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WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPT. 12.

Women and the Franchise Bill.

Mrs. L. A. Hamilton's letter on the extension of the franchise to women is a noble exposition of a spirit which should more widely prevail. It exemplifies the ideal condition, "when none were for the party, but all were for the state." It promises, too, the introduction of finer and higher conceptions of political duty and responsibility from the introduction of women's thought and influence into the realm of practical politics.

Mrs. Hamilton recognizes on behalf of organized suffrage opinion the difficulties that arise in a war-time election from extending the suffrage to voters of enemy extraction. If they were like any other enemies, honorable and chivalrous, like the Fennish knights of old, the problem would not have been raised. But there is nothing of the nature of civility in the Prussian theory of things. The meanness of their so-called "frightfulness" is its leading characteristic. It is not possible to deal with essentially mean people in the same way as respectable and reliable persons may be treated.

This is all present in Mrs. Hamilton's mind, and she cites the not infrequent cases of Canadian soldiers finding among their prisoners naturalized Germans, who had become citizens of Canada, and who went back to fight against their solemn oath when war was declared. From the Kaiser down to the last naturalized German citizen in Canada there is no guarantee that a "scrap of paper" will be treated with any respect. In such a situation there is only one course possible. The franchise bill is an antidote to the social poison of the enemy. Mrs. Hamilton recognizes that antidotes may cause inconvenience and even suffering, but they are less dangerous than poison. Those who are loyal to Canada will make no objection to the administering of an antidote.

With the establishment of a world-wide democracy, which is now the avowed object of the war, to be realized when peace is once more achieved, there will come the full reward of the faithful women of the nation in their complete enfranchisement. Mrs. Hamilton places their present resignation to the terms of the franchise bill on the high plane of sacrifice and service, and thus adds another lustre to the national honor.

Russia's Tug of War.

Russia is sinking lower and lower into the bog of internal dissension. It is just as well to remind ourselves of the fact that this is one of the cases in which "the survival of the fittest" is to be expected. We may hope for the survival of the best in the process, but this is problematic in the meantime.

The struggle is between the forces of anarchy, or license, on one hand, and of possible militarism and dictatorship on the other. It is not a struggle between liberty and order. It is that were all Kerensky and Korniloff would probably be able to compose their differences in short order. The breach has apparently gone too far now for accommodation, and it is impossible to say what will be the outcome. We maintain our confidence in the Russian people as a nation; but it may take a long time for the ebullitions of social and national feeling to settle down to calm and tranquillity once more.

There is much to be said on both sides. Kerensky is the representative of the progressive, social, democratic and anti-autocratic elements in the nation. Korniloff is not less democratic or progressive, no doubt, but he represents the indispensable elements of law and order, and he must be conscious of the hopeless condition into which the army has fallen, and the failure of Russia to keep her pledges to her allies, or even to protect herself from the common enemy. These things must be as gall and wormwood to his orderly instincts. Kerensky perhaps considers them less than the preservation of the newly won forms of democratic government.

It would not be surprising if out of the confusion there arose a limited monarchy based on the British tradition, in which the sovereign would be a figurehead except as his tact and wisdom gave him influence. The Russian people, like most unlettered and primitive people in politics, do not understand the principle of compromise, and where there is no compromise there is nothing in a revolution to stand between all unsuccessful parties and the guillotine.

The French revolution failed at first because there could be no compromise. The people might have been willing, but the nobles, the aristocracy in general, are never satisfied to give in. They plot and conspire and fight to the last. The people, if they are to

survive at all, must conquer. The situation in Russia demands compromise. But the pro-German element does not know the meaning of the word. Even their outward compliance is merely a prudent step towards compromise. They stand always for their pound of flesh, in hopeless arrogance. The Maximalists and all their kind, anarchists, nihilists, socialists or various orders, are all against compromise. They all think their phrases are the infallible remedy. Sensible people acquiesce in the course agreed upon by the majority. Nobody ever had a majority in Russia yet, so that there is no standard for the new engagements to gauge by.

No doubt both Kerensky and Korniloff are equally conscientious in thinking each that he is right. But it will only be the final decision that will entitle us to form a judgment of the situation.

Venereal Disease.

Another step was taken yesterday, in the permanent organization of an advisory committee on venereal disease for Military District No. 2, to combat what is regarded by the authorities as the greatest menace that society now confronts, and scarcely exclusive of the war, since these diseases affect the stamina and the efficiency of the troops, and add an almost intolerable burden to the vast expense already incurred in training, equipping and transporting men who subsequently prove useless through this cause.

