

# The Weekly Monitor

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FRANK H. BEATTIE, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12TH, 1924.

## THE COUNTRY WEEKLY.

(The Farmers' Sun.)  
During the American Civil War President Lincoln used to find relief from the terrible strain of his official duties by telling funny stories or swapping gossip about his friends "back home." A British writer tells us that Ramsay MacDonald likes nothing better than a pipe and an hour's gossip about old friends and neighbors. The word "gossip" has suffered at the hands of people with sharp tongues and long ears but wholesome gossip—a kindly but not inquisitive interest in the doing of one's neighbors—helps to make life more pleasant and deserves no censure. Perhaps the best medium for odd and ends of personal information of this sort is the country weekly, and no doubt when Ramsay MacDonald has no visitor from Scotland to tell him the news he eagerly scans the column of the Lossiemouth Weekly.

Just as the element of personal concern has passed out of our politics, one finds in looking through old files of the country weeklies that today editors do not publish the type of personal items that used to add spice to the paper's columns but which engendered hard feelings and sometimes ended in blows. The change may in part be due to the fact that in the earlier days many rural centres boasted two weeklies which reflected the bitter personalities of the political area. Today the majority of rural districts are served by one weekly. The interests of the whole neighborhood are now considered paramount to furthering the interests of cliques who happened to be in the good graces of the editor. Local news and local improvement hold first place in most of the Ontario country weeklies, and with this field to cover they play an important part in the life of the province.

## SPEND THE DOLLARS AT HOME.

Under the above caption, Frederickton Mail says editorially:—"Did you ever stop to figure what you would have in the bank if you had been able to keep a small part—say a twentieth of every dollar you ever spent? An interesting exercise in arithmetic for those who like it," you say; but you, as a sensible person, don't purpose to throw away perfectly good time puzzling over money that can never return.

You are quite right. You cannot call back the dollars that are spent. But you can—in the future—spend your dollars in a manner that will bring a part of each one back to you. If you ask how this is possible, here is the answer.

Do you see that tall chimney whose nearness to your home has so often distressed you? The owners of that chimney and of the factory which it shows pay taxes in your town. The people they employ pay taxes, also—directly or indirectly. The workers, and perhaps the owners, too, spend the bulk of their money in your community, when they have it to spend, and some of the money they spend gets around to you. You may not be a merchant, receiving their money over your counter and ringing it up on your cash register. But there is a large probability that you receive some of it, even if it has to go "all round Robin Hood's barn" in reaching you. If you don't somehow find your property strengthened or increased when the workers beneath

that chimney are fully employed at good wages, then it is because some of them—like you—have been indifferent about spending their dollars near home; where you would benefit, and where they, as spenders, could get back a share of what they spent."

## FOES IN FRANCE.

London Daily Chronicle: It is not only in their Press and their theatres that the French must abandon the habits of the last four or five years; if the new Entente is to become a reality, as the old was. During that period the whole force of official French propaganda abroad has been working against us—often with considerable results. We owe to it a large proportion of the troubles which have confronted us in the Near East, in Egypt, and in our mandated territories.

## THE CULT OF COMMERCIALISM.

The Villager (New York): We wish we could think that what society is experiencing today is but the after-effect of the Great War; that this was, so, then all we should need to "do about it" would be to hold fast until the disturbed waters settled into calm again; time would be on the right side. Our fear is that time is not on the right side. We do not think society is today merely in the dirty backwash of the war. We believe reality is today only just beginning to realize the programme on which it embarked more than a century and a half ago.

## CHANGE NOT NECESSARILY GOOD

Natal Advertiser: When America is really dry and every pipe and every tobacco pouch has been thrown into the sea—naturally, outside the six-mile limit—it may well be found that the world is no better and the people no happier. Even now there are some who profess a predilection for a pipe over a packet of chewing gum, and in those days of self-denial it may come to be realized to be a virtue, pushed to excess, ceases to be a virtue, and becomes a vice. We should hesitate to range ourselves on the side of those who claim that everything is for the best in the best of all possible worlds, but, at the same time, it is necessary that steps should be taken to dispute the view that change is good just because it is change. Being in the frying pan is far from pleasant, but one gets no relief by jumping into the fire.

