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Tuesday, October 31, 1922.

Who Are the "They?"

Who are the "They" to whom the returned soldier, who interrupted Hon. George P. Graham in his unveiling ceremony of the Cross of Sacrifice on Mount Royal, referred?

"What have 'They' done for us since?" were the words of the interruption—what have 'They' done for us since?

The returned man cannot have meant the people of Canada in general when he used that ambiguous "They"—since everybody knows the heart of Canada in respect of the soldiers who fought her cause.

Did he, then, mean the Meighen Government, or did he mean the King Government, which succeeded the Meighen Government and which took over the obligations as well as the honors of the former administration?

It would be interesting, actually, to get on the trail of that obscure and uncertain pronoun.

So far as the work for returned soldiers under the Meighen Government is concerned, even at this distance, one cannot but recall the favorable comment it earned, at the time, in the public press of both Great Britain and of the United States.

Upon one occasion, we remember The Literary Digest ran a series of pictorial tables, by which tables it was shown that under the Meighen Government Canada stood at the head and shoulders even of all the allied countries in her efforts to restore the returned soldiers to normal civic life.

Upon another occasion The Canadian Gazette (London) took occasion to call attention to Canada's splendid work in this direction, particularly when contrasted with the failure of Australia's housing scheme for her returned men.

The article referred to in The Gazette was headed, "A Contrast: The Returned Soldiers' Problem in Australia and Canada." In the course of his remarks on the Australian side of the ledger, the writer of the article pointed out that after spending \$12,332,499 on 17,000 houses, the Commonwealth Government discovered that it had seriously blundered in the expenditure of the money. When the scheme was launched everybody who had land to sell or building supplies to furnish put up the price on land and on materials. Confronted by this problem, the Government of Australia went in for buying large timber areas and erecting sawmills. Fabulous prices were paid and things grew worse, instead of better. When Mr. Hughes returned to the Commonwealth from attending the Conference in London, he found that millions had been wasted on the erection of houses which for the most part, were standing empty owing to poor construction and excessive cost. The Gazette continued:

"In striking contrast to this failure is the shrewd and businesslike attitude of the Canadian Government in dealing with returned soldier problems. Mr. Meighen, who is personally responsible for the admirable soldier land settlement plan, rejected a proposal for the erection of houses for returned soldiers as unworkable and too costly. In outlining his project to assist ex-service men in settling on land, he surrounded it with every safeguard to protect them from the menace of unscrupulous real estate agents and others who might seek to plunder returned soldiers. Land was bought for agricultural purposes at low prices and direct from the owner. It was provided that no land for this purpose would be bought if it had changed hands within a year. This was to prevent the possibility of speculating in farms desired for soldier settlement. Manufacturers of farm implements and equipment,

as well as lumber dealers, were approached and willingly reduced their prices for soldier settlers. In some cases there was a difference of 30 per cent. in favor of soldier settlers.

"Canada certainly has reason for congratulation on the successful manner in which the returned soldier problems have been met. More than 26,000 returned men are settled on the land with monetary advances exceeding \$84,000,000; 108,000 disabled men were treated by the department of soldiers' civil re-establishment, and 50,000 were fitted by vocational training for new positions; 73,000 are in receipt of pensions on a scale more liberal than in any other country in the world; and \$164,000,000 was paid in gratuities. An insurance scheme has been developed by which returned men may insure their lives irrespective of their present condition of health."

Such was the situation when the Meighen Government turned over its powers and its office to the King Government. Read that last paragraph from the Gazette again, the paragraph on land settlement with monetary advances, on the treatment of disabled men, on vocational training for new positions in life on pensions scaled higher than the soldiers' pensions in any country in the world. Read it twice over.

We think Hon. George P. Graham, himself, must account for the personnel of that involved, but none the less intelligible "They."

Kemal Against Switzerland

Kemal Pasha had his own way long enough to think he could have it altogether. Then came the check the British put upon his headlong course and his realization "that no man can have his own way all the time." Like since the pressure brought to bear has been lifted somewhat by the signing of the treaty and a determination reached to settle the details of the Near East trouble in a conference, the Turkish leader has been restive and peevish. He objects to the choice of Lausanne, Switzerland, as the place of the conference. Kemal has still two days to think it over before refusing his consent. According to his idea a city in Asia Minor or some city of Italy would be more suitable. So far he has not made explanations why he would rather not send representatives to Lausanne for November 15.

In the meanwhile the leader's advisers and M. Henri Bouillon, the French diplomat, who claims that it was his persuasive powers that brought Kemal to time in the conflict, have been urging the Nationalist leader "to yield again."

