

Journal of Commerce

Published Daily by The Journal of Commerce Publishing Company, Limited, 35-45 St. Alexander Street, Montreal, Telephone Main 2662.

Subscription price, \$2.00 per annum. Single Copies, One Cent. Advertising rates on application.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1915.

Sir Lomer Gouin's Appeal to Ontario

Sir Lomer Gouin's appeal, in his speech in the Quebec House on Monday, to the Legislature and people of Ontario to be both just and generous to the French minority in that Province, was in the best possible spirit, and much more likely than some other utterances that have appeared to produce good results.

In this eloquent passage we have the finest spirit of true Canadianism. Canada is a country inhabited by peoples of different races and different creeds. It is a land where above nearly everything else, we need toleration and broad-mindedness.

Colonel Seely

The cable reports say that Colonel Seely, M.P., now at the front with his regiment, is likely to succeed the late Percy Willingworth as Liberal Whip in the British House of Commons. Colonel Seely is a gallant soldier, as capable and popular as the reports say, but the correspondent has perhaps overlooked an important point.

Newspaper Men at the Front

Journalists and men of letters are doing their full share in fighting the battles of the Empire. From Canada there has been a generous representation of newspaper men enlist for service, while in Great Britain 420 newspaper men are already on the firing line.

Newspapers have suffered severely from the war. One Belgian newspaper is now being published in London, while every newspaper formerly published in Brussels, Antwerp, Liege, Namur, Mous, Charleroi, Tournai, etc., has been suspended.

Just previous to the fall of Antwerp the De Nieuwe Gans of that city published the following headed "To the British Nation."

"We men of the press, representing so many different philosophical and political opinions and ideals, molded actually together in the same glowing patriotism, have assembled and fraternized on different occasions, but always in the full daylight of peace, with the best and foremost of your press. Who at the time of those brilliant convivial gatherings could have imagined that you, our blessed friends, would so soon be called upon to change into deeds the prom-

ises of support and protection tendered by the authorized voices of public opinion?

"And even if somebody having the gift of second sight had seen the clouds gather in the East, which would sow death and destruction over the whole of Western Europe, could even he have represented to himself an atom of the treasures which your soul and afterward your generous hands would strew, to do honor to the word of your statesmen and of our beloved brethren of your press, in order to alleviate the unpeakable, unclassified, and unmerited need which has befallen our poor people?"

Immigration into the United States for the first four months of the war amounted to but 127,000, as compared with 505,000 for the corresponding four months of 1913. The immigrants' turn will come when the fighting ceases in Europe.

During the year which has just closed, twenty-two railroads in the United States, with a total mileage of 4,225, went into the hands of the receivers. Their funded debt aggregated \$177,250,000, and the outstanding stock \$62,321,000. The total value of railroad securities now in the hands of receivers in the United States is \$1,200,000,000. That rate increase did not come any too soon.

Last year Canada proved her own best customer for municipal bonds with purchases of \$24,483,000. Great Britain came second with \$23,347,000, and the United States third with \$12,303,000. The indications are that the United States will now become the largest purchaser of Canadian municipals.

The total tonnage of ships launched in Great Britain last year with that of the warships for the past five months partly estimated, is about 1,740,000 tons, or 200,000 tons less than in 1913. It is just possible that if the actual tonnage of the warships were known that the figures for 1914 would equal those of 1913, but the Admiralty will not make public the tonnage of the warships which they are building. It is safe to say, however, that Great Britain is building three warships to Germany's one.

A short time ago two important German papers, the North German Gazette and the Kreuz Zeitung, were confiscated because they published certain resolutions on economic subjects which had been passed by the Chamber of Agriculture of the Province of Brandenburg. These resolutions took recognition of Germany's shortage of raw materials and foodstuffs. So frank and fearless were the resolutions that the Government confiscated the papers which published them. Evidently Germany is commencing to feel economic pressure.

