

The Toronto World

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TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 30.

Clearing Skies.

It is useless to judge the war by what is taking place on the western front alone. At the same time it is almost impossible accurately to judge what is going on in Austria, in Jugoslavia, in Russia, in Holland and in Scandinavia. It may be some time before the situation is made palpably clear, but eventually we believe it will be found that Germany at this stage is putting up a gigantic bluff, that she never was nearer collapse, and that her actions are dictated by desperation.

We wrote yesterday morning in contradiction of some doubts that General Foch does possess, the initiative. A pessimistic printer made it "does not." General Foch, we believe, can do as he chooses in directing the campaign. His strategy is far cleverer than those who only judge by immediate results are able to perceive. We had the same pessimism before the battle of the Marne when the most cheerful of us thought that all was lost. Joffre and Foch on that occasion never lost their heads. The retreats on the present front are made on judgment, and, except for the failure of the British fifth army in the Somme sector, not on compulsion. The Germans in their attacks are largely playing a game of "follow me leader," and the leader is Foch. It is this knowledge which makes the soldiers at the front absolutely sanguine, cheerful, inspired. The dependent ones are at home, and are chiefly among those who are not doing their full duty by the war. What we need is men as much as anything, and the steps being taken by the government to maintain the reserves should have the hearty support of everybody. The complete measures we take the speedier and more decisive will be the final struggle.

If anyone doubts that General Foch has the initiative let him consider the British navy, the United States troops pressing overseas, the inexhaustible resources of the allies, and lastly the steady failure of the Germans since March 21 to gain their objectives or to observe their time schedules.

Austria hesitates, if she does not refuse, to send troops to the western front. If she is to fight she would prefer to fight the Italians. The country is divided, too, the German element clamoring for the dethronement of Emperor Karl and the banishment of the Empress Zita, while another section denounces the Germans for violating treaty with the Bolsheviks by annexing Estonia and Livonia.

There is no news from Russia at the time of writing except the statement that the new government has denounced the treaty with Germany. The latest news before the story of the counter-revolution was dated the 24th. A great deal may happen in Russia in six days, and there may be important announcements any moment. A stable government under the Grand Duke Michael would be the last straw for Germany. Outside the Bolsheviks the people of Russia have seen enough to make them sick of anything governmental fostered by Trotsky, Lenin, or Kerensky or any other amateur or pro-German "reformers." We may look for a government on British lines and the development of representative and constitutional authority.

The new czar, if such he is to be, is rather a remarkable child. When his father abdicated he only asked if the act was binding upon him, and when told it was not "he appeared satisfied." The imperial children were under the tuition of a British governess for a number of years, and her book relating her experiences is of considerable interest. The imperial family was brought up in a thorough simple and democratic manner, and may bestow as popular a rule upon Russia as their cousins of Britain. At any rate, there is nothing to comfort the Hohenzollerns or the Junkers in the restoration of imperial government under the Grand Duke Michael. The other elements in noncommittal or disinterested Europe present no more encouragement for the Germans. Holland is said to have conceded the transportation of sand and gravel with certain conditions against military uses. This is only postponing the evil day, and if Holland is to be true to herself Germany will not permit her to escape the test.

The regeneration of Russia would have a vast influence over the whole east and southeast territory. Finland, with Sweden, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, all Jugoslavia, Greece and Armenia, would hail the establishment of a strong and enlightened government in Russia and if the general populace have seen enough to convince them that Bolshevikism

means merely anarchy and starvation the lesson will be worth the cost it has exacted. Government by the base is quite as much to be dreaded when the base come from the lower ranks of society as when they come from the highest. In neither case is there government of the people.

The Coal Situation.

Many people are nervous about the coal situation and naturally so, after the experiences of last winter. The World, a year ago, gave abundant warning of what was ahead, and we regret that no attention was paid to the situation until too late to provide proper remedies. This year the situation need not supply any of the hardships of last winter if the people and the authorities will co-operate in a sensible manner.

There is every reason to believe that there was enough coal in the country last year for everybody had it been fairly distributed. We believe that the supply this year will be not less than last year. The United States authorities have been very square, very honorable, very generous with Canada on the coal problem. We shall be treated as one of themselves.

