

# Journal of Commerce

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MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1915.

## A Modified Form of Conscription.

The heavy casualty list coming through day by day, combined with a fuller realization of the immense task confronting the Allies, is causing thoughtful men to ask if a modified form of conscription should not be adopted throughout the British Empire. With many the very mention of conscription is sufficient to cause them to hold up their hands in holy horror for fear that our democratic institutions should go by the board. A closer examination into the advantages of a modified form of compulsory military service are so obvious that many men become converts to the system.

Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand and many other countries of the world have adopted a modified form of conscription which meets their requirements in a much more satisfactory way than the old voluntary system did. Briefly summarized, these systems demand that every young man shall spend two or three weeks each year for a few years under military discipline. This ensures everybody in the country having a knowledge of military matters, of being able to handle a rifle and furnishes the country with an organization which can be utilized in time of need.

There are many other advantages from such a system. Thousands of young men in factories, offices and stores would be the better physically from two or three weeks' drill in the open air, while the moral and mental effect of submitting to discipline are other advantages which should not be lost sight of. It never hurts a young man to know how to shoot straight, how to obey orders, or how to act in unison with other men. All these and many other benefits would come from a short compulsory military training, say of two weeks for every young man between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one.

Some of the disadvantages of the voluntary system are that recruits are secured from the highest and lowest classes. The idle rich, the men of leisure, wealth and education who become officers or who have such a conception of their responsibilities that they enroll at the first appeal furnish one class. The other class is largely secured from the lowest strata of society, the out-of-work, the shiftless, the adventurers, and those who have few if any home or business ties. The appeal for volunteers does not reach—certainly not to the extent it should—the best sturdy middle class who, after all, are the backbone of any democratic country. These men for the most part hold responsible positions, are ambitious to better themselves in the work, and while loyal and devoted to the welfare of the country, do not respond to the call for arms as quickly as the idle rich and those out of work. A form of compulsory service would remedy this.

Such a system would assist in enabling a young man to make up his mind. It seems hardly fair to ask callous youths who have hardly come to years of discretion to take the entire responsibility upon their own shoulders of deciding whether or not they should enlist. They are going out to fight for the defence of the State. The State, therefore, should make known what it requires of them, and in a measure assist them in coming to a decision.

As an example of the way business men are talking and thinking of this question it is only necessary to call attention to the report which appears elsewhere of the fifty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Quebec Fish and Game Protective Association. The retiring president, Mr. Guy Tombs, said in part: "We cannot in a year or two become a vast military power such as Germany. In fact, we do not want to, but how much better off we would have been, had we as a nation, been thoroughly accustomed to the use of arms. It seems to me that what is required right here in Canada is some system of compulsory training which will give every youth from fourteen to twenty-one, four weeks or more at a camp every year. If we have had some such system it would be better not only for the knowledge or bearing arms, but for the discipline and efficiency acquired." Such a system would make us better citizens. There should be an increase in recruiting throughout Canada. If men cannot enlist for service, the young men of the country should join militia regiments and so increase the fighting efficiency of the Empire. It is a live question and should be grappled with by the people of this country.

## Canada's Century.

The United States Census Bureau has just announced that the population of that country has just passed the one hundred million mark. In population the United States follows the British Empire, China and Russia. The British Empire has about 425,000,000. China an estimated population at from 350,000,000 to 400,000,000, while Russia has a population of 160,000,000. As a self-contained country only China, Russia and India have larger populations than the United States.

A century ago, the United States had a population of about eight millions—the same as Canada has at the present time. During the past hundred years the United States has been the Mecca for the land-hungry of Europe, which, with the natural increase of her own people, brought up the total number of inhabitants to the present proportions. It is only reasonable to expect that Canada will duplicate this record in the twentieth century. There is now a greater scarcity of free land than was the case when the United States was settled, and, as a matter of fact, Canada possesses almost the last free lands in the world. After the war we may expect to find millions of people turning their eyes in our direction, and our population should increase faster than did that of the United States, not only because we possess the last great wheat growing area, but

because means of transportation make it much easier to get on to the land than was the case fifty or one hundred years ago. To-day the emigrant from continental Europe is carried without hardships or inconveniences from his old home to a prairie farm. A century ago such a journey was fraught with untold difficulties and required almost superhuman courage. The pessimists who believe that Canada is not making rapid progress should look back and remember that one hundred years ago the United States was occupying a far less favorable position than Canada occupies today.

