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THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY, LIMITED.
 London, Ont., Tuesday, Feb. 20.

SWITZERLAND'S POSITION.

A SWISS WRITER in the Gazette de Lausanne has pointed out that if Switzerland hopes to retain political independence she must keep her economic independence. Before the war the little republic was fast approaching economic absorption in Germany, and since the war began, also, German goods have passed through Switzerland under Swiss names and trade marks, with the connivance of pro-German Swiss.

Swiss imports from Germany increased between 1903 and 1913 from \$70,000,000 to \$130,000,000, while the exports to Germany were only \$60,000,000 at the latter date. The balance in favor of Germany was becoming dangerous. At the same time Swiss exports to Great Britain and colonies were \$62,000,000, but the imports only \$20,000,000; exports to France \$20,000,000, imports \$64,000,000. While the Swiss bought five times as much from Germany as from Great Britain and colonies, they sold more to the latter. The British Empire has been the best market for Swiss goods. Since the war, however, for various good reasons, Swiss goods have been suspected in that market.

The Lausanne writer counsels the Swiss to do their best to keep on friendly terms with England. Well he might! It will pay Switzerland to buy more from the British. When later on the Entente powers freeze out the Teutons by a concerted economic system, Switzerland will have to choose between keeping her best markets and her political freedom on the one hand, and on the other losing herself in the orbit of the Hun. For failure to join the league of civilization will leave her open to German exploitation more than ever, while her goods will consequently not be wanted in the markets of the free world. As the Swiss statistics show, that country has been importing about the same amount from the Teuton and Entente groups of countries, but Swiss exports are far larger to the latter. It ought to be clear to that shrewd, thrifty people which way their interest lies.

WAITING.

THE NEW YORK OUTLOOK said months before the present crisis came upon the United States "issue with Germany today is almost precisely like its issue with Great Britain in 1776. Shall the inalienable right of Americans to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness be championed and protected by all the powers of our government?"

It is important doubtless to weigh the momentous consequences of a plunge into war, but momentous consequences also from protracted delay and hesitation. Thinking too precisely on the event may "sicken" over with the pale cast of thought that native hue of resolution, and so great damage ensue. On the other hand the Wilson administration will certainly be in a strong moral position with every section of the mixed American people if things so fall out that either Germany herself declares war upon the United States, or makes it absolutely impossible for the Washington Government any longer to void a conflict.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

ARE WOMEN to have a vote? That is the question which holds, next to the war, chief place in the hearts of women today. Even the hard shells at Toronto are softening. In fact, one woman maintains that there can never be universal peace until woman has received equal power with man. The following is taken from the Contemporary Review, in which Mr. Sidney Low, in discussing a notable book of this woman, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, voices her ideas on this subject:

"War and peace, so Mrs. Stobart holds, is pre-eminently a woman's question. She believes that women are by nature the peace-loving, non-militarist element of the human partnership. This, not because woman is cowardly or spiritless, but because nature has bestowed upon her the special function of giving and cherishing life. 'The male creature is wasteful and prodigal of life; he creates it as lightly as he destroys it, sowing it carelessly under the impulse of one passion, extinguishing it with a fierce recklessness in the whirl of another. Birth and death—these, we are asked to believe, are deeper realities to one sex than to the other; for woman, the mother, who buys each new life at the risk of her own, must be economical in the handling of the treasure if only from the instinct of self-preservation.'

"And so if war, which in essence is merely killing en gros, is to cease, it will be by the action of the thrifty guardian of life, has equal power with man, the spend-thrift."

Whether there is any ground for the belief that war can only be abolished by the power of woman, this much is certain—during the strain and economic stress of the present war woman has shown to the world her fitness to accept any responsibility which chance or legislation may put upon

her. Her remarkable adaptability, her readiness and ability to undertake work which hitherto had been considered above her strength, both physically and mentally, have won for her a place of respect in the man's world.

However, when the war is over and men return to their own tasks once more, the women will be willing to resign those particular forms of work which are distinctly man's, but they never will surrender the prestige which their war work has given them. They have proved themselves to be wonderful organizers, and so must devote their energies to the organization of skilled women's work of all kinds. The leisure class of women, small at all times in Canada, will be found demanding employment; home-makers will be trained; all domestic work and factory work will be skilled and organized; woman will be conducting her special work on a business basis, and will demand the same power in the world as man.

As for the vote, it is bound to come. Everything was pointing to it before the war, and now its realization is only a matter of time. Miss Marjory MacMurchy, in "The Woman—Bless Her," says:

"There can be no doubt that Canadian women will vote. Many are voting already. The vote, when it comes, will mark progress. But, as compared with these questions of training and skill in women's employments, votes may be regarded as unimportant."