Legislation is being sought in several directions. The control of quack medicine vendors, and even of regular but careless practitioners, who do not take pains or have not the requisite skill to know whether a permanent cure has been effected, is considered necessary by the health authorities. Men reported cured marry and communicate these loathsome diseases to their wives, and nearly a third of the venereal operations performed upon women are due to one of these diseases. In New York 5000 die yearly from syphilis or its attendant complications. It causes about half of all abortions and miscarriages. Perfectly innocent people are liable to contract this disease by personal contact, even of the hands, or by articles with which the diseased person has been in contact, such as towels, drinking glasses, pipes. It is a much more dangerous disease than smallpox or diphtheria or any of the other infectious diseases which are reported and for which patients are quarantined. Yet people affected by sexual disease are allowed to mix with the general public, they are not quarantined, and the health authorities have not even the power to insist that they should be cured of their pestilence. The New York department of health states that "ten out of every hundred people have syphilis. Eight out of every ten men and five out of every ten women have had gonorrhea at least once."

To protect the rising generation, to inform the present generation and remedy their ills if possible, and to prevent the excessive drain upon the health and vitality of the nation arising almost entirely from ignorance of the public concerning these things, and the reluctance of nearly everyone to face the conditions, is the object of the advisory committee. The work is so important and the field so large that the co-operation of all who are in a position to assist will be cordially welcomed.

OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

The Toronto World invites correspondence on subjects of current interest. Letters must be short and to the point—200 words or more than 200 words at the outside. The editor reserves the right to cut any letters to make them conform to space requirements. Names will not be published if the writers wish them withheld, but every letter must be signed with writer's name and address, to ensure authenticity.

Women and the Franchise Bill.

Editor World: Now that a measure for enfranchising the women of the Dominion is before us, it is meet to consider some aspects of the position in which women stand.

Conscription being so vital an issue today, many people have questioned the advisability of granting a full franchise at this critical juncture of the nation's history, in view of the vote which this would give to the foreign women and to those in Quebec.

It has been shown that foreign women possessing provincial franchise have voted a higher percentage than have those of Canadian or British birth; this has been interpreted in various ways, an authoritative interpretation declaring that it is due to insidious influences exerted upon the women from without.

Whatever may be the facts, it is certain that the arm of Germany's determination is a long one, and that the war is not yet won—a fact that apparently is not considered by some people; moreover, the treachery and hypocrisy of Germany's sons, be they in Canada or Berlin, is beyond question.

Many of our own soldiers fighting in France and Flanders have had the experience of taking prisoner men of German birth whom they have known in their own home towns in Canada, men to all intents and purposes Canadians, possessing Canadian votes yet who, crying military allegiance to Germany, have not hesitated to take up arms against the country of their adoption.

The inference is obvious; yet it seems necessary to remind ourselves once again that Canada is still an objective of Germany. Under such circumstances, what are women willing to do? The many long for a full franchise—a broad de-

The War Needs of Canada
THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF FOOD PRICES

By Benjamin Apporhp Gould

The economists have for years been telling us that there is no way of regulating the action of the law of supply and demand in determining prices. The fact is that this law is not immutable, that its operation is constantly controlled, and that any interference in the action has been contradicted more than ever since the war. At the same time, it is possible to say that the operation of this law itself has not been affected, but that only the supply or the demand has been forcibly regulated. Thus, where a definite price is set for a commodity, it may be argued that as no one is permitted to buy or sell above or below this price all demand ceases for the product at a price higher, and a supply at a price lower than that fixed, and that hence the law continues to operate. This is, of course, merely a quibble, for such an instance is actually the case of an artificial law enforceable by penalty overriding the general law of economics.

It should, however, be clearly understood that often the most effective method of accomplishing a price-regulating purpose is not by a forcible interference with the working of the economic law, but by an artificial variation of either supply or demand in order to permit the economic law to function under normal conditions. This is the means adopted by trusts and combinations to enhance prices, and is the only means open to them. On the other hand, one can use not only this method, but can if necessary enforce direct price legislation by imposing personal penalties for infringing it.

So far as food prices are concerned, regulation thru the control of imports and exports is comparatively easy in maintaining a minimum price for staples where home consumption exceeds home production, and a maximum price where the contrary is true. In Canada our production of food is far in excess of our consumption, and export regulations can keep prices down to any desired point. The one chief danger against which we must guard is not to establish this price level so low as to lessen production, which during the war must be kept as great as possible. It is therefore necessary to see to it that the producer shall receive a price that will yield him an adequate profit after taking into account the increased cost of production, and further, that the consumer be protected by the use of a patriotic duty. Both moral and economic influence should be used to induce the farmer to grow all his farm can be made to yield, together with regulations in the direction of the British Government, which has bidding the butchering of immature stock.