## After the War — What?

One of the problems confronting the country has to do with the status of the nation after the war. Already economists, statesmen and business men are debating whether the country shall remain an isolated portion of the Empire or whether it shall form part of a confederation with corresponding concentration of interests.

Advocates of Imperial preferential tariff are already urging that some such system be put in force among the various parts of the Empire. Others again are agitating for an Imperial Parliament to which the Overseas Dominions should send representatives, and where they would have a voice in the making of treaties. Whatever may be the outcome of these discussions there is certain to be a tendency to draw the various parts and interests of the Empire closer together. Both the mother country and the Overseas Dominions feel that the sacrifices made in men and money have bound the Empire together with bonds stronger than those of steel. Common interests, ties of blood, the sacrifices made on behalf of a great cause have given a new vision and a new purpose to every portion of the Empire. Whatever form the closer union may take, we can all rest assured that the end of the war will see a drawing together of the various units now comprising the British Empire. This is as it should be.

Another after the war subject which is receiving considerable attention is the attitude of the victor towards the United States. Some alarmists in the neighboring Republic seem to think that no matter who is victor, Britain or Germany, that the successful one will challenge the United States. The absurdity of Great Britain and Canada going to war with the neighboring Republic is well shown by a recent letter from the pen of Mr. W. D. Lighthall of this city. The letter appeared in a recent issue of the New York Times in reply to Professor Usher's article entitled "The War's Victor Will Defy U. S." Mr. Lighthall points out that there has been a hundred years of peace between Great Britain and the United States, that during that time the relations between the two nations have increased in cordiality, and that there is, humanly speaking, nothing that would make these two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon race go to war with one another. Canada and the United States have a frontier four thousand miles in extent, without a single rifle or a single gun guarding this line. Whatever Germany may do in the future, one thing is certain, and that is Great Britain and Canada will not go to war with the neighboring Republic. Mr. Lighthall's letter is an effective reply to the fears of the alarmists in the United States.

Lody George says that the war is costing \$10,500,000 a day. At this rate a year's warfare would cost upwards of \$5,000,000,000. Never mind Germany is going to pay for this.

The women who have gathered at the Hague to protest against the war mean well, but their efforts will prove unavailing. At the present time the work of peacemakers is unappreciated. This war has got to be fought out to a finish. Any patched up peace would only mean that the struggle would break out later on, or just as soon as Germany was able to recuperate.

The British Government is now discussing the advisability of using poisonous gases in retaliation for the use of these by the Germans. Up to the present Great Britain has fought in a humane way and in no particular have they broken any of the Hague Conventions. Germany, on the other hand, has stopped at nothing. Probably if she were given a taste of the medicine she is meting out to others it would do her a world of good.

There was a time not so long ago in the United States and Canada when college men were not looked upon with favor. This is rapidly being changed. In the United States President Wilson, himself a college graduate, and an ex-college president, has shown a decided preference for college men and fills every possible vacancy in the civil and diplomatic service with college graduates. The same is very largely true of big business interests, both in Canada and the United States. Where other things are equal they give the preference to college men.

## AT PEACE WITH OUR NEIGHBOR.

Some jingles in the country—fortunately insignificant in number—have an idea that patriotism means the hating of the United States. We would advise these fire-eaters to study British diplomacy towards the Great Republic for the last hundred years, and learn a lesson from its pacification. Canada, by her splendid part in this awful war has won her place with her sister nations to settle the peace terms. This new position has given her a bigger responsibility which will not allow jingoism to mar the happy relations of the two countries that run side by side for 4,000 miles without so much as a military post.

