

Public Opinion

CANADA UNDER PROHIBITION.

(Ottawa Journal).

Ontario's step into prohibition leaves Quebec the only province in the Dominion in which by this time next year it will be legal to sell liquor by retail. The Pioneer gives the following list of the last dates on which it was, or will be, lawful to sell liquor by retail in the different parts of the Dominion of Canada:—

Prince Edward Island	1901
Saskatchewan	June 30th, 1915
Manitoba	May 31st, 1916
Nova Scotia	June 29th, 1916
Alberta	June 30th, 1916
Ontario	Sept. 16th, 1916
New Brunswick	April 30th, 1917
British Columbia	June 30th, 1917
Yukon Territory	July 13th, 1917

Quebec, as a province, has passed no prohibitory law, but two-thirds of the province are under local option. The prohibition includes all retail liquor selling, except in Saskatchewan, in which there are still twenty government-operated liquor shops.

The next logical step is for the Dominion Government to prohibit the importation and manufacture of intoxicating liquor. Every province in the country save one having set in to enforce prohibition to the limit of provincial power, and the will of the majority in Canada being clear, the only sensible thing is to make prohibition as effective as possible.

WHO IS WINNING THE LAND?

(Boston News Bureau).

The big point is who is winning the land—and with it in other respects the war—now, and under what conditions. The Germans at first made their conquests quickly and easily. Now, with both sides pushing hard, the Germans this year add but 1 square mile to each 60 they first won, while the Allies on all fronts have made two square miles this year to one scored before.

Ignoring colonies, it is calculated now that the German land winnings have shrunk seven times to thrice those of their foes.

And the further big fact is that any land-losing or retreating at all is being recorded where the Germans, by words and character of dugouts, had declared their positions "unshakable."

The Allies may appear to be paying high, but they seem content in their calculation of values.

THE BRITISH WAY.

(New York Tribune).

Sadly, grimly, the British are going now about their work. There is no hymn of hate in their resources; they have no "Marsellaise"; their will be a slow, silent but relentless action. What you have to feel and see is millions of men who are at last awake to the fact that all that life means to them nationally, morally, spiritually, has been threatened. After the tradition of his race and the fashion of his nation the Englishman, millions of him, has now gone out to kill and be killed until the work that is to be done is done. Once that spirit was clear in England, then those of us who believe that all that America as well as all that democracy held best in the world was at stake in this war could afford to roll up the war maps and put aside the battle reports. The incidental changes would mean nothing and they will mean nothing. "They come so slowly," the Frenchman told you of his allies six months ago, but in saying this he added, out of his race consciousness of half a thousand years of Anglo-French conflict, "but when they do come they will never stop."

APPROPRIATING BELGIUM'S SAVINGS.

(Boston News Bureau).

In the eyes of the world what a perfunctory process must appear the Belgian protest addressed to the United States against an enforced loan of \$200,000,000, said to have been imposed by German military authorities upon Belgian banks! The simple transmission of a protest to Berlin by our state department acting as a go-between is presumably all to be expected. Under the circumstances no immediate benefit can be looked for from protest other than attracting the attention of the world to another breach of international law by Teutonic intimidation and confiscation.

ALL RED AT LAST.

(London Daily News).

A glance at the map of Africa, looked at in the light of the recent military operations in German East Africa, reveals an historic fact, deserving to be placed on record. For the first time the British Empire now holds an uninterrupted line of territory stretching from Alexandria to Cape Town, a distance of some 5,500 miles. The great railway that is being built between Cairo and the Cape had to pass either through the Belgian Congo or German East Africa, and the Congo route was chosen. Now we shall have a demand for an "all red" route, one that would skirt the eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika and drive between the Victoria Nyanza and Albert Nyanza through Uganda, linking up with the existing railways—including the one that runs to Dares-Salaam—on the way. It is a scheme that would have delighted the heart of Cecil Rhodes.

A NEW PASSION FOR HONESTY.

(The Globe).

One of the members elected to the Legislature of British Columbia in the recent political revolution writes to a friend in the East: "Nothing is more inspiring than to see how this hopelessly boomeranged people of five years ago have been driven to their knees and have brought forth a new faith and a new passion for honesty. I look forward with thankfulness to the prospect of public service under such conditions."

Not in British Columbia alone, but in every Province of the Dominion, and in the Federal arena, there are evidences of a new faith and a new passion for honesty. The moral awakening of the Canadian people was long delayed, but it has come at last. The grafter, the boggler, the manipulator of contracts, the corrupt railway promoter whose power for evil has been incalculably great, have had their day. From every Government hereafter, Liberal or Conservative, there will be demanded a new passion for honesty. The man who obtains a dollar of the people's money will be expected to return a dollar's worth of service. The bribery of the electors with their own money must cease, and the politician who seeks to lengthen his tenure of office by squandering the resources of the country must be given short shrift.

