

## THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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## WE LIVE IN DEEDS, NOT YEARS

Arthur McGinnis, with his finely endowed mind and well balanced judgment would have succeeded in any position in which we could conceive of him being placed. His work as a public official in a government department in this city was exceedingly well done. But it always seemed to us that Arthur McGinnis in the humdrum routine of the civil service was out of his true element. Had fate but directed his early energies to the realm of authorship and had he been removed from the cold necessity of earning a livelihood we might have had in him a great Canadian historian.

His passion for antiquarian research, his marvellous memory, his scholarly instincts, his mathematical exactness, his command of an easy, sinuous literary style, his ability to judge impartially of men and events, his abundant store of energy marked him out as a man whom nature clearly intended to write the chronicles of a people or a nation.

There is nothing that is necessarily sad about the event that we call death. It is as natural to die as it is to be born. Those who lead a useful, straightforward life have no more reason to think of one than they thought of the other. The modern mind is thinking more of life than of death for death is nothing in itself but life is everything.

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;

In feelings, not in figures on a dial. We should count time by heart-throbs; he most lives

Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

By this standard Arthur McGinnis lived a life far longer than is indicated by the mere calendar of years. He did his appointed work well. He gave unstintingly, unsparringly to the public he served. When nearly everybody was grabbing for easy war-profits or emoluments, he set an example of genuine patriotism and fealty to the noble instincts of his nature by devoting his spare time, without pecuniary reward of any description, to the exacting work of the local administration of the Canadian Patriotic fund.

The close of a life, honest, loyal, well-rounded, full of useful accomplishment, the passing into a new existence, are not in themselves events to be deplored. We realise the loss, it is true, as we always must, when a gap is made in the line, when a public-spirited citizen is called away. But our regrets are chiefly concerned with the fact that from his richly stored memory we were not able to gather some enduring record of the early life of our community, upon which he was so well qualified to speak and to write. And this indicates the larger regret, the regret of what might have been, the belief we expressed above that had fate so directed his life he might have supplied what Canada yet lacks—a national historian.

## THE SWEDISH BREACH

What future results Washington's discovery of the duplicity of the Swedish ministry abroad will bring depends upon the light in which it is viewed by Allied Governments. Dispatches say the possibility is seen of the whole of Scandinavia becoming involved in the war, though by what reasoning this effect is reached it is rather hard to see. There is no reason to expect Sweden to suddenly cast in her lot with the Allies, and even less to expect Norway and Denmark to act independently in view of their agreement with Sweden. One thing is certain, there will be no more communication from allied countries or from friendly neutrals through similar channels.

But the past results of Swedish friendliness towards Germany are more evident. It has long been a mystery how the Teutons obtained facts in connection with the sailing of vessels from American ports, especially those transporting the first United States troops. That is apparently now explained. There is every reason to believe that the information went overseas in "Swedish Government dispatches," in code.

Other examples of the use that has been made of this secret agency will come to mind readily.

There is a doubt as to whether the Swedish ministers who lent themselves to the unneutral deception knew the contents of the messages. The question is of no moment. They knew they were aiding and abetting the Teutons, and that by doing so they were traitors to the Allies and to their own nation if not to their Government. They were acting as spies for the people who were sinking Swedish ships and murdering their crews. Having this knowledge, it matters little whether they knew the meaning of the words they transmitted.

It is hinted that there will be some hesitation in calling Sweden to account because she has an army which it would not be well to antagonize. Is there to be one law for the weak and another for the strong? Had Sweden been without an army, she would have had to explain, and the necessity is just as great under existing conditions. The explanation may be satisfactory or it may not. In the latter case, strong steps must be taken to enforce neutrality in the future, or have the hostility open, not covert.

## ARGENTINA'S POSITION

The Argentine authorities seem a little slow to acknowledge that both Sweden and Germany have put an insult on the dignity of their republic. They say they "prefer to consider the affair a personal one between the German and Swedish representatives at Buenos Aires." There is probably more than that in it. The Swedish and German Governments have a lot to explain.

No doubt the Argentine diplomats feel put out to have such a mess to face just as they thought they had cleared up the situation with Berlin. Is Argentina also a little anxious to keep on passably good terms with Germany for the profit there is in it?

