

The Toronto World

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WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 13.

Germany's Peace Offer

Germany is beaten. This is the first thing to be noted in connection with Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's address to the Reichstag yesterday. On the fourth of August, 1914, the Kaiser had set out on what he expected to be a triumphant march to Paris, and he issued invitations to his friends to dine with him there in six weeks. Subsequently the invitations were revised and set for the following Christmas. Since then the Kaiser has known the bitterness of defeat, and he has endeavored to march his armies against the intangible limitations of destiny. "Among those who plot," says the Koran, "God is the greatest of plotters."

Now that Germany finds that there is a limit and a climax to the brutal attacks she made on her neighbors, and that for the future she must decrease while they must increase, she is anxious to call a halt. But there is no sign of any change of nature in the German leaders. They would still pose as injured innocents attacked by evil-disposed enemies, and willing now to forget and forgive on certain conditions. These plausible conditions refer to the status quo ante with some exceptions in the Balkans, and in Poland and Lithuania. The real essence of the chancellor's proposals is that Germany finds herself unable to carry on the war successfully and now desires time to recuperate, and new barriers behind which she can sit down and hatch new plots.

There is but one mind in the governments and among the peoples of the entente alliance. They would be willing to treat with the German people organized in a representative democratic government. But as long as the Hohenzollerns control the destinies of the German Empire and aim at the control of Europe and humanity, humanity has no option but to fight till this menace has been eliminated from human life. France is unanimous. So also is Russia. So is Italy. Belgium goes without saying, as do Serbia and Rumania. This unanimity is one of the factors that have induced Germany to make her proposals. There is nothing that she has done, there is nothing that she can do, to break the solid phalanx of the entente alliance. Great Britain is resolved. Redmond has spoken for Ireland, and Henderson for labor. The whole nation is united in resolve for decisive victory. It is not without apparent grounds that the retirement of Mr. Asquith and Lord Grey of Fulford, and their supporters, is suspected to be due to a too easy attitude towards peace. There are few anywhere in the empire who would wish the horror of another and mightier war ten years hence, as the price of a premature peace that would give the German menace opportunity to recuperate and grow once more. In Canada, we believe that those who know the situation have no hesitation about the necessity for carrying on until peace is made upon our terms, not on those of the enemy.

The Kaiser has been forced to his peace proposals by several considerations. We have mentioned the fact that he had reached the limit of his own exertions. Great Britain and her allies are only beginning to realize their strength. The Kaiser has no stomach for a spring campaign with Russia, nor for another series of defeats on the western front. Collapse at Verdun has more to do with his peace proposals than has success in Rumania. It is a bitter moment for the all-conqueror thus to address his army: "Soldiers, I have made an offer of peace to the enemy."

The strength of the new Lloyd George administration has been another factor in bringing the Kaiser to a sense of his weakness. The new Austrian Emperor Charles has been urgent for peace, having no illusions, no intimacy with the German "Gott,"

and knowing well that Austria is defeated. The upheaval in Russia indicates the strength of the national will there, and contributes another element to the Kaiser's debt inventory. Lastly the preparation of the entente alliance for commercial intercourse after the war makes clear to the German Government that Hohenzollernism is on its last legs.

It is suggested that Germany wishes to "smoke out" the real terms of the entente allies for peace. What the German people learn that their rulers are responsible for all their sorrows, and that these rulers and their antiquated principles must go, and Germany undertake a democratic revolution by which the people shall govern themselves and express their own ideals and aspirations, they will have learned the most essential of all the terms of peace. When they adopt democracy all the rest can easily be arranged.

Expel the Dark Forces from Every Cabinet

It is an inspiring story that comes from Russia. The nobles, the army and the people have risen in patriotic resentment against the pro-German influences that have been so powerful in the cabinet, and even at the court of the czar. Both houses of the national legislature have demanded something like a parliamentary government with a ministry responsible to the duma. For the first time since the rudimentary parliament gathered at Petrograd, the imperial council and the duma unite in voicing the sentiment of the people.

Just what has been going on behind the scenes in Russia is largely a matter of speculation, but we know that recently Boris Sturmer was driven from the premiership. His retirement synchronized with the dismissal of the German minister of foreign affairs, and there is reason to believe that these worthies had agreed upon a separate treaty of peace between Russia and Germany. The censorship over the Russian press makes it difficult to learn anything in that quarter, but the London papers more than hint at the fact that Boris Sturmer was negotiating a patched-up peace.

The ambition of Russia is undoubtedly to obtain possession of Constantinople, and had Germany been in a position to offer that prize it would have proved a great temptation to the Russian people, but the peace which the Russian and German Cabinets were trying to patch up went no further than making Constantinople a free port; hence the indignation of the Russian people.

