

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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W. H. MORTON, Business Manager. J. O. HERITY, Editor-in-Chief.

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SHOWING UP THE TIGHT WADS.

Belleville's experience with Red Cross and other collections of a patriotic nature show that about only one per cent. of the population will walk to the city hall and turn in their subscriptions; the other 99 per cent. have to be chased around and asked for their subscriptions. In these respects we are no worse than other places more's the pity, but that doesn't make matters any the better so far as the real principle of giving is concerned.

What is required is a different system of impelling all parties to give to these good objects—the present system of taxation lets the bulk of the burden fall on the property owner and the taxpayer. The generous-hearted bear some of the burden, but a large number of the people escape without paying a dollar, while the single fellows—at least the bulk of them—who have no one depending on them escape the most of all. Ninety-five per cent. of them puff more in smoke each day or spend in luxuries at each meal more than they contribute in a year to the Red Cross or patriotic funds.

About the only good point of the voluntary system is that it shows who are the real tight wads. We have quite a few wealthy men in Belleville who have given unsparingly of their cash and time, but don't talk about the others—they couldn't be separated from a nickel if by giving they could save a dozen lives.

What is wanted is a system that will tax everyone according to their earnings or incomes. Then no one would escape, and those with generous impulses could still give more if they chose. As things are now there are nearly as many shirkers in monetary giving as there is in man giving. Sometimes we appear to be a nation of shirkers.

A CYCLONE IN SOCIETY.

The proposition that Billy Sunday visit New York and shock the people out of their wickedness is variously regarded. But out of one hundred and fifty bishops and clergymen who have been interviewed only thirty have expressed their disapprobation. A few are non-committal. They do not like Sunday's vaudeville methods they allege. They appear to be scandalous at times. Yet it is admitted that Mr. Sunday is intensely earnest, and they will forgive almost any impropriety if he can stir up the people religiously.

Two men practically represent the minds of their class. One is the rector of St. Stephen's, who says "that the power of the gospel as preached by the regularly ordained is sufficient of itself." The regularly ordained may be vigorous, but they must be decorous, and the people will only wake up in the pews when the men in the pulpit throw brick-bats at them.

The second class is represented by the pastor of Holy Trinity. He says that if Sunday can cause "one capitalist to ask if he got his riches righteously it will pay if it takes six months for the task and costs a hundred thousand dollars." Billy usually does not want so long a time in which to arouse the people. The millionaire, the man of affairs, and the man of no reputation go to see him "perform." They laugh as he partially disrobes and frees himself of all hampering impediment. They wonder what there is about him to move the masses. Presently they discover that he is personally offensive. He talks about them. They ought to leave the place. But some one says, "See him through," and adds, "If God Almighty can get along with Billy I can." And the sequel follows.

Men who went to scoff remained to pray. Billy turned the trick. It took time to work the transformation in him, but it is complete. He does not care what is said about him. He goes right on hammering the hypocrites and the sinners alike, and wherever he travels there is a clean streak in society as if a cyclone had passed through it.

WARS AND THE BIRTH RATE.

As the great war drags on toward another New Year, as it becomes more and more the business of the whole world, too many persons incline to take a comfortable view of it. They accept it as the inevitable, as if it were a convulsion of nature, as much beyond human control as an eruption of Vesuvius.

Falling back on Malthus relieves the "strictly neutral" and some who profit much by war's commerce of any responsibility for an opinion as to "who made the war."

Malthus, a hundred years ago, warned mankind that population tended to exceed subsistence unless war, famine and pestilence were to have sway occasionally.

And between the war and the extraordinary rise in food prices man seems to be caught somehow, in the actual working out of old Malthus' pet problem.

But peaceful persons who believe that it is a nation's duty to keep out of war maintain that the present struggle can not be justified on any theory of the over-population of any country.

Old Malthus did not have very good birth statistics to figure from, but the National Council of Public Morals in England has them, and in their recent report they state that the birth rate is declining.

