

The Weekly Ontario

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W. E. Morton, J. S. Henry,
Business Manager. Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1916.

CIVILIZATION THE ISSUE.

"And what was Canada to do? Sir, I need not comment upon that. Many times upon the floor of this House I have expressed my views. There was no obligation, no compulsion. Canada was free, absolutely free to go in, and free to stay out. But what use are we to make of our liberties? We knew that England was engaged in mortal combat with an enemy strong in preparation—even more prepared than we had supposed hitherto—an enemy animated by the black ambition of universal domination. Under such circumstances there was nothing for Canada to do but to do what she did; to place at the disposal of England all her resources in men and money. Men there are today who sneer at the thought of Canada exhausting her resources to defend the Empire. Sir, who talks of the Empire today. There are other things greater even than the Empire, great as it is. Civilization is greater than the Empire, and civilization is the issue. Who can doubt, who can deny, in the face of the declarations and pretensions set up by German writers in their books, in face of the vain and childish declarations in their press, supported by the brutally frank expressions of their military leaders—who can doubt that if Germany were to win it would be the end of all we hold sacred. Who can doubt that it would be the end of that individual liberty, that independence of thought and action which citizens of all British countries value more than life itself. For my part, I re-echo the words spoken by a workman at the docks of Liverpool: 'Discuss not compulsion; discuss nothing; if Germany should win nothing on God's earth would matter.' I speak my whole soul and heart when I say that if Germany were to win I would be thankful that Providence should close my eyes before I saw the sun rising in such a day."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the House of Commons.

CONSUMPTION CONQUERED.

There is prevalent that tuberculosis can never be entirely eliminated from a community. Most persons cling to the old notion that the disease is inherited. Others persist in the belief that cases will inevitably arise, no matter what preventive efforts may be made by individuals or the community.

According to Dr. Victor Heisler, writing in the *Journal of Outdoor Life*, these views are absolutely refuted by the experience of Victoria, Australia. That state is reported to be wholly free from consumption. And its freedom is attributed solely to the rational methods used for many years to combat the plague. Dr. Heisler, who formerly had charge of sanitation in the Philippines, has spent considerable time in Australia and speaks from first information.

Victoria, he says, has a good climate, and the population is naturally vigorous. Still, tuberculosis had made considerable headway before the present system was adopted. Tubercular immigrants were then barred from the state. All resident victims were sought out by the inspectors and forced to submit to a scientific regimen. It was assumed that all were to have modern hospital treatment. Most of them were taken forthwith to hospitals, where they usually recovered. Those who gave satisfactory assurance that they would abide by the hospital regulations in their own houses were permitted to live at home. They were regularly inspected. If two violations of the rules were proved against them they were taken to the hospital without more ado. The patients' sputum was carefully isolated and destroyed. Well persons were protected from infection. The patients were made to sleep in the open air, and everybody was encouraged to do likewise. Today, says Dr. Heisler, outdoor sleeping is almost universal.

It was a lot of trouble for a while, but it has paid incalculably. And if an Australian community could make this wonderful record, why can't Canadian communities do likewise?

A MILLION DOLLAR SUMMER HOME.

Charles M. Schwab, the steel magnate, has begun work at Ebbesburg, Pa., on a summer home which will cost, when completed, more than a million dollars, and which will rival the glory of any other multi-millionaire's summer home in America. It will make the luxurious homes of the ancient Romans and Greeks who

were strong on the show stuff, look like miners' shacks. And to a great extent the Schwab home will be built on the lines of these ancient palaces but more elaborate.

The house proper will cost \$250,000. The gardens with their cascades, pergolas, wide rolling sweeps of green spotted with rich colorings of rare flowers will take \$350,000 more. The Roman bath will cost \$150,000 which is many times what Lucullus, the most luxurious Roman of them all, paid for his bathing place which has been so much talked about. The other things will cost some more.

Schwab is one of those men who has more money than he knows what to do with. The expenditure of a million dollars by him for a summer home where he may spend a month or six weeks out of the year will not be as much of a drain on his income as would the building of a modest all-around-year home by one of the thousands of men employed in the Schwab steel mills.

Of course there are those who will contend that when a man has amassed so much money that he starts spending it by the millions for a show place of this kind, that he would serve humanity much better if he would give a larger share of the profits of the great enterprises from which he secures his enormous wealth to the men who help him make it, in the shape of wages. But it is seldom that this is done. The man in his shops is usually the last person the sudden millionaire thinks about.

THE CALL FOR FISHER.

