim, determined struggle to hold out, and this is where the British fighter and the British worker shine.

THE FOOD QUESTION.

War and famine are born companions. Scarcity of food is a sure-accompaniment of the wastage of war. A world at war will sooner or later be a world that cannot get enough to eat. When human beings cannot get enough to eat, in order to sustain life, their thoughts and desires turn from war to peace. The hungrier a people are, the more they crave peace. The prevalent unrest in Germany and Austria-Hungary denotes that the peoples of these countries are the hungriest peoples of any of the nations now engaged in this war. Other nations are undergoing privations, but the demonstrations of discontent and dissatisfaction are mild in comparison with those that are being made in Germany and Austria-Hungary. Their armies may be able for years to stand the battering of big guns, but they cannot stand the lack of food for themselves and their families at home.

The German submarine campaign was entered upon with the idea that it would starve England out before Germany could be starved. The question of winning the war was a question of who would be starved first. The call of England for more wheat indicates that victory depends on the last bushel of wheat. The side

which will be compelled to acknowledge defeat is the side which eats its last bushel first. It has been said that that side will win which has the last dollar at its command, but the fallacy of this lies in the fact that human beings cannot sustain life on dollars. They cannot eat money. Money cannot buy wheat and other grains; if there is no wheat and other grains to be had.

When the predictions are made that the war will last for years, the prophets are thinking too much of military power as expressed by men in arms. They are thinking of guns and munitions. With every increase in the production of these, there is a decrease in the production of food. The more men there are engaged in firing guns at each other, the less becomes the supply of food necessary to keep them alive. Iron and steel they may have in abundance, but food in abundance is another matter. There is bound to be a diminishing return from the land while the energies of man are concentrated on the production of machinery for killing. The exhaustion of reserve supplies of food is already manifested by efforts at conservation, and the attempts to find substitutes for staple articles of food.

The people of Germany are obliged to resort to chemical formula in order to keep themselves from starvation. They are shut off almost entirely from the outside world. The allies have free access to the supplies of other countries. But even these cannot be maintained indefinitely in sufficient quantities to feed 40,000,000 or more soldiers and the populations of the countries of the world. If the food factor receives the consideration which its importance deserves, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the war cannot be carried on for the length of time which dismal prophets predict. In considering the food factor alone all the advantages are with the allies. They are unquestionably in a somewhat difficult case but are far from being reduced to such extremes as the central powers. There can be no question that Germany will come to the starvation point first, so long as the people of Canada stand by the allies by supplying them with food.

CANADA NEEDS MERCHANT MARINE.

"The establishment of a Canadian ocean merchant marine is a national opportunity and a national obligation."

With these words J. W. Norcross, president of the Canadian Steamships Line, concludes an article in the Canadian Magazine, which is a strong plea for early governmental action in beginning to build up the country's marine fleet, which has been allowed to dwindle to almost nothing.

Mr. Norcross is looking into the future, as is every big Canadian of today. He sees the overwhelming handicap under which it will labor if it does not possess its own merchant marine, wherewith to transport not only raw products but its manufactured and finished articles.

To obtain this merchant marine, Canada must build it for herself. As soon as the war ends there will be a demand for tonnage such as has never been known. Canada will not be able to buy bottoms, therefore she must build them, and if they are to be of use in helping the Dominion to take advantage of her opportunities the work must be begun immediately. British vessels will be diverted in great measure to South American waters in order to keep up with foreign competition there, and Canada will be the loser unless she has her own ships to replace them.

Mr. Norcross holds that the yards are obtainable in Canada, and that there are no insuperable obstacles to the establishment of the great industry he advocates. He is urgent that the Government shall undertake the building work, and shall operate the vessels until peace is declared, selling them then to private companies. The reason he gives for the latter suggestion is that the success of shipping line greatly depends on the personnel of the management. A company can and will pay the best man obtainable salary commensurate with his

worth, while a government could not pay the large salaries necessary to secure these men because of popular opposition.

Mr. Norcross' ideas are worth serious consideration. He writes of a subject on which he is an authority, and he sees not only the after-war possibilities but the problems that may be labor difficulties and trouble in obtaining some of the raw materials needed for ship-building, but they can be overcome. Certainly it would be greatly to Canada's advantage to own her own ships, manned by her own crews, ready to extend her commerce throughout the world when peace is declared. The pity is that there is in power a Government which has shown such aversion to ship-building in the Dominion.

Paper trousers are being worn generally in Germany. Great stuff for 13 below zero weather and underclothing scarce.

