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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1915.

Penny Postage.

The war has extended the benefits of the penny post in some directions, though in Canada, under the War Budget, the operations of the system are to be materially restricted. Prior to the time of Sir William Mulock as Postmaster General, the prevailing idea in Ottawa official circles was that penny postage was an expensive luxury which Canada could not afford. Postmasters General and Finance Ministers took this view of the question. Sir William Mulock, with the support of his colleague the Finance Minister, took the opposite view, and his policy of penny postage became a great success, not only as respects the convenience of the public, but even from a revenue standpoint. The new system led to a great increase of correspondence, and the revenue account prospered accordingly. That it is now deemed necessary to increase the Canadian postage rates must be regretted by those who regard such increase as unavoidable. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in the discussion yesterday, suggested that, instead of requiring two stamps, one the ordinary stamp and one a special stamp, a three cent stamp should be provided, and the Finance Minister has promised to take the suggestion into consideration. The adoption of the three cent stamp, while not in any way affecting the tax, would certainly be a convenience to the public. Meanwhile, if we in Canada have to turn backward for a while in our policy of cheap postage, it is pleasing to know that in some other directions the war is adding the penny postage cause. The British Post Office has given notice that letters for the territories named below will now be accepted for transmission at the imperial rate of 1d. per ounce: Samoa, New Guinea (except Dutch New Guinea), Bismarck Archipelago (comprising New Britain, New Hanover, Admiralty Islands, etc.), the island of Nauru in the Marshall Islands, the islands of Bougainville and Buka in the Solomon Islands, the districts of Lomelal, Misalohe, Kete-Kraich, and the part of the Mangu-Yendi District forming the Dagomba country in Togoland, Basrah and Koweik. These places were German Colonies when the war commenced. They are now under the flag of Britain.

Concerning An Election.

Again the Ottawa correspondents are busy with speculations respecting the holding of an early general election, and the rumors seem to be taken more seriously than those of an earlier date. It would appear that, while undoubtedly the moderate men of both sides see the wisdom of an election contest at this time, there are men who think the time favorable for the success of their respective parties. Some Conservative members, including it is alleged, several Ministers, hold that in an early election the war conditions would carry everything else, and the war spirit would carry the government of the day to victory. On the other hand, some Liberals, especially those from the West, argue that the Government's management of the war business has caused widespread discontent, and that the business depression of the time and the new taxes just imposed make the situation a favorable one for the Opposition.

It is not necessary to inquire into the accuracy of either of these contentions. What is important is that on both sides the question is being considered from the viewpoint, not of what is best for the country, but what is most likely to benefit one party or the other. One cannot expect party leaders to be indifferent to party interests. But there are times when such interests should be subordinated to others of higher importance. The present is clearly such a time. On both sides, party zeal may lead people to forget that on a question of this nature there is a power to be reckoned with that is not found on either side of the House of Commons.

In this age of democracy, there is a tendency to treat the power of the Crown as to a large extent, merely nominal. In the ordinary routine of government business, some reason may be found for this view. While the Governor-General, as the representative of the Sovereign, has in all public matters a right to have his opinions considered and respected, he would not in the ordinary everyday affairs of the country be expected to vigorously assert his views against those of his Ministers. But there are a few things in which it is not only his right, but his duty, to have and to hold and firmly insist upon his own views. One of these exceptional questions is a proposed dissolution of Parliament. It is quite a mistake to suppose, as some people do, that on such a question the Governor-General is constitutionally bound to accept the advice of his Ministers, as he would on the question of the appointment of a tide-waiter.

The prerogative of dissolution is one of the highest belonging to the Crown, and it is to be exercised—to be used or refused—not for the benefit of one party or the other, but for the best interests of the people. It is that view which one may confidently believe will be taken by His Royal Highness the Governor-General, if the question of a dissolution of Parliament is ever presented to him while the war is in progress. In a former article we ventured to set forth the conditions under which a dissolution may properly be advised and granted. They may be summed up in the statement that in a situation like the present one, when on the main question of the time all parties are cordially united, there is no ground for a dissolution. Not one of the conditions which would justify a dissolution has arisen. There has been no division in public opinion or in Parliament respecting the propriety of Canada doing her part in the supplying of men and money to perform her part in the Empire's war. The rival political parties, while differing in many things, vie with one another in the expression of a desire that Canada shall co-operate with the mother country in the

prosecution of the war. On what, under the circumstances are subordinate questions concerning the most convenient means of raising the funds required, there has been criticism, the merits or demerits of which may well be left for the consideration of the people in due course. But on the material question of giving the Government of the day all the appropriations it has asked for the carrying on of the war, there is no division whatever. This being the case, there is not in the political situation of the time a shadow of excuse for a general election, the holding of which would inevitably plunge the country into a severe party conflict.

