

## The Weekly Ontario

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### LOSS OF CRUISERS WILL ACT AS BOOM.

FRANG.

Although the loss of the three British warships is deplorable and undoubtedly unfortunate, it is gratifying to note that the triple disaster will have no effect on the fighting efficiency of the British fleet, inasmuch as they would in any case have been unable to take their places in the line of battle. Nevertheless, the victory, slight and unimportant as it is, gives the Germans an opportunity to record a score. So far the naval forces of Germany have not cut a very wide swath in the campaign. In fact, the left arm of the Kaiser's gigantic defensive force seems to be paralyzed. His navy is resting on its arms in some quiet haven of refuge, but it is his hope to be able with the help of fortune and his submarines to cripple and destroy a few of the British ships so that the array against him will not be so formidable when the clash does come. The recent attack of the submarines only demonstrates the necessity of keeping continually on the "qui vive." Von Tirpitz is waiting for a favorable opportunity to deliver a master stroke, but even with all the help of his mines and his submarines, he will need all the luck as is possible to have to get that opportunity. The British fleet will dearly avenge the loss of the three cruisers. Jellicoe is never caught in the same way twice.

### GASOLINE IN WAR.

It is rumored that the Germans are falling short of gasoline, and that that is why we hear so little now of the movements of their Zeppelins and aeroplanes. Inability to secure this liquid would affect more than flying machines. Motor trucks in the commissariat department, motor trucks drawing artillery, machine guns mounted on motor cars, automobiles for the rapid conveyance of commanding generals—all must go out of commission without it.

A current despatch is significant in this connection: "By her conquests in Galicia, Russia now controls the greatest supply of gasoline in Europe. This product is of the utmost importance to Russia, because of her necessity for motor transport." Where can Germany get gasoline, or petroleum from which it is made, with Galicia in the hands of the enemy?

Of the world's supply of petroleum, the United States produces about 63 per cent., the Russian Empire about 23 per cent., and many other countries smaller quantities. By far the richest oil field in the world is that of Baku, on the west shore of the Caspian Sea in the Russian territory of Transcaucasia. Within the continent of Europe, the most important sources of supply are in Galicia and Roumania.

If Germany had depended on Galicia for her supply of gasoline, she must be thrown into considerable embarrassment by the passing of that territory under the control of Russia. Where else can she get the needed supply? If from the United States or the Dutch East Indies, the oil must come by water to some Italian port, so that it may be carried thence into Germany by rail. But as all kinds of fuel, are conditional contraband, it is not to be supposed that the British Mediterranean fleet will allow any oil tank vessels to pass without the closest scrutiny into the ultimate destiny of their cargoes.

If Germany can get no gasoline, she will be badly handicapped in her further military operations. Her chemists will find some substitute, such as alcohol from the potato; but could that be produced in the necessary quantity, and could it be used in existing machinery without alteration? The liquid fuel situation may be worth watching.

### LIES—"MADE IN GERMANY."

German diplomacy has been proved by the official records of the Kaiser's own government to be absolutely unreliable and unworthy of credence. It has established for itself a record of dishonesty and misrepresentation almost without parallel. The German government has further discredited itself by the "faked" reports which it has issued with reference to the operations in the theatre of war. From the beginning of the war until the present moment, report after report, issued from Berlin, has been proved to be either a gross misrepresentation of the actual occurrence or without foundation in fact.

Not content with spreading its lying reports abroad, the German government seeks to deceive its own people at home, by publishing reports of imaginary happenings and printing falsehoods so preposterous as to reflect discredit

it upon, not only the intelligence but the common sense of the men responsible for their output. The Official Press Bureau in London recently found it necessary to call attention to the lying story published in Berlin, purporting to be a report of a pro-German speech delivered by Mr. John Burns, who recently resigned from the British Cabinet. This report was published in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" and other German newspapers of August 30th last, and was designed to show that a large section of the British people were not supporting the British government in this war. Mr. Burns' great "speech" was alleged to have been delivered in Albert Hall, to "a spell-bound audience." The important thing about this wonderful made-in-Germany production is that the speech was never delivered anywhere, and Mr. Burns never said or thought anything of the kind. The "speech" is notable chiefly for the admiration expressed therein of everything Germanic, and is, in short, exactly the kind of speech which, coming from an English statesman, would be especially palatable to the German people. For instance, Mr. Burns is reported to have said:

What if the news of England's defeat and England's weakness leaks out to the Colonies, which have really nothing in common with the Mother Country, and perhaps are waiting for some opportunity to fall away from her? What if France does not win? Enormous possessions are then lost, and further, the British loss of influence on the policy of the Continent cannot for centuries be recovered, because the influence of Germany, in association with her Austrian ally, would become so immense that Germany would not let any power on earth interfere with the construction of her navy.