The first thing to be done is to stop coal hoarding, and to punish those who indulge in it. We hear of people with two and three years' supplies of coal in their cellars and out-houses who are bent on ordering more this year. Some sort of official supervision should be given to such cases and penalties imposed. Enough is as good as a feast, until the war is over at any rate.

For the rest what is needed is a reliable estimate of the requirements of the community. The people should get their orders in to their regular dealers as early as possible, whether delivery is expected early or late. There should be no duplication of orders or running around placing orders with half a dozen different firms. When the dealers accept orders all that is necessary further is to be patient and wait for the deliveries.

It is important that all possible deliveries should be made during the summer. Coal is to be \$10. Until September this should be enough to stimulate orders, but once the orders are accepted it will not be necessary to worry the dealers about deliveries. They will supply what they undertake to supply in due course.

Order the 70 per cent. supply at once. Have patience then till the dealer makes delivery.

Use as little fuel as possible.

Secours aux Rapatriés.

The World desires to acknowledge the sum of \$10 for this fund, from "Reader."

The Age of Old Men.

Mr. Henry Ford appears to have made a great discovery, not unworthy to rank among his best inventions. In a recent interview in The World he was asked if he had found it necessary to employ women, and he replied:

"No; I'm using old men—or men that used to be called old. And they are fine."
 It was not so long ago that some of our most respectable railroads made a rule not to employ men over forty-five years of age. Now our greatest employer is discovering that old men are fine for work. Certainly the war is teaching us something.
 Old men, as called, are pretty likely to make up by experience by knowing what to avoid—what they may lack in strength. For one thing, they are reliable.
 These short-sighted railroads would now be glad to get them at almost any price—if Mr. Ford didn't cover the market—N. Y. "Life."

Other People's Opinions

Military and Honorary Titles.

Editor World: The time has about arrived when the public press should indicate its disapproval of continuing military titles, as applied to those who are citizens in civil life who have had this distinction (7) thrust upon them. When one thinks of the sacrifices and sufferings endured by the soldiers of the Dominion on the fields of France, where promotions are earned at the risk of life, it does seem insulting to these real soldiers, that many of their officers should be junior to elderly private citizens whose colonelcies and lieutenant-colonelcies have been bestowed on them in some cases, against their desire, by an unthinking and impetuous government official.

The country has indicated its disapproval of titles, and I am satisfied that this attitude is greatly intensified towards these civilians with military designations.

One is almost surprised that an estimable citizen who is really normal in every other way, would allow himself to be described as a colonel, when he knows what it signifies to real soldiers in suffering, sacrifice, time, money and experience.

Surely, we are justified in expecting that when this anomalous position is appreciated, these gentlemen will not hesitate to tender their resignations promptly.

The "Press" I am sure will reflect public opinion by using the distinction "Honorary" if it must attach a military rank when mentioning their names.
 "W. J. B."

WINS D. S. O.

Sault Ste. Marie, April 29.—Lieut. Col. J. G. Reid, son of Mrs. J. A. Reid, has received the D. S. O. for gallant conduct on the battlefield. He went overseas with the Railway Construction Corps. Mrs. Reid, who is a widow, has five sons in khaki, four of whom have won commissions in England or France.

On Parliament Hill

BY TOM KING

Ottawa, April 29.—Sir George Foster

of late has developed a bucolic taste. Last week he led the members of the house more than once into the hay field, and discussed the bill to amend the Inspection Sales Act with respect to the grading and inspection of hay and straw. That bill finally got into the house after being subjected to considerable criticism from both sides of the house. Today he went not to the hay field, but to the barnyard, proposing to amend the Inspection Sales Act in respect to the grading of eggs.

The section of the bill as first presented to the house declared that a dozen eggs should weigh one pound and a half. This was more or less criticized as being unfair to the hen, and Sir George rather abruptly proposed to drop the clause and repeal a similar provision which has long been incorporated in the Inspection and Sales Act. He explained that the minister of agriculture, under authority of another statement, had already issued comprehensive regulations grading eggs according to their size, weight, color, and so forth.

