

THE DAILY ONTARIO.

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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1916.

OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS.

The importance of conserving bird life is gaining recognition throughout the country in a practical way. Lately much interest has been manifested in the construction of bird-houses and seeing that the birds are fed and cared for. That is a fine thing, we can not have too many of our feathered friends around. They twitter and they sing their way into our hearts, they dissipate gloom and cause us to look up and see the sky.

Apart from the considerations which have actuated lovers of nature to protect birds, there are economic reasons for conserving bird life. They are of incalculable value to the farmer, the truck garden and the man who grows flowers, sweet peas and radishes in his back lot. For every bird killed thousands of insects that would have served as our feathered friend's breakfast or family's lunch, are left to fatten on the crops and destroy vegetation. The appetite of birds for bugs and weed seeds is enormous. The gulls of Utah saved the crops by eating up the swarms of grasshoppers which covered that country years ago. Recently a dove's stomach was examined and 9,000 seeds of seven varieties of harmful weeds were found.

Let us conserve the birds. The most of them sing as they work for us.

A GREAT DEMOCRAT SPEAKS.

Nothing more remarkable has been printed in New York than the endorsement given Theodore Roosevelt by the New York Times, which for years, as the leading independent Democratic paper of the United States, has opposed him. The Times in an editorial of over a column in length closes with these words:

It is as a national statesman, and not as a Progressive who seeks Republican honors, that his opportunity comes. An American, he will be preaching the gospel of undivided loyalty and allegiance to the United States; an American arousing populations ignorantly secure to the defenselessness of the United States and the inescapable patriotic American duty of preparedness. To Theodore Roosevelt in all his brilliant and marvellous career no greater or more fruitful occasion has been given. An occasion to stir the inert, to lambaste the trimmers and the crawlers, to utter with all the fiery energy of his temperament and his Americanism the need of a united America, yielding to no alien influences, and no longer the butt of universal derision or an object of pity for the military impotence by which she invites attack.

The Democrats, too, need the lashing of that pitiless tongue. The Times has advised the Americans in the Hon. James Hay's district to apply at Oyster Bay for an antidote to the whiffling weakness of that Little American and Little Army man. It would be glad to have Mr. Roosevelt go into every Congress district whose representative believes in millions for "pork" and as little as possible for national self-defense. Democrat or Republican, the Representative who opposes an adequate army should hear from Mr. Roosevelt. The Times hopes that these men misrepresent their constituents. If it be true, as the Evening Post suggests, that they reflect the public opinion of their districts, there is all the more reason for Mr. Roosevelt to make a missionary tour in these parts of the infidels. If the people in too many Congress districts are snoring contentedly on the edge of disaster, if they have neither eye nor ear for the cardinal necessity of their country, nothing but that tempestuous and elemental vigor can wake them up. Mr. Roosevelt has faults and failings enough, the depressions in a salient and diversified character. But, having his quarrel just, his force is tremendous. His multifarious, engaging personality, which gives him a popularity entirely apart from politics; his deep democratic feeling, nourished by innumerable contacts with all sorts of people; his long, various education in men and nature and books, his humor, subtlety and power to put a new edge on commonplace; his mastery of crowds, the passion of his Americanism; as Rufus Choate said of John Quincy Adams, his "unerring instinct for the jugular vein," make him in a good cause, an unrivalled compeller of men.

He will never have a better cause than that which the Times invites him to preach on the circuit. He has had his fill of glories. His name is blown about the world. To prepare America against war, to unite America in patriotism; there are no nobler laurels. Incidentally, he may reinvent the Republican Party.

CAUGHT IN A CORNER.

For sheer, primitive ineptness, there are none to compare with the Germans. With an absolutely unique psychology of their own, they persist in regarding it as normal and in acting as if it were common to all mankind. What they want to believe or are told by their authorities to believe, they do believe, without question. Why others should or can think or act otherwise than they, it seems impossible for them to comprehend.

