

Journal of Commerce

Published Daily by The Journal of Commerce Publishing Company, Limited, 35-45 Alexander Street, Montreal.

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Journal of Commerce Offices: Toronto—T. W. Harpell, 44-46 Lombard Street, Telephone Main 7099.

Subscription price, \$3.00 per annum. Single Copies, One Cent. Advertising rates on application.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1915.

The Bagdad Railway.

Those who hold to the view that the Scotch are the chosen people of the Lord, and that the race originally came from the Garden of Eden, may find them in possession of that land before very long.

This road is popularly known as the Berlin to Bagdad Railway, owing to the fact that Germany obtained a concession from the Turks to build the line, and with a great flourish of trumpets announced to the world that a great commercial highway was to be built from Berlin to Bagdad.

The European end of this railway, running from Berlin to Constantinople, passing through Vienna, Budapest, and on to Constantinople, was opened for traffic in 1888. The line from Vienna to Constantinople was built by Austrian-Hungarian capital with the idea of eventually making the Balkan States and Turkey a Pan-Germanic group.

Japan and China.

It looks as if the wily Japs, our Allies in the Far East, had stolen a march on the world in general through their coercion of China. For many years Japan has looked with suspicion on the inroads for foreign powers were making in China.

Apparently Japan is now seeking to coerce China in such a way that there will be no more concessions granted foreign powers without the consent of Japan. China, which is a peace-loving, sleepy giant just emerging from the medieval customs, with which she has been surrounded, desired peace above all things.

Italy has decided not to fight. Perhaps she can get all she wants by peaceful means, but we doubt it. The only way to get anything out of the gentle Tretons is to choke them black in the face.

President Wilson intimates that the United States will not go to war. He says "There is such a thing as being so right that it does not need to be convinced by force that it is right."

There are Englishmen and Englishmen. There are the Englishmen who are fighting like heroes in Flanders; and there are the Englishmen at home who won't even exert themselves in the production of war supplies but insist upon their right to lay off and get drunk when they feel like it.

GERMANY AMUCK ON THE SEA.

It is apparent that Germany is not going to respect the flag of any nation on the high seas. The admiralty office has evidently given submarine commands in the waters of the so-called war zone around the British Isles.

Germany spent upwards of four hundred million dollars in developing her colonies, which have an area five times as great as that of the mother country. Some of these colonies have been conquered by the Allies, while it is only a question of time before they all pass from the control of Germany.

A billion and a quarter dollars is the estimate made by the Boston News Bureau of the war orders placed in the United States by the Allies. We have estimated that in Canada upwards of a quarter of a billion dollars worth of war orders have been placed by the Allies, which makes a total of one billion five hundred million dollars worth of orders placed in Canada and the United States.

Those interested in reforestation, which is receiving some attention in Canada, should take a lesson from California, where walnut trees are being extensively planted. During 1914 the United States imported 37,000,000 lbs. of walnuts valued at \$4,300,000.

In 1914 Canada possessed 6,636,817 head of cattle, or 12 per cent less than she owned in 1909. The large decrease is probably due to the operation of the American tariff which permits Canadian cattle to enter the United States free of duty.

From time to time American financial writers express the opinion that the United States has become a creditor nation as a result of the war. It will be some time before she gets into that state, although she has been loaning considerable sums of money to Canada and other countries during the past few months.

The British and their Allies have waged a humdrum war for upwards of nine months. They have conformed to every clause prescribed by the Hague Convention, but the Germans disregard everything, and use any and every means at their disposal to crush the Allies.

In Victoria soldiers and citizens wrecked German stores, clubs and hotels as a reply to the methods adopted in the sinking of helpless passenger ships. We understand that members of the Teutonic Club of Montreal are allowed to meet without let or hindrance, and toast their beloved Kaiser to their hearts' content.

Society in the old sense of the word has ceased to exist—it has completely disappeared. The units which composed society, at any rate as to the women, no doubt still exist in London, but as a comparative whole, with meeting places and common conventions, it has melted into the ordinary world.

Considering its small numbers the Canadian Overseas Contingent, which has been winning laurels in the fighting line, is perhaps the most cosmopolitan force of that kind ever gathered together. Its members hail from all quarters of the globe—Asia, Australia, Europe, Africa, and of course America.

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ENGLISH LABOR PROBLEMS.

Trade unionism is on trial in Great Britain and is not standing the test of war. The man who dislikes work and does as little as he can is always an enthusiastic supporter of the trade union.

When labor is scarce they are backed by the trade unions they do not fear dismissal. They impose on their employers and corrupt their fellow workmen as soon as the yeas to feel the check of the line of applicants waiting to take their places.

If the British industrial system breaks down the labor unions will lose the advantages they have enjoyed for half a century. They appear to be fostering idleness and idleness when the country is engaged in a desperate struggle for existence.

