

The Philosopher

DRIVING NAILS IN A WOODEN HINDENBURG

A curious Teutonic craze is commented on by Professor Pazaurek, of Stuttgart, whose complaint of what he calls "the nailing nuisance," in an article in the Vossische Zeitung, of Berlin, is reproduced in the London Times. Wooden statues of legendary German figures, as well as actual generals, have been set up in scores of German cities and towns. The culmination of the craze was reached in the monstrous wooden statue of Hindenburg in Berlin. Nails are sold at a small price, to be driven into these statues, the money going to some national war fund. There are twenty-six tons of alder wood in the Hindenburg figure, and Professor Pazaurek writes that "when its ugly surface has been covered with nails, there will be thirty tons of metal stuck in it." He holds up his hands in horror at the hopeless degradation of taste manifested by this driving of nails into wooden statues. The Professor is "an eminent authority on aesthetics," which would account for his distaste of these queer figures and the queer nailing practice. That he should express himself so strongly, and that what he has written should be printed in the Vossische Zeitung, is another one of the queer things in Germany.

REAL "MAKERS OF CANADA"

One of the most interesting books which has come to The Philosopher's table in a long time tells the story of a little family of Scotch immigrants who, ninety years ago, arrived at Toronto (known then as Muddy Little York), and settled on bush land several miles up what is now Yonge Street, a main thoroughfare of that city. Andrew Anderson was the head of the family and in his party was an orphan boy named Gordon Sellar, whose father died at Waterloo and who lost his mother through fever soon after his arrival in the Canadian bush. This lad grew to have a son, Robert Anderson, well known as the founder and editor of the *Huntington Gleaner*, one of the most notable papers in Eastern Canada. Mr. Anderson was accompanied by his grandmother who was exceedingly deaf. When the ship had grounded on a sand bank off Newfoundland, the deaf grandmother said, "We are sooner in Canada than I expectit." "This is not Quebec," shouted her son in her ear, "We are aground." "Aweel," she replied, "I will cling to the rock of ma salvation." This atmosphere of homely and sturdy piety is found throughout all the story. These pioneers of Ontario found the land speculator flourishing. Every effort was made to compel Andrew Anderson to buy from some

of the gentry of the Family Compact who had divided up great areas of the best lands among themselves. Fortunately, he fell in with a Quaker, who helped him to secure a suitable location. Like the other pioneers, he and his family built a log cabin, secured the land, burnt their timber, planted potatoes in their first clearing and made maple sugar in the spring. The cold of the first winter in the bush was almost as overpowering as the summer heat. Mrs. Auld, one of their neighbors, said, "If the heat and cold were carded through ane anither, Canada would have a gran' climate." Gordon Sellar married one of Mr. Anderson's daughters. To his grand-daughter who took down from his dictation the narrative given in this book, he said in his old age, "Ah, my dear lassie, do not think that love is a brief fever of youth, a transient emotion that fades before the realities of wedded life like the glow from the clouded morn." One of Andrew Anderson's boys, Archie, was a great chopper down of trees and in chopping he would sing "Scots Wha Hae." On coming to the line "Liberty's in every blow," Archie gave a special and vigorous swing to his axe. He became the first schoolmaster of the district and met his first class without books, black-board or pencils. The book is named "The Real Makers of Canada." Truly it is a just and well deserved title. Who may more fitly be termed "Makers of Canada" than the pioneers, whether in the bush of Old Canada or on prairies of the New?

REVELATIONS OF GERMAN SOLDIERS' DIARIES

When Germany began the war, Section 75 of the Instructions for Campaign Service, issued by the General Staff, required every officer and every man in the ranks as well, to keep a diary. For that purpose notebooks were issued as part of the equipment of every man wearing the Kaiser's uniform. Many thousands of these notebooks, taken from dead German soldiers, from the wounded, and from prisoners, are preserved in Paris, where they are catalogued and indexed. It was not foreseen by the General Staff that in many cases German soldiers would jot down in their diaries, in addition to the record of miles marched and so forth, something that would stand as evidence of the policy of deliberate "frightfulness" which was part of the Germans' plans in the invasion of Belgium and France. The unexpected vigor of the resistance the German legions met with made their "frightfulness" unbounded. Proof unanswerable of the atrocities is furnished by the German soldiers' diaries—proof so unanswerable that the German General Staff, before the war was half a year old,