Nothing but an understanding of this phase of the German character can enable one to attain their point of view. It appears now that their recent official reply to President Wilson's "last word" was accompanied by a private message that "ninety per cent." of that reply was intended "solely for Germans within or without the Empire." The New York Times, evidently with semi-official information, asserts this. The remaining ten per cent. of the reply, embodying the alleged "order" to German submarine commanders, was for American consumption. The Government of the United States was secretly asked to disregard the insolent swaggering of the first nine-tenths of the reply, and to concern itself only with the supposedly conciliatory closing one-tenth.

Could other heathen than Germans imagine so vain a thing? What Germans "within the Empire" may think of the Kaiser's reply to the President does not appreciably concern Americans. But when it comes to the German Government's privately asking the Government of the United States to overlook the cumulative insolence of the Kaiser's reply because of the encouraging effect which its so doing may have on the Germans "without the Empire" it is to laugh inextinguishably, it being remembered that the only Germans "without the Empire" who count at all in the matter, are to be found in the United States. The Kaiser's infantile German idea is that he can "fool" the Government of the United States by felling President Wilson privately, that his impudent public swaggerings are for German consumption only, and that he can at the same time, with the passive assistance of the President, fool German-Americans into the belief that he is in deep, dark, deadly earnest in flouting and insulting the President of the United States. Only an African "King," a North American Indian Chief or a German diplomat could deem it worth while to attempt such a childish supposed ruse.

Of course, President Wilson has not "fallen" to the Kaiser—far from it. In his rejoinder he has pointedly and contemptuously ignored the main body of the German reply. He has seized upon that part of it which serves his purpose. The Germans thought they had caught him. He shows them that they are in his hands. They loudly proclaimed that they had thrust the issue of peace or hostility upon him for decision. He has completely turned the tables against them by accepting as bona fide their official announcement that they have issued orders to their submarine commanders to observe strictly international law, and by dismissing with contempt the German intimation that they have only issued such orders on condition that the United States compel the Allies to abandon their blockade of Germany. The concluding words of the really final message of the United States to Germany, through President Wilson, cannot be too carefully considered. They are:

"The Government of the United States feels it necessary to state that it takes for granted that the Imperial German Government does not intend to imply that the maintenance of its newly announced policy is in any way contingent upon the course of results of diplomatic negotiations between the Government of the United States and any other belligerent Government, notwithstanding the fact that certain passages in the Imperial Government's note of the fourth instant might appear to be susceptible of that construction. In order, however, to avoid any possible misunderstanding the Government of the United States notifies the Imperial Government that it cannot, for a moment, entertain, much less discuss, a suggestion that respect by German naval authorities for the rights of citizens of the United States upon the high seas should, in any way, or in the slightest degree, be made contingent upon the conduct of any other Government affecting the rights of neutrals and non-combatants. RESPONSIBILITY IN SUCH MATTERS IS SINGLE, NOT JOINT, ABSOLUTE, NOT RELATIVE."

Nothing could be more explicit than this. The American Government accepts, and, for the present, nominally relies upon Germany's "order" to her submarine commanders to wage war strictly in accordance with international law and civilized usage. It expressly refuses to be bound by conditions of any other kind whatsoever, of Germany's suggestion.

American diplomacy, we cannot but think, has scored a signal triumph in this long-drawn-out contest with Germany. It has yielded nothing. It comes out in a commanding position

to maintain and defend. The Kaiser fondly imagined that he was forcing the issue of peace or war directly upon the President who would thus be greatly embarrassed with his own people. The President has deftly shifted the burden. He has not broken off diplomatic relations with Germany, but he has caught the Kaiser in a corner from which he can escape only by a disregard of his alleged order to his submarines, so gross that it will practically amount to a declaration of war on the United States. Surely this was something worth waiting and planning for, in view of the more or less difficult domestic political situation in the United States. If the Kaiser now forces war, as he must do if he departs from the public pledges which he has given, in the order of his submarines, which he sets forth—undoubtedly for purposes of deception—in his reply to the recent American ultimatum, he will have arrayed against himself, by his own silly trickery, the whole American people.