PREVENTION VS. PRODUCTION.

(Ottawa Citizen).

The repeated cries for more production in order to enhance the wealth of Canada are apt to cloud the fact that prevention of waste by governments themselves is an important means of filling the country's purse. When one knows that the governments issuing the admonition are themselves fully empowered to eliminate waste in such assets as agricultural and forest lands, the proposition to fill a leaky pail loses some of its reasonableness.

Ontario's forest fires this year represented a straight loss of about six million dollars in the clay-belt alone, counting only the immediate property damage. The fires in Quebec certainly will show a substantial financial injury. Were all the provinces and the federal government to add their forest fire debits, after a complete and frank survey of destroyed areas, the results would illustrate the fallacy of trying to make an extra million out of wheat and at the same time tossing away its equivalent in preventable forest fires.

The growing forests represent about the easiest money Canada ever will lay her hands on. No less than seven and a half millions a year are paid into provincial and federal treasuries each year from timber operations. Five thousand industries look to living forests for their supplies. Our mines, fisheries, agriculture, are helpless without the co-operation of a cheap wood supply. When we abandon the guardianship of this precious pillar of our prosperity to the fire fiend himself, we betray the interests of the present and the future. "More production" as far as the forest assets of Canada are concerned, means nothing upon the responsible provincial and federal governments provide "more protection."

Prussianism now comes to the fore with protest against a loan to Belgium, this based on assumption that it is going to continue to dominate Belgium. Prussianism and Count von Bernstorff are due for an early awakening.

A CAMPAIGN OF THRIFT.

(New York Commercial).

It has been said that a French housewife could feed a family on the food which an American housewife daily throws away. The saying may not be strictly true; it certainly is false in the case of some American wives, but it crystallizes in a phrase the American habits of extravagance. The American people as a people are extravagant; they have not the habits of thrift which are inbred in the French. We have set a high standard of living and all aspire to maintain it. American women of moderate means are the fashions of the wealthy. Proof of their thoughtless extravagance was had anywhere this summer when they could be seen wearing furs on the hottest days. This latest folly of fashion had not the slightest excuse for existence, because furs are distinctly a discomfort in warm weather, yet thousands of dollars were filched by wily creators of styles for profit from the pocketbooks of the public.

FLOOD LIGHTING NIAGARA FALLS.

Popular Science Monthly.)

Illuminating Niagara Falls at night by artificial sunlight is the ambitious scheme now occupying the attention of prominent engineers and the officials of Niagara Falls, N.Y., who have authorized an expedition of \$10,000 for the project. The light is the invention of Will J. Davis Jr., son of the former manager of the Illinois theater, Chicago.

For several nights a battery of twenty-five flood lights was turned on the American falls and the rapids of the Niagara river, to the great delight of thousands.

In illuminating the waterfall at night the light is projected from an ingenious patented reflector which spreads beams of pure yellow light which very closely resembles sunlight upon the curtain of falling water and mist. An artistic realistic effect is produced which would be unattainable by any other means. With his system of flood lighting, receiving its power from the falls themselves, there is no dark center or wing shadow in the light beam. The falls are smoothly and softly lighted.

THE PROSPERITY MYTH.

(Orillia Review.)

War conditions have increased the cost of many lines of goods. That was inevitable. But, under all the circumstances, is there any sense in grumbling about it? Is there really any cause for complaint? Rather let us be devoutly thankful that the country never was so generally prosperous. There is employment for everybody who can and will work, and scarcely anybody lacks the money to pay for everything he or she needs. After the war, prices will come down. But so will wages, so will employment, so will the general prosperity, and then perhaps the constitutional grumblers—which really includes the most of us—will perhaps realize how senseless they were to quarrel with present conditions, from the point of view of which we are speaking.

ENEMIES AT HOME.

(Mail and Empire).

The Bourassa denial that this is Canada's war becomes a greater falsehood every time it is uttered. The moment that Germany launched her thunderbolts upon her neighbors the Empire to which Canada belongs was brought face to face with the greatest peril in its long history. Even if Britain had listened to her pacifists and had stood aside while the Kaiser wrought his will upon the nations he was attacking, the question of her own continuance as a great power and of the survival of her Dominions as free States would none the less have had to be settled by fighting. Only by war could Canada be kept from under the Prussian yoke.

DEMOCRACY AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(From the American School).

No people can remain democratic who do not have a fund of common experiences in childhood and youth. It is necessary that they shall know each other well and have confidence in each other and like each other. This acquaintance and "touch" with each other can be obtained in the best way only in childhood and in the first flush of youth.