Several of the British papers are deeply concerned because Lord Fisher, Britain's greatest sailor and naval expert, has not been recalled to the Admiralty. For instance, the *Board of Admiralty* is characterized by James Douglas, in *London Opinion*, as without him, a piece of "wooden-headed stupidity." He thus catalogues a few of Lord Fisher's achievements, which testify to his "dazzling genius." He says that the first stroke was to end to the scrap heap 162 warships which could neither fight nor run away; (2) the system of nucleus crews, "which put into each ship brains, leaving the beef to come along when it was wanted"; (3) the adoption of the water tube boiler; (4) the adoption of the Parsons turbine; (5) the introduction of oil fuel into the navy "in the teeth of authority"; (6) the concentration of the navy in the North Sea; (7) the creation of the Dreadnought, "which has converted the Kiel Canal into a useless ditch"; (8) the creation of the battle-cruiser, the "greyhound with the big guns"; (9) the hunting down of German submarines, "the collapse of submarine piracy was due directly to Fisher's daring initiative"; (10) his protest against "the Dardanelles gamble, which has now come to a disastrous close" and "the New Year will open auspiciously if the nation demands the recall of Lord Fisher."

THE "SAUCY ARETHUSA."

The wreck of the light cruiser Arethusa is not a serious naval loss. She measured only 3,400 tons, but like her famous namesake, she had won high renown as a fighter. She went right out of the builder's hands into the first sea fight of the war, in the *Bight of Heligoland* in August, 1914. She was in the thick of the fighting when five enemy ships were sunk, and suffered considerable damage. But she was quickly repaired, and when Admiral Beatty met the German battle-cruisers on the Dogger Bank on January 24th, 1915, the "Saucy Arethusa" again was in the forefront of the battle. It was a torpedo fired from one of her tubes which finally despatched the badly battered Bluecher in that memorable engagement. The Arethusa belongs to the light-cruiser class which has proved such a useful type of ship. It is regrettable that such a fine fighting ship should have come to an inglorious end from a mine, she deserved a better fate, but her fame and name will be carried on to another ship by her gallant crew. Their dash and bravery in the face of the hottest fire has been the pride and glory of the Navy.

"The time is soon coming when, on both fronts, we will face the enemy on conditions of complete equality as regards munitions, and with the numerical superiority on our side."—Mr. Lloyd George's New Year Message to Russia.

Australia does not do things by halves. The Prime Minister recently announced that companies incorporated in Australia which had on their share-lists names of persons of enemy nationality or enemy origin would be allowed three months within which the holding of shares by such persons must be discontinued. This applies also to naturalized persons. No future transfer of shares to persons of enemy nationality or origin is to be permitted, nor is any transfer of land to be valid.

The splendid courage of the British people under the murderous attacks of the Zeppelins is beyond praise, but there seems to be a growing force of public opinion that this slaughter of innocent people should be promptly followed by reprisals, and that it is high time to give the Huns a dose of their own medicine. When women and children are being murdered, it is hardly to talk about civility.

Hon. Robert Rogers seems to have taken a long time to make up his mind to get rid of his German superintendent of dredging. Possibly the Western riots accelerated his decision. It is, at any rate a hint to other Ministers to get busy before it is too late, if indeed, that stage has not already been passed.

The Ottawa fire has stirred the practical sympathy of the American press. The *Indianapolis News* says: "The Government of the United States is bound to investigate and to co-operate in every way possible with the Canadian Government in the effort to find out whether a crime has been committed, and, if so, by whom."

If any of the members of Parliament were smoking in the House of Commons Reading Room, immediately before the outbreak of fire, as is suggested by some remarks made at the Inquiry, it should not be necessary to call witnesses to prove it. The men whose names are mentioned should come forward voluntarily and manfully tell whether they were smoking or not in that room.

Who are the ten most popular men of today in the order of their popularity? According to the votes the *Liverpool Weekly Post* readers have just recorded, the name of Lord Kitchener on ninety-seven out of every hundred coupons. The next names were not so outstandingly popular, but the margin between many was remarkably small, as may be gathered from the voting: General French 89 per cent., Lord Derby 87 per cent., Mr. Lloyd George 86 per cent., Mr. Asquith 85 per cent., Admiral Jellicoe 81 per cent., General Joffre 63 per cent., Sir Edward Grey 52 per cent., Mr. McKenna 33 per cent., and Major Winston Churchill 31 per cent.

