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THE LONDON ADVERTISER
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London, Ont., Friday, Sept. 14.

A GEM OF THE FAIR.

JAPAN is called the "Flower Kingdom" and Western Ontario can easily become a flower kingdom also, if we may judge from the exhibit of flowers at the Western Fair. Perhaps the most attractive exhibit is the display brought by the St. Thomas Horticultural Society. There were in it many new and beautiful specimens. The society is to be congratulated. The work they are doing in Elgin's capital should be done in every city and county in Ontario. The flowers were not exhibited to obtain a prize. It was to show goodwill to the Western Fair.

The educational value of flowers is great. Pass your mind over the men and women you have known who were fond of flowers, and you will find they all possessed good natural dispositions. They were kindly disposed. The cultivation of flowers should be as much encouraged as possible. The lover of flowers will never be anything but a good citizen, one of refined taste. The more flowers we have, the more desirable place Western Ontario will be to live in, and London and Middlesex, as the centre, should do their best, and every other county like Elgin should form a floral association. The effect on the population can only be good.

The London Horticultural Society has done a great work for the beautification of this city.

WOMAN WAR WORKERS.

A MAN MAY BE the most cringing slacker who ever wore shoe leather. But unless he be of alien birth he will be given a ballot when the general election is held.

A woman may have worked day after day since war began knitting socks for soldiers. But unless she has a soldier relative she will not be given the ballot.

This is the great objection to the new franchise bill. It pretends to give women the vote, but it makes war service at home no claim to the right of a voice in the elections.

It leaves unrewarded the heroic efforts of thousands of women to supply the needs and comforts of the men at the front. Many of the most prominent women workers in London will not get a vote when election comes. Through no fault of their own they have no near relative at the front.

It is the war work itself performed by thousands of women—sometimes performed to the ruin of health and the neglect of home duties—that should be rewarded. These women have the spirit of the trenches at home. In trust reality they have kept the home fires burning. They have done more than any men left at home have done. They have done something that only women's hands could have done. They are the soldiers of the sewing-room, and the government that withholds from them the right to vote commits a tremendous injustice.

It is not a political matter. These women might all vote for Conservative candidates or for Liberal candidates. The fact is they will vote for both parties. It is not that one party might have an advantage, but that just recognition of service that is beyond reward should be given. Does anyone suppose that the men at the front would withhold the franchise from the women who have been working for them day in and day out since August, 1914?

THEN AND NOW.

THE internal divisions of the Russian people recall the faction strife in France at the time of the Reign of Terror. The reactionaries skulking about in Russia are like the royalists, who raised the great Vendée rebellion in 1793. The bourgeois moderates, Duma and army leaders, resemble somewhat the French constitutionalists, such as Mirabeau and Lafayette or the Girondins, moderate republicans. The idealists, Kerensky, etc., had no approximate counterpart in the French revolution; there was no Socialism then. Still, as an eloquent patriot and opponent of capital punishment, Kerensky is not unlike the "sea-green incorruptible" Robespierre. It is possible that circumstances may drive the Russians, as they drove the Breton fanatic, into a reign of carnage. It seems that a stern order has been already given out in Petrograd that persons acting against the revolution will be treated as traitors, whatever that means. But Robespierre and the Jacobins were more like the Russian Maximilians in their fanatical impracticality, though the latter have no chance, apparently, to get power into their clumsy hands. Finally, if not Korniloff, then still another may yet loom up as a Napoleon, coming to the gates of the capital to restore order and command by the voice of the cannon.

Just as in France in the 1790's, each party in Russia brands its opponents as traitors to the revolution, conspiring to bring back the tyrant and to betray the country to the Germans. It is this general atmosphere of mutual suspicion

that makes the closest resemblance between the two revolutions. Strange to say, it did not prove the ruin of France, though it made the rise and despotism of Napoleon possible. It generated such a frenzy and explosive energy throughout France that her armies fought the Austrian and Prussian enemies with the greater success, all the while that civil wars were raging behind the front. But Russia has no Carnot, it appears, unless Alexieff may fill the bill, to hold things together till the Napoleon arrives or until there is no need of him, and besides, the need of organized transport is far greater now than 100 years ago. Altogether the outlook is troubled though not desperate.

A GREAT GERMAN VIEW OF A PRUSSIAN.

GOTTFRIED, the great German, said: "The Prussian is born cruel, and civilization will make him a savage." A cruel savage he has proved to be to the whole world. All the inventions of civilization are used to intensify his savagery. An educated savage is more dangerous than a savage in his primitive state. Realizing this, the Allied nations are taking the right course in declining to treat with a government composed of Prussians who are lower than savages.

A NEW SPIRIT.

THERE are signs that many of the hitherto apathetic French-Canadians are working up to the seriousness of the struggle between democracy and tyranny, and to the imperative need of their full co-operation with the Allies. Ferdinand Roy's "Appel aux Armes" is causing some stir among his fellow-citizens of Quebec. The danger of collapse in Russia, a peril to democracy all over the world, must impress the imagination of the liberty-loving habitant.

