

## The Weekly Ontario

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1915.

## MR. CHURCHILL'S APOLOGIA.

Some people have accepted the hasty generalization of the cable correspondents that Mr. Winston Churchill scored a "triumph," in the speech which he delivered in the House of Commons, on the occasion of his resignation from the Cabinet—because of his failure to secure a place on the new War Committee, which consists of Mr. Asquith, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. McKenna, and Mr. Bonar Law. Mr. Churchill's speech was purely a defence of his administration of the Admiralty, and while he made brilliant use of his opportunity to vindicate his rule, it must be remembered that it was an ex parte statement upon which final judgment cannot be pronounced.

Indeed, perhaps the criticism which Mr. Churchill's apologia brought forth from Mr. Asquith, who paid a generous tribute to Mr. Churchill as "a wise counsellor, a brilliant colleague and a faithful friend," yet regretted that "he had said some things that he had better not have said, and omitted others, that must one day be said," in itself suggests that Mr. Churchill was very far from achieving a "triumph." On the other hand great organs of the democracy and of Liberalism, such as the London Nation, the London Daily News, the Westminster Gazette, and the British Weekly, have been quite frank in their criticisms of certain phases of Mr. Churchill's defence, notably with reference to his indictment of Lord Fisher, then First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, who is recognized as Britain's greatest sailor.

Mr. Churchill's speech resolved itself, in the main, into a spirited defence of the two guiding acts of his rule as First Lord of the Admiralty. With reference to the expedition to Antwerp he acted in conformity with instructions of the War Council, and the policy of relief was not his but that of the French Staff and Lord Kitchener. In so far as this episode is concerned, there seems to be general agreement that his conduct was, on the whole, thoroughly justified. As for the expedition to the Dardanelles, which is by far the gravest matter, and overshadows all the other incidents of Mr. Churchill's administration at the Admiralty, there is not the same willingness to acquit him. Mr. Churchill himself admits that it was a "gamble." The judgment of the critics today seems to be that the unsupported naval attack on the Straits was a tragic blunder, for the reason that the naval operations alone were hopeless, and that when the real method of attack, by land and sea was adopted, and the "amphibious coup de main" was made, after the failure of an attack by ships alone, the golden opportunity of surprising the enemy was lost, and Sir Ian Hamilton began his undertaking under a grave handicap. On this point the London Daily News makes this pointed criticism, which perhaps sums up the impression which Mr. Churchill's speech has left upon the British public:

"It was in his statement of his views on the morrow of March 18 that Mr. Churchill, we think, showed that his intrepidity is not subject to the teaching of experience. The attack had failed disastrously; it had failed because, in the opinion of the gunnery experts, it was not possible to effectively bombard the forts inside the Straits owing to the difficulties of observation. Moreover, the preparations for the attack by land were now far advanced and everything pointed to the wisdom of delaying action until those preparations were complete. Yet in face of these facts Mr. Churchill urged that the unsupported naval attack should be resumed. Apparently he still believes that that course ought to have been followed. Perhaps we may ask whether the final breach with Lord Fisher did not arise on this point—whether it was not the determination of Mr. Churchill to send the ships into the Straits again that brought about the rupture? If this is so, we think that Mr. Churchill must accept an adverse verdict from the country. The experiment which he admits was to be only an experiment had proved a disastrous failure. It has proved a failure because technical facts which admitted of no challenge had shown it to be impossible. In spite of that he sought to repeat the experiment in the teeth of the Admiralty and at a

time when a new scheme of attack was embarked on. That was not intrepidity. That was recklessness. It seems to us to justify all that followed. Mr. Churchill has many brilliant gifts, but he has not the gift of subordinating his opinion to superior knowledge or of knowledge when the time has come to cease "gambling," even in the great game of war. His effusive compliments to Sir Edward Carson were significantly responded to later in the evening in the mischievous speech of the Ulster fire-brand. If that speech shows anything it is the grave peril that hangs over this country from the men who are ready to gamble with any stakes in order to destroy the Government. There was never a time when it was necessary for public opinion to support that Government from the wreckers within as well as from the perils without."