"If the birth rate were maintained at anything like its natural level all over the world, the population of the globe, which is now 1,700,000,000, would in 120 years have reached 27,000,000,000 or about ten times as great a number as the earth could support," runs the report.

But the birth rate invariably falls as a nation becomes enlightened. In England, within 35 years, the birth rate has decreased one-third; in France and Belgium it has become stationary; all the rulers of Europe have been alarmed at the rapid decline of births in the last century.

And the English report says that "the decline has been more marked in the more prosperous classes," that "wherever political and social conditions bring a man or a class into a position in which he hopes to rise or fears to fall, the family will be restricted," and that "the birth rate varies inversely with the income."

Evidently persons who fear war or defend it as an unavoidable process of nature must hereafter ignore the birth records and overlook the conscious limitation of fertility which develops in nations in proportion to their culture or status of civilization.

A RECORD-BREAKING TRIAL.

Court procedure was once a simple matter. The judge sat at a city gate or in a baronial hall, heard cases brought before him without formality, gave his decision after a few minutes' interrogation of the interested parties and the thing was done. It's a big jump from such simple, prompt rendering of justice to the case of the Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia (Ltd.) against the Globe Mining Company (Ltd.), which was recently concluded before a British court.

The hearing of the case occupied 144 days. Mr. Upjohn, leading counsel for the defense, addressed the court for forty-five solid days. He rather felt that his speech might be regarded as a bit tedious; yet, he said, he didn't see how he could help it, for he had to go through more than 50,000 questions and answers, 5,000 pages of printed evidence and 256 exhibits.

He may have been excusable from a strictly legal viewpoint. But from a common sense viewpoint, what nonsense it is to present a case in such overwhelming detail! What human mind can grasp and hold 50,000 questions and answers, 5,000 pages of printed evidence and 256 exhibits, or follow with unflagging interest and discrimination an address lasting for forty-five days?

Psychologically the thing is absurd. Such procedure seems to pre-suppose that judges and juries are supermen of limitless energy and capacity. We all know that they are fallible human beings, who in a long-drawn trial grow weary, lose interest, miss details, ignore arguments and decide merely according to vague, general impressions they gather from the whole confusing business.

Nearly all court trials in England and Canada could be greatly shortened, with distinct advantage to efficiency, economy and justice.

HOW MERCANTILE LOSSES ARE BEING OVERCOME.

As illustrating how rapidly Great Britain is more than overcoming her losses in mercantile shipping, it is noticed that during the quarter ending Sept. 30, there were under construction in the British Isles 29 more vessels with 259,000 more tonnage than in the corresponding quarter of last year. The increase is fairly well distributed over vessels of all classes. When the curtain is drawn aside after the war and no military or naval reason longer exists for concealment, the world will learn with amazement of the unparalleled achievement of the British Isles since hostilities began. A great naval base on the east coast of Great Britain, which was not in existence on August 4th, 1914, is today complete in every respect. Notwithstanding losses during the war, which have conveyed courage and hope to the enemy's heart, the strength of the British navy at the present moment is much greater even than at the war's beginning.

Additional information sustaining this view has come by telegraph. Apart altogether from the warships, which were under construction when war broke out and which were completed a year or so ahead of their schedule time, it is now claimed that Great Britain has twelve new battleships of the super-dreadnought type practically ready for sea. Four of these are the largest and most powerful vessels ever placed on the water. They are eight hundred and fifty feet long with a speed of over thirty knots,

and are armed with twelve, eighteen-inch guns. In this latter fact lies cause for public amazement. A few years ago twelve-inch guns were the rule. Then a fourteen-inch gun appeared and during the development of the war, it was the British sixteen-inch guns, which gave her capital ships the advantage in naval engagement, but now we are told that eighteen-inch guns have been placed upon battleships. This means that a battleship can be out of sight and yet by means of direction from seaplanes bombard an unseen vessel without that vessel knowing of the presence of the hostile warship.

ANOTHER GREAT "VICTORY."