When our citizen soldiers come back from the realization of the awful price of war and compare the serenity of the northern part of this continent with the volcanic cock-pit of Europe, they will say "STOP!" to those who by cheap flaunting would embroil this Canada of ours with the kindred people to the South of us—and they would have the right—and bless those who, like Mr. Lighthall, would keep the peace with dignity to the Empire and Canada.—Canadian Municipal Journal.

## "BIG BEN'S" ACCURACY.

"Big Ben" will be missed by Londoners during its spring cleaning, and particularly by those who time their watches by it. Every morning the great clock automatically sends a record of its going to Greenwich Observatory, and with monotonous regularity the astronomer-royal tells us in his annual report that the Westminster clock is on most days of the year in perfect agreement with the standard clock at Greenwich, and very rarely so much as three seconds out.—Pall Mall Gazette.

## GERMAN CYNICISM.

"New technical weapons" is the phrase used by the organ of the Prussian army to describe the poisonous gas used in Flanders to asphyxiate the French and Canadian troops. The cynicism of the enemy is even more objectionable than his devilry.—Toronto Globe.

## BUILDING FOR A DAY.

Probably the most hopeful thing architecturally about American cities is that nobody expects them to last long. We read without surprise, for example, that a Chicago structure is so antiquated it no longer pays expenses and interest. It was erected nearly twenty-five years ago, and naturally is out of date. It is considerably higher than any business structure we recall in London, or Paris or Berlin. Probably an American builder would consider its modern improvements in advance of anything to be found in those cities; but to pay in an American city it should be twice as high.

All our skyscrapers are monuments to the landlord, piling ever higher and higher rental values on a given plot of ground. Their natural concomitants are vast and sordid flat buildings, packed subways, and straphangers in the surface and elevated cars. A powerful tendency to pile up in one spot is visible in most American towns. The idea is to get all the business, if possible, on a given forty acres. Having business naturally means having people and tremendous demands for transportation in the hours when they shuttle between business hive and dwelling hive.

Perhaps this is more economical than the slow old European style of sprawling at large and mixing business and residence all up together; but its effects are less agreeable to the eye. That we have not, on the whole, made up our minds as to how a city should be built is indicated by the facility with which we tear down and build over. If we should presently decide to build New York, say, horizontally instead of perpendicularly, there is nothing in our architectural habits to prevent us from pulling the thing down in a few weeks and doing it over again.—Saturday Evening Post.

## PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

The richest countries of the earth contain the most poor. Wherever food and raiment and shelter can be made cheapest, best and quickest, there are to be found more people wanting those things than was the case before.—British Columbia Federationist.

## "A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Impatient Diner (to passing waiter).—Hey! Waiter—Don't serve it, sir. (Goes on.)

Bill—"Say, that ocean voyage took all the ginger out of me."  
Jill—"What did you want to eat ginger for?"—Yonkers Statesman.

A lady was walking through the park recently when two ragged, dirty little boys, who were playing near by, stopped her. "Say, lady," called out the elder of the two, "me kid brudder does fine imitatin' stunts. Give him a dime an' he will imitate a chicken for you." "What will he do—caw?" queried the lady. "Xaw," replied the boy, "no cheap imitations like dat, ma'am. He'll eat a worm!"

Charles Lamb came one afternoon a week from Enfield to Highgate to see Coleridge, and the dinner was always arranged so that it was well over before the return stage coach arrived at the door. On one occasion something had interrupted the dinner, Lamb was not ready for the coach, and got into it with his mouth full. As he did so a woman came up and said: "Is there any room inside?" "No, m-m-y g-good woman," answered Lamb, "that last p-piece of p-pudding filled up every chink."

A well-known judge dined recently at a West-end hotel, where the man who takes care of the hats is celebrated for his memory about the ownership of headgear.

"How do you know that is my hat?" the judge asked, as his silk hat was presented to him.  
"I don't know it, sir," said the man.  
"Then why do you give it to me?" insisted the bewildered judge.  
"Because you gave it to me, sir," replied the man, without moving a muscle of his face.—Tit-Bits.