ROOSEVELT'S CREED.

ROOSEVELT ever feels more anxious to be at the fore. Now he is planning to use Canada as a base and raise an army of 200,000 Americans, in the event of war. Roosevelt resents Germany's attitude towards the United States. He doesn't believe in aggressive warfare, but once hit he must hit back. This code of his is brought out very clearly in an address last December to the youngsters of Cove School, after he had enacted the role of Santa Claus and distributed presents among them. He said: "Remember you are all of you little Americans, first, last, and all the time, and nothing else. I haven't got a bit of use for a bully, but on the other hand, I haven't got the least use for a 'softer.' Don't you bully or abuse anyone who is smaller than you are. If I find any of you doing that, I will hunt you out and thrash you. But don't you let anyone bully you, either. You stand up for your rights."

THE BOY BARON.

M LORD of the Mergers has taken his seat in the House of Lords. He was introduced with due formality by Lord Audley and Lord Rothmere. The occasion was quite heavy with ermine capes and things. What a climax to the most spectacular career of a Canadian product of the public schools, who will be 29 years of age next May 25. A laughing boy, the son of a Presbyterian clergyman, who never sought the academic halls of McGill, yet had Montreal gasping like a caught fish before he was thirty.

One can scarcely deal with Maxie Aitken's (Baron Beaverbrook, pardon, Mr. Lord) case as one would deal with the case of the other honored-for-polit of Canada's blooming hereditary aristocracy. He wouldn't mind what you said. He made his boast many years ago that he would be, and there he is. He has smiled his way there, the D'Aragnan of finance he has been called, and perhaps a reincarnation of a plumed hat and rapier. Certainly he has used the rapier always with a grin to prod the stray cattle of industry into the first corral of big finance. He got a look at the merger game and he thought he'd introduce it into Canada. Then he got a place in the outfit and scoured the financial lands bare. Brewster with the million and a touch of Jim Wallingford got to be a tame game for our young lord. He couldn't understand those formal old Montreal fellows who were somewhat awed with his unchallengeable youth. He might get a "super-sir" if he struck in Montreal, but his gun for a chipmunk when the big game was going. He had plenty of money to pay his fare over the water and he had a little left over—a few millions that didn't look skimpy when the pound sign had to be applied. He didn't run with the omnibus crowd there when the motor crowd made a sign. He was the "brilliant, courageous, confident, insistent and impulsive young colonial"—how delightful. Lady Q. is quite taken up with his tea manners. But he was being a man with the big Unionists, and he also contributed well.

Just think that a few months ago Augustus Briddle wrote of him: "One speculates—if the more or less dubious prospects of Sir Max do not include a seat in the House of Lords." He has taken all the jumps "on the wing."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The patriotic thermometer is rising. Do your bit!

That long promised blizzard is arriving. Turn up your collar! Brh!

If Newfoundland now becomes a part of Canada, the fathers of confederation will at last settle down for a long and peaceful sleep.

Sunday seems to be as good a day as any to send brave souls into the unknown by way of a water grave. The sub warfare still goes on.

Australia follows the lead of the mother country and forms a coalition Government. A certain member of the British Empire is rather behind the times in this respect, and it's Canada! Canada!

Russia is looking ahead. Already the construction of a Russian mercantile fleet has been financed by the Duma, so that Russia may capture her share of the trade after the war. Let us not be caught napping!

THE BRAVE LION-HUNTERS!



—Passing Show.

THE ADVERTISER'S DAILY SHORT STORY
 (Copyright, 1916, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)
 MR. CHARLES'S WASHING.
 By Louise Oliver.

Jane, rounding a corner in her roadster—a very muddy corner and full of puddles—heard a little boy yell. Just at first her heart stood still for she thought she had run over him, but on coming to a sudden stop and looking back through the curtains she saw a little boy very much alive, jumping up and down like an angry little Jack-in-the-box and shaking a grizzly fist in her direction. Beside him on a small wagon was a wash basket full of clothes and she was not too far away to see the ominous black spots all over the snowy white cover.

"Just look what she done!" he cried to a sympathetic crowd. "She splashed mud all over Ma's washin' and I'll get a lickin'. You—come back here and see what she done!"

"The Labeled up the curb and got out. 'Did I do that?' she asked. 'Are you sure?'"

"Sure as I am that I dassent go home and tell me what she done, 'cause I'm for spollin' Mr. Charles's washin'."