The time is ripening when we shall have to put to the test the warning to Germany that "the government of the United States would be constrained to hold the Imperial German Government to a strict accountability for such acts of her naval authorities, and to take any steps it might be necessary to take to safeguard American lives and property, and to secure to American citizens the full enjoyment of their acknowledged rights on the high seas."

Friendship between Germany and the United States is waning because Uncle Sam is insisting on f. o. b. rules of acceptance for war supply orders.

With Col. Watterson's Compliments. The highbrows among the German-Americans, loyal to Imperialism, false to Democracy, obstinately refuse to see or admit it.

"A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN" "What are them buckets for on the hill in the hall?" "Can't ye read, ye fool? It says on them, 'For Fire Only.' This why how they put water in them?"

A raw Irishman shipped as one of the crew of a schooner. His turn at the wheel came around, and he found himself the butt of a little humor below. "Be gorry," he growled at last, "and ye needn't talk. Of done more steerin' in tin minutes than any av ye did in yer whole watch."

"George Washington," read the small boy from his history. "was born Feb. 22, 1732, A. D." "What does 'A. D.' stand for?" inquired the teacher. "The small boy pondered, says the United Presbyterian, 'I don't exactly know,'" he hesitated. "After dark, I guess."

"What has become of the Cheerful Idiot?" asked the Old Fogey. "I haven't heard of him for months." "Why, he is busy with a get-rich-quick scheme," replied the Grouch.

"What is it?" asked the Old Fogey. "Some one told him that a queen bee lays 3,000 eggs a day, and he is trying to perfect a cross between a queen bee and a hen."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A writer of plays was reading a new work before a company of the French Society of Comedy, and presently was disturbed by the sight of one of the members, M. Got, fast asleep. The author stopped and reproved the sleeper. He was reading his play to the committee in order to obtain their opinion. How could a man who was asleep give an opinion? M. Got rubbed his eyes and remarked: "Sleep is an opinion." There was no appeal from this verdict.

A man in the English Veteran Reserves was called up recently. After a week at his new quarters he was brought up before the officer commanding for not cleaning his rifle one day. Said the officer commanding: "Hem, you're an old soldier re-enlisted, I see. I suppose it will be many years ago since you were reprimanded? What was your last offence? Can you remember what it was?" The old soldier, annoyed on account of the repeated assertions to his age, replied: "For not cleaning my bow an' arrow, sir!"—London Express.

"Father," inquired the little brainwisher of the family, "when will our little baby brother be able to talk?" "Oh, when he's about three, Mary." "Why can't he talk now, father?" "He is only a baby yet, Mary. Babies can't talk." "Oh, yes, they can, father," insisted Mary, "for Job could talk when he was a baby."

"Yes," said Mary. "Nurse was telling us to-day that it says in the Bible: Job cursed the day he was born."—Stray Stories.

WHILE LILACS BLOOM. (Chicago Tribune.) I love God's gifts—the trees, the ferns, The cups of gold strewn o'er the sod, The sun-faded flower that mornward turns, The hollyhock and goldenrod; The pansy, too, with eyes like night, The roadside thistle's fairy globes, The cherry tree arrayed in white, The maple in its autumn robes, The trailing arbutus can lure Me sometimes from the town away, The wood-born violet demure Hath caused me farther on to stray, Even now a slender poplar sings Near one far lake, while Luna shines; Across the years sweet memory brings The threnody of northern pines.

I knew a gardenwalled orchard With rubble, near the city's heart, Within that fragrant bit of ground I grew for me a thing apart From all the rest—a bush now bare, But soon with wondrous life to stir, Its blossoms sweetening all the air, Purple and white and lavender, The overhanging sky may glow; Or spread a canopy of gloom; Let to that spot each day I'll go As to a shrine, while lilacs bloom.

INSURANCE FOR EVERYBODY.

Within three or four years' group insurance of lives has become an important factor in the business of life insurance, many companies now engaging in it. Say a plant employs a thousand men. The company will insure all of them under one blanket policy, without any individual application or medical examination.

No physical examinations are necessary, because the mere fact that the men are at work is sufficient proof that, as a rule, they are in good bodily condition; and by insuring a thousand employed men in a lump the company gets the average risk, which is all it needs. It could afford to insure the whole adult population of a city on a bloc, because then, also, it would get the average risk, on which its premium charges are based; in fact, experience indicates that group insurance risks run above the average.

The striking thing is the demonstrated practicability of insuring every employed man. It would be entirely feasible, that is, for a city, a state or a nation to insure every employed man within its borders in an amount equal to his yearly earnings, and at a premium of about one per cent. of the total yearly payroll.

An objection raised to group insurance is that it causes men to rely on that expedient instead of taking out individual insurance, and if they are thrown out of work their insurance ceases. But it is answered that the group scheme, by demonstrating the advantages of insurance to many men who might otherwise ignore it, has just the opposite effect.