There has been a feeling in Quebec, perhaps stimulated by German influence, that the war is England's war; that this war was a few years ago the Laurier navy was intended to recruit the young men; that Quebec has no interest in a contest between English and German capitalists. Moreover, the followers of Mr. Bourassa believe that there is in Ontario a conspiracy to suppress their race identity to lose by rebelling against the inevitable. We should meet no longer anywhere in the world with any sympathy that might be useful to us. The lives of nations are counted by generations. Are we not living today on the sacrifice made by former generations? If in order to avoid eternal disgrace, our generation consents to the blood-letting that makes free the blood of our grandchildren will only be the purchase for it.

When this serious spirit takes possession of French and all other Canadians, there will be no resistance to conscription. The law will not be felt as compulsory, but only as a systematization of willing effort.

THE DOUKHOBORS.

THE Doukhobors are to be disenfranchised, along with many other of the "aliens" Canada invited to this country. Yet the Doukhobors have sent many of their sons to the front, and the leader of their sect is said to be in favor of conscription. This is the sort of "scrap of paper" legislation that has been handed out since the war began. It has been handed to soldiers and civilians alike. It has no justification except political expediency.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

If Russia is slipping, Austria seems to be just as far gone.

Austria appears to be blood white. The Kaiser cannot make dead men obey his orders.

The Kaiser is holidaying, and the same is true of a lot of his soldiers. There is a long leave.

What sort of peace is Stockholm for a peace conference? There would be a Swedo-German wireless conference going on at the same time.

The weather-man is seldom so cantankerous as to let the Western Fair fall down—and bad weather is the only thing that can beat the Western.

Paying 50 cents for a two-pound fish looks as if someone were between the fisherman who says he sells at 8 cents and the consumer. Quite a crowd, in fact.

The German war loans were raised on promises of indemnities to be paid by the Kaiser's enemies. Instead, they will probably be asking for "indemnities" of bread to prevent starvation.

That Irish devotion going on behind closed doors is as quiet as a grave. It may be a deadlock, so fierce a struggle that every throat having a hand on it, not a sound is heard outside.

The mayor of Hamilton says that if there is any law to prevent the proposed increase in the price of milk it will be invoked. If there is a law to keep down prices of necessities, the representatives of the combines who have been governing at Ottawa since 1911 know how to "can" the law.

The Advertiser's Daily Short Story

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MARGARET STANDS BY THE CAUSE.

By Jane Osborne.

A man who has any imagination regarding feminine psychology must always look with something like concern toward the first meeting of his mother and his wife—or the woman whom he intends to make his wife. So when Blackstone Loomis' mother wrote to her son that she was coming to New York from her home in a middle western metropolis for a short stay at a hotel of national-wide fame, he was not altogether sanguine in his anticipation of those two women so important in his life.

How would the housewife and farm-bred mother regard the city and office-bred fiancée? At heart, Blackstone knew them to be much the same sort of women. He consoled himself in thinking that had his mother's experiences and training been identical with those of Margaret, she, too, would have wanted the ballot. He also believed, sincerely, that had Margaret been married from a farm, he had his mother, at the age of 18, Margaret, too, would have been as keen about her householdly tasks as was his mother.

Would the elder woman be shocked at the younger? Would the younger woman be amused by the elder? Had he been too lavish in his praises of these women to each other? He had not, perhaps, thought that they would meet so soon. He had never dreamed that his mother would have the opportunity of the means to take the eastern trip so soon, or he might, perhaps not, have written so glowingly of the girl to whom he was to be married. He might have somewhat prepared his mother.

Blackstone had planned to make this request at the outset of his call on Margaret in her little uptown apartment, but the fact that his mother was in the young women who were employed in downtown offices. But it hadn't been so easy as he had expected, and the quick flash that came from Margaret's eyes made him realize that his misgivings had not been ill-founded.

Margaret was outspoken and she did not mince matters at all now. Concealed from his mother that she was a suffragist, a "feminist," as he calls it—why, he was asking her to be a traitor. And what good would that do? Would the truth come out some time? Did he want her to act a lie?

Then came the masculine appeal for rationality. "Don't be silly, Margaret," he said. "No one has asked you to suppress your identity to lose by rebelling against the inevitable. We should meet no longer anywhere in the world with any sympathy that might be useful to us. The lives of nations are counted by generations. Are we not living today on the sacrifice made by former generations? If in order to avoid eternal disgrace, our generation consents to the blood-letting that makes free the blood of our grandchildren will only be the purchase for it."

When this serious spirit takes possession of French and all other Canadians, there will be no resistance to conscription. The law will not be felt as compulsory, but only as a systematization of willing effort.

Blackstone whined a little when one of the first questions his mother asked was this: "I don't suppose your Margaret is a suffragist?" "What makes you think she could be?" he evaded in a way not altogether worthy of one who claimed to be a convert. "Just because she works in an office and hasn't had the advantages having been brought up in the seclusion of her own home is no reason why she shouldn't be just as homey as—as you are."