During the whole of the world conflict, and since, Switzerland has proved herself one of the most sincere and constant friends of the allies and yet she has been able to preserve a neutral and democratic attitude to the several groups involved, so when, in reply to the request of the Powers to use Lausanne as a place of conference, consent has been given with Switzerland's usual cogitation, it is not likely that the whim of an irate and defeated Turk will cause the allies to do injury to Switzerland by now rejecting her offer of hospitality.

The Turk evidently does not yet realize that the majority of European nations conduct their affairs with some show of courtesy.

"The Terrible Turk" still has many lessons to learn. From this point of view, perhaps, it is well that he is to be allowed to stay a little longer in Europe!

NOTE AND COMMENT

HALLOWE'EN JANGLE.

Puff at the easement; puff, puff, puff. A gust of wind that tries to get inside—Rough is the night-time, rough, rough, rough.

Skies that scowl, Winds that howl, And Hags that broomsticks ride,

Dark is the night-time, dark, dark, dark. But all the house is light as can be; Hark! children's voices, hark, hark, hark.

Easily seen Hallowe'en Is time for revelry.

Pop go the chestnuts, pop, pop, pop. The brown shells burst to let the soft white through; Stop little fingers, stop, stop, stop. Touch them not, Chestnuts hot.

Are much too warm for you.

Ring around a rosy, round, round, round. The pipkin-peeling, fling it taut and true; Found is your bean dear, found, found, found.

At your feet, Pretty sweet, His "mark" he throws to you.

Crack goes snapdragon, crack, crack, crack, A molten mass of dainties in a pan; Back little fingers, Now advance—Here's your chance, So catch it if you can.

Hiss cloven apple, hiss, hiss, hiss, Thou globe of molting sweetness, red and green, Kiss in the ring babe, kiss, kiss, kiss, Not for you, Saucy Sue—'Tis Mother, dear, that's queen.

Rest little tired one, rest, rest, rest, And little weary eyelids close in sleep; Bless Mother's darling, bless, bless, bless, Hallow night, Ended quite, All Saints thy slumbers keep.

Here's to a jolly Hallowe'en! With the students the game's the thing, just at present.

"The world is full of so many things," especially of elections and things.

If one has nothing else to inherit there's always one's past as a hand-me-down.

Twelve Quakers are to seek election in Great Britain. It is to be hoped they won't pass the trembles on to other candidates.

The Third Column

WHEN I WOULD REST.

At times when night has settled down And shut away the noisy town, I take it in my head to look, And ramble through an ancient book, A restful hour thus spending, But surely as I settle there In comfort in my easy chair, There comes this order ringing clear: "If wish you'd go at once, my dear, The furnace fire needs tending!"

If I should lie me down to doze, And snatch a little sweet repose, To lose myself to pain and strife, The barter and the trade of life And all its hate offending; The moment that I close my eyes I then am called upon to rise And she will whisper sitting near: "I wouldn't go to sleep, my dear, The furnace fire needs tending!"

From here October unto May The furnace runs the live-long day Unseen; unhelped by mortal hand It does its work to heat the hand And keeps the heat ascending; It seems to need no touch of care Until I find my easy chair And settle down, and then I hear Her insistent cry: "My dear, The furnace fire needs tending!"

There is no perfect peace, they say, So untroubled lives his day The rich and poor, the great and small, From which there's no defending. Yet why, I wonder, should it be, When restful hours are denied to me, Why must this always interfere When I have settled down? "My dear, The furnace fire needs tending!"

—Edgar A. Guest.

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IMAGINATION.

Imagination, not will, is the force that has ruled the world thus far.

Writers have given false pride to this abused word—will. It is the imagination that has always been the master of the will! The will always does what the imagination tells it to do.

It's the imagination that is the master and the will the servant.

Napoleon, with whom this magic word will has for so long been linked, fully understood its secondary importance. During the Egyptian campaign it was that he uttered that famous phrase: "Soldiers, from yonder Pyramids forty centuries look down upon you!" And thereupon every soldier felt his marshal's baton itching within his breast.

Desire was stimulated by what each soldier saw.

On another occasion this master leader of men exclaimed, when he was told the impossibility of crossing the Alps: "There shall be no Alps!" And so there were none, for him—not because his will denied it, but because his imagination saw his army creeping, as one often, to the other side.

The career of this marvelous man was one of maps, maps, maps—pictures of things he wanted done or achieved, worked out long in advance of his acts. But let this be said of this will of ours—it is the grandest servant that we possess!