Dr. Dernburg, the German propagandist, has been put to rout by a student when addressing the men of Amherst College. After emphasizing the military necessity of invading Belgium, he emphatically declared that Germany had offered to indemnify Belgium for any damage caused by her army marching through her territory, and also that Germany had assured Belgium that her independence would be undisturbed. After making these statements with a good deal of emphasis, Dr. Dernburg had his case irrevocably punctured by a student asking him the following question:—You say that Germany promised to indemnify Belgium, and also to leave her independence undisturbed. But how did Belgium know that Germany would keep her promise? Dr. Dernburg was unable to answer the question. He colored, stammered and then sat down. Of course, we all know that Germany does not keep her word, and that treaties and solemn obligations mean so little to her that she regards them as "scraps of paper."

IMPROVING COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

It is generally believed that social conditions in the country are responsible for the great trek cityward, and yet social conditions are better than they were twenty or even ten years ago. Better? Yes. Nearly every progressive district has its rural telephone system; rural free mail delivery is rapidly covering the country; mail-order departments in big stores bring over it and by mail, and the winters are spent doing chores and household duties and chatting around the home fireside. There was much more call to the village and to the neighbors a few years ago than today. Start now to improve the spirit and the social conditions of the community by visiting, not to gossip, but to have a real good, profitable time together. The interest would soon grow until the community would be noted for its good fellowship and progress, and, better yet, the desire to leave the old farm would not be so strong.—Farmer's Advocate.

FEWEST BATTLES IN DECEMBER.

December is the least belligerent month in the calendar. A correspondent who has analyzed the dates of over 1,000 battles of the world, from Marathon to Mons, finds that fewer than fifty of them were fought in December, and these few were among the least important and decisive. Scarcely one of them would be known to the proverbial schoolboy. On the other hand, July, as is only fitting, seeing that it is named after a soldier, is the most belligerent, with 132 great battles to its credit or otherwise, and is closely followed by August with 122.—Westminster Gazette.

BATTLESHIP STILL SUPREME.

The British have gained their naval successes almost entirely by gun fire, the Germans by mines and submarines. The results thus far do not indicate that the effectiveness of the latter type is as yet at all in proportion to the effect of the imagination of laymen. Although employed under the most favorable conditions in this war, its distinctiveness has fallen far short of the claims of enthusiasts, and the primacy of the battleship is still to be shaken.—Chicago Tribune.

AUTOMOBILE COST ON FARMS.

Costs of keeping an automobile on the farm are figured out in detail by a correspondent of Farm and Fireside. The total cash outlay for a year on an automobile that costs \$250 was \$12.50. The biggest single item of \$44.58 went for gasoline to the amount of 269 gallons. The next largest item was for engine repairs. These expenses do not include housing or depreciation, but practically every other item. The average farm automobile has a fairly severe test because of its being used in all kinds of roads and all kinds of weather.

1915.

Canadian business has entered the new year with a good deal of confidence. The past five months are not new conditions, unprecedented in the world's history, and it took some time to make the necessary adjustment. But this has now taken place. The various stages of fright, fear, stand-pat policy and drastic curtailment have given way to confidence—and the resolve to make 1915 the biggest year in the history of the country. The basic wealth of the country has been unimpaired by the war. In spite of the short crop the agricultural interests have received practically as much return as in former years, owing to the higher market prices for grain and other products. The exports of products of the mine show little falling off. Those of animals and their produce show a large increase over the previous year. Those of forest products have held steady, while the demand for pulp and paper has increased greatly. Industrials have maintained a good level and in those trades catering to the needs of the militia there has been better times during the past four months than for years. The trouble is chiefly in procuring finances, but that market shows vast improvement over a few months ago, and the difficulty in that direction is greatly lessened. Canadian business conditions are quite different from those of the United States.

In the textile trades conditions are far from discouraging. The woolen and knitting branches begin the year under an urgent demand operating to full capacity. This demand is only commencing and will continue as long as the war lasts. The same applies to the cutting-up trades which are busier now than has been the case for months. The cotton mills are operating to fair capacity. War contracts are not so heavy as in the case of the other branches, but a fair quota have been received which along with ordinary business are keeping the mills active. Prospects are good for a fair season, reports from various sources indicating this, so that the industry enters the new year with a good deal of encouragement.