One may best understand how unjustifiable a dissolution would be by a little consideration of what is occurring in England. What would be thought if Mr. Asquith, in the midst of the war, and while he is fully equipped by Parliament with all the money and power he requires for the prosecution of the war, should propose to bring on a general election in advance of the time within which the law requires it? Such a movement would be denounced by all patriotic Englishmen as a wanton attempt to use the war conditions for party purposes. It is inconceivable that the British Prime Minister would make such a proposal. It is morally sure that if he did make it, his course would be condemned by all independent public opinion. It is no less morally sure that the King, in the exercise of his right and duty, would refuse to allow Parliament to be dissolved in such circumstances. And what would be the duty of His Majesty in London would, one may be sure, under similar conditions prevailing here, be regarded as a duty by His Majesty's representative in Canada, the Duke of Connaught. Those who, on one side or the other of our Canadian politics talk so freely of the desirability of a general election at this time would do well to ponder over these things.

The Mexicans are almost as uncivilized as the Germans. They are now laying tribute on the foreigners in Mexico.

It is sometimes said that the French language contains no word which is the exact equivalent of the English word "home." Now somebody has observed that the German language has no word which is the precise equivalent of the English word "gentleman"; and an English lady who has returned from Germany after a painful experience remarks, "I was not surprised to discover that German gentlemen do not exist." But they did exist before the war, and may they not be discovered again?

The revolt among the troops at Singapore was the cause of much anxiety in England, for disquiet in any portion of the army at this time would be a very serious matter. It is gratifying to have official assurances that the outbreak was due to no hostility to British rule, but entirely to internal feud and jealousy in connection with promotions. This information was strongly confirmed by Lord Crewe in the House of Lords, in reply to the inquiries of Lord Lansdowne.

In the Legislature of Manitoba a few days ago an incident occurred to remind everybody of the mixed character of the population of Manitoba. The Opposition leader, Mr. Norris, had made reference to the Government, in a certain matter, operating "under an alias." Thereupon one of the Ministers declared that Mr. Norris himself had in the last election campaign operated "under an alias," and in proof of the accusation he produced a portrait of Mr. Norris, published in a Ruthelian newspaper, with the name of the subject given as "T. C. Hoppie." The picture was beyond doubt, that of himself, but from the name placed below it, the fact was plain that for some reason that gentleman had passed under an assumed name. Sometimes the case that seems to be absolutely conclusive in one direction melts away in the presence of a simple explanation. In this instance it appeared that the Ruthelian editor, in publishing the portrait of his friend, had translated Norris into Ruthelian, when the name became Hoppie. Curtain!

AUTOMOBILES AND INCOMES.

There are 23,561 single women who pay an income tax, but only 6,882 married women, while there are 55,212 bachelors on the income tax rolls as against 272,153 married men. Altogether, 352,598 persons in the United States pay a tax on their incomes. Of persons who receive moderate incomes, say from \$2,500 to \$5,000, there are in the entire country only 19,374. Yet, as a contemporary points out, there are 1,300,000 automobiles in the United States. Most of these cars, it would appear, must be owned by those who are not on the income tax list.—Outlook.

THE WIFE'S ALLOWANCE.

The abysmal ignorance of a great majority of married American women concerning the simplest facts and forms of business is amazing and pathetic. Before showing a high-school girl a cookbook and teaching her how to make a pie we would show her a checkbook and teach her how to make a deposit. You have insured your life, we trust, in favor of your wife; but have you explained to her what she should do with the money if it should fall into her hands—what sort of investments to make; with whom to consult; how to check up a bank passbook? The best beginning for such an education is to give your wife—at once—a fixed allowance, whatever portion of the family income reasonably belongs to her for her personal use. There is no more reason that a wife should ask her husband whether she may have two dollars with which to buy a pair of gloves than there is that he should ask her whether she will please see that the beds are made and the dinner cooked. If a wife cannot handle her own pin money intelligently, what is the use of leaving her life insurance?—Saturday Evening Post.

CASTING BREAD UPON THE WATERS.

Some years ago a member of the British Parliament declared, in the course of a discussion in the House of Commons, that the Chinese conscience was a mystery to the western world. However that may be, it is certain that they have most surprising memories, and they do not forget a kindness. "One of the biggest assets that the United States has, in the Far East," says Edward H. Foot, who has recently returned from Shanghai after several years of business activity there, "is the good will of the Chinese nation from the two most generous acts in our relations with the Orient. "One of these was the contributions of food made at the time of the Great Famine of 1912, and the other is the return of the Boxer indemnity of \$10,787,276. By the former act the starving Chinese saw that among all the nations whose armies had invaded their land and vanquished their soldiers, only one came forward in the famine that followed the war and brought food to save the people from death by starvation. The American merchant is welcomed among the masses of the Chinese as no other white race is because of that very act of magnanimity."—Wall Street Journal.

