

Fern Stands, Pots and Pedestals

Our selection of Fern Stands, Pots, Pedestals and Jardinieres is at the present moment a very fine one, and at no time is this variety of article more in demand than in the winter, when you move some treasured fern from the cold window to a warmer nook, and need a special stand for it, or—you want a large ornamental Pot in which to grow bulbs for late winter blooming.

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A small lot of Boys' Buster Brown Boots left. Prices to clear \$3.30 to \$3.70

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'The Battalion of Death'

*Maria Botchkareva Tells the Story of the
Russian Women's Fighting Unit*

(Continued)

CHAPTER IX. Eight Hours in German Hands.

We met the year 1917 white resting three vests in the rear. There was much fun-making and merriment in the reserve billets. Although the discipline was as strict as ever, the relations between the officers and men had undergone, in the three and a half years of the war, a complete transformation.

The other officers, trained in pre-war conditions, were now gone, having died in battle or been disabled. The new junior officers, all young men taken from civil life, many of them former students and school teachers, were liberal in their views and very human in their treatment. They mixed freely with the men in the ranks, and allowed us more liberty than we had ever enjoyed. At the New Year festival we all danced together. These new relations were not entirely due to the new attitude from above. In a sense, they were generated from below by a dumb and yet potent undercurrent of restlessness.

We were reviewed before returning to the front line by General Valuyev, the Commander of the Fifth Corps. I was presented to him by our Commander. The General shook my hand warmly, remarking that he had heard many praiseworthy things of me.

Our positions were now on a hill, in the vicinity of Zelenaya Kolonia, while the enemy was at our feet in the valley. The trenches we occupied had been in German hands some time before.

It was late in January when I long made an expedition into No Man's Land at the head of a patrol of fifteen men. We crawled along a ditch that was formerly a German communication trench. It ran along a very exposed part of the field and the utmost caution was exercised by us. As we came nearer to the enemy's trench line I thought I heard German voices with instructions to rush to our aid in case of a fight, five of us crept forward at a snail's pace and with perfect noiselessness. The German voices grew clearer and clearer.

Finally we beheld a German listening-post. There were four of them, all seated with their backs toward us. Their rifles were scattered on the ground while they warmed their hands over a fire. Two of my men stretched their hands out, reached the rifles and removed them. It was a painstaking operation, as slow as eternity. The Germans chattered

unconcernedly. As I was cautiously going after the third rifle two of the Germans, having apparently heard a noise, were about to turn.

In an instant my men were upon them. The two were bayoneted before I had an opportunity to realize what was on. It was my intention to bring in the four alive. The other two Germans were safe in our hands. In all my experience in patrol duty, and I must have participated in at least a hundred expeditions into No Man's Land, it was the first case of a German listening-post being caught in such a manner. We returned triumphantly with our prizes.

One of the prisoners was a tall, red-headed fellow, the other was evidently an educated person, with pince-nez. We took them to Regimental Headquarters, accompanied on the way by numerous ovations and congratulations. The Commander inquired as to the details of the capture and had them recorded verbatim. He congratulated me, pressing my hand, and so did all the other officers, telling me that my name would live forever in the annals of the Poitovsk Regiment. I was recommended for a gold cross of the 1st degree and given two days' leave for recuperation in the village.

At the end of the two days my Company joined me in the reserve. Strange things were occurring in our midst. In subdued voices the men repeated dark rumors about Rasputin's death. Wild stories about his connections with the Court and Germany were communicated from mouth to mouth. The spirit of insubordination was growing in the soldiers' midst. It was still suppressed at that time. The men were weary, terribly weary of the war. "How long shall we continue this fighting?" "And what are we fighting for?" were men. "I was recommended for a gold cross of the 1st degree and given two days' leave for recuperation in the village."

Our boys were genuinely anxious to solve the great puzzle that the war had become to them. Hadn't it been proven again and again that the officers at Headquarters were sending them to the enemy? Hadn't a multitude of reports reached them that the Court was pro-German? Hadn't they heard of the War Minister being under arrest and charged with being a traitor? Wasn't it clear, therefore, that the Government, the official class, was with the enemy? Then why continue indefinitely this carnage? If the Government was in alliance with Germany what prevented it from concluding peace? Was it the desire to have millions more of them slaughtered.

(To be continued)

on the poor man's necessities to protect such industries, make these manufacturing monopolists responsible to the revenue for their just proportion of taxes.

