

The Weekly Ontario

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THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1915.

USEFULNESS AND BEAUTY.

We are indebted to Prof. E. R. Dorsee of Regina College, Sask., and formerly of Albert College, Belleville, for a copy of "The Vacant Lot Garden Number" of "The City of Regina Health Bulletin."

This unique and useful publication contains a number of seasonable suggestions that apply with equal force to Belleville. It is a scheme that adds greatly to the beauty of any town by the removal of weed patches and rubbish heaps, and the creation of a splendid supply of fresh vegetables for all who become patrons of the movement.

The garden campaign in Regina is unique in that it is self supporting. We have been hoping that some organized effort would be made along this line in Belleville, but so far nothing has been done. It is not however too late to begin. We quote a few of the suggestions from the Regina publication in the hope that some of them may be adopted here:—

Every pound of food raised in Regina adds to the food supplies of our Empire.

Every vacant lot cultivated adds to the beauty and to the solid values of our city.

It is no extravagant estimate to say that \$150,000 is sent out of Regina every year for garden produce which could, and which should, be raised in our city.

We have ample storage facilities for any temporary excess of produce, so that no glutting of the market should take place.

No vegetables taste so fine as those brought fresh to the table from your own garden.

It will add immensely to the health of our people if the proportion of green vegetables should be doubled.

It will greatly reduce the cost of living. Most of the gardeners were able from a single lot, to load their tables with fresh vegetables all summer and had enough potatoes to last all winter. Others had vegetables to sell.

Help yourself—Help the city.

In one respect the Vacant Lot Garden work in Regina is unique. In all other cities as far as the Committee is aware, the work is sustained out of city funds or by private subscription. The Philadelphia Vacant Lot Association, which claims to be the parent Association in this work, still receives subscriptions to its funds amounting to \$100 in some cases. The Regina Committee was helped the first year but since has been able to establish its work on a self-supporting basis and has been able to eliminate the "Charity" aspect of the work so plainly in evidence in other cities. The Committee desires simply to guide a co-operative effort of our citizens to improve physical and economic conditions in our city.

The plans of the Committee make it easy for any citizen, rich or poor, salaried or unemployed, old or young, without distinction, to cultivate at least one lot. As all freely take advantage of our co-operative Public School system, so should all classes of citizens take advantage of the Committee's work.

Each gardener signs a simple lease which delivers to him for his use for one season, one or two city lots, well plowed and harrowed, for which he engages to pay \$2.50. He also engages to cultivate his lot in a workmanlike manner.

By buying seeds co-operatively and delivering them at little less than cost to the gardeners, the Committee is able to supply three dollars worth of garden seeds at about \$1.60; enough seed with one bushel of potatoes to sow one city lot. The best varieties have been most carefully selected for this standard collection. This collection will be of great assistance to amateur gardeners.

Each gardener is given a few flower seeds in his collection and is required to plant them next to the street. We are sure that no citizen taking pride in the city will find this requirement burdensome.

Aside from this each gardener lays out his garden as it pleases him.

No profits are made by anyone in connection with this work, except the garden-

ers themselves and the men employed by the Committee in plowing and harrowing.

In the assignment of these lots, an acre to each man, preference is being given to men out of work and men with families.

It is established that one acre well cultivated will yield good wages for the summer. The Secretary will cultivate one of these acre lots and will be ready to help with advice all gardeners who desire it.

Prof. Dorsee informs us in his letter that 528 lots have been taken up, in addition to 50 acres that is cultivated in one-acre lots.

Does anyone know of a reason why the movement should not be enthusiastically inaugurated here?

ROOT OUT THE GRAFTER.

There must be no mincing of words in connection with the uncovering of the war graft scandals before the Committee of Public Accounts at Ottawa. Canada has been shamed and disgraced in the eyes of the British Empire. At a time when every subject of His Majesty in the most important of his Overseas Dominions should have been devoting his best efforts to "do his bit" toward assisting the Empire in its struggle for liberty, there have been found men base enough to steal from the public treasury; men who have grafted in the very bandages required to bind up the wounds of our gallant sons; men who thought only of personal profit at the expense of our brave boys who are offering their lives in order that the British Empire may endure.

These grafters have been plotting to enrich themselves ever since this fateful war commenced. Under cover of a patronage system which was invoked to stifle competition, these vultures have been fattening at the public trough. The very soldiers who offered their lives and volunteered for overseas, have been used as pawns in the greatest game of graft ever uncovered in a civilized country.

The people of Canada cannot look on unmoved. There is danger to the very fabric of our country in the continuance of the system. It is the accursed patronage system which made the thieves—not the thieves the system. A system which has been so enlarged and developed under Sir Robert Borden's administration that not a single Liberal Militia officer was permitted to hold an important position, with the First Contingent; a system which in spite of Sir Robert Borden's personal pledge has flooded the public service of this country with a host of incompetent heblers for whom no work can be found; a system which mocks at competition and makes it easy for the grafters to furnish spurious goods at an inordinate profit.