The gravamen of Mr. Churchill's complaint against Lord Fisher, to whom at the same time, he gives generous credit for the marvellous activity with which he secured the reinforcement of the fleet, is that he did not receive from the First Sea Lord that "clear guidance and firm support" to which he, as head of the Admiralty, was entitled. But, Mr. Churchill was embarking on a "gamble" of which Lord Fisher profoundly disapproved. Lord Fisher's side of the case is yet to be heard. Mr. Churchill's indictment of the great Admiral's naval policy was long. Lord Fisher's reply was a masterpiece of its kind. It was made the next day in the House of Lords when Lord Fisher quietly rose and in a speech of only five sentences, said:

"Certain references were made to me in a speech delivered yesterday by Mr. Churchill. I have been sixty-one years in the service of my country, and I leave my record in the hands of my countrymen. The Prime Minister said yesterday that Mr. Churchill had said one or two things which he had better not have said, and that he had necessarily left unsaid some things, which will have to be said. I am content to wait. It is unfitting to make personal explanations affecting national interests when my country is in the midst of a great war."

Many things have since been written about Mr. Churchill's speech, but the restraint imposed upon himself by Lord Fisher, in face of great provocation, has immensely enhanced his prestige, and that is one reason why Mr. Churchill's "triumph" is not so real as the cable correspondents reported. Nevertheless, Mr. Churchill's speech is an intensely human document, and it is a brilliant presentation of the war policy of a remarkable and brilliant young man. Notwithstanding that the judgment of Mr. Churchill's best friends is that he would have gone forth from the House of Commons a much stronger man had he left some things unsaid, his speech gives us a clearer perspective of the naval operations during the war, and is, indeed, well worth reading.

## EFFECTIVE "INACTIVITY."

To the ordinary onlooker, the war has reached a depressing stage. We have come to realize fully the magnitude of our undertaking. We have got rid of all the illusions which buoyed so many of us up with flattering expectations, a year ago. We have learned to mistrust thoroughly the so-called "news" with which we are being served daily mainly through Berlin channels, and the "Northcliffe press." We have, properly, settled down to the conviction that we can only expect to know what is happening after something has happened. We understand at last that conjectures and telegraphic tales are alike vain as sources of instruction. It has, therefore, become with us a matter of more or less impatient waiting.

Fortunately, it is not a matter of cheerless, much less of fearful or hopeless waiting. We have the certain assurance that all is going well, and will continue to go well in general, whatever special mishaps may be encountered. In the West the British and French have the situation thoroughly in hand. There, they outnumber the Germans in the ratio of at least three to two. They are better armed and better provisioned than their opponents. They have a marked superiority in guns and shells. They are quite as well entrenched, and their morale stands higher. When they decide to advance, they can do so. They are but biding their time and completing their arrangements. They will make no future premature or futile attempts.

In the East, the Russians are steadily pressing back the Germans. Their climate is fighting and will continue to fight for them during the next half year. In preparation for the coming summer, they are getting ready millions of new soldiers, back of their lines, who may be expected to roll down like a Russian river torrent in springtime upon their foes. Already they have been adequately uniformed and armed. Abundant supplies of ammunition have been provided for them. Guns and shells are being heaped up by Russian and Japanese factories, working at high pressure. New strategic railways are being built. A great new port on the Arctic Ocean is being equipped, which hereafter will give Russia all-the-year-round, ice-free communication with the outer world. A double track railway leads to and from it. A great Rus-

sian army is being massed on the frontiers of Roumania, ready to strike an immediate and effective blow at the opportune moment. For the present it is giving the doubtful ruler of Roumania serious pause if he has any treacherous designs at the back of his head. As it grows in strength, it may even furnish him with conclusive reasons for deciding to cast in his lot with the Allies.