## LESSON FOR POLITICIANS.

(From the Boston Herald.)  
A politician might take a lesson from the careless act of the good housewife who, newly established in her new home, resolved to make some dumplings. This design she carried into execution. The dumplings were made and molded. But alas they came forth a soggy and abhorrent mass. The woman, being discreet though newly married, forebore to test her husband's devotion by such hazardous and heroic means. She slipped out the back door and dumped the dumplings where she thought, none would ever find them and where their power for danger was nil. She threw them into the duck pond. An hour later she was called to the door by a rapping. On the doorstep stood a small boy. "Lady," he said, "your ducks have sunk."  
There would be fewer political eclipses if politicians were less indiscreet, and if their comprehension of a situation were keener than it is.

ten is. There are wise men in politics who never make mistakes; but they are few. To see clearly, to follow wise instructions—these are assets for the political climber. He was no politician who undertook, with his woefully limited intelligence to carry out the doctor's directions regarding the medicine. The doctor poked him and prodded him, and at last gave him a little box of pills. "These will help you," he said to the patient. "Try one tonight when you go to bed. If you can keep it on your stomach it will help you." The following day he met his patient and asked him if the pill had helped him any. "No," said the patient, "but I am going to try it again tonight. I kept it on my stomach all night until I fell asleep. But then I rolled over and the pill fell off."

## SHIRT SLEEVES DIPLOMACY.

The Australasian: Ever since the conclusion of the war the world has been learning a lesson in international politics which we hope will not be soon forgotten. We were told by the "spellbinder" politicians that "the old diplomacy" was at an end. They were going to inaugurate a new era. The simple result has been that no peace settlement since the close of the Thirty Years War in 1648 has been the subject of so many calamities and blunders as was that of 1918-9. If the management of the Versailles conference had been left in the hands of skilled diplomatists, men accustomed to negotiation and careful to explore the ground before they formulated their terms, it is extremely unlikely that they would have fashioned an unworkable instrument. It is notorious that expert advice was heeded. The rhetoricians wanted to paint placards and be photographed in picturesque attitudes

## THE FORGOTTEN ARMY

RUSSIA HAD IN WAR.

General Alexander S. Lukomsky, who was assistant minister of war and chief of staff of the Russian army during the war, contributed to the London Times an article on "The Forgotten Army" in which he shows the important part played by the Russians in the early years of the Great War. He says among other things:

The vigorous offensive of the Russians in East Prussia in August, 1914, compelled the German High Command to transfer to the Russian front two Army Corps from the shock troops marching on Paris. According to the admission of the French High Command this contributed greatly to the Allied victory on the Marne and, consequently, to the saving of France during the first period of the campaign.

The victory of the Russian Army over the Austrians in 1914 likewise compelled the German High Command to transfer considerable forces from their Western front to the Russian front.

The stubborn and hard struggle on the Russian front in the course of 1915 also greatly retarded the French and British.

The so-called "Brest-Litovsk Offensive" on the Russian South-Western front in 1916 completely shattered the might of the Austro-Hungarian Army and saved Italy.

Lastly, in the spring of 1917, the old Russian Army held back on its front 187 enemy divisions out of a total of 381 at the disposal of the Central Powers; that is to say, 49 per cent. of all the forces of the enemy operating on the European and Asiatic fronts.

The "Brest-Litovsk Offensive" on the South-Western Russian front, in the spring of 1916, which ended in the crushing defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Army (with the capture of about 500,000 men and more than 200 guns), began with the breaking of the Austro-Hungarian front by the 32nd Infantry Division in the direction of Cernowitz and the 4th Rifle Division in the direction of Lutsk.

## Fighting in the Caucasus.

The Caucasian Mountains, too, had their quota of Russian blood spilled in the cause of the Allies. Let us recall here the last days of that extremely severe winter of 1916-17. It had been a very hard winter for the Corps of General Baratoff, which now once more was displaying much excitement. An order, it was said, had come from the Headquarters of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to send several "sovnias" or Cossacks to Mesopotamia, to reconnoitre the roads and establish a liaison with the British; also, it was said, a large force would be sent later to unite with the British in that part of the world. Before the order could be carried out it was necessary to wait for the snow to melt and drive off the Turks who had been facing this corps since the autumn. Finally, the order was given to advance against the Turks. Contact with the enemy had been lost during the winter in some sectors. In one of these sectors the advancing Russians saw a gruesome spectacle. In caves and dugouts were the rigid corpses of entire Turkish detachments. These poor fellows, cut off by the impassable snow from their food and fuel bases, had perished of

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hunger and cold.