We hope the latter argument is true, for every man with dependents and without a fortune ought to insure his life.—Saturday Evening Post.

LAST TALK WITH LINCOLN. It was one of my duties at this time to receive the reports of the officers of the secret service in every part of the country. On the afternoon of the 14th of April—it was Good Friday—I got a telegram from the provost marshal in Portland, Me., saying: "I have positive information that Jacob Thompson will pass through Portland to-night, in order to take a steamer for England. What are your orders?"

Jacob Thompson of Mississippi had been secretary of the interior in President Buchanan's administration. He was a conspicuous secessionist, and for some time had been employed in Canada as a semi-diplomatic agent of the confederate government. He had been organizing all sorts of trouble and getting up raids, of which the notorious attack of St. Albans, Vt., was a specimen. I took the telegram and went down and read it to Mr. Stanton. His order was prompt: "Arrest him!" But as I was going out of the door he called to me and said: "No, wait, better go over and see the President."

At the White House all the work of the day was over, and I went into the President's business room without meeting any one. Opening the door, I seemed to be no one there, but as I was turning to go out Mr. Lincoln called to me from a little side room, where he was washing his hands: "Then I read him the telegram from Portland. 'What does Stanton say?' he asked. 'He says arrest him, but that I should refer the question to you.'"

"Well," said the President slowly, wiping his hands, "no, I rather think not. When you have got an elephant by the hind leg, and he's trying to run away, it's best to let him run." "With this direction I returned to the war department."

"Well, what says he?" asked Mr. Stanton. "He says that when you have got an elephant by the hind leg and he is trying to run away, it's best to let him run." "Oh, that," said Stanton.—Dana's "Recollections of the Civil War."

A WAR OF WILL POWER. It has become a war of national will power to a great and increasing extent. The lack of initiative among the Allies at the present moment does not imply the fatigue of their will-power. On the contrary, it denotes their determination to prolong the war and let time fight on their side.

The strength of German determination shows as yet no certain sign of flagging, any more than does the opponents. German arms, however, are near the maximum of strength which they can attain. The Allied maximum of fighting strength has not yet been reached. It may not be for many months. The recent apparent slackness of operations is an illusion. The Germans stand on the defensive. The Allies have not broken down; they are not marking time. They are moving at half speed and doing their chief work in the ammunition factory and the training camp. The battle is far from done.—New York Sun.

CONSTANTINOPLE'S 4TH FALL. Constantinople may be the first decisive prize for the allies. The ancient city on Europe's storied frontier has been hammered, assaulted and beset many times, but taken only three in all its history. And it has been seriously threatened but once since the Turks wrested it from the descendants of the Caesars nearly five centuries ago.—Providence Journal.

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INSURANCE FOR EVERYBODY. Within three or four years' group insurance of lives has become an important factor in the business of life insurance, many companies now engaging in it.

THE DAY'S BEST EDITORIAL THE GULFIGHT INCIDENT. As the Gulfight incident contains ugly possibilities, it is well for the American people to suspend judgment until the facts are fully known.

BALDWIN LOCOMOTIVE COMPANY TO MAKE ADDITION. New York, May 11.—The announcement of Baldwin Locomotive Company has placed an order for 100,000 structural steel for erection of a second shop at its Eddystone plant which will cost \$1,000,000.

LONDON MARKETS DULL. London, May 11.—Markets dull. Con war loan 94 1/16. New York Amal. 1 p.m. Equiv. Canadian Pacific 165 158% Erie 26 25% N. K. & T. 13% Southern Ry. 17 1/2 16% Southern Pacific 91 1/2 88% Union Pacific 120 124% U. S. Steel 115 118% West. Union 4 1/2 5 1/2

LATE LIST WAS STILL HOLD. President's Speech Helped in Upward Trend of a Rally From the Opening Was.

There were signs of an improvement in demand despite the national situation. (Exclusive Leased Wire to Journal) New York, May 11.—President's speech elicited an enthusiastic market and at opening large gains through the list.

New York, May 11.—Activity during the hour was on a large scale and, in evidence of selling of stocks beyond of protecting the market on recent of the sales were absorbed without only comparatively small recession figures.

New York, May 11.—As soon as shorts which was a factor in producing gains was over, the stock market, but at the end of the first hour, about comparatively inactive the tone seemed good. In conservative quarters it large interests were to a great extent when the break came and that there is which they have bought will be held for considerably higher prices.

New York, May 11.—Trading was quiet afternoon, but prices held firmly and the stock offered was small. On the announcement of the dividend declared by the Erie Railroad, the market was considerably bear account still of that the market was by no means in a volution and could probably give a good action under an attack.

THE FINE HOCT OF WEDNESDAY. The fine hoct of Wednesday was the highest over the St. 113 1/2. The market was the Great La.