The population of the republic is about the same as that of Canada. Its resources and trade are very great, its conscript army and navy considerable. The export of hides, meat, wool and wheat is enormous. Now that the United States has cut down her exports to the European neutrals as severely as possible, may not Argentina have a notion of taking the United States' place as head purveyor to Germany through Holland and Sweden? If citizens of the United States fattened on that trade, why should not Argentinians hanker after the rich profits? On the whole it is quite comprehensible that the Argentine authorities should be a bit pestered by the revelations from Washington. Spring is setting in down there on the Plate, and if only the prospective crops and animals can be delivered seven or eight months from now at fancy prices to Dutch and Swedish dealers! At the same time Argentina must bitterly resent the murder policy of the Huns now nakedly displayed, and the republic is normally on the friendliest terms with Great Britain, with which country its chief trade is carried on. Placed between principle and profit the people of the Latin republic may yet choose the former.

## THREE GREAT LEADERS SINCE CONFEDERATION

## Mackenzie

The Liberal party in Canada has had three leaders, three only, since Confederation. They were three great men, representing three great distinct races, the Scotch, the Irish, the French. The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was a typical Scot. He hewed to the line. He never compromised with wrong or deviated from those principles he believed in, to gain either a personal or political advantage. All heard his challenge: "Is it just?" He had great ability. His public addresses were given in the purest English. He stood like granite towards his opponents. They could make little impression against him. Like all Scotsmen, he was a Liberal from conviction, a believer in the brotherhood of man. He was tolerant towards all.

## Laurier

Among the many virtues for which Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be long and gratefully remembered by the people of Canada is his toleration. He, more than any other man in Canada, has consistently, both in public and private life, striven to abolish all distinction between class and creed. He has endeavored to bring together a united Canada. "He can't be wrong, whose life is in the right," could be said of him personally and politically. There has not been, there could not be, in the life of any nation a man with purer motives or more unselfish character. We do not forget the blameless private and public characters nor the great ability of his associates past and present. We do not forget, in addition to Alexander Mackenzie and Edward Blake, his predecessors, such men as David Mills, Richard J. Cartwright, W. S. Fielding, George P. Graham and others, but perhaps because of his French descent and the difficulties he had to overcome in his earlier years, the efforts of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to abolish all distinctions of race and creed in Canada appear more prominent. These men, as well as he, sought to accomplish the same purpose.

## Blake

His immediate predecessor, the Hon. Edward Blake, gave up the last years of his life for a similar cause. He left Canada and all his friends there, became the member for South Longford in Ireland in the British Parliament, that he might promote and further, to the best of his ability, the cause of home rule in the country of his fathers. That great ability was

recognized and he was considered the best lawyer in the British Empire. He was a Protestant. He believed, and said he believed, if home rule were adopted the Protestants would be the spoiled children of Ireland. That he did not in his lifetime succeed in securing home rule does not prove that his work in the British Parliament failed. Ireland's condition was much improved. He had not obtained home rule for Ireland, but he accomplished much. Edward Blake, the Protestant, Wilfrid Laurier, the Catholic, are splendid examples of broad-minded toleration, but not more so than Alexander Mackenzie.

There never has been a time in the history of Canada, in the world's history, when broad-minded toleration, such as that possessed by Mackenzie, Blake and Laurier, was so needed.

## The War

The war is the question uppermost in the minds of the people of the world. Some of them have lived their lives in an atmosphere of war, some of them in the atmosphere of peace, and all the while the best men in the world have been doing everything they could to bring about the brotherhood of man. Canada, a part of the North American continent, desires to flourish by the arts of peace. It has not been disturbed by the problems that are grave and almost unsolvable in the old lands. It is a young country. Confederation was only 50 years old the other day. It has been a glorious success.

## Confederation

Confederation has proved to be a great accomplishment for the English-speaking world. The United States is part of that world and one of the most powerful of the Allied nations. The success of Confederation has meant a great deal to it. The continent is one today. Great Britain, France and the United States will succeed or fail together. May not the future of Canada mean as much to the world in the next hundred years as the United States has meant to it in the last hundred years? It does not seem long since confederation, but it is more than likely that by the time it is twice as old Canada's population will exceed the population of Great Britain and Ireland combined. Who can foresee its importance to the world. Some have thought if the United States had continued to be British the capital of the Empire would some day have been in America. Let such questions be solved by time. Do not let the temporary mists of race and creed exist any longer than necessary. Take courage by the noble examples of Mackenzie, Blake and Laurier, and unite on the broad principles of democracy, the brotherhood of man. Look across the ocean and see France, England, Scotland and Ireland straining every nerve to save the world, and let Canada, as in duty bound, do its full share, side by side with the soldiers of every land, of every clime and race, to preserve these principles which all right-thinking men deem worth fighting and dying for. This course will bless mankind, and write down the whole Canadian people as lovers of their fellowmen.