Like rats in a trap the Germans are now in their desperation and fright running amuck. Their policy of frightfulness has failed, and the virus with which they sought to inoculate other nations has taken a firm grip of themselves. Fright marks their temperature. The desperate effort made to raid the English Channel on Thursday night and interrupt the transport service between Boulogne and Folkestone was probably aimed at stimulating courage in the hearts of the German people rather than the hope of obtaining marked naval or military advantage. A raid always can secure by its unexpectedness a certain measure of success, but that the success was much less than the Germans anticipated is shown by the bulletins which they sent by wireless over the world. These bulletins claim a victory which was not secured. They claim that the raiders sunk eleven outpost steamers, two or three destroyers or torpedo boats and captured some members of the crews. Several other guard vessels and at least two British destroyers were heavily damaged by torpedo and artillery fire is a further claim. The German boats returned to German waters without any losses as usual. Such is the story told by the Germans, evidently sent broadcast over the world before these boats positively could have reached German waters and reported. On the other side Great Britain as in the case of the battle of Jutland admits immediately her own losses. Her losses were one transport vessel instead of eleven, one torpedo boat sunk instead of several. The British Admiralty disputes the German claim that all the German boats returned to German waters without any loss. This latter is the usual German claim. Zeppelins make a raid on England and they always return to Germany without any loss in the first reports, but two or three days or a week later there comes a belated admission that one or more Zeppelins did not return. It will be the same in the present case. But the object of the raid will fall inasmuch as British troops and munitions will continue crossing to France as if Admiral Tirpitz had never been born or his wasp flotilla never built.

THE GREAT CLINIC.

Dr. Alexis Carrel's discovery of a new method for healing wounds is a striking example of real benefits in directly conferred by the war. With millions of wounded men to care for, and the world's best surgeons attending them, the whole war zone has become a great medical clinic. And out of that clinic is coming knowledge that will benefit the human race forever.

Dr. Carrel will be remembered as the young French-American surgeon who by his brilliant work in the Rockefeller Institute won the Nobel prize for medical research. His special field is aseptic surgery—the surgery that obtains marvellous results merely by keeping out the destructive bacteria and letting nature do its work without the hindrance of these invisible enemies.

He has for the past two years turned all his laboratory knowledge to the practical healing of wounds. He has worked out a process of "complete irrigation" of a wound, by means of a rubber tube with numerous branches perforated with many small holes. Every corner or pocket of a wound is thus cleansed. When the cleansing is completed, the wound is closed, instead of being left open to suppurate according to the usual method.

"In a sterilized cavity thus closed," says Dr. Carrel, "nature's healing process goes on with a rapidity hitherto unknown. The duration of the treatment is abridged about two-thirds and the number of amputations diminished fifty per cent. In certain cases complete healing occurs in one-tenth the time required under ordinary treatment."

It would have been possible, it seems, for the last twelve months, to suppress suppuration of wounds in all the military hospitals, thereby saving suffering, crippling, deformity and death on an enormous scale. The medical profession, conservative even in France, fought the innovation. It is now reported that the Carrel system may be adopted in all the hospitals of the Allies. If it will accomplish what is claimed for it, it should be adopted in every hospital in the world.

Whitewashing a reputation won't remove the stench of a rotten life.

Politeness is the art of choosing among one's real thoughts.—Stevens.

The Italians have occupied Northern Epirus in Greece for the purpose of protecting the left wing of the Entente army and replacing the Greek soldiers there, who were under King Constantine's command. In other words it was to guard against an act of treachery by the hen-pecked pro-German King of Greece.

The dog is a faithful friend, but he is a dangerous animal when he roams about killing sheep. In 1915 nearly 10,000 sheep in Pennsylvania were killed or injured by dogs. The Wool and Textile Association has undertaken a "more sheep" campaign and recommends a bill forbidding the running of dogs at night. The wool industry of the country should not be allowed to decline because of bad dogs.

