

NOTES AND COMMENTS

While Germany is doing out food under German regulation and has cut heavily into meat rations to the civilian population, Russia alone has gathered a grain crop of two billion bushels. Even after allowing for the needs of its immense population, the Czar's empire will be able to export virtually half a billion bushels of grain to its allies in the west. The situation is significant from several points of view. It demonstrates, of course, that the spectre of starvation is not likely to swerve Russia from its course, and it calls attention to an immense advantage the Allies possess over the central empires, the advantage of easy access to food supply.

Official reports to the contrary notwithstanding, the Teutonic Empires cannot provide themselves with a bountiful food supply, and the very facts of Russian grain purchases and official supervision of food prove it. France, England and Italy are in a position to buy grain from Canada, Argentina, and the United States, and to have it delivered; but in view of the already enormous trade balance in favor of the western hemisphere, it is quite likely that sentiment and sound interest will unite to make Russia the preferred granary in their eyes. The more trade the Allies can give to one another the better off that combination will be when war ends. Russia's excess of grain stored in the Black Sea region awaiting free transport to the Mediterranean thus becomes a great prize and a fresh incentive to the forces now attempting to capture the Dardanelles.

Many efforts have been made to coin a term sufficiently broad and comprehensive to be really descriptive of the conflict now raging openly in Europe and more less covertly in every land and nation. In this war the mechanical ingenuity of man has been put forth as never before to maim and slay his fellows. In view of that outstanding fact David Lloyd George, the British minister of munitions, seems in the speech he made to the trade union convention at Bristol to have suggested a more comprehensive and descriptive term.

He told his hearers flatly that the mechanics of Britain would win or lose this war. "With you," he said, "victory is assured; without you our cause is lost." And it is easy to see why. With all their valor the soldiers in the field cannot prevail over their foes unless the mechanics in the workshops at home supply them with more tools and better than the foes are supplied with by their mechanics in the workshops at home.

Mechanical organization—workshop efficiency—must support military organization as never before. The side whose workshops are most efficient, since equal valor in the field may be assumed, will win the war. So let us call it by the name of the places where it will be finally lost and won. Let us call it "The War of the Workshops."

MORE PAY FOR SERVANTS.

Problem of Finding English Help Grows Daily.

Domestic servants can demand, and are obtaining more wages than before the war, as they are becoming increasingly difficult to find in London, England.

So many opportunities exist now for women to obtain work previously given to men that young women who were, or would have become, domestic servants, now seek less monotonous employment, with more free hours and more spare cash to spend.

The large majority of housewives, therefore, who were accustomed to have one or two servants, have now to pay wages of from \$100 to \$125, it is said at a West End registry office, in order to attract to their service girls who before the war would work for \$80 or \$100 a year.

Many curious advertisements appear in different journals which publish demands for women workers. The old question, "What to do with our girls?" is quite dead, even with reference to the girls who have to turn out and earn a living without having any experience.

Any woman nowadays can get some kind of work if she wishes. The war has effectively killed snobbery, and the girl who now cuts up the bacon in the provision shop may have received a better education and be of better birth than many of the customers she serves.

"Wanted, a vegetable maid, \$2.50 weekly and all found," is one advertisement recently noticed. In this case the vegetable maid would be infinitely better off than many girls in the City on a \$6.25 a week salary, with omnibus fares to pay and lunches out.

During the first three centuries of the English Parliament, all who served in it were paid. In the fifteenth century the amount was two shillings a day.

Tablecloths and sheets should be taken off the line before they are quite dry, then folded smoothly and laid on one side to be ironed the next day.

A motor-car fitted with a horn, which warned pedestrians of its approach by playing "We won't go home till morning," was heard in London not long ago.

About the Household

Selected Dishes.

Currant Jelly Sauce.—Make sauce of three tablespoons browned butter, four tablespoons flour, one cup milk or brown stock, and one-fourth teaspoon salt. Add one-half cup currant jelly and one teaspoon lemon juice.

Toasted Corn.—After boiling new corn six minutes to insure partial cooking, remove to bread toaster and toast over hot coals or in broiler of gas oven until evenly browned. The delicious flavor imparted this way is worth the extra trouble.