For it will go anywhere with any message we give to it. Tell it that your back is sore or tired, that your heart is lonely, or that in some minute corner of your bodily machine there is repair to be done, and straightway Rowan carried his message to Garcia—this will does the bidding of your imagination.

And what wonders are accomplished. All the great teachers of the world have understood this vital, subtle power, though but few have rightly crowned it.

Emile Cote, the great French physician, has come nearer to the truth than anyone. He links the imagination to the unconscious self and says: "The unconscious is the grand director of all our functions." And furthermore he says: "When the will and the imagination are antagonistic, it is always the imagination that wins, without any exception."

What greater task, therefore, can there be than for us each to set quickly about educating these imaginations of ours—to make them useful, well.

—George Matthew Adams.

MELANCHOLY.

I'm full of weariness to-night, in vain I strive to shed a grin; the moon, that once was shining bright, looks like a planet made of tin. I have two bolts upon my neck, and two more threaten to arrive, and so I sadly cry, "By heck, and wonder why I am alive. I hear the laughter of the young, a sound I loved in days of yore, but now it keeps my nerves unstrung, and makes my head exceeding sore. I read the works of Sunny Jim, the grandest of all our functions." And furthermore he says: "When the will and the imagination are antagonistic, it is always the imagination that wins, without any exception."

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"Signs of the Times"

As Interpreted by Anatole France.

Anatole France is one of the academicians who has long been known and admired by thousands of people outside of France as her poets and statesmen. His clear pronouncements and keen judgments on subjects of a literary or philosophic nature are regarded by many as the "last word" in criticism, while his own philosophic reflections, whether incorporated in his novels or published in the form of essay or address, prove arresting and diverting, even when taken with an old world cynicism to which one does not subscribe.

The following short extract from one of his most recent writings is a fine example of his moralling in the mood of Jacques, of Shakespearean fame:

"It is said currently that this or that sign of the times. Found nine times out of ten, the thing which we take to be new is as old as the world itself. It is a remarkable thing that in all periods of time people have been frightened by the same things. In all periods, too, there have been naive and generous souls who have set themselves to meddling over the universal decline of men and morals—who have gone about proclaiming the end of civilization. Homer says 'men of other days were nobler men than those of to-day.'"

"There is a contrary illusion held by another type of person. Those who look upon the hour of their birth as a thrice blessed by the world, in all good faith they believe that the past has been better than the present, and that the future will be good because they will have had a hand in preparing it. Life in the past was a 'mingled yarn—good and ill together' and that after our day the world will continue in its ordinary course and be no more the same as at present. At least that is the clear probability. We know our own times but little and past times still less; we judge them according to our sentiment."

"True it is that everything changes and each man, in his turn, must judge them according to his sentiment. 'Life is made up of movement, at least that is how we see it. The face of humanity is continually undergoing change, the changes are subtle and continuous and, therefore, scarcely perceptible. They operate, though, with the same pitiless slowness as the changes of the earth. They neither hesitate, hasten nor halt. Sudden revolutions exist in our imagination alone. If we do not resemble our forefathers in one thing we do in others, and much more than that we are willing to acknowledge. It is a curious and delicate thing to note the familiarities that associate or separate us from our ancestors. We are tempted to exaggerate either the one or the other, as our attention is drawn to them."

Anatole France here has told us, has not, in his own unique way, that there are no "signs of the times"; that what we think signs are but the repetition of actions and reactions. In substance, that the world is neither better nor worse than it has been; that the men and women are neither better nor worse. His statements and deductions contain discouragement or encouragement, according to one's point of view of his treatment of the theme discussed. If one has a mind's eye which sees the world in a process of development towards better things, the pronouncement France here makes reaps one of happy, forward-looking thoughts. If, on the other hand, one reasons that, superficially, only men and affairs change, that things have been good always, then one is not saddened by his deductions. Can it be that the pro or con are but matters of temperament?

Translated for The Free Press.

S. B.

ANSWERS

QUESTION OF DAMAGES.

Editor Free Press.—Please answer this: A. lets his cattle out on the road and B. comes along in a motor car and runs into a cow. Can A. collect damages for injury to his cow, or can B. collect damages for his broken car?

Answer.—Cows are prevented from running at large on the highway by-law of municipalities. If the cow in question was under the care of a person driving it, then it was unlawfully on the highway, and unless B. was clearly negligent in running it down, A. cannot collect damages for injury to it. It depends upon the circumstances of the case whether B. can collect damages for injury to his car.