"That's too bad, little boy. I'm sorry I hadn't any idea I was splashing so and I know just how you feel. Once I had on a new dress and a man splashed mud all over it and I was just like that." She chafed her hands together, "and spoiled my dress forever. Those mud spots never did come out of me. I'm afraid I hate that man to this minute."

"Well, that ain't me. Look at 'em. I—"

"And I don't want you to hate me like that, so I'll tell you what I'm going to do. Tell me how much it is and I'll pay you. Then I'll take the washing home myself after I've fixed it up."

"It's a dollar and a half." "Here it is, then, and if you'll bring the basket over beside my car I'll give you a dollar more."

"You can lift it. You see, I do washing and I know just how you feel. Just how your mother would feel to see her day's work coming home again."

"You!" said Dickie. "You wash?" "Why, yes. Why not?" "Thank you," she laughed. "Is that any reason why I shouldn't do washing?"

"I don't know," dubiously. "Ma and Mrs. Slagel and Mrs. Kelch and every one in our alley wears big dresses and aprons, and you—you're all fixed up."

"Just sometimes, kiddie. You ought to see me when I'm busy. But you know now, and you don't worry about me, and I'll do it all up. Good-bye, now. I'm going."

"Good-bye," he turned away as she started the engine, then came back. "Oh, will you give me this?" She found it in one of his pockets and it nearly got spilt in the water. She dried it out. It didn't forget. He held out a bit of pasteboard.

"All right, I'll give it to him. Now good-bye again."

She shoved it into her pocket and started the car. She had gone several blocks before she realized that she had not asked the man's name and she knew any more about the youngster she had relieved of his load. Suddenly she thought of the pasteboard. But to her surprise she saw her own features looking back at her.

"My picture! And in his pocket! The little boy said his name was Charles. I don't know any Charles, not a single one. It's very odd. Well, I'll look over the clothes. Maybe his name's on some of the things. If it isn't I'll have to advertise. Wouldn't that be a circus?"

"Found a gentleman's washing. Same may be claimed by identifying property."

Jane took the washings to the Working Girls' Home, where she and a lot of her friends showed the girls the dignity of labor by co-operating with them at their work. They did only very fine garments for very fine ladies, who paid well for it and the money went toward the support of the home.

"Girls," called Jane merrily, "I've brought home something out of the ordinary; do you think we can do 'em?"

"Sure, Miss Jane, we'd wash a circus tent if you'd bring it."

Now in his apartment on the other side of the town one Charles Armstrong was pulling out bureau drawers, rummaging through boxes and turning out clothes. "I'm darned if I can remember where I put that picture. Funny how things turn out. When they sent home my camera pictures that girl's was in by mistake, and I haven't been able to get her out of my head for a minute since. And the day of the fire I slashed mud all over that same little girl and she's hated me ever since. I don't know her name and I don't dare to find out. I know she has put me down for a boomer and all my explaining wouldn't make things right. She always looks as if she would murder me."

He started to dress for dinner and dug through his drawer for a certain shirt. "Hang it, my washings' two days late. I'll have to run down in the car, I guess, and get it. Mrs. Miggins or Dickie must be sick."

Didn't you get your clothes, Mr. Charles?" said Mrs. Miggins in a sotto-voce a little later. "Why Dickie took

them two days ago. Dickie, come here!"

And Dickie, sniffing and scared to death, told the whole thing. "She promised to take them, she did. She said—"

"Did you give her my name and address, Dickie?"

"No. She didn't ask."

"Do you know hers?"

"No, but I gave her the picture, and say, didn't she look like the picture, though. It must 'a' been her."

"Is that all you know about her? Did she say anything else?"

"No. Oh, yes. She said a man splashed her once."

"All right, Dickie. Don't cry and here's a dime."

He drove to Kelso's. "Did any young lady lose a picture? One was sent in with mine a few weeks ago by mistake. No, I haven't it with me, but thought I could mail it to her if I knew who it was."

"Why, yes, Miss Jane Cartwright lost one. Likely that's it. Yes, I have her address."

So Charles headed for Jane's. They recognized each other in an instant. "Yes, I have your clothes," explained Jane. "But the mud spots the just wouldn't come out."

"Then we're even. I'm sorry I spoiled your dress."

"Will you tell me what you were doing with my picture?"

"Yes. I'm in love with it."

She reddened. "You make love as you drive a car. It isn't always the best way."

"I need some one to teach me patience. I'd be a very willing pupil. Won't you try?"

"I'll think about it," answered Jane.

Unwieldy Machinery.