Pineapple Pie.—Cream one-third cup butter with half a cup of sugar, add two cups grated pineapple which has been heated to the boiling point. Then add two beaten egg yolks mixed with half a cup of rich milk and one tablespoonful lemon juice and the grated peel of a lemon. Fill pie, bake and cover with a meringue made of the whites of the eggs.

Vegetable Jardiniere.—For this dish use cauliflower, green string beans and carrots. Cook vegetables separately, seasoning each with butter, pepper and salt. Arrange on serving dish, with cauliflower in centre, carrot tubes at each end and beans at either side of cauliflower. Pass platter, allowing each person to help himself to vegetables desired.

Duck Stuffed with Potato.—Choose young, fat duck, with webbing of feet soft. Dress, stuff and truss for roasting, as chicken. For potato stuffing, have ready two cups hot mashed potato, one-half cup salt pork cubes, two tablespoons onion, one teaspoon poultry seasoning, salt and pepper. Cook onion in pork until yellow; add remaining ingredients.

Apple Soup.—Wash, quarter and remove cores of six tart apples, but do not peel. Put into saucepan with two quarts water, one teaspoon salt and one-half cup rice. Cook until tender, rub through sieve and return to fire, with one-half teaspoon ground cinnamon and one-half cup finely chopped citron added and sugar to taste. May be served hot or ice cold.

Cornmeal Muffins.—Sift together a cup of cornmeal and a half cup of flour, a teaspoonful of baking powder and a half teaspoonful of salt; into a pint of milk whip three beaten eggs, a tablespoonful of melted butter and two tablespoons of granulated sugar. Make a hole in the meal mixture and gradually pour the liquid into this, beating steadily. Beat hard for about five minutes, pour into greased and heated muffin rings and bake in a good oven.

Bread Sauce.—Put crumbs from a stale loaf into a saucepan containing one pint of water. Tie in a cloth a few peppercorns and one small onion and a blade of mace. Boil a few moments and then remove them. The sauce must be very smooth. Add a piece of butter and a little salt. Add before taking from the fire a spoonful of milk; this will give it a nice color. The sauce must not be too thick. Serve in a sauce boat.

Baked Omelet.—Heat 6 tablespoonfuls of milk and melt a small piece of butter in it. Do not let it boil. Take 2 eggs, beat the yolks with a teaspoonful of salt, a dash of pepper and a tablespoonful of flour. Stir into the hot milk, adding lastly the stiffly beaten whites and a little parsley. Pour into a well-buttered frying pan. Put into a hot oven. In a few minutes it will have risen, delicate brown. Slip on a platter, folding it in the middle.

Corn Omelet.—To 2 eggs, the yolks and whites of which have been beaten light and separately as usual, add the pulp from 2 ears of corn grated. Season with salt and pepper and add a little parsley if liked. Mix with 2 tablespoons of water. Cook in a hot skillet in the usual way, fold, and serve on a buttered platter. Many variations may be played on this theme, just as with other omelets, using tomatoes, cheese, etc., if desired.

Hints for the Home.

Canned fruits make excellent puddings in winter. To keep suet fresh, chop roughly and sprinkle with a little granulated sugar.

Add a little ammonia to the water in which you wash silver and glassware. It brightens both of them wonderfully.

Before baking apples make a small slit all the way round each with a knife. This will prevent their splitting when cooking.

When preparing rhubarb dip each stalk into boiling water. This will not injure it, and it will require less sugar in cooking.

To prevent blue from streaking clothes, mix one dessertspoonful of soda in the bluing water. Baking soda, of course.

Old brass may be cleaned to look like new by pouring strong ammonia on it and scrubbing with a brush. Rinse in clear water.

To get onion juice, slice off the root end and proceed to put half of the onion as you would half a lemon in the juice extractor.

If the stains on a dirty mackintosh will not come off with brushing take a raw potato, cut it in two, and rub the soiled parts with it.

Washing fabrics that are inclined to fade should be soaked and rinsed in very salt water to set the color before washing in suds.

To remove paint and varnish stains from woodwork, apply Javelle water

by means of a brush. Repeat if necessary and rub with a cloth.

When grease is spilt on the kitchen table or floor pour cold water on it at once to prevent it soaking into the wood. It will quickly harden and can be lifted with a knife.

To prevent the juice running out of a fruit pie make a roll of clean paper, hold it upright, and insert it through the crust. The steam then escapes, and the juice remains in the pie.