Then he continued: "But of course you won't discuss that sort of thing with Margaret, just as she won't discuss it with me. She's a convert, at least to make it easy for her to maintain her noncommittal point of view, for Margaret had agreed on silence on the subject only so long as the mother did not introduce it."

Although Margaret had protested against agreeing to silence of this sort she was really not especially eager to impart to the lady who was to be her mother-in-law the fact that she was leader and president of the suffragists' organization in a large downtown district, and that she had firmly made up her mind that after her marriage she should call herself "Mrs. Margaret Loomis," and not "means Mrs. Blackstone Loomis." She realized as well as did Blackstone that the circumstances in which she and her mother had been reared had very much altered cases, and she was no more anxious to hurt or shock the elder woman than was he to have her do so.

That night at dinner, first impressions were as favorable as first impressions auspiciously may be, and in order to prevent the conversation from taking a personal turn, Blackstone monopolized it to an unusual extent. He made up his mind not to let the two women alone and not let them guide the conversation. So he went into needless details regarding his latest law case, explained the meaning of professional terms that were quite beyond the ken of other guests, and the women, and gave a resume of a brief in which he had been recently engaged.

For a week things went on thus, and the only times that Blackstone feared an open expression of opinion was one night when his mother and Margaret chanced to meet for dinner before he could get on the scene. But apparently nothing disconcerting occurred, and immediately after dinner Margaret excused herself for an important engagement that Blackstone knew to be a meeting of her suffrage club. The next night Margaret had another suffrage engagement and Blackstone's mother claimed an engagement, too, so it was not until three nights later that the three again met at dinner after Margaret and Blackstone had closed their office desks.

Following dinner came a play and in spite of the fact that Blackstone had taken his mother and his fiancée to an especially diverting dining place, and in spite of the fact that the play was uncommonly good that night, the evening passed slowly and Blackstone and his mother and Margaret were the two usually high-spirited women.

But he felt even more depressed when he took Margaret home that night after they had reached the shelter of her apartment. "I'm sorry, but I can't keep my feelings to myself any longer. I feel like a traitor. The meeting night before last made me feel what a culprit I have been, and then last night at the mass meeting, when I looked around at those women from all over the world working together for each other, I wondered how I had been so despicable as to promise to conceal my interest in the cause from anyone. You don't know how a meeting like that fires and thrills one."

The fact that Blackstone's spirits had already been depressed made him especially susceptible to take offense. "Then it was a question of suffrage or of the cause you would take up?" he said. "I simply asked you to use a little tact in order to prevent my mother being unhappy, and you don't care enough about her or me to do it. I'm sorry, Margaret, but it is better for us to find it out now than later."

John Noble tells of a row in the streets. A representative of divinity delivered a peroration at a church function during medieval times, when the functional essays ostensibly to condemn disparagingly of the pretentious black shanties of the village, where a prisoner of maximum mint took umbrage at the declaimer in the vilification of the prehistoric shanties and assumed the perpendicular, and upbraided the declaimer by alleging that the functional essays were very glad to occupy one himself. The declaimer promulgated absolutely of a division in the village, to wit, the village dominion, was sought for as the solution of the episode. The dominion accompanied the declaimer to the village dominion, when an apology was made, and when a plastic union was consummated.

Some English are delighted at the game of craps introduced by the American soldiers. If they get too doggedly pleased with it the Yankees will soon own the blooming country.

There is a correspondent named Gahagan O'Grosan in England. Some of those Spanish gents write well.

A doctor says picnics spread infantile paralysis. It seems that having a party is no picnic any time.

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STRATFORD.
Flight Lieut. Paul Roney.

GASSED
838838 G. D. Lunney, Elmwood, Ont.
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GIGANTIC COAL PILE BURNING.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 13.—A fire has been smouldering for more than a week in a gigantic pile of coal in the Canadian Pacific Railway yards near the roundhouse. The area covered by the coal is about a quarter of a mile in length and about 200 yards wide, and contains about 100,000 tons of coal. The fire is supposed to have been the original cause of the fire.

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I can say is I hope they don't fall off."

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GOVERNMENT ASKED WHY SUDDEN EXIT FROM THE PRISONS

Three Alleged Dynamiters Ticket-of-Leave Men.

OTTAWA, Sept. 13.—When the department of justice estimates were under consideration at the evening sitting, Hon. Mr. Lemieux and H. B. Morphy took up the question of the release of Thomas Kelly of Winnipeg, sentenced

in connection with the scandal over the Parliament Buildings, and of another Kelly released by mistake, who was serving a sentence in Kingston on a charge of manslaughter.

The minister of justice said Thomas Kelly had been released because of the state of his health.

Mr. Lemieux then called attention to the fact that three of the alleged dynamiters at Montreal were ticket-of-leave men, and asked why there had been a sudden exit from the penitentiaries of these men just in time to take part in this outrage. Mr. Lemieux also intimated that he had been informed that an officer of the Dominion police force had offered to secure arms for these men, but Hon. Mr. Doherty declared that no officer working under Sir Percy Sherwood had done anything to incite crime.

Hon. Jacques Bureau remarked that the minister had evidently forgotten the circumstances connected with the