A people so powerful and so conscious of its strength as the German people can be bound in no fetters that can be forged. With unparalleled self-sacrifice—even if the poorest laborer had to produce the last penny from his pocket—if we destroyed the German navy, Germany would create a navy twice, nay, thrice, as strong.

One wonders at the imbecility of a government which would attempt to perpetrate such a colossal hoax upon its own people, but not only was this "made-in-Germany" fake made to do duty throughout the German Empire, but it was passed on to Constantinople, where it received much enthusiastic attention, by reason of a certain passage concerning the Mahometans. These sentences give the essence of this not altogether innocuous invention:

The present situation compels the Turks to range themselves at the side of Germany. Any influence that we may have possessed in the Orient is now destroyed, and with it our rule over many, many millions of Mahometans, who will rise like a devastating hurricane when the Sultan unfurls the flag of the Caliphate and summons all Moslems to the holy war.

The flag of Mahomet will be raised in triumph when the flames of revolt shoot high in India. They will take the sacred carpet from the Kaaba and carry it on before them when a second Mahdi arises and over the corpses of the British troops in Egypt inspires the Egyptians with hopes of a reawakening of the people of Mahomet.

When a nation resorts to such bare-faced lying to bolster up its case with its own people, it is little wonder that, quite apart from the shocking brutalities and atrocities of which it is guilty, it has earned the supreme contempt of the civilized world.

### AMERICAN NEUTRALITY.

The administration at Washington is acting promptly in its determination to prevent the neutrality of the United States from being threatened by the incendiary comments of foreign diplomats representing their nations in that country. President Wilson will, it is understood, refuse to receive any diplomats who make obnoxious comments. Rustem Bey, the Turkish ambassador, who recently made some very unpleasant criticism to the United States, is to leave in a fortnight and it is not impossible that Baron Schoen of the German embassy may be recalled. Baron Schoen is said to deny the published interview in which he was said to have stated that the Japanese are very hostile to the United States and that war between Japan and the United States is not very far distant, but the reports of the interview were very explicit.

In the view of an American contemporary, one of the main sources of the idea of impending trouble between the two nations mentioned has been the continual newspaper and magazine comment upon the likelihood of such a contingency, and the incendiary remarks of men with whom the thought of war with Japan seems to be an obsession. In the present circumstances it is conceivable that some countries might not be adverse to involving other nations in the war area and the administration is acting wisely in insisting that foreign diplomats shall keep within their proper sphere and not permit themselves to indulge in interviews or speeches that might endanger United States neutrality.

### A PICTURE OF THE KAISER.

Edmund Burke, one of the great statesmen of all time, in the course of a letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol, said:

"A conscientious man would be cautious how he dealt in blood. He would feel some apprehension at being called to tremendous account for engaging in so deep a play without any knowledge of the game. It is no excuse for presumptuous ignorance that it is directed by insolent passion. The poorest being crawls on earth, contending to save itself from injustice and oppression is an object respectable in the eyes of God and man. But I cannot conceive any existence under heaven (which in the depths of its wisdom tolerates all sorts of things) that is more truly odious and disgusting than an impotent helpless creature without civil wisdom or military skill, bloated with pride and arrogance, calling for battles which he is not to fight, and contending for a violent dominion which he can never exercise.

"If you and I find our talents not of the great and ruling kind, our conduct at least is comfortable to our faculties. No man's life pays the forfeit of our rashness. No desolate widow weeps tears of blood over our ignorance. Scrupulous and sober in a well-grounded distrust of ourselves, we would keep in the port of peace and security; and perhaps in recommending to others something of the same diffidence, we should show ourselves more charitable to their welfare than injurious to their abilities."

### A REAL MENACE.

The daring exploit of the German submarine which sank three large cruisers and caused the losses of nearly 1,200 men, is taken as one of the hazards of war in the Old Country, but there is no disposition, so far as one can gather from the press comments, to minimize the serious nature of the disaster. The loss of the ships does not materially lessen the fighting strength of the British Navy, but it is important as showing the deadly menace of the submarine in naval warfare. The German submarine section is undoubtedly the most efficient part of the Kaiser's Navy, and it is upon this section that the Germans depend largely for success in naval war.

It is pointed out by a naval officer that the submarine is the only weapon of war which cannot be met by superiority of numbers. It can travel in regions mined without danger of loss by explosion of the mines, and is valuable as an agent to grapple, raise and cut cables. There is no question, the officer says, that submarines will play an important part in naval warfare in the future, although these vessels are still susceptible of much improvement with respect to more stable engines and greater speed while submerged.