Let the motto for 1915 be "Better Business Than Good" and may the textile trades radiate their prosperity. We take this opportunity to wish all our readers a most prosperous 1915.—Canadian Textile Journal.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Customer (to grocer)—"What price is your sugar?" Grocer—"Eightpence a pound, madam." Customer—"Don't you think you ought to be at the front?" Grocer (surprised)—"Me? Why?" Customer—"Because your charges are so heavy."

A new constable was on duty at a London police-court, and was conducting an old-timer to the cells. "Mind the step!" he said as they came to a dark corner. "All right," answered the prisoner. "Don't you be so bloomin' anxious. I knew that step years before you were born."

A tradesman one day put a box outside his window labelled "For the Blind." Most of his customers stopped and put a copper in. A few weeks afterwards the box disappeared. "What's happened to your box with contributions for the blind?" he was asked. "Oh," said he, pointing to a new canvas blind over the shop-front. "I got enough money after a bit, so I bought the blind."

At a New York "Mum Sociable" the other night, all artifices, plans, dodges, subterfuges, and tricks resorted to by the ladies to make a certain young man speak failed—all but one. He offered to forfeit five dollars "for the good of the cause" if they could induce him to speak a word within half an hour. The time had nearly expired, when a young lady stole up behind him, and in a masculine voice whispered, "Bill, let's go out and get some whiskey!" "All right," and then he checked himself; but it was too late.

MASSINGER ON WAR.

(Philip Massinger: "A New Way to Pay Old Debts.") If'er my son Follow the war, tell him it is a school, Where all the principal ending to honor Are taught, if truly follow'd; but for such As repair thither, as a place in which They do presume they may with license practise Their lusts and riots, they shall never merit The noble name of soldiers. To dare boldly In a fair cause, and, for their country's safety, To run upon the cannon's mouth undaunted; To obey their leaders, and shun mutinies; To bear with patience the winter's cold; And summer's scorching heat, and not to faint, When plenty of provisions fails, with hunger; Are the essential parts make up a soldier Not swearing, dice, or drinking.

THE GIRLDE OF FRIENDSHIP.

She gathered at her slender waist The beautiful robes she wore, Its folds of golden belt embraced, One rose-hued gem it bore. The girldle shrank, its lessening round Still kept the shining gem, But now her flowing locks it bound, A lustrious diadem.

And narrower still the circlet grew: Behold! a glittering band; Its roseate diamond set a-new, Her necks white column spanned.

Suns rise and set; the straining clasp The shortened links resist, Yet flashes in a bracelet's grasp, The diamonds, on her wrist.

At length, the round of changes past, The thieving years could bring, The jewel glittering to the last, Still sparkles in a ring.

So link by link, our friendships part, So loosen, break, and fall, A narrowing zone, the loving heart, Lives changeless through them all.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

CORRESPONDENCE

PRICES OF WHEAT AND FLOUR. Montreal, January 14th, 1915. Editor, Journal of Commerce.

Dear Sir:—In your issue of Tuesday last you had a long article on the wheat and flour price situation commencing the millers of this country on their actions regarding the raising of the price of flour since the outbreak of war. While I do not object to the millers making fair profits, as they seem to have done in the past, I cannot help thinking that they have been too ready to take advantage of the abnormal conditions prevailing during the past five months by making advances in the price of their products.

In the article in question you say that "the advance in Winnipeg wheat since August has amounted to 45 cents per bushel, which is equal to an advance of \$2.10 per barrel in flour, when correctly proportioned out, while flour itself has only been advanced a little over two-thirds the advance in wheat, or in all \$1.60 per barrel." On the face of it the above appears very commendable, but there are many considerations that must be given attention before the millers can justify their actions.

The milling interests in Canada are the largest operators in wheat in the country. Their holding facilities are enormous and widespread. There is every indication that the milling concerns operated heavily—more so than usual—on last year's crop and trade returns and reports show that Canadian wheat is being held in large quantity within the country, presumably by the millers. This, I think, can be easily corroborated. This wheat was purchased at considerably lower values than are at present prevailing and it is from this wheat that the millers are drawing their supply for consumption in their mills at this time. That is, they are milling wheat bought months ago at a normal figure and selling the flour at a price in fair ratio to the present values of wheat.