For white spots on furniture hold a hot stove lid over the spots and they will soon disappear. They can also be removed by applying spirits of camphor or ammonia.

The flavor of an apple pie may be improved by sprinkling the fruit with lemon juice after it is filled into the crust. Then cover with tiny pieces of butter, and add sugar and nutmeg or cinnamon.

Always scrub the way of the grain of the wood. Have plenty of clean warm water. Only scrub so far as the arm can reach at a time, then wash and dry that part. Change the water as soon as it is dirty. Do not use more water than is necessary to clean the boards. When scrubbed clean rub the boards well with a clean flannel wrung out of clean water, and then dry with a dry cloth, rubbing the way of the grain. After scrubbing wash the brush immediately and hang up to dry, so as to harden the fibres.

THE SUNDAY LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON,
OCTOBER 10.

Lesson II.—Elijah Taken Up Into Heaven, 2 Kings 2. 1-12a. Golden Text: Psa. 16. 41.

1. Elisha Refuses to Leave Elijah (Verses 1-6).

Verses 1. When Jehovah would take up Elijah—The narrative of to-day's lesson was, of course, supplied by Elisha, as only he was present when Elijah was caught up in the chariot of fire.

From Gilgal.—Not the Gilgal of Josh. 4. 19; 5. 9, 10, but a place of the same name in the hill country of Ephraim, probably alluded to in Deut. 11. 30.

2. Tarry here.—Elijah knew how hard the parting would be, so he wanted to spare Elisha as much pain as possible. He realized how much the last few moments in his presence would mean to Elisha, however, and so does not insist on making the younger man remain behind.

Jehovah hath sent me.—The whole of the last journey of Elijah had been divinely pre-arranged. A fitting exit for such a man of God.

As Jehovah liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.—See Judg. 8. 19; Ruth 3. 13; 1 Sam. 14. 39. Also 1 Sam. 1. 26; 17. 55; 20. 3; 25. 26; 2 Sam. 14. 19. "Elijah's master may be withdrawn from him; he will not be withdrawn from his Master."

3. Hold ye your peace.—It would seem that others besides Elisha had intimations of Elijah's coming departure. But these others did not notice the prophet's solemn mien, nor, like Elisha, appreciate the full significance of the fact. So Elisha told them abruptly to hold their peace.

II. At the Jordan (Verses 7-12a).

7. Fifty Men.—The life of a prophet was not secure under the reign of such kings as Ahab and his children. Men who were giving themselves up to the sacred calling seemingly bound themselves together in groups and for the time being lived in retirement. Such bands are mentioned at other places also.

8. Wrapped it together.—Made a sort of rod out of it, reminding one of Moses and his rod at the Nile (Exod. 7. 17, 20).

9. When they were gone over.—In crossing the Jordan, Elijah stood again on the slopes of his native Gilead.

Before I am taken away.—Elijah at last mentions the fateful event.

A double portion.—The birthright of the first-born (see Deut. 21. 17).

10. A hard thing.—The Spirit of God was not in the power of Elijah to bestow. It must come from God himself. Elijah was careful to let Elisha know that only as he (Elisha) put himself in close touch with God could he come into possession of God's Spirit.

11. A chariot of fire and horses of fire.—Compare 2 Kings 6. 17.

12. My father, my father.—A title given by the younger prophets to the older prophets.

The chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof.—Elisha recognized that Elijah was a greater defense to Israel than all her military resources.

Germany's secret police are furnished with "police eye-glasses." These have tiny concave mirrors on the side next the face, which may be extended sideways or folded back so as not to show, and give the wearer, if he has normal sight, an image of what is going on directly behind him.

Humors of the Pulpit

The advice given by a famous parson that the three essentials of a good preacher were that he should "Stand up, speak up, and shut up" has become axiomatic. Failure to act according to that advice had led to many humorous incidents, but for all that it is far from easy to follow such excellent counsel. There is not much difficulty in standing up, but many preachers, particularly at first, find that speaking up requires a considerable amount not only of assurance but of knowledge of the subject. As for shutting up—well, that is a sheer impossibility to that rather large class of preachers who are either so earnest that they lose all sense of time and proportion, or are "inebriated with the exuberance of their own verbiage."