President Wilson has come out almost decidedly ahead in the diplomatic dodging-match. The cleverness and strength of his final Note are its outstanding features. If there is war hereafter between Germany and the United States it will be of Germany's direct making and it will be in open disregard of solemn assurances, and what may remain of her national honor.

THE COMING TEST.

Why should the British Army remain idle while for two months the French have been repulsing the most determined assaults in the history of warfare at Verdun? This is a question frequently asked, not by the French, but by the British, who would have been proud to see their own soldiers sharing the perils and the glories of the battle at Verdun. The answer is given by John Balderson, London correspondent of the Pittsburg Dispatch, who has proved an exceedingly well-informed authority since the beginning of the war. In beginning his explanation he says that two months ago Sir Douglas Haig offered to attack the Germans in front of him, but General Joffre told him not to do so. This should relieve all suspicion that the Allies are not acting in perfect accord. It should be borne in mind, too, that General Joffre is in command of the British armies in Flanders and France. They are expected to obey his orders just as the French armies obey them.

The first of the reasons that decided General Joffre to decline the offer of General Haig was no doubt the conviction that he did not need the British attack to divert the German forces, and the second is, probably, that an even more important role is reserved for the British armies in the near future. A great battle is expected on the British front. Whether it will be inaugurated by a British offensive or a German offensive nobody knows; but the prediction is made that the next great battle of the war will be fought in Flanders. Either the Germans will make a final effort to take Calais and Boulogne, thus straightening out their line, and making difficult, if not almost impossible, military transport between France and England; or the British will try to take Lille, which would force the retreat of all the German armies to the south as far as Soissons. Perhaps the latter probability was in the mind of the Government of Holland when it prepared to resist a possible attempt of the Germans to escape from Northern France by crossing the narrow strip of Dutch Limburg which projects itself between Germany and Belgium.

Mr. Balderson says that, while circumspection must be employed in considering the number of British troops in France and Flanders, he is permitted to say that the number falls short of a million men, despite the statement recently made that there was an army of 2,500,000 men in the field. The numbers of the German army on the Western front can be accurately calculated by the Allies, and there is no reason for concealing them, since it is assumed that Germany already has this information. It is semi-officially stated, then, that there are 85 divisions, or about 1,750,000 German soldiers, in France and Flanders, exclusive of the extensive garrison and supply organizations. The French are said to have about 1,900,000 men, and the British and Belgians about 900,000. In artillery the margin of the Allies is even greater with regard to guns, if not to shells. The Germans are thought to have about 12,000 cannon in the West.

The extraordinary situation there is not, however, the fact that the Allies outnumber the Germans by about a million men, but the disposition of the German armies. Mr. Balderson asserts that, contrary to the general supposition, the best German troops were not sent against Verdun. They remain in front of the British. The only units of the Prussian Guard which appeared at Verdun have been certain reserve brigades. The first-line troops are in the mining region north of Arras. The Germans at Verdun are supposed to number thirty divisions, or 600,000 men; while massed along the British front of some 90 miles are 34 divisions, or 680,000 men. The Verdun front is set down as 40 miles. Therefore, in 130 miles, Germany has 64 divisions, or 1,280,000 men. That leaves

but 21 divisions, or 420,000 German soldiers, to hold the rest of the front. The whole front is 570 miles long. Four hundred and forty miles of that front, therefore, are held by fewer than 1,000 men to the mile.