Mr. Rowell: "Well, it seems to me we are all getting up machinery and machinery and the result will be that so much energy will be required to operate the machinery that we will not get the direct and effective touch with the agricultural interests as the province requires. There should be a minister of agriculture with actual experience as an agriculturist, and with those who are in the department of agriculture so as to make possible the appointment of a commissioner and the appointment of two deputy ministers. The Liberal leader maintained that the plan which the premier had outlined in the bill for dealing with such an important branch of the public service was not suited to produce the best results so far as the agricultural interests of the province are concerned."

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the uplifters saying a word about that.

There are many criticisms in the Conservative press about Laurier's so-called tinpot navy, but the present Government is making a record in the distribution of tinpot titles.

The more we see of this winter the more we are convinced that the ground-hog was no fool.

DOWN WITH THE COAL KINGS! Old King Cole, a failed, merry soul, of whom we used to read when we were boys.

Was a very different thing from the present-day Coal King. While the present-day Coal King never cries a single thing.

But, "We've no coal now and we'll have less, you see!"

The original King Cole, no doubt, would pass his bowl, and ask the neighbors all to have a drink.

But the present-day Coal King at us Billingsgate does fling. When we tell him "the home fires" are on the blink.

Small wonder we look back, and vocabularies rack. To say of Old King Cole some pleasant thing, and then tire out our brain, and our vitality drain. Thinking up anathemas on the Coal King.

—THE OLD 'UN.

TOO MUCH OFFICE MAY HANDICAP THE ONTARIO FARMERS

O. A. C. Likely To Suffer by New Arrangement.

MR. ROWELL CRITICISES Prof. Creelman Would Make Admirable Deputy if Not Otherwise Hampered.

[Special to The Advertiser.] TORONTO, Feb. 19.—N. W. Rowell, leader of the Opposition, made a plea for leadership instead of temporary makeshifts when discussing in the Legislature today the bill providing for a reorganization of the department of agriculture so as to make possible the appointment of a commissioner and the appointment of two deputy ministers.

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(An advertisement by The Bell Telephone Co. of Canada. Will you please read it, and others of the series to follow?)

should be dealt with from the standpoint of how vital was the interest of agriculture, and they should secure the best man available in the province for the responsible duties of minister and deputy minister."

Towards the conclusion of his remarks, the leader of the Opposition said that anxious as the prime minister might be to do justice to the department of agriculture, he did not think it was physically possible for one man with the duties in other respects, and as prime minister, to undertake the problem, and he did not think it was possible for a lawyer unless he had more agricultural experience than most lawyers were credited with.

On the motion of Mr. Rowell the debate on this bill was adjourned.

Favors Co-operation.

Speaking of everything that forward agricultural co-operation, Mr. Rowell said everything that would enable the farmers to get together, market their products to the best advantage, purchase their supplies to the best advantage, and that would enable the agricultural interests of the province to make their industry more remunerative should meet with the heartiest approval of members of the House.

Premier Hearst, in answer to Mr. Rowell, stated that he understood that the ordinary fee for incorporation of this kind would be \$10.

Recruiting Shows An Increase for Last Two Weeks

Toronto District Leads With 1,310—London Had 270.

OTTAWA, Feb. 19.—Recruiting figures for the past fortnight show an increase in the rate of enlistment. The total for the war is now 355,722. In the two weeks the enrollment was 4,238, as against 4,130 in the preceding fortnight. Toronto district leads with 1,310, the other figures by districts being: Ottawa-Kingston, 535; Maritime Provinces, 690; Montreal, 429; London, 270; British Columbia, 212; Manitoba, 238; Alberta, 187; Saskatchewan, 187; Quebec, 104.

PLUCKY ENGINEER SAVED MANY LIVES

Wolverine Crashed Into an Empty Box Car Near Chelsea.

JACKSON, Feb. 19.—By pluckily holding his nerve and using his emergency brake Engineer George M. Gardner, in charge of No. 17 westbound, the Michigan Central's crack New York—Chicago Express, "the Wolverine," which he has the Guelph Agricultural College under his charge. That is a task large and difficult, and he has the institution—the outstanding institution in connection with the agricultural life of the province—is to be put to the highest point of efficiency. I believe it demands the services of the best man available, and I submit with great respect, with great confidence, that it is not possible for one man to give the service which the college requires, and at the same time give to the department of agriculture the direct personal supervision and the efficient leadership which that department requires.

The head of the agricultural college as a deputy minister to take the place of long and so efficient a minister, the late C. C. James, a man of great outstanding ability on all matters of agriculture, then he would have done something worth while.

Why should we have two deputy ministers of agriculture? Why should the department be split up into branches in that way? Why should we not have one responsible and efficient officer, a man of the crown, would have the guidance and the direction of the work of the department? Instead of making provision for temporary makeshifts the whole thing

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