In the Southeast it is not to be denied that things have outwardly been going undesirably. Serbia has been temporarily crushed as a nation; but her armies, in greater part, remain intact; and, when re-organized, may be depended upon to give a most valuable account of themselves. Little Montenegro is being savagely assailed, but at enormous cost and with very disproportionate results. The King of Greece has at last, seemingly got it into his head that it will not pay him to antagonize the Allies, and they will continue to hold Saloniki as a naval and military base, directly on the flank of the Germans on their way to and from Constantinople. It cannot fail to prove a veritable thorn in their side. It will be a convenient station, with uninterrupted communications by sea, at which the Allies can rapidly and securely assemble forces which will constantly threaten and ultimately cut the German lines through Bulgaria to Constantinople. The Germans can never be comfortable for a moment in their advance, and must always feel the utmost uncertainty of being able to withdraw any armies which they may venture in that direction.

As to the many fairy tales which Germany is getting published through the "Northcliffe press" they may be disregarded. Germany can afford neither men, money nor materials for any considerable activities in the Near East. The Bulgars and Turks do not trust or like one another enough to co-operate successfully. And there is already some evidence that neither have any great confidence in or love for the Germans. Germany at Constantinople, will be situated very much like an Arctic or Antarctic explorer at either Pole, the main question with whom necessarily is as to whether he will be able to get back alive from it.

In Mesopotamia there has been a setback, but nothing more as yet. A British expedition which advanced with uninterrupted success, during more than a year, over a five-hundred mile desert, in spite of all the opposition that the Turks, officered by Germans, could offer, is not likely to be overwhelmed by one reverse, or finally turned aside from its objective. The British command the Tigris-Euphrates River, from their present position to the Persian Gulf. They can obtain reinforcements and supplies much more easily and quickly than their opponents. They have India at hand, by sea and river to draw on for men and materials.

On the whole, it may safely be concluded that, although the war has reached a temporarily undramatic point it has also attained a safe Allied breathing stage for the winter. There are not likely to be any striking operations until the approach of summer, except, possibly, from the direction of Russia. Until then, we must be patient, in well founded hope. After that, we may expect to "see things happen."

## BRITAIN ALWAYS FINISHES.

"Britain has been reproached for not entering this war with all the preparation we expected. It is true she was not ready for war; it is true that France was not ready, but this is the best proof that France and Britain did not want war. When we look at what has been done in England during the past year, instead of criticizing we should be astounded. Britain has been able to get together three million men whom she has put in the field, gun in hand. It has been said that Britain is slow, but if she is slow she is constant and is determined; she is inexorable and never in history have we seen Britain not finishing what she once started."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Montreal.

"Although our Government has been weak and procrastinatory in the Lusitania case," says the Boston Transcript, "we may be glad that it is at least disposed to hit the Germans over the Austrian's shoulders. That is about what the present note amounts to. Mr. Lansing's note to Ambassador Penfield will be read in Berlin with quite as much interest as in Vienna. We cannot fight with Austria, even if we wish to. That is out of the question. We are closer to Germany. The present letter ought to convince the rulers of Germany that things have changed considerably in this country since last May, and that the new resoluteness that has come into the American nation has affected the position and utterances of the government."

## THE HARBOR OF CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

Oh, the April blossoms were fair to see,  
And the flowers of May were sweet,  
And the zephyrs of June were all atune  
When the wind went over the wheat.  
Opal and amber and gold and red  
The trees of the forest swayed,  
Till the folded leaves were as withered sheaves  
Where the wild northwester strayed.

Then December came, and an isle of calm  
We found by the open fire,  
For the wounds of life there was touch of balm  
There was peace to the heart's desire  
As the children played and the mother sang  
That Christmas was drawing near,  
When the stars should blaze o'er the pearl of days,  
And the smile shine through the tear.

And this was the song on the mother's lips,  
And this was her tender tune,  
And this was the light that knew no eclipse,  
Clearer than sun or moon.  
For who that would drink of the loving cup,  
And who that to God would climb,  
Must unbar the door, and watch once more  
For the sign of the golden time.  
Speed fast to the harbor of Christmas-tide,  
To the haven of heart's content,  
Where the great white galleons safely ride,  
Where the merriest thoughts are sent.  
Forget the hurt of the ancient grudge,  
And the dark, depressing mood,  
In the Christmas realm let love be judge,  
In the world be only good.