THE NEED OF EDUCATION.

There are probably 100,000 boys and girls from 11 to 16 years of age, who, every year, enter some trade, such as manufacturing, agriculture, mining or transportation. Our present general scheme of education is not for these masses, but for the masses, and from every source of information we learn that the old apprentice has passed, so now education must take its place—R. H. B. Fairbairn, President, Ontario Technical Education Association, at 1915 Annual Meeting of Commission of Conservation.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN"

Mrs. Waring—What language do the Belgians use, Paul?
 Mr. Waring—I don't know, but I know what language I'd use if I were Belgian!—Puck.

Rather unexpected was the reply of a Mrs. Tommy Atkins to a gentleman who inquired if her husband was at the front: "Yes," she said, "an' 'ope' 'e'll serve the Germans as 'e served me.—Exchange.

Diner—See here, where are those oysters I ordered on the half-shell?
 Waiter—Don't get impatient, sah, we're drestin' short on shells; but you're next, sah!—Exchange.

Teacher—Now, children, here's an example in mental arithmetic. How old would a person be who was born in 1887?
 Pupil—Please, teacher, was it a man or a woman?
 Women's Home Companion.

Stranger (at station)—What train is this?
 Station Master—That's the 4.08 last Monday afternoon. You'll get to Pookin' at half-past 3 the day before yesterday according to the time-table.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Physician—I'm sorry, sir, but we can't quite be sure as to what is wrong with your arterial system unless we put you under the X-ray machine.
 Publisher—That's all right. I never made any secret of my circulation.—Judge.

"If you had to go to war, what position would you choose?"
 "The drummer's, I think."
 "Why so?"
 "When a charge was ordered, I'd pick up my drum and beat it!"—Boston Transcript.

sent to Patterson to write the story of the murder of a rich manufacturer by thieves. He spread himself on details and naively concluded his account with this sentence: "Fortunately for the deceased, he had deposited all of his money in the bank the day before, so he lost practically nothing but his life."—Everybody's Magazine.

Billy Sunday stopped a newsboy in Philadelphia the other day and inquired the way to the post office. "Up one block and turn to the right," said the boy. "You seem a bright little fellow," said Sunday. "Do you know who I am?" "Nope!" "I'm Billy Sunday, and if you come to my meeting to-night I'll show you the way to heaven." "Ah, go on!" answered the younger. "You didn't even know the way to the post office!"

Schmidt sued Jones for slander, alleging that Jones had called him a hippopotamus some six months before. Of this time item Jones's attorney made capital, saying scornfully: "Why, you haven't got any case, Mr. Schmidt. If your feelings were so badly hurt, why didn't you take action six months ago?"

"Oh, I know," answered Schmidt easily, "but I never saw a hippopotamus until two weeks passed all ready."—Everybody's Magazine.

A "cub" reporter on a New York newspaper was

IT'S GOOD TO BE BRITISH TO-DAY.

By J. J. M.

When you think how your country is calling,
 And getting, whenever she calls,
 When you read how they're fighting and falling—
 The best from your hamlets and halls—
 When you hark to the shock and the thunder
 Where the crosses of Europe bestrew,
 It makes you feel kind to live under
 The flag which your forefathers flew.
 When you know of the handful that's holding
 A thousand battalions at bay,
 When you know that that handful, unslumbering—
 A nation's good name in its keeping—
 To the Union ben Liden is sweeping,
 'Tis good to be British to-day.
 When you think of the men who are waging
 The war that's for you and for yours;
 When you think of the death-battle raging
 On foreign and far-away shores;
 When you hear there are legions enlisting
 From countries all over the world,
 Desiring, demanding, insisting,
 Wherever the Jack is unfurled;
 When you know for each gallant that's going,
 There's someone will sorrow and pray;
 When you know though her heart may be breaking,
 When you know though her soul may be shaking,
 No murmur of weakness she's making—
 'Tis good to be British to-day.
 When you think of the women who weep not
 Let they weaken their war-making men;
 When you think of the loved ones who sleep not,
 Not knowing the "when" or the "when";
 When you think of these things in your study,
 In your bedroom, your garden or lawn,
 When you conjure these bayonets—so bloody—
 And the death that comes up with the dawn,
 When you think of our half-famished fighters
 Knee-deep in the blood-red-dened day,
 Or the gallant mole-men in the trenches,
 Or the hasty sleep back on the benches,
 Or the shrapnel that slaughters, the lycidite that
 stanches—
 'Tis good to be British to-day.
 When you think of the heroes now shedding
 Their vigorous blood on the brine;
 When you think of the battleships threading
 The mine of the murderous mine,
 Or the challenge that summons to quarters,
 Or the water beneath the blue waters;
 The death that creeps up from the ooze;
 Or the sudden and shining torpedoes,
 That hiss like a spite from the abyss,
 When you know between you and disaster—
 A mad and unmerciful master—
 Stands a fleet that can fight—and fight faster—
 'Tis good to be British to-day.
 Victoria, B. C., January 22, 1915.