Spain is being slapped on the wrist for her anti-Allies attitude, and to show her neutrality sends "a strong protest to Germany." How Germany will shudder!

President Wilson opposes a superior war cabinet and a munitions ministry. Perhaps he has some knowledge of the men it is proposed to pitchfork into the positions.

It is amazing how many people there are who will "burn just as much coal" with their shops closed as when they are wide open to the people. It might be well to remember that the primary object of the government in ordering the holiday was not to close up shops but to save fuel. It is to be hoped that there will be a loyal attempt on the part of every citizen to see that there is a genuine attempt to meet the government's wishes.

Yesterday we felt more of the real touch of war in Belleville than at any other time since the beginning of hostilities. Added to the horrors of a mid-winter fuel famine were the tortures of a real famine in bread. In homes where there had been no baking from time immemorial old recipes from dust-covered cook-books were looked up and wife got busy preparing pancakes, johnnycake, graham gems, tea-biscuits, sea-biscuits and other classy substitutes. Several grocers this morning report an entire clean-up of buckwheat, graham and rye flour, corn meal and other "just-as-good" preparations.

NOT HIS JOB

"I'm not supposed to do that," said he. When an extra task he chanced to see; "That's not my job, and it's not my care. So I'll pass it by and I'll leave it there." And the boss who gave him his weekly pay lost more than his wages on him that day. "I'm not supposed to do that," he said; "That duty belongs to Jim or Fred."

So a little task that was in his way that he could have handled without delay was left unfinished; the way was paved for a heavy loss that he could have saved. And time went on and he kept his place. But he never altered his easy pace. And folks remarked on how well he knew The line of the tasks he was hired to do; For never once was he known to turn His hand to things not of his concern. But there in his foolish rut he stayed And for all he did he was fairly paid, But he never was worth a dollar more Than he got for his toll when the week was over.

For he knew too well when his work was through And he'd done all he was hired to do. If you want to grow in this world, young man You must do every day all the work you can; If you find a task, though it's not your bit, And it should be done, take care of it! And you'll never conquer or rise if you Do only the things you're supposed to do. —Edgar A. Guest in the Detroit Free Press.

in greater need than we are even needs next winter or the winter after now.

Peat is a serviceable fuel, but it is better for such a central authority as not probable that it will ever be used the Provincial Government to undertake as a fuel if coal can be had at any rate this task than for a junketing like a reasonable price. But policy like Toronto and perhaps even if this be the correct view to others to dabble in the venture in a take of it, it would still seem to be small way. The other is that if expedient for the Ontario Government should result in success

to figure out the logical course the peat deposits of Ontario would be of action in regard to peat, which in the hands of the Province for the world be, we think, to launch as a service of the country at large, in public work the establishment of a steady of falling under the control of reserve supply of pressed and dried a private monopoly.

peat—once prepared it will keep in. There are lessons we must learn the open indefinitely—available for this year. We are fortunate in having Hydro power, and we are fortunate in having the habit of getting use in any period of extreme need. If we are right in assuming that coal in summer for winter use, but peat cannot become a commercial if we cannot put in coal next summer competitor with coal as a fuel, there or the summer after, what substitute right now to the job of making plans are two reasons why the Ontario Government cannot trust to chance, and that to provide against both fuel and food emergency should assume the task of peat cannot trust to chance, and that to provide against both fuel and food emergency should assume the task of

the a fuel reserve on a large scale, and it so, must decide whether in accumulating this reserve, it is better to go back to wood or go on to peat. Of the two difficulties of transportation in connection with wood fuel indicate peat as the reserve that should be prepared and stored up against extreme need. —Toronto Daily Star.

TO LIE OR NOT TO LIE

Lying comes not of aggressive shrewdness but of cowardice and of a shallow cunning that is often treacherous and tricks the lie into transparency. It is not the danger of being found out by others that is most dreaded; far more dreaded is that the liar must know himself to be a liar. His self-respect suffers. The cunning that leads to lying is a rot that must permeate the whole character and make a man uncertain of himself. It distorts his perspective, obscures his vision and warps his comprehension. The habit of misrepresentation leads to misconception, the judgment becomes as erratic as the tongue, and there results the man who "couldn't tell the truth if he wanted to."

Nothing so shakes the confidence of one's friends as known lying does nothing so shatters one's self-confidence as does lying, whether known to others or not. The cowardice that fathers lying increases with the fear of detection joins with self-complacency in making the liar a greater coward than before. One who craves for another in its defence. The poet expressed it this way:

"O, what a tangled web we weave
When first we practice to deceive!"