However unpleasant, we cannot wink these facts out of sight. We have fallen upon evil days. We must have courage and strength to pluck this accursed system out by the roots. We must teach these grafters such a lesson as will last them the rest of their natural lives. We must point the moral for generations to come and remove the sore which threatens the very foundation of our national existence.

We should be neither Liberal nor Conservative at this time; we should be Canadians all. Canadians who love and take pride in their country. Canadians with courage to fight for our country's honesty and integrity at home, as well as her liberties abroad. A pretty farce it is to send our bravest sons overseas to crush militarism in Europe, while we bow the neck to the grafter at home.

FARMERS BARRED.

We are indebted to Sir Robert Borden for one good lesson at least. In the light thrown by his recent speech upon the scandal murk at Ottawa, one strong fact stands clear above the rest—that a grafter must not be a poor man; most of all, he must not be a farmer.

"If the laws of the country permit the Courts of Justice to enforce restitution against them, then restitution will be enforced." To whom did the Premier refer in this splendid assertion of the Government's horror at the boodling exposures? To the manufacturers who unloaded double-priced motor trucks on a not unwilling department? To the retainers and parasites of the Minister of Militia who sold their influence over him to the highest bidders? No, gentle and credulous reader, these fiery words were aimed to scorch only a few country folk who were so indiscreet as to tell aloud of the folly or worse of a Parliamentary horse-purchaser.

"If the laws of the country permit the walls of the penitentiary to encircle them, they will go there." For whom is it that the doors of dungeons dire are held sternly open? For the manufacturers of boots that fell to pieces on brave soldiers' feet; for the men thus responsible for sickness and death sown broadcast among our boys; for the men whom General Sam Hughes himself, before they got the gag on him, threatened to shoot? Not on your life! Just the same couple of farmers who gave away the Kings

County horse deal and incidentally convicted a member of parliament a Moral Reform member, too) of the unpardonable sin of being found out.

There are many possible ways of stamping out graft. Sir Robert's may not appeal to all of us as the most effective way, but, if followed persistently, it will undoubtedly tend to reduce the volume of boodling—or, at least, to restrict the number of boodlers. It must be admitted that there are more poor men than rich; more farmers than manufacturers. So, if Sir Robert can succeed in jailing all the poor and rural grafters he will unquestionably have accomplished a reform in more ways than one. For instance, an undesirable element of competition for a share in the handouts will have been eliminated, which is strictly in line with the National Policy of "Adequate Protection." And the Campaign Fund will not have been interfered with, for farmers and poor folk seldom contributed to it to any extent.

Even the Unspeakable Turk is teaching his German ally a lesson in humanity and chivalry. According to the Berlin report of the loss of a British submarine in the Dardanelles, 21 of the crew were rescued by the Turks. Up to date not a single British sailor has been rescued by the Germans.

In order to cheer up the Kaiser, Chicago Germans were asked to vote for Sweitzer, one of the candidates for mayor. Sweitzer was beaten by 150,000 votes, and as Chicago has the largest population of German descent in the world, outside of Berlin and Vienna, the result is significant.

Says the Toronto Saturday Night: "If General Sam had attended to his business in place of running around making a fool of himself and a fool of the country, all this would not have happened. Members of General Hughes' staff were warned time and again that the boots being produced were not of a proper character."

Great Britain's contribution to the casualty column of the Allies, as announced in the House of Commons on Thursday, from the beginning of the war to April 11, amounts to 139,347 killed, wounded and missing. As there is no definite knowledge of the number of men sent to the firing line by Great Britain no percentage of loss can be figured.

The Lindsay Post is to be congratulated upon having attained its majority as a daily paper. It enters upon its twenty-first year in its splendid new office building, and having a plant equipped with the latest fast Duplex web press, linotype composing machines, and all that is latest and best in print-shop fittings. The Post has come to be a strong journalistic force in the Midland district of Ontario. It is ably and fearlessly edited, stands for high ideals in social and public life, and every column is bright, readable and interesting. The Post very wisely pays special attention to the local field and tries to give to the people of Lindsay a live daily summary of all the news events in and about the town that may be properly recorded. We congratulate Brother Wilson not only upon being old enough to vote, but also upon being truly worthy of exercising the newspaper franchise. May he long continue to push the editorial pen and promote the well-being of his town and district.