If the total production of a country exceeds 10 per cent. the demand for home consumption, the price of the 90 per cent. sold at home will be governed by the price of the surplus 10 per cent. unless the latter be artificially sequestered. This is because no particular price can be maintained for the surplus, which is drawn from any part of the total production. Lower prices than the prices of this surplus cannot prevail.

democracy, yet the greater includes the less, and if the world's democracy falls to German tyranny and German brutality, where then is there a voice to demand the political freedom of women? Where, indeed, for the political freedom of anyone—male or female? How much of it is there in men today, or what democracy is there in Poland or Serbia?

Our own men are laying down their lives that the world may be free, and yet they postpone for a time their full political liberty, that in so doing they may contribute to the world's freedom.

It must be clearly understood that the provincial franchise granted to women upon which they seek to base the right to the Dominion franchise, deals only with the ordinary business affairs of the province, while the present Dominion Franchise Act, as explained by Hon. Mr. Meighen, is a measure which will enfranchise the women of obvious loyalty, while the many good, loyal women not possessing male relatives of military age can console themselves in realizing that they have not been called upon to sacrifice loved ones, and, in knowledge that by their own temporary sacrifice of the privileges of citizenship, they prevent the woman slacker from voting.

It has been said that suppose the women of Quebec and the foreign women voted against conscription, they would only double the vote of the men. True—but in so doing they would double the chances of an anti-conscriptionist majority in the house of commons, and seeing that the purpose of the conscription bill is the main business before the country today, it is for the country to take such steps as will insure the election of a win-the-war government.

Russia today presents the tragic picture of a nation strangling herself

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because in such case the foreign buyers would not take what was offered as surplus, but would buy the cheaper product available at home, and what was offered as surplus would not be exported but would go back into home consumption. Higher prices cannot prevail, because the home consumer would not buy what was offered for home use, but would buy the lower-priced surplus, and as the carrying out of the reform would in turn become surplus and be worth only export value.

It is thus evident that in regard to all food staples of which a surplus is produced in Canada the government can absolutely control the market by limiting exports, and publishing export values. This can be done in either of two ways. The private owner may be allowed to arrange his own foreign sales, but permission to export may be withheld so long as prices are above the determined figure. The way to accomplish this would be to forbid exportation except under permissive licenses, to be taken out for each export shipment, and to refuse such licenses until prices were at the desired level. The other method is for the government itself to offer a fixed price, preferably at the point of export, and to forbid all private exportation. Under existing circumstances the government can fully protect itself by making this price one at which it can resell the staples, at cost if so desired or even at a profit, for each export shipment, and to the consumer, and no statement has been made in regard to proposed regulations affecting the producer, the warehouseman, the packer, and the wholesaler and retail middleman. Confidence in the food controller's needs to be made general by such vigorous action on his part as will convince the people that he is a strong man, free from influence by any of the great interests. A prohibition of the use of grain in brewing or distilling would be of great value in this regard.

It is well to note that the United States, which has only been in the war five months, has already adopted here today. All provinces are represented. Toronto, with 81 delegates, has the largest representation. There are six delegates from Hamilton, five from Montreal, and two from St. John. All western provinces are well represented.

by her own freedom, because she fails to see that the enjoyment of a liberty demands a sacrifice. God grant that she may realize before it is too late where this is leading her. The women of Canada, while they feel deeply the fundamental principle of democracy, will yet be conscious of the greater principle of sacrifice and service, and will be willing to forego a right for today, that Queen's University may have the fuller freedom, and they know that whosoever would save his own life—be it political or otherwise—must first be willing to lay it down.

Constance B. Hamilton (Mrs. L.A.),
President National Equal Franchise Union.
Lorne Park, Ont., Sept. 10, 1917.

FRONTENAC TRIBUNAL.

Special to The Toronto World.
Kingston, Sept. 11.—Judge Lavell announced today that he had selected G. Y. Chown, registrar, and J. B. Walkem, K.C., as his nominees for tribunals under the Military Service Act. The nominees for Frontenac County are: Melzar Avery, Sharbot Lake, and John Stewart, Harrowsmith, postmaster.

SOLDIER DIES IN HOSPITAL.

Special to The Toronto World.
Sept. 11.—Pte. Clarence Gallant, aged 18, son of John Gallant, Campbellford, N.B., died in the Mowat Hospital here today. He was stricken with illness after he reached England.

AND HE DID.

I'LL GO OVER AND SLAP THE MAJOR ON THE BACK!



AND HE DID.



AND HE DID.

AND HE DID.

AND HE DID.

ITALIANS CAPTURE ALBANIAN TRENCH

Operations on Julian Front
Mainly Comprise Artillery Fire.