"Why do not the Allies attack?" asks Mr. Balderson. "I think I might guess the answer, but I may not try." It is evident from his article however, that something of importance is impending; and he asserts that those who criticize the British Generals do not know what they are talking about. All the British commanders now at the front have proved their ability, not in previous wars, but in this war. One of them, for instance, General Munro, was temporarily relieved of command in France, and went to the Gallipoli, and there performed the most brilliant feat, probably, to the credit of any British General in this war, namely, the safe withdrawal of the British armies. The average age of the British generals is about 55½ years; that of the Germans is 63½. Nobody has ever questioned the quality of the British soldier. It seems that both Generals and soldiers are about to undergo the most severe test in British history in the near future. We have ample confidence that they will prove equal to it, and worthy of the highest hopes of the British people.

The impression that peace is near is gaining in strength daily. Germany undoubtedly desires a settlement if satisfactory terms can be arranged. Unfortunately, while positive efforts may be made in this direction, the outlook for immediate success is doubtful. Each of the Allies have heavy demands to make upon Germany, demands to which she is not likely to consent. Great Britain, Russia and France are on the ascendant of power in a greater degree than at any time since the war began. They have not yet had a full opportunity to assume the offensive and strike their strongest blow, without which it seems certain they will not consent to peace. Therefore, while the desire for peace exists, and while some preliminary efforts in its direction are entirely within the range of probability, the outlook for an actual suspension of hostilities appears remote. The Mexican trouble seems to have passed out of serious consideration as a market factor, although still a source of considerable anxiety to the Administration at Washington. Politics also appear to be a factor of minor importance from the business standpoint, and this campaign is attracting less interest than any presidential contest in many years, mainly of course because it is overshadowed in the public mind by war in Europe and our own difficulties with Mexico.—Henry Clews' Weekly Banking Review.

The New York Wall Street Journal hits the nail on the head with this sentence: "The German note says in effect to President Wilson that 'if you will not compel the British Navy to do something which, with all our feet and submarines, we are unable to do, we will resume the murder of United States citizens.'" GOOD-BYE. Good-bye! Farewell! your outboard ship is lying Beside the pier, her British colors flying; And westward flung, the sunset's rose is dying. Through eager crowds your winding column traces In khaki garbed, with even, measured paces, Past waving flags, and rapt and shining faces. All day the city's restless heart was beating, With pulse that reckoned on the final greeting, And throbb which guessed the parting and the meeting. Good-bye! Farewell! with you our hopes will follow To bring you back through war's grim echoes hollow, With Spring's return of daffodil and swallow. The day will come, as God is in His heaven, When hate's black cloud shall melt in war's red levin, With Herod crushed, his mail-clad Empire riven. To you who come, by race and courage fated, You who have wrought, and steadfast watched and waited To freedom pledged, to country consecrated; Good-bye! Farewell! the twilight veils are falling And sluggish tides to seaward now are crawling, While clear and shrill a bugle's notes are calling. Or peace or war, and each will claim its booty; Yet deathless lives the man who does his duty, Death, more than Life, reveals the rarest beauty. Clasp hands and go; we do not stop to borrow From vain regret, nor yield one tear to sorrow; Your turn today! it may be ours tomorrow. Hail and Farewell! The prayers we whisper of you, Shall march with you, shall haunt the void above you, Living or dead, remember that we love you. —Ernest McGaffey in Victoria Colonist.

Other Editors' Opinions

QUEBEC'S TROOPS.

Quebec may not be doing its full duty in this war, but in spite of the Bourassa crowd, and a section of the Nationalists, the Province is doing better than some people think it is doing. The Hon. Mr. Lemieux, in a recent address on "The Habitant and the War" before the Canadian Club of Ottawa, specified the various French-Canadian units now at the front or preparing to go there, as follows: The 22nd, under Col. Gaudet. The 41st, under Lieut.-Col. Archambault.

The 57th, under Col. Paquet. The 69th, under Lieut.-Col. Danseman.

The 150th, under Lieut.-Col. Barre. The 163rd, under Lieut.-Col. Daigle. The 167th, under Col. Readman—an English name, but a Frenchman. The 178th, under Col. Girouard. The 189th, under Col. Pitze. The 206th, under Col. Pagnuelo. The 230th, under Col. De Salaberry. The 233rd, under Col. Leprohon. A stationary hospital, under Col. Beauchamp.

