

THE THOUGHTS OF THEOBALD.

WHO PAYS?

This war will have been a total waste of time and human lives if victory for the Allies does not bring a better and less devil-controlled world. If the Allied flags do not wave over peoples who feel that their sense of justice finds an echo in their governments and rulers, the satisfaction of victory will be nothing more than the empty victory of a boxing contest. The only good that war can do is to bring better conditions—if it is not to do this it becomes brutal. And so it becomes more necessary than ever that Governments should protect the public interest from private selfishness. We all have what may be called the "business selfishness." We have been brought up with it. It has received silent approval from Church and State. It has evolved a code of morals and become law unto itself. If a man makes ten thousand dollars on a transaction—"Oh! that's business!" Happy and strong is the man who can withstand temptation of this sort for I verily believe that to yield to it indicates that hardening of the conscience has set in. It seems absolutely true that we are developing "business" brains—that will be shrewd, cute, diplomatic, tactful, quick to see an advantage and take it, while all the graces of the spirit mentioned in Holy Writ are fading almost beyond recollection. This is responsible for the "gamble" we make of all our resources of food, land and property. And this gambling works far greater injury than poker or a game of five and forty for a goose, because in it we, the people, have to pay the gambling debts. In the latest game, with wheat on the table, we shall realise when flour will cost us a dollar or so more per barrel. Is card-gambling wrong? The churches are emphatic—yes! Is wheat gambling wrong? I hear but a faint answer from the churches. And if this war does not bring into full operation a National Board of Control and Regulation of Prices, there is bound to be trouble—if not social revolutions.

I do not claim that this is the panacea of all our ills, but it will have a wonderful effect on those who know the ache in the back and the ache in the heart of those "who labour and are heavy laden." God alone knows what the struggle for existence caused by the dishonest methods of supply and demand is doing towards wrecking the world on the rocks of materialism, atheism and sensuality. It takes all our time, all our energies to obtain food, clothing and shelter, and many have to accept the commodities in limited quantities and inferior qualities. We are told by some people that this is as it should be, that otherwise the state of society would be far worse. If this be so—is it not the most condemning evidence that our churches, our education have after all given us nothing that we can lay hold on, and that the "supply and demand" theory is essential to our life, and education the non-essential?

We are too prone to ignore fundamentals—it is easier to take things as we find them, than to make things as they ought to be.

However to return to practical affairs, it seems to me that it would be desirable and mutually beneficial to merchant and people if a strong Board of Control were to enquire into and regulate prices, especially of the necessities of life.

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE.

I notice that the Council has arranged for a loan with which to assist those who cannot afford immediate payment for the expense of putting in sewerage and water connections in their houses. I think the Council in such cases as these might go farther in cheapening this expense as much as possible. I should consider it an economical move if the Council imported all the fittings necessary instead of purchasing them here. The City has to pay pretty heavily for these fittings, and I am told that perhaps \$30.00 per house might be saved in this way. There is

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The War Week by Week.

By OBSERVER.

The concerted Allied offensive has been worked up to such a pitch that nearly every theatre of war demands our attention at the same time, but the news of chiefest moment comes now from one front, now from another. This week it is the West front. Since the simultaneous fall of Stanislaw and of Gorizia, there has been comparative silence from the Russian and Italian headquarters, which, however, must by no means be taken to denote inactivity. On the contrary, we know that events of the greatest importance are taking place there, and we have hints of more than satisfactory progress having been made. There is no uncertainty, however, about matters on the Somme, which are turning more and more to our advantage.

Both British and French have registered invaluable gains. Most intense fighting over a few miles in the region of Maurepas has resulted in brilliant success for the French, who in some of their characteristic dashes have pushed their line well forward towards Combles. The operations seem to have the appearance of a steady attempt to outflank Guilleminot, one of the hardest nuts our forces have yet had to crack. The French have also gone ahead south of the Somme at Belloy-en-Santerre, carrying a step further the great encircling of Peronne. The latest message speaks also of a most important gain for the British on the ridges of Thiepval. If it is of any extent it will certainly be of importance, for Thiepval has from the first been the greatest stumbling block to the British on their way to Bapaume.

There are not wanting signs that the enemy's great defence is beginning to crack before the greater attack. Most eloquent of them is the diminution, almost absence, of infantry counter-attacks, betokening either dwindling forces or demoralisation—possibly both. There can be no possible doubt that not only the intensity but the prolongation of our artillery fire has surprised the Germans, and had a moral effect in addition to its natural one. The arrival, too, of the Allied infantry at the higher ground is turning the tables in our favour, and the taking of one important height after another, and the holding of it, is a comforting augury of a success which may be nearer than we think.

From Russia there is not much to report, but there soon will be. The Jablonka Pass in the Carpathians is in our Ally's hands, but the invasion of Hungary probably will not begin in earnest until Lemberg falls. The Russians seem for the present merely to be making doubly sure

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Sagana Returns.

Man Dies on Board—Fishery South of Nain Poor—North to Chidley Good.

The s.s. Sagana, Capt. W. Parsons, reached port Saturday afternoon from the Labrador mail service having got as far north as Nain. Weather conditions being favorable, about 130 ports of call were made going and coming. The Sagana brought a large shipment of whale oil from the Hawke's Hr. whaling station, which was landed at 20th Southside premises, also a small quantity of fish and the following passengers: E. G. Daley, E. J. Patchell, W. A. Rooker, C. F. Beach, R. Lells, P. H. Cowan and wife, E. G. Coyell, W. Swafeld, N. Norris. While on the trip south the Sagana met up with the patrol ship Fogota and took on board the latter's ship's carpenter, Soldmon Brown, of Spencer Street, who for some time was complaining of internal trouble. While the man was known to be in a weak state of health, fatal results were not expected, but on Friday a sudden change came over the sufferer, and shortly after he passed away. The passengers speak highly of the big-hearted manner in which the captain and crew of the Sagana did everything possible for the deceased during his illness. The remains were confined at Mr. Grace and brought on here for burial. It was reported that a drowning accident occurred at Bateau, where an elderly fisherman lost his life by losing his footing on board a fishing boat and was thrown into the sea; no further particulars were received. The Cachalot fishing at Hawke's Hr. had increased her catch by five whales since last reported, having landed 33 fish at that time. Owing to the heavy ice that stretches for miles along the coast, the fishery south of Nain shows no improvement, while the fishery which have gone north, some below Cape Chidley are doing well. Capt. Parsons received the following report of the fishery north of Placentia as he has other cases to conduct at Harbor Breton and Grand Bank and other places along the route.

DR. BURKE, Dentist, will resume practice Monday, August 21st.—aug19,21

Personal.

By last Sunday's express, Mr. F. A. Mews, lawyer, left town for St. George's where he has been retained to defend a mill-owner who has been sued for \$15,000 damages for trespass on a timber area. Mr. Mews will continue with the Circuit Court to Placentia as he has other cases to conduct at Harbor Breton and Grand Bank and other places along the route.