Germany is said to have many more submarines than is officially admitted, but the Allied Powers have undoubtedly a great superiority in numbers, the latest available report showing that Great Britain has 69, France 50, and Russia 25 submarines, against Germany's 24 and Austria's 6.

The success of the German submarine has given point and support to the warning issued by Sir Percy Scott last June, when he declared:

"Submarines and aeroplanes have entirely revolutionized naval warfare. A submarine can deliver a deadly attack even in broad daylight. If the submarines find a ship she is doomed. They give no quarter. They only wait till she sinks, then return home without even knowing the number of human beings they have sent to the bottom of the ocean."

Sir Percy Scott's theory was ridiculed by his fellow experts in the Old Country at the time it was made, and many of them since the outbreak of the war have been pointing to the operations in the North Sea as completely disproving the theory expounded by Sir Percy Scott. The recent event, however, seems to have proven that Sir Percy Scott was not so far astray after all, and this one raid itself is enough to show that the submarine, under certain conditions at least, is a deadly and practicable instrument of warfare. It is too early, of course, to say to what extent it can be used in naval engagements on the high seas. Meanwhile it is a menace to the safety of the British fleet.

The Austrian rout is staggering. Germany, which forced her ally into the quarrel, has not been able to save her. Russia has more than fulfilled her share of the compact up to date.

If the German hope of success is based upon "beating the English," the Kaiser will be sadly disappointed. The English are not going to be beaten, for behind them are the whole resources of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen.

If Canada is called upon to organize a second Expeditionary Force—and that should speedily be known—it is to be hoped that the experience gained in equipping the first contingent will not be lost upon the Minister of Militia, and that there will be no delay in providing clothing and equipment for the soldiers.

September is nearly gone, and the Kaiser's dinner party in Paris is farther off than ever.

Canada sends forth her troops confident that when they are placed in the firing line they will acquit themselves like men.

That Italy, sooner or later, will throw her weight on the side of the Triple Entente is to be expected. Her interests as well as the sympathies of her people lie with the Allies.

Every day that the Allies keep the Germans engaged in Belgium and France is a day gained for Russia in the eastern theatre. The Kaiser's army is fighting against time, which is of more importance than many guns.

### THE LAST CHARGE.

This poem went the round of the newspapers shortly after the Civil War in the United States. The lines below are written from memory, and we do not guarantee their absolute fidelity to the original.

'Twas just before the last fierce charge,  
Two soldiers drew their rein  
For a clasp of a hand and a parting word—  
They might never meet again.

One had bright blue eyes and clustering curls,  
Nineteen but a month ago,  
Down on his chin and red on his cheek,  
He was only a boy, you know.

The other was dark, and stern, and proud,  
His faith in this world was dim;  
He only trusted the more in those  
Who were all the world to him.

They had ridden together in many a raid,  
Had marched for many a mile,  
And ever before they had met the foe  
With a calm and cheerful smile.

But now they looked in each other's face  
With an awful, ghastly gloom,  
And the dark, stern man was the first to speak,  
Saying, "Charlie, my hour has come!"

"We'll ride together down the hill,  
And if you ride back again,  
You must promise a little trouble to take  
For me, when I am slain."

"You will find a face upon my breast—  
I'll wear it in the fight—  
With bright blue eyes and sunny curls,  
And a smile like the morning light."

"Like the morning light was her love for me,  
For it gladdens my lonely life;  
What cared I for the powers of fate  
When she promised to be my wife?"

"Write to her, Charlie, when I am gone;  
Send her that fair, fond face,  
And tell her tenderly how I died,  
And where is my resting place."

Tears dimmed the blue eyes of the boy,  
His voice grew low with pain;  
"I'll do your bidding, comrade, mine,  
If I ride back again."

"And if you ride back, and I do not,  
You must do as much for me;  
I've a mother at home must hear the news;  
Write to her tenderly."

"She has prayed at home like a watching saint,  
Her fair face white with woe;  
It will break her heart when I am gone;  
I shall see her soon, I know."

"One after another of those she loved  
She had parted with—husband and sons;  
I was the last, my country called  
She kissed and sent me on."

Just then the order came to charge,  
In an instant hand clasped hand;  
They answered "Aye" and on they rode,  
That brave, devoted band.

And they rode till they came to the crest of the hill,  
Where the rebels' shot and shell  
Poured rifled death in the charging ranks  
And jeered them as they fell.