The European war has caused a high development of concentrated and conveniently packed food products. Tiny tin tubes similar to those used for tooth paste, contain condensed milk, vegetable extracts and a preparation composed of cocoa and milk. Either of these requires only a cup of hot water to make a delicious, nourishing drink. Sardine and anchovy paste, put up in the same way, make a toothsome sandwich. Lemonade tablets are also in use. Several savory dishes including a delicious clam chowder, are put up in tins of half the ordinary bulk, their contents being highly concentrated. Tiny briquettes of fuel go with each can, so that it may be heated anywhere.

A London scientific society recently sent out communications to a list of a thousand scientists, selected from all the countries of the world asking each to vote upon the achievements which, in his opinion, constituted the seven wonders of the modern world. The results, just made public, indicate how great a change has taken place in public opinion as to what constitutes a marvel. Wireless telegraph stands first. The telephone comes second, radium was awarded a third place, but the aeroplane, coming fourth was only five votes behind it. The analysis of the solar spectrum is reckoned the fifth wonder and the X-ray the sixth. The Panama Canal, which is more in keeping with achievements classed among the seven wonders, is placed last upon the list. A large enough number of scientists regard anaesthesia as a wonder to place it eighth upon the list. Only one man, a chemist, of Munich, gave the seven in the order in which they are placed by the votes of the entire number.

Mr. Arthur Hawkes, who was the leader of the British-born campaign against Reciprocity in the 1911 General Election, commenting on the speeches delivered by the two political leaders on the motion for the extension of the Parliamentary terms, in a letter to the *Toronto Star*, says:

"Really the House should ask Sir Wilfrid to pass a self-denying ordinance on himself, or catch a cold, or go down to his birthplace and see how many years the parish record is wrong about his nativity or something that will keep him outside for about a week. In no other way does there seem any chance that mediocrity can come into its own. Yesterday I think I said here that in the Tupper eulogia, it was Eclipse first, and the rest nowhere. Today Eclipse eclipsed Eclipse, and it is difficult to do justice to him without seeming to strain the quality of praise."

Mr. Hawkes adds that for "fifty minutes Sir Wilfrid held the House with every attribute of a statesman's skill, an orator's art, and a patriot's conviction." His speech was pronounced by "men who have some right to judge as the greatest of his Parliamentary career."

One of the greatest achievements of medical science in history is indicated in the report from the Philippine Islands that twenty-three lepers have been pronounced free from all traces of disease for a period of two years or more. According to a number of examining scientists these men and women are now allowed to return to their homes. The lepers were under treatment in an asylum under the direction of United States hospital, and in the Philip-

similar institutions. It is a model village, with the best equipment for sanitation and comfort. Police duty is done by leper policemen, who have proved trustworthy and loyal in the enforcement of regulations. Light agricultural work is provided for those capable of performing it. A small theatre and a band furnish the element of amusement. Leprosy is one of the oldest of diseases known to man, and one of the most terrible. It has always been considered incurable. Should the future show that the experts are correct in believing that the course of treatment used in the Philippines is a cure in even some of the cases, it will represent a victory over one of the oldest enemies of the race.

United States trade is benefiting largely from war conditions. A recent official report shows that American exports increased seventy per cent. in 1915, and reached a total of \$3,555,000,000, breaking all previous records.

Figures issued by the Department of Commerce show that heavy exports and declining imports, together set a new American trade balance record at \$1,772,000,000. Imports were the smallest since 1912. The country's total foreign trade exports and imports passed the five million dollar mark during the year, each month showing heavier exports until December's reached \$359,000,000. The trade balance of close to two billion dollars was five times greater than in 1914, when it stopped at \$324,000,000.

Exports have grown steadily and rapidly for the last four years, the European war checking outgoing shipments only for a brief time. The figures show that the war not only cut imports but changed their character as well. Seventy-two per cent. of last December's imports was duty-free against sixty per cent. free this previous December. This is attributed to the British blockade, which has cut off dutiable manufactured products from Central Europe.

King George is proud of his Irish soldiers. He does not ask whether they are Ulstermen or Nationalists, Protestant or Roman Catholics. The following is the text of the message addressed by His Majesty to the 16th Irish Division:

Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 16th Irish Division: Before you leave for active service I send you my heartfelt good wishes. It is a bitter disappointment to me that owing to an unfortunate accident I am unable to see the division on parade before it leaves England, but I am glad that it has been possible for the Queen to do this for me, and I can assure you that my thoughts will be with you all.

Your loyal response to the call to arms and the keen, cheerful spirit which I am told you have evinced during a long and arduous period of training are most gratifying to me, and convince me that on the field of battle you will not only maintain but add to the glorious tradition of my Irish regiments.

