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WATERDOWN, ONTARIO

Canada's Financial Position.
The last budget disclosed Canada's financial position to be:
Pre-war national debt, \$235,996,850.
Estimated debt after demobilization, \$1,950,000,000.
Present Dominion securities held in Great Britain, \$362,700,000.
Held in the United States, \$150,783,000.
Held in Canada, \$1,510,000,000.
Pre-war annual interest, \$12,893,504.
Present annual interest, \$115,000,000.
Last year's pensions, \$17,460,000.
Present year's pensions, \$30,000,000.
Future year's pensions \$40,000,000.
Demobilization and gratuities, \$300,000,000.
Estimated total expenditure this year, \$620,000,000.
Estimated revenue, \$280,000,000.
Estimated deficit to be covered by loan, \$340,000,000.

Canada's Debt.

Canada's debt is now about two billion dollars, of which three-fourths are held in Canada itself, one-sixth in Great Britain, and one-twelfth in the United States. Canada is now practically independent in a financial sense. The bulk of the debt is from the Canadian people to that section of it which invested in bonds during the war.

A Sad Case.

The lieutenant was lonesome for a familiar face. Seeing a chap who looked like the boy who used to deliver groceries at his home, he stopped him and asked: "Do you know who I am?" "No, sir; don't you?"

Bird Reserves.

It is something for one bird to tell another that Canada has created a series of reserves in the Province of Quebec where birds are safe from man-made troubles. Unlike most bird refuges, Perce Rock, a picturesque island near Perce Village; the east and north cliffs of Bonaventure Island, three miles further away; and the northernmost of the Magdalen Islands, 124 miles out to sea, have been set apart specifically to protect birds whose value to mankind is chiefly their beauty as a part of nature. There is no attempt to argue, for example, that the gannet, the kittiwake, or the razorbill auk should be protected because they "help the farmer"; they are protected simply because they are birds. No human being may steal an egg from their nests; no weapon dangerous to their welfare may be brought within a mile of their island sanctuaries. Naturally all other birds are equally safe, and the three refuges will be a help toward carrying out the purpose of the international treaty for bird protection.

Course for English Brides.

Further evidence that Ontario intends to do all she can for the English brides whom the soldiers are bringing over in such large numbers, is shown by the announcement made by Dr. Creelman, of Guelph Agricultural College, that a special short course in housekeeping will be opened for them at Macdonald Institute from May 16th to June 28th. The course will include laundry work, done in the Canadian way, dairying and domestic economy. Many of the English girls will find our cook stoves quite puzzling at first. They will discover there are many little differences in the Canadian "way" of doing things, and such a course should prove of great assistance to them, especially to those who are going to settle in the country. The cost of the course is \$30, and to those who can afford it, it will be money well spent.

Ontario School Statistics.

According to the Minister of Education's report for 1918 the attendance during the year was 561,865, divided: Public, 457,516; Separate, 70,048; High schools and collegiate institutes, 29,097; continuation schools, 5,104. There are 5,103 Public Schools, with 11,274 teachers; 548 Separate schools or collegiate institutes, with 1,051 teachers; 137 continuation schools, with 241 teachers. The Public school attendance averaged 295,652, an increase of 3,047. Separate schools attendance was 46,919, an increase of 722. The total expenditure for school purposes was \$16,855,431, an average of \$6.35 per head for the total population.

Haig Is Good Golf Driver.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig and Lady Haig were on the St. Andrews links recently and engaged in an interesting foursome over the Old Course. Sir Douglas and Gen. Kiggell played against Lady Haig and Andrew Kirkaldy, professional to the Royal and Ancient Club. The latter couple won by two holes after a close contest. Andrew Kirkaldy says that Lady Haig is a good golfer and that Sir Douglas' short game is not so good as his driving, which is excellent.

Bird Life.

To conserve bird life for economic as well as sentimental reasons, the Canadian Government is offering prizes to school children for bird-houses and photographs of birds in their habitat.

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