Henry Miller in the following story from Young's Magazine proves how wit can effectually save a man from humiliation. "During the Civil War, at a camp in Ohio, a captain fresh from civil life and grand in a brand new uniform, happened to observe two men shooting at a target. 'Here, boys,' said he, 'let me show you how to shoot.' Taking a gun in hand he fired and missed. 'That,' said he to one of the soldiers, 'is the way you shoot.' He fired again, and missed again. 'And that,' said he, turning to the other soldier, 'is the way you shoot.' He fired a third shot and hit the bullseye. 'And that,' said he, 'is the way I shoot.'"

"Are you certain this is the man?" asked the commanding officer, when a farmer accused a soldier of shooting a chicken.  
"I won't swear to him," said the witness, "but I will say he's the man I suspect of doing it."

"That's not enough to convict a man," retorted the C. O., considerably nettled. "What raised your suspicions?"

"Well, sir," replied the sturdy farmer, as he slowly mopped his forehead with his kerchief; "it was this way. I see 'im on my property with a gun; then I heard the gun go off; then I see 'im putting the chicken into his knapsack; and it didn't seem sense no how to think the bird committed suicide."

## The Day's Best Editorial

### SEEING ALL AMERICA.

An enterprising Canadian Newspaper, the Montreal Journal of Commerce, has taken up the suggestion of a friendly American editor to attract the great American tourist northward and thus reap some of the dollars usually spent abroad.

Certainly the "See American first" principle ought to cover not merely America in the narrow sense but in the continental sense, including Canada. For the seeker of natural beauty, the camper and sportsman, the vacationist of almost any taste, Canada has riches to offer from the wild shores of Labrador to the wonders of the Canadian Rockies—mountains, lakes, streams and forests of greatest beauty, cities of historic interest and unsurpassed picturesque charm, a summer climate to be envied.

It is hoped Americans who must travel will see their own country now if they never have before, and a neighborly visit to Canada will repay. There have been evidences at times that Americans are not greatly within the favor of Canadians, but perhaps this is because there has been less intercourse than there should be and might be. A good time to correct that is now.—Chicago Tribune.

## DERNBURG'S DOVE OF PEACE.

Stripped of all unessential details Dr. DERNBURG's "peace proposals" come down to wholly ridiculous suggestions. Germany, he guesses, would consent to a cessation of hostilities if permitted to occupy some sort of privileged position in Belgium and if provided with some guarantee of the future freedom of the seas.

The first condition carries with it the renunciation by France and Great Britain of a moral obligation and a debt of honor to Belgium, to repudiate which would be to earn the enduring scorn of all mankind. It means also yielding to Germany a position which would make both France and Britain insecure for all time. As to the second condition, such a guarantee of "freedom of the seas" as Germany desires could only be given if the British fleet were "scrapped." No international agreement would accomplish this, for all international agreements, are in the language of German diplomacy, scraps of paper. As to the "scrapping" of the British fleet, there is only one way to bring this about.—New York Tribune.

## WORLD'S GREATEST TRAGEDY.

How transient are the memories of incidents which, if not overshadowed by the great European conflict, would still be matters of every day comment and discussion! The award in the case of the Storstad recalls with an effort the tragedy which marked the sinking of the Canadian Pacific liner in the St. Lawrence, and many of the harrowing details of the disaster. Yet the chief actors in the final scene are nearly all forgotten, the tragedy seems far away and comparatively insignificant in the face of later events. The same holds true of the greater Titanic disaster and it will take some years before these great maritime calamities assume their proper place in contemporary history.—Ottawa Citizen.

## SOME SONG.

The German hymn, Deutschland, Deutschland, über Alles, is the loftiest, the noblest, the most elevating, the manliest, the most inspiring, the most tuneful, the grandest, the most poetical and glorious song that has ever swelled forth from human breast. It is divine, as is the origin of the people for whom it was composed.—Kölnische Zeitung.

## A SONG OF THE PLOW.

(By Alfred Noyes. From the "Enchanted Island.")

Morning.

Idle, comfortless, bare.

The broad bleak acres lie:

The plowman guides the sharp plowshare

Steadily nigh.

The big plow-horses lift

And climb from the marge of the sea,

And the clouds of their breath on the clear wind

Drift

Over the fallow lea.