Good-bye. May God bless you in all your ways.

ONE OF THE HUNDRED THOUSAND. Health Officer Price says there are about 100,000 cases of grippe in the city—From the news columns.

If misery loves company, As some wise sage has said, Contented then I ought to be While tossing in my bed.

For every time I turn and twist My body, sore and lame, It should console my troubled soul To know one hundred thousand roll And so the very same.

It ought to help my case a lot, When mother brings my pills, To think of all the folks who've got The self-same aches and ills.

One hundred thousand folks there are, About this happy town, With fever high and palates dry Who sit upright with me and try To gulp the capsules down.

One hundred thousand of us moan By day and through the night, I do not have to bear alone My present sorry plight.

When cough elixir mother brings— A most unpleasant brew— 'Tis good to think that, as I drink, One hundred thousand other shrink From swallowing it, too.

One hundred thousand spines there are As useless now as mine, That jump with every jolt and jar; One hundred thousand whine Neath mustard plasters, smoking hot, One hundred thousand fret;

And through the night, if Doc is right, One hundred thousand, pale and white, Are bathed in fever's sweat, One hundred thousand of us bark At stated intervals,

And patiently the long hours mark Until the doctor calls. A most distinguished crowd we are, This wailing, whining lot, If misery loves company

Then glad and joyous we should be— But you can bet we're not!

Other Editors' Opinions

FORCING MEN TO FIGHT.

The idea of being forced to fight is repugnant to the British mind and yet necessity may justify it in Canada as it has in England. The National Military Service Bill, it seems, was badly needed there, as thousands of strong healthy, capable single young men positively refused to enlist, although there was no encouragement to keep them back. These men preferred life at home to fighting at the front, and no argument could move them. Since the measure became law, however, quite a number of these have voluntarily enlisted rather than wait to be pressed. Through the *Hamilton Times* which again gives as the source of information an eastern newspaper, it has been learned that an English writer, who has had access to the record of the War Department at Washington, has unearthed the fact that 85 per cent. of the men who entered the army of the North after the compulsory system became law in 1863 were volunteers.

This information is very interesting at the present time. The Confederates fired on Fort Sumter on April 2, 1861. During the first eighteen months of the war successive calls for volunteers in the North produced men in great numbers, although it is noted that on Jan. 1, 1863, of 679,000 volunteers, no less than 213,000 were absent—most of them without leave. By the beginning of 1863 volunteering had died away, there was grave discontent in the North over the conduct of the war, and great pessimism as to the outlook. Two great calls for volunteers had been answered well, but the third was a disappointment. On March 3, 1863, a law was passed authorizing the raising of men by conscription. All men between the ages of twenty and forty were by this law declared to constitute the "national forces," and to therefore become liable to be called to the colors. There were the usual exemptions. First were called bachelors of military age and married men between twenty and thirty-five. At the second call married men from thirty-five to forty-five were taken. But before the draft was actually put into operation each district was given a quota of men which it was required to raise. Instead of actual compulsion being generally necessary, as had been assumed—since at the time the law was passed volunteering had almost stopped—the introduction of the draft started volunteering going again. Men enlisted rather than wait until they were compelled to enlist.

"Conscription," as the writer says, "was introduced when voluntary service broke down, but its real effect was to revive volunteering. The draft itself produced only 169,000 men, but it stimulated no less than 1,076,558 volunteers to recruit." In every district it was found, he says, that a great many men who were discouraged, or who had no faith in the generals, or who didn't want to fight anyway became active recruiting agents so soon as they discovered that their district would have to raise a certain number of men by the voluntary system or under compulsion.

According to figures published from Ottawa, Canada has not yet raised the half of the half million men she has promised the Mother Country. But already the military throughout the country find a difficulty in getting recruits, and some of the Recruiting Leagues are beginning to talk a mild conscription.—Stratford Beacon.

THE DURATION OF THE WAR.

There is still no prospect of the end of the war, which General Hinton announces may last longer than the three years estimated by Kitchener at the beginning. That the war goes on even in midwinter, Canadians are daily reminded by the casualty lists. The news from Europe creates the impression that determined effort will be made in the spring to drive the Germans from Belgium. The world already shudders at the cost, which must, in any event, be borne. Another military authority tells that the allies will never be able to pass the defences of the Rhine. The duration of the war would, therefore, remain, after the clearing of Belgium, to be determined by the slow wearing down of resources of men and materials. The English economists and bankers, despite the failure of their past assurances, are still confident that German finances will presently collapse, and with it the German military power.—Toronto Weekly Sun.

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