Public opinion in Russia has few vents for expression, and, therefore, the address just passed by the two houses of the national legislature, demanding a responsible ministry, is one of the most important political events in Europe since the convening of the states-general by Louis XVI, in 1789.

If we dismiss as idle gossip the stories about the pro-German Russian monk, and his influence at the court of the czar, we cannot get away from the evidence of disloyalty to the nation and to the cause of the allies in the case of the cabinet ministers. German influence has been ceaselessly at work in Russia, and, for that matter, in Canada. The German-American nickel trust does not pay its taxes in Ontario as British subjects are compelled to do. It carries from Canada to the United States Canadian nickel. Some of that nickel, when refined, is shipped to the munition makers of Germany. The "Deutschland" will soon be here to take its third cargo of Canadian nickel from an American to a German seaport.

That German influences are so powerful in Canada, may well give us cause for alarm. Many of our newspapers seem to be under the malignant influence, and there is some force in the suggestion of Sir Sam Hughes that an investigation should be had into the expenditure of German gold for the purpose of influencing public opinion. Officials in high places seem to be under German influence in Canada no less than in Russia.

No chances should be taken in war time. Even at the risk of injustice all men should be driven from office who, by their actions, indicate that they are under the influence of the enemy. No one who is suspected of favoring Germany should occupy a seat in the cabinet of any British commonwealth.

An evening paper yesterday thus headlined the despatch from Petrograd: Pro-Germanism in Russia to be Driven from Cabinet.

Will our Canadian papers say about Russia? If they are as much opposed to German influence in Canada as they seem to be opposed to German in-

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CAN HE GET AWAY WITH IT?



fluence in Russia, let them come out boldly and say: "Pro-Germanism in Canada must be driven from the cabinets at Ottawa and Toronto."

CONDEMNED CONDITIONS IN MUNITION PLANTS

Social Worker Thinks Women in Need of Money Should Get Preference. There are many women in Toronto who would be glad to work on munitions for the double purpose of earning their living and at the same time helping in some way in patriotic work that will eventually win the war. Hundreds of such are desirous to register, many have already done so, and while there is promise of their being needed in the coming months, there is nothing for them at the moment.

On the other hand, there are said to be women working in factories who have gone there with the sole purpose of doing their "bit," the wages being no object. While this is most praiseworthy, there is no doubt but that in the minds of many the places held by this latter class should be given up to the women who really need the money which may be made in the work.

A woman who is officially connected with the social service work of the city was heard to condemn the present conditions in no unmeasured terms. Some things would have to be done about it, she declared.

PROCEEDS FROM WASTE CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGING

Are Largely Increased Since Mrs. Baker Took Over Work. Possibilities which lie within the matter of the waste campaign in connection with the Canadian Red Cross Society are demonstrated by the fine reports from the waste department, under the chairmanship of F. A. Mulholland, where, in two weeks, beginning with Nov. 15, the proceeds from the proceeds are about doubled.

A corps of earnest volunteer workers assist Mrs. Baker. These are supplied by the Beaches' Red Cross Society, the Riverdale Patriotic Society, the East Toronto Women's Institute, the Jarvis Street Baptist Church Red Cross Auxiliary, the North Toronto Red Cross Society, and the College Heights and Rosedale Patriotic Association. Calls are made by these workers at the homes and business places of the city, and the responses have been most encouraging, over 4000 promises being reported for the coming month.

ADVOCATES CONSCRIPTION.

Editor World: Having enlisted in the 86th M. G. Battalion last year, I met with an accident which has kept me back. I was within two or three months of 45, and had given up my place of business. Three of my fellows also enlisted, Fred Rawsons, who was wounded and is now making shells; Guy White, in the 120th, and Matt Brunner, now at the front trenches, having gone over with the 86th. It makes my blood boil to see the crowds walking around and taking in the shows, instead of putting on the khaki. There is only one thing for them, and that is conscription. Now you high-flying fellows, get busy, for this means you. W. A. Wilson.

AWARDED PART CLAIM.

Judge Denton yesterday awarded the plaintiffs in the case of F. Kline and Company against W. R. Mitt of Huntington, \$137 with costs fixed at \$25 in their suit for \$221, alleged due for goods sold and delivered. The defendant contended that the full amount of the bill was \$120 for which they had settled.