Undertakings for so long that things which in other regions would be considered memorable are quite commonplace there. But just now there is under way in that State an enterprise which must appeal to the imagination even of those who have been sated with wonders. Briefly the biggest bridge in the world is to be constructed between San Francisco and Oakland. The cost of this monster bridge is expected to be \$22,000,000 and it will be five and a half miles in length. Upon it will be three roadways and four railroad tracks. It will consist of sixteen spans, two of which will be high enough to allow the passage of any ship. The relief which this will furnish to the five ferry systems now in operation between these cities is not difficult of comprehension. Time was when such a proposition would have been considered a dream, but of late years so many dreams of this character have been coming true that the boldest departures from the ordinary are given respectful consideration. So, now the it is suggested, we take the building of this bridge as a matter of course.

California has been familiar with great milk in New York milk is being sold twenty per cent. cheaper at the distributing stations, where customers carry their supply home, than it is to persons to whom milk is delivered. There ought to be no reason why the cost of delivering milk is greater than the cost of delivering other things which one buys, and logically one would think that the merchant could afford to sell goods cheaper to those who were willing to carry them home than to those who demand that the goods be delivered.

However, the habit of having all things delivered has become firmly fixed; it has a place among modern conveniences from which it is not easily dislodged even by the otherwise attractive prospect of a material decrease in the cost of living.

At the same time one can not but give thought as to how much of the price of our daily necessities go into the cost of delivery.

CARING FOR THE HORSES.

One of the features of the present war has been the example which was originally set by Great Britain in the matter of caring for the horses which are the enforced participants in the war. An organization was established by the government in connection with the army which possessed every facility for caring for the poor unfortunate beasts which were wounded and might be restored to health or if not, provided means for humanely putting an end to their suffering. It says well for the British army and the British people that the men at the front co-operated with the authorities in this respect and really had in many cases affection for the dumb companions of their adventures. "Henry Chappell," in an English newspaper gives a poetic description of an actual incident on the road to a battery position in Southern Flanders, which incident by the way has been immortalized in more than one work of art. The poem reads as follows:—

THE SOLDIER'S KISS.

(Description of an actual incident on the road to a battery in Southern Flanders.)

Only a dying horse! Pull off the gear,
And slip the needless bit from frothing jaws,
Drag it aside there, leave the roadway clear—
The battery thunders on with scarce a pause.

Prone by the shell-swept highway there it lies
With quivering limbs, as fast the life tide falls,
Dark films are chasing o'er the faithful eyes,
That mutely plead for aid where none avails.

Onward the battery rolls, but one there speeds,
Heedless of comrade's voice or bursting shell,
Back to a wounded friend who lonely bleeds
Beside the stony highway where it fell.

Only a dying horse! He swiftly kneels,
Lifts the limp head and hears the shivering sigh,

Kisses his friend while down his cheek there steals

Sweet pity's tear; good-bye, old man, good-bye.

No honors wait him, medal, badge or star,
Though scarce could war a kinder deed unfold;

He bears within his breast, more precious far
Beyond the gift of Kings, a heart of gold.

Other Editors' Opinions

THE WEEKLY EDITORS.

In the current issue of Printer and Publisher, Editor Herity of the Belleville Ontario laments the decline of the editorial column in the weekly newspapers. He believes that each community would be enriched by the discussion of local affairs by the weekly editors as in the past, and holds out to the rural publisher the promise of broad influence and usefulness in his community.

Mr. Herity's remarks will find echo among those newspapermen in daily positions who in the past found pleasurable and profitable reading in the editorial columns which are now filled with advertisements, tax notices or editorials clipped from other papers. Every country newspaper editor should be the philosopher of his district, and, if he fits the part, may cast a spell over his community that will be reflected in the opinion of outside observers. He is much closer to his readers than the editor of a daily newspaper, and he can transmit the very pulse-beats of the village and countryside to his editorial columns if he has the working brain and the wholesome heart.

There are many weekly papers which do not vegetate, and their influence is felt in provincial affairs. The St. Marys papers are both excellent examples of live weekly journals, and their pages give evidence of the fact that they flourish in a progressive community. The Simcoe Reformer and the Ridgeway Plaindealer are other examples, while Amherstburg, Strathroy and Essex papers and many others maintain the best traditions of weekly journalism.