PROGRESS.

Men call it change—The order of the new thing for the old.

And look with doubtful, grieving eyes, While tales of clinging memory are told.

Faith calls it growth And progress with a sure hand boldly steers.

The world makes pause with thoughtful mien, And shortly laughter ripples through its tears.

—MAUDE DE VERSE NEWTON, In Christian Science Monitor.

HIS EGGSACK MEANING

Hub—Those two old gossips have been setting on the piazza all the afternoon.

Wife—Not setting, dear; you mean sitting.

Hub—I mean just what I said. I'm sure they're hatching out trouble for somebody.

OFFICIAL STUNTS.

What strange liberties our story writers take with their characters' eyes. Here are a few examples:

"Her eyes roamed carelessly around the room."

"With her eyes she riveted him to the spot."

"He tore his eyes from her face and they fell on the latter at her feet."

"He drank her in with drowning eyes."

"Their eyes met for a long, breathless moment and swam together."

"His eyes would often take her eyes from the deck and cast them far out to sea."

"He tore his eyes away from hers, causing intense pain to both." We should think it would.

to reason with them, and who's going to waste time reining with a fish? O, you're the silliest thing I ever saw, come on in to supper, ma sed.

Which we did, proving we hadn't stopped eating enways.

—Lee Pape.

Press Comment

VETERANS AND THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

It is alleged that quite a number of ex-service men, having qualified for the position of postmaster, have applied for postmasterships at various places and have reached their certificates of appointment from the Civil Service Commission, but have not been able to take over those positions because the postmaster general's department has failed to authorize them to do so. The result is that the postmaster general is being accused of disregarding the clause in the Civil Service Act giving a preference to ex-service men, and of attempting to revive the old patronage system.

The Veteran, the organ of the Great War Veterans Association, makes a strong protest against the failure of the Government to confirm the appointments of the ex-service men, and it mentions many specific cases in various parts of the country. Mr. C. R. Wilkinson in a letter to The London Free Press also estimates that there are about 50 ex-service men who are being prevented from taking over postmasterships to which they were appointed by the Civil Service Commission. He tells of a major whose certificate of appointment was dated last January, and who is still waiting, and of another ex-service man, formerly a farmer, who is how an amputation case and has sold his farm in the expectation of being appointed postmaster in the village near by. He received his certificate of appointment, but has never been able to take over the duties. After this certificate had been issued Mr. Wilkinson states that he wrote to the postmaster general's department on July 28, last, regarding the confirmation of the appointment. On August 30 he received a reply that the minister was out of town, but the matter would be brought to his attention on his return. Nothing as since been done in the matter.

The trouble probably is due to a difference between Hon. Charles Murphy, postmaster general, and the Civil Service Commission, about the authority to make the appointments. When it comes to disputes, it is well known that Mr. Murphy enters into them in no gentle manner, but has never been able to force in authority to remember that the ex-service men, who have had considerable training in prompt action, do not relish having to wait kicking their heels indefinitely. They would like to know just where they stand.

A statement from the department explaining the reason for the non-confirmation of the appointments and indicating its intentions in the matter would be of great help.

MANITOBA NOT A FACTOR.

The verbatim report of Lloyd George's speech takes some reading. Some are apt to skim over it, though every line of it is worth reading. There is one sentence, however, which no Canadian should overlook. Discussing the peaceful termination of the crisis in the Near East the premier enumerated the factors which had led to this:

The fact, he declared, that the Australians and New Zealanders wired there were thousands, nay, tens of thousands, of them ready to come over so as to prevent the graves of Gallipoli from being desecrated contributed to this happy result.

No such assurance came from the senior dominion. The only satisfaction that Canada can take out of the result is that of a neutral bystander, who is glad that there is not going to be a fight, but who let others bear the responsibility of preventing it.—Edmonton Journal.

FUNCTION OF SCIENCE.

Science should figure in the curriculum as the "knowledge of everyday phenomena and applications of science, and of the meaning of scientific words in common use." The modern world cannot be known without such knowledge. It is essential to any liberal education. The whole field of nature should be taken into the teacher's parish, and the aim should be to create, enlarge the vocabulary, and increase the range of intelligence. It will, of course, be objected that for such teaching there are neither teachers—who are making themselves specialists—nor textbooks. But the practical difficulties of the suggestion cannot blind us to the obvious advantages. If the social structure of the future is to be derived from science all the aid it is fitted to give it will only be through the adoption of a scheme of this sort, which will insure to all a working acquaintance with and work of science in the world to-day.—Westminster