Rome, Sept. 11.—There was little activity aside from artillery engagement along the Austro-Italian front yesterday. Today's war office statement reported that some infantry fighting occurred in the Trentino, in which the Italians held their own. The text of the statement reads:
"On the front as a whole the activity was confined mainly to artillery. West of Lake Garda the enemy, after intense artillery preparation, attacked our advanced positions between the Conca Valley and Lake Ledro. He succeeded in gaining a foothold in one of them but was immediately driven out."
"At the mouth of the Tunesio, storming parties which, with the support of infantry waves, moved against our position on the extreme right wing, were stopped and put to flight with severe losses by our efficacious barrage fire."

"In Albania yesterday our parties, supporting French troops in the operations in the Devoli Valley, occupied an enemy trench southeast of Berat and captured prisoners."

SWEDEN'S LITTLE SCHEME.

Diverts Labor to Munitions for Germany, and Imports Food From Allies.

Washington, Sept. 11.—Sweden will be compelled to make definite her position as a neutral. It has already been declared definitely that no foodstuffs or other supplies will be permitted to go to the neutrals for at least six weeks to give this government an opportunity to establish precisely their trade relations with Germany. It is said the war would be ended within six months, if Swedish iron exports to Germany were stopped. The Swedes, it is declared, have drained their country of foodstuffs by taking them from the food-producing industries vast numbers of men and placing them in the iron mines and the munition factories which have sprung up since the war began.

UNITED COUNTIES APPOINTEES.

Special to The Toronto World.

Brookville, Sept. 11.—The senior judge of these united counties has made his nominations for the military exemption board, as follows:
Brookville, Judge Reynolds; Ganarquo, W. R. Sampson; Newboro, Dr. R. H. Preston; Delta, R. S. Harvey; Toledo, N. N. Simson; Athens, T. R. Beale; Matterson, C. E. Tennant; Prescott, Judge Dowling; Kempenfelt, J. A. Watterson; Merrickville, G. R. Putnam; Cardinal, William Clarke; North Augusta, Albert E. Warren.

KNIGHTS TEMPLARS MEET.

Winnipeg, Sept. 11.—With 100 delegates from all sections of the Dominion in attendance, the grand priory of the Knights Templar of Canada opened its annual convention here today. All provinces are represented. Toronto, with 81 delegates, has the largest representation. There are six delegates from Hamilton, five from Montreal, and two from St. John. All western provinces are well represented.

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TAILORS WANT EXPLANATION.

Special to The Toronto World.

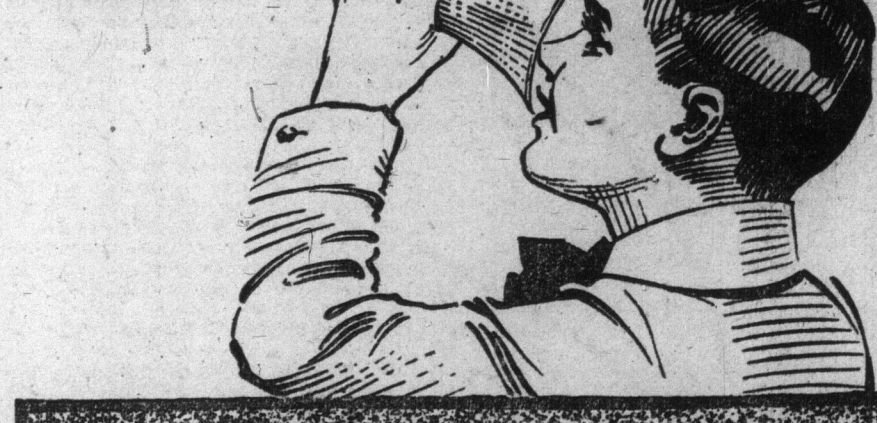
Kingston, Sept. 11.—The tailors' union has passed a resolution asking for an explanation from J. C. Watters, president of the Dominion Trades Congress, for his alleged pro-German sentiments, which they are inclined to believe will have a tendency to injure the cause of trade unionism.

Till the World is Free.
This has proven one of the most popular songs written since the war began. It is written by H. S. Bee, of Montreal, and was recorded on Victrola record 218010 in that city. The other side of the record is "Take Me Back to Old New Brunswick," by Pte. J. B. Rainford, C.E.F. On sale now in the Victrola parlors of Ye Olde Firm of Heintzman & Co., Ltd., Heintzman Hall, 193, 195, 197 Yonge street.

RESCINDS ORDER FOR WEST.

Regina, Sask., Sept. 11.—Hon. W. J. Hanna, food controller, who was visiting the city yesterday, said that an order would be issued rescinding, so far as the three prairie provinces are concerned, the previous order prohibiting the use of canned vegetables. During the day Mr. Hanna had a conference with Premier Martin.

Good for the Children, Too!



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Ginger Ale
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