Also a field battery, which was under the late Major Janin.

This makes practically thirteen units of over a thousand men each, about 14,000 soldiers, and more will be raised.—Hamilton Times.

BE NOT DISCONSOLATE.

The iceman was coming out of our backyard when the coalman was going in.

"Ha! Ha!" laughed the iceman, "Seems to me you're working overtime."

"You carry yours in and I melt it for you," retorted the coal man. It is fun for the iceman and the coalman, but death to the frogs. We are one of the frogs, but without much jump left in us when one of these tragedies is witnessed. Must a householder be made a slaughter to provide vaudeville dialogue for two men whose missions in life are diametrically opposed. The householder is the nut between the ice cracker and the coal cracker, with the weather man working his bloated weight upon the handles.

Yet you may refuse that break-eth over the dim, distant valleys of the winding Thames at this even hour (we have just come back to the mill) augurs for the end of the outrage. There is a New Dawn to break that will dry fields, set the refrigerators to their tasks, put the tinkling crystal in the old brown jug, make us curse the office for not providing individual electric fans and cause the furnace to close its jaws for a whole month or two.—London Advertiser.

LIVING IN THE PAST.

A recent issue of The Outlook contains an interview with Seumas MacManus, the Irish writer and lecturer, on the Irish rebellion. The whole tone of the article is feverish and even hysterical; but it helps, perhaps, to an understanding of why so many of the leaders of revolt were men of literary culture. The article might have been written a hundred years ago. It is directed against conditions that have passed away. It is eloquent in its denunciation of crimes and sins and mistakes of other times; it pays little attention to modern conditions, possibilities and results. It reveals a mind that is still reacting against the barbarities of Cromwell and the iniquities of the Penal Laws. Seumas MacManus cannot see, apparently, that the Irish revolt was in effect a blow against Irish freedom, whatever it may have been aimed at, that it was an act of disloyalty to Ireland, that it was a manifestation of ingratitude to the England of today, which is not responsible for the sins of the past and which has done so much to atone for these sins, and that in addition it was an effort of inexplicable stupidity. If Seumas MacManus is unable to see this, we may take it for granted that men like Pearse and MacDonagh could not see it. And the explanation that fits MacManus would probably fit both Pearse and MacDonagh. Their minds became saturated with the tragedies of Irish history and the sentimentalities of Irish literature. They lived in and on the past, and their eyes became unfitted to discern and their judgments to appreciate the realities of the present. How else can be explained the fact that they chose the very moment when Ireland's hopes were strongest and her prospects brightest, a time when Ireland had pledged her good faith to England, and when Irishmen of all classes were fighting shoulder to shoulder with Englishmen in the greatest cause for which human beings have ever offered their lives—how else explain the fact that such a moment was chosen to strike at the heart of both Ireland and England?—Woodstock Sentinel Review.

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\$500—Corney Streets,

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\$125—EACH lots 40 next to Midgic E

\$150—EACH Ridley

\$75—EACH, N 5 lots, 4

A BARGAIN Sidney Str per to north of

\$10—ACRES on ba tory site in age and along C house on ground

\$800—Five bert C city. Land sub Seven minutes

\$6000—150 Cann house, bank well watered an

145 Acres—O Amstburg T buildings, well about 800 apple school and ches ranged to suit

\$6500—100 Sidne ration, buildings fenced and water

\$6000—125 Sidne and frame dwell watered.

100 Acre farm fenced and water terms.

\$14000—30 Peterboro, 200 acres pastur str fine buildin tored, first-class farming.

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100 Acres on brick h of the best situ close to Bellev markets. Woul farm. Between trees in first-cla

\$1800—Jus good cellar, 7 w light, over one barn and fruit.

\$3700—Tw and hot water heat; it wanted; vict

DOUBLE brie lately res with full plum heating, electri stables suitable ing stable. Dec