Streaming up with the yoke,

Brown as the sweet-smelling loam,

Through a sun-swept smother of sweat and smoke

The two great horses come.

Up through the raw, cold morn

They trample and drag and swing;

And my dreams are waving with ungrown corn

In a far-off spring.

It is my soul lies bare

Between the hills and the sea;

Come, plowman! Life, with thy sharp plow-share

And plow the field for me.

Evening.

Over the darkening plain

As the stars regain the sky,

Steals the chime of an unseen rein

Steadily nigh.

Lost in the deepening red

The sea has forgotten the shore:

The great dark steeds with their muffled tread

Draw near once more.

To the furrow's end they sweep

Like a somber wave of the sea,

Lifting its crest to challenge the deep

Hush of Eternity.

Still for a moment they stand,

Massed on the sun's red death,

A surge of bronze, too great, too grand,

To endure for more than a breath.

Only a billow and stream

Of muscle and flank and mane

Like darkling mountain-cataracts gleam:

Gripped in a Titan's rein.

Once more from the furrow's end

They wheel to the fallow lea,

And down the muffled speed descend

To the sleeping sea.

And the fibrous knots of clay,

And the sun-dried clots of earth

Cleave, and the sunset cloaks the gray

Waste and the stony dearth.

O, broad and dusky and sweet.

The sunset covers the world!

But my dreams are waving with golden wheat

In a still strange field.

My soul, my soul lies bare,

Between the hills and the sea;

Come, plowman! Death, with thy sharp plow-share

And plow the field for me.

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NOTICE is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of eight per cent. per annum upon the Paid-up Capital Stock of the UNION BANK OF CANADA has been declared for the current quarter, and that the same will be payable at its Banking House in the City of Winnipeg and at its branches on and after Tuesday, the 1st day of June next, to shareholders of record at the close of business on the fifteenth day of May next.

The transfer books will be closed from the 17th to the 31st of May, 1915, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,  
G. H. BALFOUR,  
General Manager.

Winnipeg, 16th April, 1915.

# ESTABLISHED 1864 THE MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA PAYS SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

## THE CIVIL WAR UNNECESSARY.

The Civil War was quite unnecessary and preventable. The slavery question had to be solved. England had solved it as an economic proposition. Opinion in the United States, though inflamed on the surface, was visibly tending toward such a solution. But unfortunately every hothead in the country knew that there was no power in our institutions to enforce law and order. Our army numbered fewer than 17,000 men, widely dispersed, and with as much on its hands as it could possibly attend to. There was no force disposable to control a district that should be inclined to break away from central control.

"It was not necessary that the United States should be a militarist country. We do not need a million of two of soldiers, nor half a million, nor even a hundred thousand. If we had just sixty thousand troops at that time, it is safe to say that no civil war could have taken place."—Prof. R. M. Johnston, in May Century.

## TUNG OIL.

Among the oils which may be added to, or used as substitutes for linseed, in paints, perhaps tung oil is the most important. When properly boiled and treated it yields a film which is hard and elastic, with heavy body and high gloss. One great advantage of this oil is that it forms paints which will dry in damp atmosphere. It has long been used by the Chinese and Japanese and is finding wide use for marine and waterproof paints, and there is no apparent reason why it should not be used more extensively for protective paints for iron and steel.—L. C. Wilson, in The Engineering Magazine for April.

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# NOONDAY BEAR PULLED PRICES

Opening was Quiet but saw Good Advances in Specialties

## STOCKS WERE UNRESTED

(Exclusive Leased Wire to Journal)  
New York, May 5.—The opening market was a comparatively quiet affair in general showed gains of a fraction, reactionary close. Attendance in commission was lighter than for some time past. Indications that the holdings of many had recently been shaken out. U. S. 4's up at 58½, while Amal. Copper first sale and increased its advance to 10½. Pressed Steel Car on the first sale at 50. People who were informed on affairs of the latter company had been signed securing the latter cars that the concern has ever recovered showed a tendency to recover after the afternoon's decline, the first sale being at 10½. It was argued that the stock would not draw