## FRANCE THE DEFENDER

The criticism has been sometimes made on France that she should have been more ready to meet the German onslaught. She was in alliance with Russia and a strong desire of revenge for 1870 and to recover the lost provinces was active in the French nation. War was therefore a possibility at any time, especially as the French and Germans were always clashing in their colonial and commercial policies. Why, then, was France so poorly equipped with great guns and her army still dressed in old-fashioned red and blue when the German attack came in 1914? Did not French officers also know very well that Germany intended to strike through Belgium?

The answer to such criticism is that France did not seriously intend the war of revenge, through her natural resentment towards the robber kept her in the unnatural alliance with the czar. Not even this resentment and the growing menaces of Germany could coerce fair, civilized France into becoming a militarist nation. The sentiment of "La Revanche" was indeed declining and had to be stimulated in artificial ways. The Nationalist party, which supported militarism, chauvinism and La Revanche was far from the strongest in France.

The government of Paris was more disposed to quarrel with England at Fashoda, or later with Germany in Morocco, than for Alsace-Lorraine. The French Socialist party, strong and growing, was explicitly opposed to any war at all. In a Socialist congress held at Stuttgart in 1907 James, the French Socialist chieftain, proposed that in case of war between Germany and France prevention of the war should be brought about "by national and international Socialist action of the working class by all means, from parliamentary intervention to public agitation and the general strike and insurrection." The German Socialists practically on a mass opposed the resolution, as their nation opposed all moves for peace, while the majority of French and Belgian delegates present supported it.

Yet the German diplomats and writers pretend that Germany is resisting a French attack. They even pretend that Belgium is one of their assailants.

As for Germany's intention to invade France through Belgium, France, Great Britain and Belgium were indeed aware of this. It was for this that Haldane trained the British expeditionary force to such splendid efficiency. But it was expected that the Belgian fortresses, regarded as the last word in modern fortification, would hold back the Huns long enough for the French and British to come in and make all secure. France's whole plans against Germany were defensive. Her care was lavished on supposedly impregnable forts, while Germany and Austria with aggressive designs were devising big guns for offence. The minute the guns were ready Germany was ready, and France was caught by the sudden development of offence over defence. The assailant who has long planned mischief has necessarily some advantages over a defender. He attacks when and how he will.

Perhaps, after all, the German autocracy do want peace. They are beginning to talk as if they had at last realized that some one has blundered.

These are trying times, certainly, not only for the men in the trenches, but for the women in the kitchen.

Even if the American soldiers are given to the use of tobacco in every form, Liberty welcomes them to her aid, being no prude.

Russia may be ruined by the civil war which is now impending. But out of it the people will probably rise with a power and progressiveness that have been singularly lacking since the revolution.

The manufacture of whiskey in the United States has been discontinued until after the war. The saving in corn, rye, molasses, and other things, will be enough to feed three millions of men per year.

In ancient times some philosophers argued that a state could not be properly governed except by a philosopher-king. This has generally been regarded as a Utopian idea. But here we have President Wilson, a doctor of philosophy, conducting the largest and richest state in the world amidst the applause of all University presidents with a special knowledge of political science and practical experience in administration should make good presidents or premiers.

## SONG FOR A RAINY DAY.

A rainy day don't matter much  
When we have done our part  
In making this dear, good old earth  
A happy place of song and mirth,  
For joy swells in the heart.

O joy dwells in the heart, my dear,  
And rainbows come to shine  
Across the shadows of the world,  
With loveliness and light imparted  
So soon, sweetheart of mine!

Your face alone is all I need  
Upon a rainy day  
To set my world to song and smile  
And make me happy all the while  
And merry, dear, and gay.

—Myrtella Southerland

## Other Editors' Opinions

## DOING NOTHING

We have been slow to criticize our Canadian Food Controller, for and, moreover, he has intimated that he does not intend of doing not arbitrarily settle prices without their business, or Mr. Hanna's business at present, to see that no one is so

this is true, it is also true that the speeches he does not believe that people of Canada are looking to him would be either wise or right to attempt to defend them against the men, tempt to fix the prices of foodstuffs, many of them of no small wealth. He declares that "we cannot arbitrarily think that war time is just the rarely fix the price of any commodity to make money. It may be in the interest of the law of supply said that Mr. Hanna is fully seized and demand." To this we all agree that he is determined to prevent the relation of supply to demand, legal robbery of the poor, and yet and to fix the price of wheat at \$1 we cannot but feel that so far he has a bushel or butter at 10 cents a pound not done what he might have done, pound would be madness.