At this the opposition members took alarm, as being another invasion of the rights of parliament. However, this discussion at last came to an end and other clauses of Sir George's bill were taken up dealing with containers for food products, the sale of firewood, and the sale of cement. Several members on both sides of the house took the position that the seal for regulation was making ever higher the high cost of living. The more work the producer had to do and the more trouble he was put to, the heavier must be the final cost of the article to the consumer.

There seemed to be a general feeling that the minister of trade and commerce was just now too busy with his regulations. There was marked opposition, for example, to a section of the bill requiring a bag of cement to weigh 94 pounds. It was stated by several members that the bag of cement in commercial use weighed not 94, but 87½ pounds. A cubic foot of cement, it is said, weighed much more than a cubic foot of Three Rivers, moved to strike out this section of the bill, and he received more or less open support from several government members, including Mr. Morphy of North Perth and Mr. Casselman of Dundas. It looked for the moment as if the bill would carry, but the minister moved that the committee rise and report progress.

Whether the bill will ever be heard of again is doubtful. The staunch supporters of the government as Mr. Sexsmith (East Peterboro) and Mr.

Henders (MacDonald) criticized it

sharply. When the house was moved into supply the somewhat unusual spectacle was presented of a government member moving a substantive amendment. The amendment, however, was not designed to embarrass the government, but only to enable Mr. Glass, of Middlesex, to urge greater encouragement to the production of flax. The private members having had all their days commandeered for government business, there was no other way in which Mr. Glass could bring it to the attention of the house.

The bill to renew the charter of the Toronto, Niagara & St. Catharines Railway Company revived the discussion which came up in the railway committee the other day. The company is a subsidiary of the Canadian Northern, and has a charter for a line railway between Toronto and the Niagara frontier. It runs parallel to the projected line of the Hydro-Electric Commission, is less concerned now that the capital stock of the Canadian Northern has been acquired by the Dominion Government. Several members, however, pressed Hon. J. D. Reid, minister of railways, for a statement as to when the government was to assume active management and direct operation of the Canadian Northern, and were told that a new board of directors would be appointed as soon as the arbitration proceedings came to an end. This did not satisfy Mr. R. L. Richardson, who pointed out that appeals might prolong the arbitration proceedings. Col. Currie urged the minister to define the position of the government as to the entire railway situation, and Dr. Reid promised to do so.

Meanwhile votes for women engrossed the attention of the senate. There were a number of ladies present and the senators proved there was no such opposition from Quebec as the bill encountered in the house of commons. Senator Cloran, however, precipitated a scene by charging that the bill was a bribe to the soldiers who had been bribed to vote for Union government at the last election by promising them increased salaries, pensions and bounties for their husbands, sons and brothers at the front.

Senator McMeans denounced the statement as an infamous lie and there was a general feeling that the ladies and the senators were just now too busy with their regulations. There was marked opposition, for example, to a section of the bill requiring a bag of cement to weigh 94 pounds. It was stated by several members that the bag of cement in commercial use weighed not 94, but 87½ pounds. A cubic foot of cement, it is said, weighed much more than a cubic foot of Three Rivers, moved to strike out this section of the bill, and he received more or less open support from several government members, including Mr. Morphy of North Perth and Mr. Casselman of Dundas. It looked for the moment as if the bill would carry, but the minister moved that the committee rise and report progress.

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MEDICAL SERVICES.

Wounded—H. G. Sherwood, Victoria. Gassed—Capt. D. L. Kennedy, Portmouth, Ont.

CAVALRY.

Missing—S. G. Dancer, Winnipeg. Wounded—A. Smith, Winnipeg.

WHEAT CROP FAILURE

IN WESTERN ONTARIO

Guelph, Ont., April 29.—The fall wheat crop is almost a complete failure this year, at least so far as Western Ontario is concerned, and some farmers are busy plowing up the greater part of it, and will seed it with spring wheat. This is the latest information which has been given out by the authorities at the O. A. C., who have made a thorough investigation of the wheat situation.

East of Toronto the wheat situation is much better, and the prospects for a fair crop are exceedingly bright, provided there is no more or less warm days which will do the wheat in the winter in good shape, and it has already got a fairly good growth this spring.