IMPERFECTIONS OF THE PRINTER'S ART.

A London publisher once determined to publish at least one book which should be faultless in the matter of errors. He had the proofs corrected by his own proofreaders with the greatest care until they had exhausted their skill and patience and assured him that there were no longer any errors to be eliminated.

Taking the duplicate proofs of the last revise, he sent them to the universities and other large publishing houses, offering large money prizes for each error discovered. A few errors on years found, and after every one had a chance to detect any additional errors, the plates were made, the book was printed, expensively bound and sold as an absolutely perfect book and unique in all literature.

For a long time this was conceded, but six or eight months after its publication a letter called the publisher's attention to an error in a certain line and page. Later a second was announced, and before the first year had elapsed four or five errors had been reported.—Exchange.

A QUAKER ON WAR.

Dr. Alfred Salter, addressing a meeting of the Socialist Quaker Society at Devonshire House, showed the relation of capitalism, foreign "spheres of influence," and war. He advocated "production for use" as an alternative to profit-making and competition for world-markets. Wars will never cease while the gains of war are present in our commercial system. The destruction of the germs, not the Germans, is the problem.—London Herald.

THE SECRET OF BRITAIN'S POWER.

England is showing no disposition to trifle in her present emergency. By the order seizing the engineering trade of the country, labor disturbers will be forced to subside or find themselves in serious trouble. Promptness to act in emergency is one of the principal secrets of Britain's power.—Buffalo Commercial.

NO COPPER—NO WAR.

This has been called a gold war; and so it is in a sense. But it is even more emphatically a copper war.

War can be waged on credit for a while, or on a silver basis, as did Japan. But cut off the supply of copper, and sooner or later nowadays a war comes automatically to an end.

This is because the red metal enters into the composition in a greater or less degree, of nearly all the munitions of war. Take for instance, projectiles for big guns. Round the base of each one of these is a band of copper, which, when the gun is fired, expands, and grips the interior rifling of the weapon, causing the projectile to rotate.

It also serves another, and a very important purpose. By its expansion at the very moment the charge ignites, the explosive gases are held in check, as it were, and forced to expend all but a tiny fraction of their energy in driving the projectile through the bore of the piece.

If, however, Germany merely wanted enough copper to enable her to make these bands for her big-gun projectiles, she could probably supply the demand within her own borders—she produces about 3,000 tons per annum—nor, at all events, she would be able to struggle in enough from professedly neutral neighbors. But there are other demands for the metal which are far more insistent, and notably that in connection with small arm ammunition, that is to say, rifle cartridges.

These are made of solid drawn brass; no other substance will do, because, all others are liable to jam in the barrel. Now ordinary brass contains three parts of copper to two of zinc, but the fine brass from which cartridges are made consists of three parts of copper to one of zinc. Experts state that thirteen tons of copper are required for a million rounds of small-arm ammunition. Consequently every cartridge contains rather less than half an ounce of copper. One has only to bear these facts in mind, and to remember also that it has been computed that on an average about thirty millions of cartridges are being fired away daily in the various theatres of the war, to realize how absolutely vital it is to Germany that her imports of copper should not be materially interfered with.—Pearsons.

The Day's Best Editorial

A UNIVERSITY AND POLITICS.

The University of Wisconsin in the liberal state government, was a larger factor in politics than any other American university ever had become. Wisconsin offered the applied professor. He was applied in agriculture, in railroad regulation, in nearly all phases of the state's economic and political life. Wisconsin represented this application of expert opinion to issues of government, and the professor was as likely to be found before a committee of the legislature as in his study. This had all the appearance of a wise use of knowledge, but it brought it brought what was properly cloistered into what was inherently vicious. It merely exposed the university to politics, and there need be no astonishment that the institution is getting a dose of it now. Wisconsin, following the pusillanimous movement of political bodies, has swung away from what we know as liberalism toward what we call, bitterly, reactionism, or euphemistically, conservatism. The university, which has not swung, finds that there is a disposition to check its activities, or even to punish it for them. In liberal circles the attitude of the conservatives is regarded as outrageous. It is a part of politics which, being entered, is not easily escaped.—Chicago Tribune.

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U. S. STEEL DISCO

Change of Sentiment Further Disposal of Government's Bill in Disolution Suit

(Exclusive) Landed Wire to the Jour New York, March 19.—There was activity at the opening and prices rose Thursday's close. Attendance in co was fairly numerous but business originated with the room traders and consisted of buying represented the covered operations.

Opper issues were favored and M