One cause of the decline of individuality in the weekly press may be that the big city daily has been brought to the door of the country home. The farmer finds his daily paper in his mail box and becomes informed of events long before his weekly paper reaches him. But if the country publisher would realize the fact, there is no cleavage between the daily and the weekly newspaper. The one is a product of the day, a thing of vast interests and organized hurry; the weekly paper is a more leisurely, less time-slaved journal, which can act as a mirror, rather than as a searchlight. The joys and sorrows, the quieter things of life, the mellowness of country things and the daily round of events fall into the natural scope of the weekly editor.

A daily newspaper hasn't any space to wish the bereaved family "the heartfelt sympathy of the community in the loss of a faithful father," but a weekly newspaper with good grace can enter the bereaved home as a friend of the family. In all its relations it may be the friendly counsellor and critic of its parish. It is to be hoped that rural journalism will become more typical of its surroundings and more powerful because of the first-hand thought its editors may give the country, than which there is nothing more quickly seized by wide-awake editors of the daily press. Why not give us a chance to quote you a bit, country cousins?—London Advertiser.

LEST WE FORGET.

Public opinion will heartily support the policy of the Dominion government in giving preferential treatment to returned soldiers in filling vacancies in the federal civil service. Provincial and municipal governing bodies, please note!—Montreal Star.

HOMAGE TO THE BRITISH.

The courage of our admirable "Poilus" has been extraordinary, but let us render homage with profound gratitude to the British army. In the course of time it will come to be recognized how formidable has been Great Britain's effort in every respect—army, war material, munitions and her flying corps. It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of the successes achieved by the troops led by Sir Douglas Haig—L. Echo de Paris.

HADN'T HEARD OF WAR.

Two men caught in a recent "slacker" round-up in England swore that they did not know a war was in progress. There are plenty of persons in this country who do not seem to realize it, either.—St. Thomas Journal.

NAUGHTY! NAUGHTY!

The Kindersley Clarion tells of a benedict of that town who has kept a record of the number of kisses exchanged with his wife since their marriage, which has been given out for publication, is as follows: First year, 15,000; third year 110; fifth year, 2. Since he has ceased keeping any record, but has promised to give for publication as a later date, his record of kisses given to other women.—Exchange.

WILL BE AUT

Maple Leaf The Factory Mill Ont Three Princess P to Complet Dollars.

It begins to look had in Maple Leaf industrial organizes limited possibilities ville factories as y have concluded n ders that will aggr lion dollars. One alone will require of \$300,000.

All this sounds the documents are company on Bridge for themselves. Furthermore retires will be turn ville by the middle month.

This week repr company secured unused Burrill Ax on Mill street. This modious quarters once install mach doing things for chinery is now on pected to land in The Burrill factor ing, two stories t very substantial b been unused for aside from broke excellent condition

In this factory of the machines for fires of the size cars. The cores at Akron, Ohio.

Excellent progr with the main fac Grand Trunk trac now about eight f therefore rather m pleted. There are 7 teams on the pa ing their best to ru

ALLOWED CASE

Young Men Ching Auto Adm

This morning P Joseph Connolly police court before on the charge of the bible, the property of which met with suc Hollowen night, young men wore on their faces cover Johnson's nose bet in batting and the friend's left eye patch.

Mr. W. C. Mike for the accused ask ment of one week they be admitted to a case of criminal The most that coul it was a Hollowen'ed case disastrously.

"It is well to know pranks lead to" su trate.

"In the Anglo seems" said Mr. M e'en is a time wh mandments are su ist—

"Cut that all o magistrate. "The Finally bail was each in themselves each and the youth liberty. The case Thursday.

CANON FO HAS P

Rector of St. L Eleven Years Priesthood O tury

Yesterday Rev. nert, M.A., B.D., h nation as rector of Kingston, to the B It was 52 years l 35, since he was priesthood in the in the eleven re been in Kingston b dreds of friends a hearts of all by h lent efforts on the Canon Forward was parentage, 73 year