The Cossack scouts went forward and direct communication was established with the British. But the Russian revolution, which soon broke out rendered it impossible to dispatch a larger force to the aid of the British in Mesopotamia.

## What Bolshevism Did.

At the outbreak of the March Revolution of 1917 the Russian army was strong enough to continue the war successfully. Its technical equipment at that moment was already quite adequate, and its morale was such as to afford every reason to hope for the success of the big offensive planned for the spring of 1917.

But the revolution came, and now that great Russian army of ten million men collapsed in the brief space of three or four months. From the first days of the revolution the weak Provisional Government, under the whip of the newly-organized "Soviet of Workers and Soldiers' Deputies," began to introduce unwisely all kinds of measures for "rendering harmless" the officers of the army. In the place of the regular army discipline it began to set up what is believed to be a "conscious revolutionary discipline." Soldiers' committees were formed in all the units of the army, after which all disciplinary power of the officers vanished. And in all the larger units special political commissaries were appointed, whose business it was to keep the officers under constant surveillance.

The army was rapidly becoming demoralized and disrupted. Bolshevist propaganda in the army, as well as among the civilian inhabitants through out the country, with its crude catchwords of "Peace At All Costs," "Rob the Robbers," "Divide up the Land of Landlord, Crown and Church," quickly completed this evil work.

Russia was soon ablaze with the torch of incendiary, the blood of her sons and daughters began to flow freely within her own cities and villages, and the soldiers, afraid of losing their share of the divided land, began to desert the front and hasten back to their native villages, to obtain their share of the general plundering and pillaging.

## Curious Battle Episode.

The three years of warfare on the Russian front are rich in interesting battle episodes, many really heroic, and others tragic-comical, comical and even mystical.

In the winter of 1914 in Galicia, during the advance against the Austrians, the staff of the North Infantry Division stopped for the night at the cottage of a forester in the woods. After supper all save the telephone

operators on duty and the sentries went to bed. Suddenly, in the stillness of the night, the cottage was surrounded by Austrians. The division commander and his staff and Cossack escort were unable to offer resistance and were taken prisoners. It appeared that an Austrian battalion, during the general retreat, had lost its way in the forest and, in attempting to join in the main body, had accidentally stumbled across the staff of this Russian division and captured it.

In the meantime one of the regimental commanders of the Russian division, having put up for the night about a mile away, desired instructions as to operations on the following day, and ordered the telephone operator to call up the chief staff officer of the division. There was no answer. Nor could connection be made with an adjoining regiment of the same division. Becoming alarmed, the regimental commander dispatched several mounted orderlies to Headquarters. In about half an hour they returned and reported that Austrians had been seen around the forester's cottage. The commander rushed two hastily awakened battalions of his regiment to the forester's cottage. At daybreak the Austrians sighted the pursuing Russians and shots were exchanged. The hapless divisional commander and the members of his staff were dragged from the cottage and placed in the firing line, the Austrians hoping thereby to make the Russians cease firing. At this moment, however, a company of the attacking Russians appeared in the rear of the Austrians, who surrendered. This experience made such an impression on the divisional commander that for a long time after this he refused to ur-

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The Exhibition Was a Success, The Attendance being 15,000,000  
Wembley, England.—The British Empire Exhibition, which opened April 23rd, was officially closed on Saturday when the Prince of Wales, just returned from Canada and the United States addressed a large audience in the stadium.  
As President of the Exhibition, the Prince declared that he ventures had achieved the full measure of success in the task it had set out to accomplish. It had given a picture of the Dominions to the people at home, he declared, which indicated the resources and boundless potentialities of their territories. It had also created a greater demand for Empire products as well as giving visiting peoples of the overseas territory a better knowledge of the manufacturing resources of Great Britain and a more sympathetic understanding of the problem of the Empire in development and defense.  
Despite the unkind attitude of the British weather, the Prince concluded, approximately 15,000,000 persons had passed the turnstiles of the exhibition, creating a record for Great Britain.

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The funeral was  
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R. B. Thomas of the  
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