You point out that the advance in flour has been lower than justified but, without going into the question thoroughly, I would say that an advance of \$1.60 per barrel on flour over the prices prevailing last August would pretty nearly cover the advance in wheat since that time, including the recent advance. If this is so, and I would like to see it proved otherwise, I cannot see where or how the millers are justified in selling flour for immediate delivery and home consumption, at prices adjusted to present wheat values. You point out that bread prices have remained stationary. On the other hand there was an advance of 1 cent per loaf some months ago which equalized the extra cost of flour and handling of the bread to the baker. Most of the large and even small contracts in November and December for supplies during 1915 and therefore find that the advance of 1 cent per loaf is sufficient so far as flour is concerned. Other features such as cost of delivery may compel bakers to make a further small advance, but so far as flour is concerned the present advance bakes them little. It is the home baker and small baker that suffers. Is the miller case not analogous? Has he any more right to advance flour prices on immediate delivery flour any more than the baker has to advance bread prices? The miller will have a hard time excusing his competition in the market. That is worn out. But I would like to have some opinion from them on the present situation.

Thanking you in anticipation that this will find space in your valued paper. I am, yours very truly, READER.

Pittsburgh wire mills have received orders for 275,000 miles of plain and barbed wire from warring nations, worth \$1,000,000.

The Day's Best Editorial

FARM INCOMES. According to an investigation by the Department of Agriculture, the average income of the farmers of this country is less than that of a laboring man. This apparently corroborates the Department's statement of a year or more ago, that more than half our farmers had incomes of less than \$500 a year.

It is distressing to think that half of the six million farmers who feed the country must receive such a pitiful return for toil that knows no union hours. It is even worse, because this income represents not the work of one man, but the whole family. The small return means poverty of a kind that keeps children out of school to work in the fields. Thus poverty and bad farming perpetuate themselves.

But the remedy is not to put up the price and make the consumer pay more for food. Farming is a business as much as banking; neither can be conducted successfully by brute force. Barring misfortunes, the man who does not make average wages at farming may make a good farm laborer, but he is not a farmer, even though he tills the soil.

Too many so-called farmers do not have any system of cost accounting. They do not know what a crop costs them. They do not see the necessity of a soil analysis to tell them what the soil needs. Tell such a man that his soil is teeming with bacteria that were designed to work for him if he would make it possible, and he wouldn't even ask you what bacteria were. Such a man never knows whether any one cow in his herd is making money for him, or is merely a free and expensive boarder.

The man who does not farm with his head might as well cut his head off. Unfortunately, society cannot do that for him. But it can teach the farmers, and the farmers' boys, that there is wealth in the soil for him who knows how to extract it. The country's biggest business boom is still before it. It is based on an educated, scientific cultivation of the soil, that will give the farmers ample returns for their efforts, with brains as the best fertilizer.—Wall Street Journal.

Advertisement for The Journal of Commerce, including a coupon for a subscription and contact information for the publisher.

Imperial Bank of Canada advertisement, listing capital, reserve fund, and branch locations.

AN EPOCH. As long as the printed page endures and history is read, the year 1914 will be regarded as an epoch. War overshadows all else to-day, war such as the world never knew before, with its millions arrayed on battle lines hundreds of miles in length, fighting with weapons heretofore unknown.

GRAFTING? Although there may be much hoodlum or swindling going on in the granting of the contracts for army supplies in this country, there is a good deal of graft. When blanket orders are given to a firm that has no facilities for manufacturing a pair of blankets and that firm clears fifty cents a pair on the transaction by sub-letting the contracts to woolen manufacturing concerns that had already tendered to the Government on the contracts, it looks like loose work some place. Petty politics should be left out of the question during this crisis, but it is a quite acknowledged fact that the material for a number of good-sized scandals in the present Administration will be used to good advantage when the proper time arrives, is brewing. This instance is just one of many that should receive organized attention from the textile trades in Canada.—Canadian Textile Journal.

