

THE COURIER
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THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS.

A memo. issued by the British Ministry of Information, points out that the fact of Great Britain finding herself compelled to oppose the "Freedom of the Seas" is of itself sufficient proof that this phrase does not necessarily mean what it appears to mean. No nation has fought harder or more unselfishly, from the earliest days of her naval history down to the great war, to clear the seas of the world of the enemies of mankind whether they sailed in Mediterranean galleys or in Krupp-built U-boats. It was simply a typical piece of German cunning which prompted that nation to declare itself suddenly as the champion of the "Freedom of the Seas," leaving it to be understood that Great Britain was vehemently opposed to whatever might be embodied in that alluring phrase.

It is unfortunate that the German government itself never defined its own interpretation of it. The general basis of the German complaint, however, was always fully recognized. It rested on a realization of the fact that the legitimate pressure exerted by the British Navy on the high seas was relentlessly sapping away the military and economic strength of the German Empire, which, unless dramatic victory could be forced in the meantime, would be inevitably bound to break under the strain—as, in fact, it did. It is a noteworthy fact that it was after Germany had admitted the world to regard her as the champion of maritime freedom that she declared the ruthless and indiscriminate submarine blockade in February, 1917. This amounted to a declaration of war upon humanity—the hall mark of the pirate.

For a more detailed and outspoken view as to what Germany means by the "Freedom of the Seas" we must turn to a speech delivered in Berlin in March, 1917, by Count Reventlow. "What we understand to-day by this doctrine," he said, "is that Germany should possess such maritime territories and such naval bases, that at the outbreak of a war we should be able, with our navy ready, reasonably to guarantee ourselves the command of the seas. We want such a jumping-off place for our navy as would give us a fair chance of dominating the seas, and of being free of the seas during a war." This is a German view. Beyond a doubt it is not shared by any one outside Germany—a fact which only shows how difficult it is to decide what is really meant by the "Freedom of the Seas," and by those who are opposed to such freedom.

In a more widely accepted interpretation, the "Freedom of the Seas" means the right of the merchantman belonging to the belligerents and to neutrals to "carry on" the same as in peace, save only that the latter would be prohibited from carrying items enumerated on a very constricted list of contraband. Enemy property at sea would be immune from capture, and neutral vessels could, by means of their cargoes, enable the weaker sea power to hold out indefinitely against the stronger. There would be no commercial blockade. That is to say, although the British Navy in the late war would have had the right to blockade the naval harbor of Wilhelmshaven (proceeding as useless as it would be impossible), it would have been powerless to prevent German and neutral ships from pouring supplies into Germany through the neighboring ports of Emden, Bremerhaven and Hamburg. Sea power would thus have been robbed of at least 50 per cent of its weight in the war, and although Germany must in any case have been ultimately beaten, the additional cost to civilization, in blood and treasure would have been enormously increased.

One may give a very simple and convincing proof of the inherent absurdity of the doctrine by attempting to apply it to the land. When the German armies swept down through Belgium westward to the coast, they completely severed the land communication between Holland and France. It was cut off at least as completely as, for instance, communications between Germany and South America were severed by the British Navy. Now, no one in his senses would demand that while the Germans were in occupation of Belgium they should allow perfect freedom of intercourse and commerce (barring contraband) between Holland and France, even to permit French rolling stock to use the roads and the railways.

No suggestion could well be more preposterous than that, and yet it is

precisely what we are told the superior sea power should permit, and what the British Navy would have been compelled to do had this view of the "Freedom of the Seas" been in force during the late war; that is to say that although it held absolute command over practically every sea route into Germany, it would have been powerless to prevent the free use of those routes for the benefit of its enemies. The whole thing is farcical, and nothing could prove it more conclusively than the transference of the argument from the sea to the land. It can hardly be doubted that a desire to curtail the rights of neutrals lies at the bottom of the movement—a remarkable fact, seeing that civilization could never have won this war but for the work of the navies! There is a tendency, too, to think only of England when sea power is mentioned, forgetting that all the principal nations of the world are sea powers in greater or less degree, depending upon their fleets for their prestige in peace and for the defence of their rights and their territories in war. The preservation of the fighting rights of neutrals is not by any means a matter in which Great Britain alone is supremely interested.

THE CHILDREN'S AID

The report of the annual meeting of the Brantford Children's Aid Society is worthy of the thoughtful reading of all citizens. The address was pitched upon a high plane, and the record of the work accomplished most gratifying. The children are the greatest asset of the state, but unfortunately, in some instances their environment and upbringing are not of the best, and thus it is that we have criminals and neer-do-wells in the making. It is the object of the Association to lend a helping and beneficial hand in all such cases, and to lead erring and neglected youngsters into the paths of good citizenship by kindly methods instead of by the punishment methods which formerly obtained. It is a splendid work, and no better man could have been chosen for the head of it than Mr. J. J. Keelo. In like manner, it is the general testimony that in local Secretary Axford, this community also possesses a thoroughly capable and worthy official—one who never spares himself in connection with the important and multitudinous duties which fall to his lot, and who moreover, blends necessary firmness with large-hearted sympathy.