—Le Couteux Leader.

## LONDON'S NIGHT CLUBS ARE MANY AND VARIED

The Famous Cabarets and Clubs of London Are of Two Kinds—One Harmless, Other Infamous.

"Another club?" I asked. "Another den."

My companion in the taxicab was a distinguished detective. The taxi was stealing its way, at a most unearthly hour of the night, through some of the back streets of the West End of London—dark, squalid streets, deserted save for fitting shadows out, perhaps, on sinister missions. "Each one of those shadows was, to me, full of possible evil, for I carried in my mind the memory of one evil shadow we were out to hunt down, if we had luck that night—a shadow with blood upon its hand. My detective companion told me our quarry was almost sure to be at some night club."

At last! The whispering shadow evidently poured refreshing information into my companion's ear. "We must stop here," he said, and, alighting, led me into the shelter of a doorway. From a dark doorway, down the miserable street upon which our strained eyes were bent, people emerged now and again. Men and women, generally arm-in-arm. The men mostly silent, and the women laughing and voluble. Then, suddenly, my eyes having become accustomed to the dimness, I saw a man and a woman appear. There was a swift shooting forth of a couple of shadows, the shriek of a woman, the ring of a revolver shot.

The shadow with the blood on its hand—the man who had been laughing, drinking, dancing in that night club—was a criminal badly wanted by the French police for the murder of an old woman shopkeeper in the Montmartre district of Paris.

## Dens of Infamy

There are over two thousand night clubs in London—over a hundred and fifty in one region of Soho alone. The clubs vary in character. A few are respectable. The police have no complaints with regard to them. But the vast majority differ only from one another in the amount of crime and vice which has been tracked to their doors.

When my detective friend described them all as "dens," he was speaking of the ordinary night club. No one who had ever been inside the palatial splendours of some of the London West End night clubs could possibly regard them as "ordinary." From twelve till two in the morning private motor cars and taxis draw up at the imposing doorway, and set down their solitary passengers, their couples, or gay parties. Admission is only to those who have qualified by the payment of a stiff entrance fee, with an equally stiff "early subscription." But the member can, of course, introduce "friends."

Everything is conducted with the strictest propriety. Gold would not secure a drink during prohibited hours. There is no gambling. The women's dresses and the dancing are so more open to the charge of being objectionable than are the dresses and the dances to be met with in hundreds of ball rooms of the "smart set." The glare and glitter, the music, the whirl of the dancers, the suppers—until three o'clock—the attraction that "this is life" are the attractions of the place. For the "dens" one has to search elsewhere.

## The Other Side

In a dingy foreign restaurant two young fellows, obviously strangers to London, have been dining. As they pay their bill, one asks the waiter what there is particularly to be seen in London at night. The waiter reels off the names of theatres, music halls, cinema shows. But they have "done" them already.

"Ah! It is that you would like to see something of the real life?" he grins, with a swift look round. Then, bending his head and lowering his voice to a whisper, he adds: "You would be the jolly dogs? Well, I can put you in the way. When you go outside turn to the right, turn up the third street, and knock—so—he raps on the table with his knuckle—"at the door of number nine. It will be opened to you. Hand the door-keeper this." He produced a dirty scrap of cardboard.

He pockets their tip and watches them depart, wondering how much they may have in their pockets—what his accomplices at the night club will make out of them. He sighs. His friends at the night club are scoundrels who invariably cheat him out of the proper commission they should pay him on the spoil. But, at any rate, he will receive his "dollar a head"—the price agreed on for every fresh victim lured to their toils—Answers.

It used to be illegal to charge more than 40c. for a hat in England. The arms of Aldershot are an elder tree and pyramidal heaps of shot. Visiting cards made of sheet iron were one of Baron Krupp's special uses.