CO-OPERATION IN THE WEST. To-day the co-operative movement has become so firmly established and has assumed such proportions that manufacturers recognize the farmers' organizations as among their largest and best customers, and instead of paying tribute to unnecessary middlemen the farmers are receiving supplies direct from the factory and the mine and saving considerable sums of money by so doing. Farmers who are taking advantage of co-operation are thus receiving a larger return for their labor than their neighbors who are sticking to the old individualism. When the Grain Growers get in a carload of coal at \$7 a ton, while the private coal yard is charging \$9, it means that a given quantity of grain can be exchanged by the co-operative farmer for nine tons of coal while the farmer who does not believe in co-operation gets only seven tons for the price of the same amount and quality of grain.—Grain Growers' Guide.

WOOL PRODUCTION IN 1914. The production of wool in the United States in 1914 is estimated by the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the Department of Agriculture as about 1 1/2 per cent less than in 1913. This is the first estimate of wool production made by the Department of Agriculture. The National Association of Wool Manufacturers estimated the production in 1913, excluding pulled wool as 252,675,300 pounds. Accepting these figures for 1913, it is estimated, by comparison, that the production in 1914 is about 247,192,000 pounds, excluding pulled wool. The production of pulled wool is estimated as about 43,000,000 pounds, as compared with 43,500,000 in 1913.

BELIEFS AND OPINIONS. For good or ill, or a mixture of good and ill, the world is ruled and regulated by thought and belief. The possessing powers are quite clear and determinate in their own beliefs and opinions, and in books and press and otherwise they spread and cultivate their ruling beliefs and opinions as carefully and persistently as they organize armies and navies. The mistake of democracy is that it does not organize a counter thought-force of its own, and live up to it. It does not keep its mind up to the needed strength. So it is either defeated or swept into dejection at times of crisis.—British Columbia Federationist.

WHAT WAR COSTS AFTER IT IS OVER. The costliest thing on earth is war. The account runs on so long! The War of the American Revolution closed in 1783—the last pensioned soldier of that war died in 1889. The last soldier of the War of 1812 died in 1905. Of the Civil War there are 429,354 pensioners living, and the amount paid in pensions last year was over \$172,000,000.—Southern Lumberman.

REPORTS OF LARGE SALES OF COPPER

Induced Strength in These Securities Today on the New York Stock Exchange RUBBER ISSUES ADVANCE

Opinion Expressed that Chief Cause of Hestitancy in the Market is Uncertainty Over Prospects of Seizure of Former Hamburg-American Liner. (Exclusive Leased Wire to Journal of Commerce) New York, January 14.—There was moderate activity at the opening of the stock market, but changes were unimportant. Attendance in commission houses was fair.

New York, January 14.—Towards the end of first hour the stock market became very dull, there were no notable changes in prices, although of opportunity on the bull side tended to make some issues were strong. Goodrich advanced 1/8, a new high for the present movement, and United States Rubber selling up 1/8 to 58 1/2. It was said that the Goodrich Company, which had advanced 5 per cent, on the common stock last week, if present prospects are fulfilled, do much in 1915.

In some places the opinion was expressed that chief cause of the present hesitation in the market was uncertainty as to the outcome of the international questions which would be raised if Great Britain ed the Dacia, the former Hamburg-American, which has been transferred to American registration.

MONTREAL MINING EXCHANGE

Table listing various mining stocks and their prices, including Cobalt Stocks, Percupine Stocks, and others.

SCHOOL BONDS GO AT 103.30. Passaic, N.J., January 14.—An issue of \$269,000 4 per cent, thirty-year school bonds was sold by the City Commissioners to Clark, Dodge & Co., of New York, for 103.30, an exceptionally high figure considering European conditions. This is the best price ever have brought anywhere in New Jersey since the war broke out. There were ten bids. Rhoades & Co. and Redmond & Co. joint bidders, offered 102.64. The money will be used in the construction of Public School No. 12, which has been delayed because of previous inability to sell the bonds. LIVERPOOL COTTON STEADY. Liverpool, January 14.—Cotton futures closed steady 3 1/2 points off. May-June, 4.62 1/2; July-Aug., 4.63 1/2; Oct.-Nov., 4.78 1/2; Jan.-Feb., 4.88.