Chaos Reigns in Montreal

Firemen, Police and Waterworks and Garbage Men Are on Strike

Fire Apparatus Destroyed and Fire Captain Beaten

Montreal, Dec. 12.—Montreal is without police or fire protection except what is being afforded by the few inspectors on duty, by volunteers, by detective agencies hired by the city, and by what few men the city could muster to take the strikers' places.

The regular employees at the waterworks and the men of the Inspection Department also went on strike, but the pumps are working, and the water supply is in no danger so far.

When news that a strike had been declared reached police headquarters shortly after noon, checking broke out from the armed policemen and detectives, who then left the building for their homes in an orderly manner. The commodious headquarters building was soon deserted save for Chief Be langer, Inspectors Egan, Robert and Leggett in the Police Department, and Chief of Detectives Belanger and Inspector Cowan in the Detective Office.

Appeal for Police Protection.
 The Director of Public Safety made an appeal to all men of good will to fill up the vacancies in the police force. The aim of this appeal is not to challenge the strikers, but merely give the citizens the protection they have the right to expect.

Volunteer Firemen Driven Away.
 It was reported at fire headquarters late this evening that six men sent to the Lafontaine Park fire station as volunteers were driven off by citizens.

Fire Stations Attacked.
 To-night fire stations in various sections of the city were attacked and apparatus wrecked. In a station in St. Henri Ward, an outlying district, where Capt. Dupuis and two men remained at their posts, a mob set upon the captain when he attempted to get out apparatus when an alarm sounded. The officer was knocked down and so badly beaten that an ambulance was required to take him to the Western Hospital, where he remains, under treatment. He was severely injured.

The station at Chaboussie Square, near the Popaventre Depot at the Grand Trunk, was looted, fire apparatus smashed, and the wrecked material thrown into the street by a mob of two or three hundred strikers and sympathizers, while citizens looked on helplessly. There was no one to molest the rioters.

Thieves and Hobbers Flourish.
 All evening the city was practically without fire or police protection, with the result that pickpockets were reported to be operating on street cars, and hold-ups of small stores of frequent occurrence.

Ladies' high grade gunmetal shoes, worth \$7.50, for \$4.95, at the Brant Shoe Store, 91 Dalhousie street.

Nurses' Bazaar A Big Success

Proceeds Will Be Used to Furnish Room in Memorial Hospital TO HONOR MISS NEFF

Visitors by the hundreds thronged the assembly hall of the Nurses' Home last night on the occasion of the annual bazaar under the auspices of the Graduate Nurses' Alumnae Association, assisted by the pupils of the training school. The building was ablaze with beautiful decorations, patriotic flags blending with ferns and flowers, in all, the sum of \$167 was realized from the event, which will be applied to the Blanche Neff benefit fund, out of which the nurses propose to furnish a room in the new memorial hospital, in memory of the late Miss Neff, who died during the influenza epidemic.

From early evening, the Nurses' Home was crowded with eager patrons of the bazaar. The fancy work booth was in charge of Mrs. John Cato, the home-made cooking and candy presided over by Mrs. Dr. Wiley, and the tea and coffee booth by Miss Throck. Fish pond and fortune teller booths were also liberally patronized during the evening. The few articles of fancy work which remained unsold at a late hour were auctioned off by Dr. Wiley in a spirit which added to the zest of the evening. Music, cards and dancing were then enjoyed by the gathering on the upper floor of the building. Contributions are due, the entire Alumnae Association and their assistants for the success of the bazaar and the laudable purpose to which the proceeds are to be devoted.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore carried on by Wong Lung, Kong Hing Wong, Fung On and Jack Wong, known as the Dominion Cafe, has been dissolved by mutual consent on December 12th, and the business will hereafter be carried on under the name of the Dominion Cafe by the undersigned, and all debts owing to the partnership are to be paid to Kong Hing Wong, manager of the Dominion Cafe, and all debts owing by the said partnership are to be presented to him, and will be paid by him.

Dated at Brantford this 9th day of December, 1918.
 Witness: D. M. G. HONG HING WONG.
 (Sgd.) HONG HING WONG.

Ladies' high grade gunmetal shoes, worth \$7.50, for \$4.95, at the Brant Shoe Store, 91 Dalhousie street.

Music and Drama

AT THE GRAND.
 When Shakespeare said, "The play's the thing," he did not have the motor picture of to-day in his mind. Spectacular as is Griffith's war masterpiece, "Hearts of the World," now showing at the Grand, the picture would lose half its charm were it not for the musical accompaniment. The orchestra which travels with "Hearts of the World" is the original orchestra which furnished the music for "The Birth of a Nation," and their work was favorably commented upon by practically everyone in yesterday's audience at the Grand. The orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Jules Brazil, furnishes a complete musical score, every incident in the picture receiving an appropriate accompaniment.

Bargains in ladies' wear—real bargains—are offered by the Dominion House Furnishing Co. Read their advt. on Page Ten in this issue.



Woollen Goods AND Fancy Goods

Our Store offers many practical suggestions for Christmas Gifts. Your inspection is invited.