had abolished Section 75 of its Instructions for Campaign Service. The soldiers' diaries were altogether too revealing. In thousands of cases they reveal the atrocities committed in obedience to their officers' orders by German soldiers. Mr. Arthur Gleason, who has done such memorable service in France for the Red Cross, has examined great numbers of these diaries, and given extracts from them, which show that, as Mr. Gleason writes, "the German soldier is a child, which means that he is by turns cruel, sentimental, forgetful of the evil he has done the moment before, happy in the present moment, eating enormously, pleased with little things, crying over a letter from home, weary of the war, with sore feet and a rebellious stomach, and a heavy pack and no cigars. I am basing every statement I make on the statements written by German soldiers. It is curious the way they have set down their own infamy. There is all the naivete of a primitive people. Once in Africa a black man came to where a friend of mine was sitting. He was happily chopping away with his knife at a human skull which he wore suspended from his neck. He was as innocent in the act as a child jabbing a pumpkin with his jackknife. So it has been with the Germans. They burn, plunder, murder, with a lighthearted, almost gleeful, enjoyment."

BRITISH WOMEN AND THE VOTE

Statistics just issued by the British Government show that the women of Great Britain are undeniably doing their full share in the war. They have formed a great reinforcing army in the principal of trades, and have already saved the industrial situation. The admirable manner in which the women of the United Kingdom are thus responding to the call of duty is, according to all the political signs of the times, certain to be repaid with the vote, as a matter of right. In reply to a memorial signed not only by members of woman suffrage organizations but by leading trades unionists, Premier Asquith has given an undertaking that the claims of women to the vote will be fully and impartially weighed when it becomes necessary for legislation to be framed dealing with the parliamentary franchise. Many people in Great Britain who before the war were indifferent, or hostile to woman suffrage, are now strongly in favor of it. It is interesting and important, in this connection, that there is a movement on foot in Great Britain to give votes to all enlisted men. It is thus more than probable that the coming British franchise bill will be one of manhood and womanhood suffrage.

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WARNING TO THE FARMERS FROM McBEAN BROS.

Last year the farmers of the three Western Provinces sold freely of their grain at the beginning of the shipping season at unnecessarily low prices for October delivery, resulting in very heavy losses to some farmers owing to weather conditions interfering with the delivery in time to fill their contracts. We want to warn the farmers in contracting ahead this year, and especially at this early date, as this crop is not yet assured, but even if we do grow as big a crop as last year, the conditions governing the grain crops all over the world warrant higher prices to-day than at any time since the war began.

We estimate the devastation in the countries at war will be a great deal more than the countries at peace can possibly make up, and combine this with three hundred million bushels less grown in the United States than last year, will make a very bullish situation. Figure as we will, we cannot see how prices can be any lower for this crop season, and could easily go very much higher, and any deterioration in our crop between now and harvest would make the situation stronger than ever, and we would urge all farmers who have grain to sell this year to sit down and wait till their crop is harvested, and not to be in any hurry selling. Just take your time in shipping your grain forward, and do not rush it to market and accept any price that may be offered, as last year large quantities of our wheat were sold below 90c, Fort William, and from this point never stopped advancing until it reached over \$1.25. We will have rapid fluctuations from 5c to 10c per bushel, but our calculations are that every bushel of wheat that we can grow in these three Western Provinces this year, no matter if the crop pans out as big as last year, should be worth at least \$1.25 per bushel for basis No. 1 Northern and 50c basis No. 2 C. W. Oats in store Fort William, and if when you deliver your grain these prices or about are not obtainable, ship your grain to Port Arthur or Fort William, and if you require money get your advances from your agent and hold until you can get the proper price.

You have the situation in hand—take advantage of it this year and every year—get into the habit of shipping your own grain, and get everything that is in it, less the one cent commission on wheat, barley and flax and five-eighths of a cent on oats. Don't sell a bushel of grain on track; wait until you get your returns back from Fort William or Port Arthur.

If the advice we have been giving you during the past year has been any benefit to you we would like you to reciprocate by shipping to us a share of your grain. We make big advances on each car load of grain if you require it and look carefully after the grading.

McBEAN BROS., GRAIN EXCHANGE

July 24, 1916.