This tangled web makes it all the harder for the liar to succeed in even an honest undertaking. His lies are a chain and ball upon his foot. He founders alone, most of his energy being required to overcome the impediment. While the truthful man easily outstrips him. The lying cheat in "The Year of Wakedfield," who was always swindling everybody, died in jail for debt, while his honest neighbor, who was swindled a thousand times, steadily prospered and died rich and respected. Fiction—eh? Well, it is immortal as fiction, because it is fact the world over all the time.—Kingston Whig.

DOWN WITH EGGS

In a special report on the food stocks held by packing and cold storage companies the Dominion Cost of Living Commissioner declares that there is an unjustifiable over-accumulation of eggs held at unjustifiable prices. He gives warning that in a few weeks these large holdings will be unfit for human food. Seeing no demand for exportation or possibility of exportation of them he says they should be forced on the market at once, so that consumers may use them while there is sustenance in them. If action is not taken by the holders to put these eggs within the price reach of consumers, he advises that the eggs be seized and sold before they rot. We hope this hint will not be lost on the persons or corporations who are holding back this food supply, and if these do not hasten to disgorge that the Government will promptly take possession of the eggs and put them on sale at reasonable prices. The Government's intervention ought not to stop at that. It should prosecute the guilty forestallers and see that they are heavily penalized for their profiteering manoeuvres.—Mail and Empire.

Maryland State Senate has joined the ranks of the "drys."

The University of California is opening a course in wireless telegraphy for women.

The severe weather last month curtailed oil production across the border by 80,000 barrels.

Three hundred oyster shrimpers are tied up at Port Norris alone, owing to the unprecedented freeze-up.

The funeral services of the late Senator Hughes at Paterson, N.J., were attended by five thousand people.

The New York office of the Hamburg-American Steamship Co. has been taken over in its entirety for war purposes.

Members of the New York State police and felons have one bond now; they both come in Class 5 as regards the U.S. draft.

LATE J. HAD A FUNERAL

Deceased Priest "John" in L Wounded Funeral

The mortal remains of John C. Ketcheson were in Belleville cemetery yesterday afternoon in the presence of friends, relatives and the Masonic fraternity. The funeral was conducted at Mr. T. B. Ketcheson's, deceased, Bridge street, G. R. Beamish, archdeacon and then the funeral proceeded to St. Thomas where Archdeacon Beamish conducted the solemn and the dead. The funeral was a Masonic funeral, many the craft being in procession. Geo. L. and son on receiving a message that their uncle was very near at once for Leavenworth, where they were delayed by regular train service. They arrived after their death. After the funeral Leavenworth, they accompanied the body to Belleville.

Almost royal honors the departed by the ceremony of the State of having been one of the most members of the jurisdiction.

For a day the remains at the Masonic temple and all day long stream of friends passed to pay their last tribute. Floral designs of rare from all parts of the their testimony of esteem and sympathy were laid out.

From The Leavenworth copy this strong journal but to end who had had years a foremost exponent of printing.

Feb. 4, 1838.
February 1, 1918.
John C. Ketcheson, Brother.

The passing of the old man of Leavenworth hours this morning marks the end of a span of four score with a life of usefulness and untold acts of kindness.

The veteran printer, "Clock this morning at eight where he had been in the week.

Last Friday night Mr. Ketcheson had a chill which rapidly into pneumonia. The years of age he had been morning arrival at his age until last Saturday, too ill to make the trip taken to the hospital in hope that the care would battle successfully old age in the fight with

John Ketcheson was born in Ontario, Canada, 1838. He was of an family—fifth generation and his family tree, if read well among the archives of the Abbey.

Perhaps no one but a reporter would know as his family tree as the acquaintance with him worth seemed to know his early family. He was in his private affairs the of his ancestry. Mr. Ketcheson to leave a record of his lives with came in contact. He survived.

Fifty years ago a young into Leavenworth with card from Chicago Union No. 16. From the arrival in the city Mr. Ketcheson was a booster for Leavenworth and his family tree, if read well among the archives of the Abbey.

A recent recently of the early day struggle worth to gain the better City for commercial gave his close friends a veteran printer's struggle worth's prosperity.

Mr. Ketcheson came with from Rockford, began the printer's trade in 1885 he went to Chicago type on the Chicago Tribune owned by Vaughan, R. Co. He went from Chicago and returned to Leavenworth.

East Man Wounded Sergeant-Major Ketcheson.