CULHAM'S

OBITUARY

MRS. WILLIAMS.
 There passed away in Cleveland, on Wednesday Matilda Johnson, beloved wife of Joseph Williams. The deceased leaves to mourn her loss besides her husband, a father, two brothers and one sister. The late Mrs. Johnson had lived in Cleveland for some time. The body arrived in this city this morning, and interment will take place to-morrow afternoon from the residence of her brother, Mr. Isaac Johnson, 2 Park Ave., to Mount Hope cemetery.

MRS. WHITNEY.
 The remains of the late Mrs. Charles Whitney were quietly laid to rest yesterday afternoon in the Scotland cemetery. Rev. Mr. Kelly of Ferguson was present at the funeral and conducted it in conjunction with Rev. Mr. Thompson of the congregational church of this city. Mrs. Arthur Seord sang very sweetly at the service. There were many very beautiful and touching tributes to the home was crowded with the friends of the late Mrs. Whitney and family paying their last respects. The pall bearers were Messrs. Wm. Ismond, Geo. Whitney, Nelson and Oles Tiffin, M. Malcolm and Jas. Quirk.

DISTINCTIVE OVERCOATING

In all our years of merchandising we have never had a better or finer assortment of overcoatings than RIGHT NOW. Being preparedness two years ago makes our stock the finest in the city. Meltons, Frelzes, Tweeds, Blanket Cloths, Vicunas and Cheviots are here in abundance at 15 to 20 per cent. below even ready-made prices. We've eliminated all middlemen's profits and our customers get the saving. Many higher priced fabrics have been reduced in order to strengthen our lower lines. Decide to-day that you will order your overcoat at Fifth Bros., and get Quality Tailoring at a very moderate price. Our record price drops will save you \$5 to \$10 on any overcoat.

Headquarters for Automobile Skates and Ames-Holden Hockey Shoes.

75 DALHOUSIE STREET.

"YOU'LL DO BETTER AT BULLER BROS."

Xmas Jewellery

No Jewellery Store carries a more complete stock, and surely no jewellery store sells high grade things at such low prices as we quote here. It will pay you to investigate, for you will find everything that your heart may desire, and you can pay us a small deposit on any article, and we will hold it until Christmas for you.

Gentlemen's and Boys' SIGNET RINGS 10k and 14k Gold From \$2.50 to \$15.00

WALDAMAR WATCH CHAINS From \$1.50 to \$15.00

LADIES' STONE SET RINGS From \$1.25 to \$25.00

Gentlemen's STONE SET RINGS From \$4.50 to \$25.00

MANTEL CLOCKS From \$4.75 to \$18.00

BABY RINGS Stone Set and Signet From 50c to \$1.25

BABY MUGS From \$1.25 to \$2.50

Stone Set Back Combs From 50c to \$5.00

TIE PINS Gold and Gold Filled From 50c to \$35.00

PEARL BEADS From \$1.00 to \$6.00

Pendants and Lavaliers Gold and Gold Filled From \$1.25 to \$35.00

BRACELET WATCHES From \$3.00 to \$50.00

BROOCHES Gold and Gold Filled From 50c to \$25.00

CUFF LINKS Gold and Gold Filled From 50c to \$12.00

LADIES' SIGNET RINGS 10k and 14k Gold From \$1.50 to \$5.00

BULLER BROS.

Open Evenings. 116-118 COLBORNE ST. Engravings.

Do your Christmas buying where bargains are offered. Read the advt. of the Dominion House Furnishing Co. on Page Ten to-day.

Read the offerings of Dominion House Furnishing Co. on Page Ten to-day.

\$25.00 Reward

For return of the Ford Car stolen on the night of November 29th. License No. 64560; 1918 model, new 5-passenger touring, plain tires, chains on the rear, engine No. 153327, and \$25.00 reward for the arrest and conviction of the thief. Address all information to

Police Headquarters.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

The advantage of a Savings Account is that it earns you Three per cent. interest night and day, and you can always get your money any time you want it. Many hundreds of people make regular deposits in our Savings Department.

Why don't you try it?

The Royal Loan and Savings Co.

38-40 Market Street

Automobile Skates

The Ideal Gift

The Only Skates with Aluminum Tops

C. J. MITCHELL

Headquarters for Automobile Skates and Ames-Holden Hockey Shoes.

75 DALHOUSIE STREET. THE STORE WITH THE STOCK.

MOTOR RI
 Thirty Union are is with O motor lies to come Texas and

The ne Kelym will Sunday. Burlington ton Confer services.

TO ERECT
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CHANGE
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SCHOOLS
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BOARD OF
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DAMAGES
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BOYS' CLUB
 A Boys' in Wesley the teen ag tion and co Mr. Hutton spinning added by gals; lowing offic president, Hon. vice-p more and G Charles E Charlie W Wedlake; t linson.

JARVIS
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Spec
 Men's Laced B Sizes 6 to ue \$6.50. urday, p Men's B Boots, a strap. S per pair Child's D top. Siz lar \$1.85 Saturday

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