There are several things which tend to make the fall wheat in Western Ontario a failure. One of the principal ones is that the wheat did not get enough growth last fall. It only came up a short distance, and therefore was not strong enough to stand the winter, the result being that there was not much left by spring. Then, too, just as the wheat was beginning to pick up a little and get started, there were two or three warm days which did the wheat in the winter in good shape, and it has already got a fairly good growth this spring.

FARMERS SPEND TIME

DISCUSSING NEW LAW

Woodstock, April 29.—A meeting, attended by over 200 farmers from all parts of the county, was held here to discuss the question of farm help and the effect that the Military Service Act is going to have on production in the county this year. The scarcity of help at the present time throughout the county is a serious one and the farmers assembled today were of the opinion that with a further thinning out of help by the workings of the Military Service Act the situation will be indeed critical. With the seeding season now on, they say work is practically at a standstill for want of help.

A strong resolution was passed to be forwarded to the government, asking that the M.S.A. be amended to allow those on farms to stay there while they are needed. "The latest war measure just passed is doing more to decrease production than all the efforts put forth by the government to increase the same in this county," read the resolution, "and preparations for seeding and all plans for the season's crop temporarily stopped thru this measure."

ASKS FOR FARMERS

UNTIL AFTER SEEDING

Brockville, April 29.—The Leeds and Grenville County Council, as represented by two of its leading committees, is protesting against the farmers being stripped of young men for military service. A resolution passed requests the government to leave all eligible men on the farms until the seeding is completed, being quite content to let the harvest time look after itself.

EASING OFF A POINT



The Woman Who Changed

BY JANE PHELPS.

An Evening of Self-Pity.

CHAPTER LXVIII.

I went upstairs for something, immediately after I had finished dinner, expecting to return at once and spend the evening cozily in the library with George. I would tell him all about my visit. Of course he hadn't time to wait to hear at breakfast; I shouldn't have expected it of a busy business man.

"Helen!" he called from the foot of the stairs. "I'm going out." I did not answer. I couldn't. The lump in my throat was too big. He waited a moment, then ran lightly up the stairs and glanced through my door which was partly open. Then he came in.

I turned away for a moment, that he might not see the tears which were filling my eyes. He turned my face around, his hand under my chin.

"I came up to kiss you good-bye; but as you choose always to disguise yourself by shedding tears, I will forego that pleasure."

"I didn't mean to cry, George," I said unsteadily, "but I thought you would stay at home with me tonight and I would tell you all about my visit."

"I have an engagement at the club," he turned toward the door. "Good night!"

A Seething Rebuke.

"Please don't go away cross!" I pleaded.

A New Acquaintance.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross greeted me very

cordially when I went into the room, and then Mrs. Ross introduced Mr. Huntington. Mr. Ross was a lively sort of man and did his best to be entertaining. He paid me all sorts of compliments, some of which I accepted, some of which I refused. He was a very pleasant man, and I was very glad to meet him. He was a very pleasant man, and I was very glad to meet him.

"I ought to have stayed home. He doesn't love me, he can't! He couldn't treat me so, if he did," I moaned aloud.

George hadn't wanted to kiss me, just because I was crying. And he had made me cry.

One thing, and one thing only, was gradually seeping into my mind. I couldn't go on like this forever. He had no consideration for my loneliness when, night after night, I sat alone in that luxurious house that I now seemed less like home than ever.

I would gladly have given up the oriental rug for mother's rug once the tapestries and real lace for the dainty dimity curtains at home—the ease and splendor of our living for the homeliness that pervaded the home I had just left.

I was not left long alone. George had been gone but a little time when James announced a Mr. and Mrs. Ross and a Mr. Huntington.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross were, I knew, close friends of George's before we were married. Of Mr. Huntington I knew nothing. I wanted to refuse to see them, but did not dare. George would be angry. So I sent word that I would be down immediately, and then hurriedly bathed my eyes and smoothed my hair.

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Do not deny yourself the beneficial, invigorating effects of malt and hops, now available for you. Try a case of Imperial Lager, or possibly you will prefer the Ale or Stout.

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