LITTLE DRUG TRAFFIC IN TORONTO AT PRESENT

Police Prosecutions and Convictions Have Had Good Effect. Owing to the decrease in the number of police prosecutions for drug using and peddling, the police, hospital authorities and physicians generally are of the belief that there is comparatively little traffic in drugs here at the present time. The conviction of numerous peddlers and users of drugs it is said, has brought about this desirable state of affairs. Effecting the arrest of drug peddlers and users is no easy task for the police. The peddlers have no settled place of business, but use the streets, parks and public buildings to carry on their nefarious trade. In many cases, the police say, the exchange of drug and money between peddler and user is made on the street without the formality of speech between the two.

NEW MOTORCYCLE MARK.

Owing to the fact that the marker of a motorcycle is now carried on the rear of the machine and is often hid-

den by the rider's coat, it is expected that next year a second mark will have to be attached to the front mud guard so that the number may be seen.

IN LONDON HOSPITAL.

Chatham, Dec. 12.—Capt. Fred Nicolle, a prominent Chatham physician, who left some months ago with a branch of the C.A.M.C., is recovering from trench fever in King's Hospital, London, according to advices received in the city today. Capt. Nicolle expects to be assigned to duties in France again on his recovery.

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Book Reviews

A SUNNY SUBALTERN

BILLY'S LETTERS FROM FLANDERS.

Millions of letters have been written to Canada by the boys who have gone to Flanders, and millions more will be written before the war is over. Recipients sometimes read the letters and discard them. Some put them away to read again. Mothers, wives and sweethearts keep the letters among their treasured possessions and reread them again and again. "Billy's" mother thought so much of the letters her son wrote her that she read them to her friends. These friends enjoyed the letters so much that they prevailed upon Billy's mother to authorize their publication, and they have been put into book form under the above title by McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, at the very reasonable price of a dollar. In a preface, Billy's mother explains the publication as follows: "At the earnest solicitation of friends I am publishing these letters, which were written without any attempt at literary effort, and intended only for a mother's eye. I am sure my son will be pleased if they are the means of bringing even a passing pleasure to those whose dear ones are now at the front, or to those whose loved ones have made the supreme sacrifice, and to any others who may read this book."

And the letters are written just as Billy's mother says—home to his mother, in the way that any youth who loves his mother would write. Events on the voyage to England, in training camps, at the front in trenches or billets, or under fire, are told in simple language and in such a "homey" way that one wants to read them all before putting the book aside, only to be taken up and read over again, or read aloud to a circle of friends as Billy's mother read them to her friends and his.

Some good suggestions are contained in the letters. For instance, in one he writes: "I want you at once to send me a card, if possible, obtained from the Bank of Montreal, for your signature, as I am going to make my bank account a joint one in both of our names, either to draw cheques. This will enable you to draw out at any time anything to my credit, and avoid the expense of litigation or probate should they bump me off!"

Upon his arrival at the front he writes: "As you will see by the heading, I'm at 'Somewhere.' I believe you may have heard of this place but I know that its importance is not known to you. Ask any schoolboy the principal city of France and he'll say Paris, but 'Somewhere' has recently so increased in population that I believe it supersedes gay Paris in importance today."

Billy tells of his first experience under fire, the excitement, "the veritable hell" of it, and then the relaxation when they were relieved.

Here is the way he tells of being wounded: "The day wore on. In mid-afternoon came word to proceed to—, there to counter-attack a certain part of the line. We gathered together the men, some eighty that were immediately at hand, and started off. It was a trip practically in the open, as any trenches had been so battered as to be useless. From every direction came long files of men, all concentrating along a given line. I can't remember the exact time the thing was planned for, but we started off. Ours opened up, and if we got un-

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terable hell before so did the Germans now. However, they still had some ammunition, and the shells burst there—and there—and there—and then— A drink of water; A scarlet cross fronting a vision in blue and white; Cool left hands; White sheets; The throbs of a motor; The swirl of water; The tiny foot of an English engine; Another motor; A bunch of roses mixed up with eye-glasses and perfume; A white handkerchief; A few jolts; Familiar street noises with the dawn realization of a hospital in Blighty; dear old London at last."

WON HER CASE.

Elizabeth Fitch, was awarded \$1,075, the full amount of her claim against Frank E. Read, administrator of the estate of his father, Robert E. Read, by Judge Denton yesterday. The plaintiff maintained that the money was due on a promissory note.

If you know a returned soldier, ask him about the need for munitions. Ask him whether he thinks we can have enough. Ask him what it means to charge a German trench that has not been blasted away by sufficient shell fire. His answer should inspire you to any personal sacrifice when the call comes to work in a munitions plant.

Every Shell is a Life Saver

MARK H. IRISH, Director of Munitions Labor, National Service Board, Canada