Among the dead that were left behind  
Was the boy with the curly hair,  
And the dark, stern man that rode by his side  
Lay dead beside him there.

There was no one to write to the blue-eyed girl  
The words her lover had said,  
And the mother at home could not hear the news  
That her darling boy was dead.

She never knew that the last fond thought  
That was said to soothe her pain,  
Until she crosses the river of death,  
And stands by his side again.

## DID HE SINK IN SAND?

Harry Barnes, Collins Lake, is Now Missing—There are Those Who think he was Submerged in Quick Sand, and so Lost His Life

A mysterious disappearance occurred at Collins Lake recently and has caused much comment among the farmers living in the neighborhood. This has been brought about by a well-known man, George Barnes, aged forty-five years, leaving his home almost five weeks ago. He has not yet reappeared. The supposition is now advanced that Mr. Barnes, who is a hunter and trapper, has become enmeshed in the many land that surrounded his home and was submerged. At the time of his disappearance the surrounding country had received much rain and the theory is that the hard crust which forms at times over hard crust which become softened and while Mr. Barnes was crossing he had broken through and sunk into the mire. His home has been left exactly as he left it as though he had finished a meal and then started out on a hunt for some game. However his rifle, traps, and other things have been left behind and by this it may signify that he had gone to obtain some food. Several Kingstonsians acquainted with the missing man, made a trip to his home last Sunday and when they were interviewed by a Whig reporter they claimed that the affair is one of the greatest mysteries that has ever happened around Collins Lake. The relatives of the missing man have about given up hope of ever seeing him again. They will try all in their power to find some clue that will relieve their suspense.

## SOME OFFICERS WITH CANADA'S OVER-SEA FORCE

It is significant that the Canadian contingent left the shores of Canada without an officer assuming the command of the entire army. Although small in numbers compared with the millions they are on their way to join, yet it is considerable of an army, and so we chose to designate it by that name. The fact that the contingent is divided among different transporters will probably give the brigadiers the command in each case. However, the regulations cover a case like that as it is understood that the senior takes command.

It is the purpose of this article to give the names of the brigade commanders, and the reason for their appointment. Lieut-Col. R. E. W. Turner is a cavalry man and as such was distinguished among his fellows in South Africa for his bravery and distinguished service. It was in the first C. M. R. that his service was rendered. His medal, which is adorned by no less than six clasps, shows the number of battles he fought in; his Victoria Cross and his Distinguished Service Order decorations all tell of his valiant service. He is, therefore, well qualified for his position. Born in 1871 he is still only forty-three years of age and in his prime.

Lieut-Col. Birstall, who is to command the Artillery Brigade, received his first military college at Kingston, was appointed a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Artillery in 1899 and has been promoted, step by step, until he has attained to the position of inspector of artillery and in command of the Citadel at Quebec. Before going to his present position at Quebec he commanded the Artillery Brigade of horse artillery composed of "A" and "B" batteries at Kingston. He saw service in South Africa in the infantry under General Buller, and has a medal with two clasps. Born in 1870, he too, is in his prime.

Lieut-Col. M. S. Mercer, who commands the first Brigade of Infantry, is well qualified for the position. Although it was not his good fortune to be selected for South Africa, and he has not seen active service, his long training in the Queen's Own, and the fact that he took the staff course and then was taken by the Minister to the autumn manoeuvres last year, shows what the powers that be think of him. His sterling good sense will carry him and his command of any tight place they may be driven into. He is in prime, also.

Lieut-Col. J. E. Cohen, who is chosen to command one of the infantry brigades, is a lieutenant-colonel since 1904, when he was appointed to command the 4th regiment. On the completion of his term of command he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and was promoted to the rank of major, and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, which command he has held since 1913. He, like Col. Birstall, had no active service experience, but his faithful service has, no doubt, caused his selection. He, too, is in the prime of life.

Lieut-Col. A. W. C. Birtall, who is chosen for one of the infantry brigades, commands the 50th regiment of Victoria. B. C. has held the rank of lieutenant-colonel since 1909, and took the staff course under the present Minister of War. He was the first commander of the 50th regiment, and was, no doubt, instrumental in its organization. He has had considerable experience but must have present command. He is a comparative stranger.

### INSPECTION AND SALES ACT

Col. J. E. Cohen, as Secretary of the Board of Trade has been notified by the Department of Trade and Commerce that AFTER THE 1ST OF NOVARY the weight of the contents of any bag, sack or package of any of the cereal products mentioned in the Inspection and Sales Act must be stated thereon and that uniform weights per bushel or bag of vegetables throughout the whole of Canada will be definitely established.