## REDNERSVILLE AND ALBURY

Don't forget Rednersville's entertainment held in the church Xmas night, December 25th

Miss Cora Weese and Harold Weese spent Sunday evening with Marie Weese

Miss Lele Adams of Concession spent last week with Vera McMurter

Mr. Wm. Allison is seriously ill but we hope for a speedy recovery

Mr. and Mrs. John Garbutt and family spent Sunday at Mrs. John Coulter's

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Brickman and Irene spent Sunday evening at Mr. Peter Delong's at Center

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Russell and family spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ferguson at Robin's Mills

Mrs. Mae Allen of Madoc spent last week with her mother, Mrs. Joe Weese

Mrs. B. Bush has returned home after spending a couple of months in Belleville

Retta Brickman is spending a couple of weeks with her aunt, Mrs. C. A. Leach at Wooler

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Dempsey visited at Charlie Dempsey's on Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Brickman and family spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Delong at Center

Many friends gathered at Albury church on Sunday to pay their last respect to Mrs. Moore, who passed away on Friday morning

A WOMAN'S MESSAGE TO WOMEN.

If you are troubled with weak, tired feelings, headache, backache, bearing down sensations, bladder weakness, constipation, catarrhal conditions, pain in the sides regularly or irregularly, bloating or unnatural enlargements, sense of falling or misplacement of internal organs, nervousness, desire to cry, palpitation, hot flashes, dark rings under the eyes or a loss of interest in life, I invite you to write and ask for my simple method of home treatment, with ten days' trial entirely free and postpaid, also references to Canadian ladies who gladly tell how they have regained health, strength, and happiness by this method. Write today. Address: Mrs. M. Summers, Box 27, Windsor, Ont.

## CHAPMAN.

The rain which we had on Friday took away our beautiful sleighing

Mr. Murney Graham's entertained company on Sunday

We are all wearing broad smiles these days as most of the boys are back for Christmas. They are all looking very hale and hearty

We intend having a rink here here again this winter

Masters Harry and Murney Blakeley are visiting their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Adams

All the people around are busy getting ready for Christmas

Mr. Stephen Fluke shipped a carload of cattle on Monday

We wish The Ontario staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

## CENTRE.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stafford spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. E. Roblin

Mr. and Mrs. F. Townsend spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Allison

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Stafford spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stafford, Belleville

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Redner called at Wesley Coulter's on Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson-Parliament spent Sunday with friends at Allisobville

## HILLIER

Mr. Jack Campbell spent Sunday with his sister, Mrs. C. Grant

Mr. and Mrs. John Palmer, of Concession took tea with Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Lord last Saturday

Miss Helen Gilbert spent Sunday with Miss W. Foster

A pumber from this village were in Picton and Trenton on Saturday last

Messrs. F. Hubbs and L. Crandall were in Wellington Saturday night

Mrs. Jones is visiting her daughter, Mrs. W. A. Foster

Miss Mildred Thompson was in

## WELLINGTON ON THURSDAY NIGHT

Miss Kathleen Jones is unable to attend school on account of illness

Miss Cunningham of Pleasant Bay is staying with Mrs. W. Baird

Owing to the fact that Dr. Cobb was confined to the house with a cold there was no service in the English church on Sunday

Miss Gilbert is having a closing concert at the school on Wednesday afternoon

## VICTORIA.

Rev. Edwards will preach a Xmas sermon in our church next Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

Miss Ruth Prymer is visiting her sister Mrs. H. Pulver for a few days

Mr. and Mrs. L. Brickman and Audrey called at E. Brickman's on Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. H. Sager and Mrs. Sager spent Sunday evening at Mr. Ed. Altyea's

Mr. and Mrs. Will Bush called at Mr. Ray Fox's on Sunday evening

Mr. and Mrs. L. Brickman and Audrey, Mr. and Mrs. James Brickman, and Mr. and Mrs. Eljah Brickman took tea at Mr. Peter Delong's on Sunday

Miss Lula Rathbun spent the weekend in this vicinity

Mr. and Mrs. S. Fox spent Sunday at Mr. H. Rathbun's

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Brickman, drove to Trenton on Monday

We wish The Ontario staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

## Need a Laxative?

Don't take a violent purgative. Right the sluggish condition with the safe, vegetable remedy which has held public confidence for over sixty years.

**BEECHAM'S PILLS**

Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 25 cents.