That ill-timed, ill-advised, and shallow jingoistic speech delivered by Hon. Arthur Meighen solicitor-general for Canada, before the Laurentian club at Ottawa, the other night was about the most foolish and mischief-provoking performance that has taken place in this country since the beginning of the war. And that is saying a good deal. With public opinion in the United States becoming strongly pro-British in nearly every part of the union, and a rapid growth of anti-German sentiment, manifesting itself everywhere, our bumptious solicitor-general had to come along and make a stupid attack on President Wilson for the "inglorious part" he and his nation had been playing since the opening of the war. The blunder-making capacity of some of Sir Robert Borden's cabinet members is equalled only by their incapacity to produce anything in the nature of great statesmanship.

There is every reason to believe that the Public Accounts Committee only uncovered the fringe of the war scandals. From the information already made public it appears that there was graft to the extent of \$9,000 in the purchase of \$40,000 of medical supplies. While no figures are available, it is probably within the mark to say that the Government paid on the average \$20 per head more for the horses purchased in Nova Scotia than the sellers received. On these two transactions amounting to \$113,000, it may be assumed that \$17,500 graft was extracted from the pockets of the people, or, in other words, 15 per cent. was raked off by the grafters. If the same proportion holds true of the Government war expenditure of say \$100,000,000 to date, then \$15,000,000 has gone into

the pockets of the grafters and middlemen.

The cables of yesterday and Saturday indicate that the Canadians were in the midst of the most serious battle along the western front since the ending of the contest at the Aisne. And all reports agree that our regiments behaved with the utmost gallantry. Whatever may be the final result of this battle, or of the war, no one need ever fear that Canadians will be anything but representative of the highest traditions of the British army and the British Empire. The comparative inexperience of our men in war is more than atoned for by their absolute courage in the hour of trial, and the personal initiative and resourcefulness which manifested itself in the capture of the lost guns as told in Saturday's despatches. We must prepare ourselves for an appalling casualty list as a result of the great crisis through which our men are so gallantly passing. The heroic discharge of duty must always in war be accompanied by its awful tale of wounding and death.

That the recruiting results in the Old Country have been most satisfactory, and gratifying is the official testimony of the War Office. The volunteer system has stood the test and has produced the finest army in the history of the Empire.

The Financial Post of Canada makes the startling statement that "in one case alone a Canadian manufacturer paid to a go-between heeler over \$75,000 before he was able to get an order for goods in urgent demand. This amount was added to the cost to the Government." Every day it is becoming still more apparent that only the fringe of the war graft was touched in the Public Accounts Committee.

The loyalty cry by the bad-boot brigade recalls, to the Toronto Globe, the story of a man suddenly asked to say a few words at the burial of a gambler shot by the Vigilance Committee in a western mining town. With earnestness he said: "It is true that Bill stacked the cards. And he often played it low down on the boys. But his heart always beat true to his native country."

If polling day in the proposed June election should come in the midst of a battle, such as the Canadians have been passing through the past few days at Ypres, we presume the Germans would conveniently stop the battle to permit our soldiers to go to headquarters to register their votes. The more this election talk is considered in the light of events in Europe the more one doubts the sanity of the men who seriously propose it.

The late Mr. William Willett was one of those men who achieve fame by concentrating on a single idea, not too great and not too small. Mr. Willett's discovery was that in summer our average active day is a bad fit with the sun, that we sleep on through several hours of daylight and play through several hours of darkness. His remedy was not a concerted scheme for putting forward the conventional hours of work and play, but the simple and almost Napoleonic device of putting the legal clock forward an hour or two. It is unlikely that this juggling with Greenwich time would ever have been adopted as a national measure, but the wonder was the wealth of argument, economic, social, and no doubt political, that Mr. Willett was able to produce for his scheme. This is more or less characteristic of all single-idea reformers, but Mr. Willett was an exceptional master in the intensive cultivation of a very small intellectual patch.

A PRAYER IN TIME OF WAR.

[The war will change many things in art and life, and among them, it is to be hoped, many of our own ideas as to what is, and what is not, "intellectual."]

Thou, whose deep ways are in the sea, Whose footsteps are not known, Tonight a world that turned from Thee Is waiting—at Thy throne.

The towering Babels that we raised Where scoffing sophists brawl, The little Antichrists we raised— The night is on them all.

The fool hath said . . . The fool hath said And we, who deemed him wise, We who believed that Thou wast dead, How should we seek Thine eyes?

How should we seek to Thee for power Who scorned Thee yesterday? How should we kneel, in this dread hour? Lord, teach us how to pray!

Grant us the single heart, once more, That mocks no sacred thing, The sword of Truth our fathers wore When Thou wast Lord and King.

Let darkness unto darkness tell Our deep unspoken prayer, For, while our souls in darkness dwell, We know that Thou are there.

—Alfred Noyes in Daily Mail.

Other Editors' Opinions

LESS WHISKEY AND MORE CIGARS.