The argument against this will be the avenue of labor and wage created by local manufactures, as well as the advantages of being able to produce our own. But the same cost, and even a greater cost of ruining products and wages, is experienced by the foreign manufacturer, who can sell from forty to fifty per cent. cheaper than our local men.

We are firmly convinced that this Dominion, and her suffering people, have been the victims of bloodthirsty graft and monopoly, and that they have been bled raw by get-rich-quick political and commercial parasites. Above the plaintive wail of the widow and her palled, starving brood who moan, "Stitch, stitch, stitch, in poverty, hunger and dirt," is the sharp bark of the lynx of graft.

This is not the original order of things. This is not as it should be, and it is not as it will be. The old temples of greed are tottering the world over, and they must crumble and fall here. There are many ways in which roads and railways can be built, and the country made progressive and prosperous without increasing the taxes of the poor, and in the Union political party there are men animated by honor and integrity—fired with energy and enthusiasm—alive with hopeful promise, and glowing optimism, as to the great and new possibilities in store for our much loved Dominion.

Fisherman and toiler generally, the Union, or People's Government, will be the most helpful in reforms which affect you.

"Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide."

But you have reached the "valley of decision." You have decided to climb the heights which lead to glory and liberty. There is no room for doubt. On the one side are the outcasts—the politically "jokes"—and on the other our liberators—the popular and progressive Union Government.

"NEPTUNE."

Ally With Germany

COPENHAGEN, Mar. 30.—The Vienna Volks Zeitung's Budapest correspondent says the Hungarian Government has offered to ally itself with the German Government against the Entente, according to despatches received here. A telegram from the Wolff Bureau says, however, that nothing is known in official quarters in Berlin concerning such an offer.

Ordered to Spa

LONDON, Mar. 30.—Germany has been invited to send delegates with all speed to Spa to meet Marshal Foch concerning the Dantzig difficulty. This announcement is made in a Copenhagen despatch to the central news.

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Catalogue to a Business Card, finished in the neatest style. That's why keen business men who appreciate value are sending us their work.

Villain Acquitted

PARIS, Mar. 30.—Raoul Villain, on trial before a courtmartial charged with the murder of Jean Jures, the Socialist leader on July 13, 1914, was acquitted Saturday evening.

The Whole Dominion Has Caught the Spirit of Progressive Policy Embodied in Union Politics.

The time has passed when our people will unwittingly and blindly follow political adventurers. They realize that vigilance, and an active interest and participation in politics are necessary and that sluggish indifference to these principles encourage the machinations of those who lie in wait, (lie and wait) to betray the peoples trust. A few disappointed political economists are crying, why such waste because the Union Government intends to spend the public monies for reforms which will have the effect of opening up the country and making it possible to reap the benefits of its commercial, industrial and natural resources.

This is the human inconsistency of the man who is so absurd in selfishness as to see no other way but his own. The money that does not come his way is worse than wasted. Of course, there is not a word about the millions which have been squandered by past governments in useless projects, and for personal convenience. But the big masses have voted this class of rule, or ruling class, and they are now confiding in an honest and practical administration, who will by necessary laws and reforms seek to economize, as well as increase our revenue. Up to the present time our revenue has been raised chiefly by import duties, and thus the consumers, which are the majority of the poor toilers, have had to bear the burden of taxation. The merchants who get big profits on their goods and are able to secure fortunes, do not directly bear this burden.

The policy of the Union-political Government is one of equal rights, which, of course, embody in those rights, equal taxation. Then the man with the property and wealth, will have to subscribe his share, which can perhaps be made possible by the enactment of a "Property Assessment Tax." It is only right that a man should subscribe to the revenue, a proportion of the wealth wrung from the men who are also burdened with taxes to sustain that revenue.

Another point we want to make concerns our local manufactures. The cry to protect home industries may be reasonable when the home industry protects the consumer. But the locally manufactured article, which is often spoken of as inferior to the imported, is sold for the same price as the imported article of superior quality; notwithstanding the fact that some materials for manufacturing purposes are imported duty free, while in the manufacturing project of woollen goods much of the raw material is bought in the country.

This means that while a duty tax goes into the revenue on the imported article, the locally manufactured article pays no duties although we pay the same enhanced price which the duty adds. This also means that those who buy imports pay the duties charged thereon into the revenue, while those who buy domestic articles of the same class, pay a sum equal to the duties to the local manufacturer. Our present constructive Government should, besides considering the unfairness of putting an extra dollar

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