But while the Government should not do that, it is also true that the speeches he does not believe that people of Canada are looking to him would be either wise or right to attempt to defend them against the men, tempt to fix the prices of foodstuffs, many of them of no small wealth. He declares that "we cannot arbitrarily think that war time is just the rarely fix the price of any commodity to make money. It may be in the interest of the law of supply said that Mr. Hanna is fully seized and demand." To this we all agree that he is determined to prevent the relation of supply to demand, legal robbery of the poor, and yet and to fix the price of wheat at \$1 we cannot but feel that so far he has a bushel or butter at 10 cents a pound not done what he might have done, pound would be madness.

else does so. Mr. Hanna tells us that as a result of the war cold storage plants will be built and operated as public utilities; but we look to him just no to see that they are operated, not after the war but during the war, as a public benefit, and not to increase enormously a few private fortunes.

In regard to Canadian flour we confess we are in difficulty. Only a few weeks ago we were told that Canadian flour was selling in England cheaper than it was in Canada, and bread in London, England, was cheaper than it was in Toronto. Mr. Hanna explained officially that the reason for this lay in the fact that the British Government paid the loss but unfortunately Mr. Hanna's statement proved incorrect, as the British Government has not yet paid anything towards a decrease in the price of bread, but has simply purchased the flour and supplied it to bakers at cost, which Mr. Hanna could do in Canada if he wished.

Another thing. We remember some time ago, when the milling industry was under investigation, and it was pointed out that Canadian flour was selling cheaper in England than in Canada, the milling companies admitted the fact, but declared that it was inferior flour. But now Mr. Hanna quotes Col. Tasker to the effect that the high quality of Canadian flour is today one of the very best assets Canada has in the European markets. Evidently this "inferior flour" must be pretty good.

Apparently Mr. Hanna is doing nothing simply because nothing can be done; but Lord Rhonda, in England, is bringing down the price of bread and the price of meat, and in the United States Mr. Hoover has cut the price of sugar 1 1/2 cents a pound, and hopes to effect other reductions. The closing of the British market to Canadian hog products may possibly bring down the price of pork, and at any rate it will test the matter whether the law of supply and demand is working in Canada in regard to hog products.

The action of Hon. F. G. MacDermid, Minister of public works for Ontario, in opening up fisheries in Lakes Nipigon and Nipissing is about the only bright spot in the Ontario consumer's sky just at present, and we trust that the fish secured will be laid down absolutely at cost and all middlemen's profits be cut out. It looks as though in these trying war times the provinces will have to work out their own salvation, and we trust that the Provincial Governments will have had enough to take whatever action seems necessary to protect the poor man who is powerless to protect himself against his wealthy and rapacious neighbor.—Christian Guardian.

## POLITICS AND TRANSPORTATION

The objection of The Financial Post to the principle of government ownership, as embraced in the bill providing for the purchase of the C.N.R. by the Dominion, is based upon a sincere belief in the inefficiency of government administration. This belief is founded upon the results which have attended state operation of transportation systems in practically every other country in the world where it has been attempted. Canada does not promise to have an exceptional success; we are rather inclined to believe from what we know of the political tactics at Ottawa that the results will prove an exceptional failure.

The argument that the administration will be free from political influence or that such will be overcome by the Railway Commission carries little or no weight. In the first place the control of the proposed board will be in the hands of the Government. In the second place, a railway controlled by a party government will have more influence over the Railway Commission than the Commission will have over the railway. Let us enlarge on the latter idea.

Since its organization the Railway Commission has been a very important factor and influence in the transportation situation in this country. It has exercised an impartial and for the most part efficient control over the different systems. This has been because its mission was to impartially improve relations between the public and the railways. But how long will the attitude of a government appointed railway commission remain impartial if there is a government railway controlled by a party directorate competing with a private corporation?—Financial Post.

Mrs. (Rev.) Eli Woodcock, who has been visiting friends here, leaves for her home at Woodstock at 2 p. m. today.

Miss Ida G. Ellis, who has been spending the last couple of weeks visiting relatives and renewing old acquaintances, returned to her home in St. Catharines this morning.