In many minds and in many places the trading in liquors and cigars is regarded as inseparable, and those engaged in the two branches of the trade have usually stood together in movements for the protection of their interests. Now, in the United States at all events, there are signs of a disposition to separate the two interests. The movement for prohibition has, in recent years, made remarkable progress in many portions of the United States, and in States where less drastic laws are accepted there is a constant tendency towards more effective restriction. That these movements will probably make still more progress is the opinion of many close observers. What will be the effect of these restrictions upon business generally is a question much discussed. The opinion seems to be widely held that the liquor industry would on the whole be the gainer, rather than the loser, from the suppression or restriction of the liquor traffic; but there are many lines so closely related to the liquor industry as to be much disturbed as to the effect of the expected changes upon their particular interests. One class of persons who are studying the question with close attention are those engaged in the production and sale of tobacco, and there are signs that they will break up the alliance that has hitherto existed between the two trades.

An influential American journal, the "Tobacco Leaf," devoted to the interests of tobacco growers, came out with a strong declaration that the liquor business must go and that the tobacco interest should cut the lines that hold them together. The "Leaf" has come to the conclusion that though a national prohibitory law may yet be far away, National opinion under a Federal law is now ready for a crusade against the liquor business; the "Leaf" thinks, "is not merely a spasmodic outbreak of a few fanatic reformers, but a perfectly organized and persistent campaign, the championing a popular protest," a movement which is pointing to early success. Continuing, the "Leaf" says:—

"The ultimate achievement of its ambition is, in our opinion, inevitable, and our advice to those manufacturers who have allied themselves with the liquor industry is to 'get out from under.' We would be anything but friendly to such manufacturers if we offered them anti-prohibition agitation in lieu of honest advice. The fact that the saloon business is in a bad way, and the clear man who is dependent upon it should begin right now to shift the change in his own mind. We say this not without fully appreciating that some manufacturers will find that a difficult thing to do. But by facing the situation squarely at this time, and anticipating the eventual result, they may avoid difficulties of the future that would prove far more embarrassing."

"Whether for woe or well, whether right or wrong, the saloon business is being hard pressed and every cigar manufacturer whose interests are interlocked with it might as well take the above facts into his future calculations. The tobacco interests are not willing to admit that they will suffer from this proposed break with the saloons. Indeed, it is claimed by some that one result of wide prohibition would be the spending of money on cigars and tobacco, and that the demand for the better class of these goods particularly would be increased. No doubt the majority of temperance reformers would regard such a result as a great reform. But it is not to be forgotten that in the minds of many good people the use of tobacco is hardly less sinful than the use of whiskey.—Journal of Commerce, Montreal.

THE LENGTH OF THE WAR.

Sir John French's clear and emphatic declaration that "the protraction of the war depends entirely upon the supply of men, and ammunition comes as a warning to those hasty optimists who would have Britain believe that victory is as good as won. If men and munitions are forthcoming in the vast quantities required, success may be achieved without an interminable war, but only on that vital condition. For the real trial is yet to come. The Germans still hold the greater part of Belgium, the mining districts of Northern France, and the richest of Western Poland. They must be expelled from this territory before the seige of the many can truthfully be said to be over. The fortifications of immense strength with which they have covered this occupied territory may have been achieved a road will have to be hacked to the Rhine in the face of a desperate resistance from the whole German population. The task before us in the West is thus a stupendous one and demands stupendous forces for its accomplishment. Nor has it been lightened by the serious campaign to which we are now committed in the Dardanelles—a campaign which must be prosecuted by a large army representing so much strength diverted from the French front during the critical weeks and months of this spring. On the German side the supply of men is maintained by a system which provides recruits automatically without waste of time. On the British side the Government has not yet had the courage to resort to compulsion, the one fair and certain method of getting men.—London (Eng.) Daily Mail.

Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator will drive worms from the system without injury to the child, because its action, while fully effective, is mild.

An event of interest to this town is the United Drug Co. factory on Broadview. United Drug Company the greatest co-operative concern in Canada. The fact that they "Business as Usual" is evidence of what do for the public.

Mr. J. S. McKeown is a shareholder and United Drug Company. It is through him that received the following facts. This Company is for retail druggists—none or city throughout and is a product of and brains. The big Toronto, containing feet of floor space, only five years of construction. In this factory were "Rexall Remedy" and "Harm A" full line of Rub Stationery is also a company, and it is expected articles generally to store will be added on. The owners of United Drug Company, Limited, believe

Lacrosse Tea

P. J. Lally of Co. who is putting forth to bring back lacrosse leading sport, visits wood, Havelock, and day and addressed a meeting of the school of ethics of the grand moral and physical when it is played. High and Public School organized at Havelock and junior at Marmora. Mr. Lally, a member of the O. and T. A. Coughlin Tuesday Mr. Lally, Stirling, Madoc proceeded to Peterborough and Lindsay on a bill wood Register