One of the classical stories concerning the long-winded type is that of the preacher who was holding forth at interminable length on the major and minor prophets. "And now, brethren," he said, after an hour and a half or so. "We come to Habakkuk. What place shall we give to Habakkuk?" "Habakkuk can have my place," called out a man at the back, as he rose and left the church.

We have mentioned the self-assurance which is necessary to the man who wants to speak up. Lack of that quality, it has been alleged, was the secret of the ill-success of the local preacher who tried to begin a sermon on Zacheus, who, it will be remembered, climbed a tree to see Jesus pass. Vain was the preacher's efforts to collect his scattered thoughts, but out of his confusion came an epigram. "Zacheus," he said, "was little of stature, but he wasn't as small as I feel myself to be now; he was up a tree, and so am I; and 'he made haste and came down,' which is just what I shall do myself." The preacher suited the deed to the words forthwith.

Pulpit and pew have a humor all their own, and often enough it is at each other's expense that the jokes are made. In the sense of a famous prize-fighter turned evangelist the pulpit had the best of it. The former boxing friends of the revivalist were unnecessarily annoyed because he had cast off his old-time habits, and one day they decided to spoil his meeting. So a row of them took their seats immediately below his rostrum, which was quite a small affair, bearing a particularly heavy Bible. From the outset they interrupted frequently, despite their quondam boxer's earnest appeals for better treatment. At last the old Adam rose in the preacher, and he issued not an appeal, but a warning. "If the men just below the pulpit did not behave themselves he would have to make them do so," he said. The interruption proceeded. Then something happened. "If the brethren will not hear the Word," said the preacher, "they shall feel it." And lifting the big Bible in that powerful

right hand which laid many opponents low, he leaned over his rostrum and swept three of his hearers out of their seats. Thereafter the sermon went on in quietness.

In Disagreement.

The story that used to be told about Bishop Bloomfield is one illustrating a "score" by the pew against the pulpit. When he was a rector Bloomfield went to preach at a neighboring village, and forgot to take his sermon with him. It was too late to return, and so, for the first and only time in his life, he preached extempore, taking for his text the words, "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God." Anxious to know how he succeeded, he asked one of the congregation on coming out how he liked the sermon. "Well, Mr. Bloomfield," replied the man, "I liked the sermon well enough. But I can't say that I agree with you. I believe there is a God."

Of witty sayings attributed to gentlemen of the cloth the list is endless. Possibly some of them are too good to be true, and others too bad. A High Church clergyman, writing to the famous Dr. James Freeman Clarke, dated his letter "Candlemas Day," whereupon Dr. Clarke, with a rare sense of fitness of things, dated his reply "Washing Day."

Dr. Sores was a witty divine of the time of Charles II. A young curate once complained to him that he had received only £5 for preaching a sermon at Oxford. "Five pounds!" exclaimed the doctor, "why, I wouldn't have preached that sermon for £50!" It is not said whether the curate appreciated the keen satire.

A Shrewd Reproof.

The people of a certain parish were not less shrewdly reproved by the clergyman who, at the close of the sermon one day, announced to his congregation that in the course of the coming week he expected to go on a mission to the heathen. His parishioners crowded round him, reproaching him for having kept his intended departure a secret till the last minute, begging him not to go, and asking him what they should do when he had gone abroad.

"Oh," said he, "you will see as much of me as ever; I don't expect it will be necessary for me to go beyond the boundaries of the parish." We have already mentioned the cutting wit of Dr. South, and another story of that cleric, who must have been capital company, comes to mind. On one occasion when South was preaching before Charles II. and his profligate Court he soon perceived that his reluctant congregation was asleep. He stopped short in his harangue, and, changing his tone, he called out to Lord Lauderdale three times. His lordship stood up.

"My lord," said South with inimitable dignity, "I am sorry to interrupt your repose, but I must beg of you that you will not snore quite so loudly lest you awake His Majesty."

Sidney Smith.

Many are the good stories of the

The Treasures of Darkness

Everything Is Not Misfortune Because It Comes to Us With a Frown.

"Tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience hope."—Rom. 5. 3.

Who would have imagined that hope would be the child of tribulation? But, then, who would have dreamed that the beautiful yellow pond-lily would have been born and nourished in its slimy ooze? Who would have thought that from coal-tar we could extract colors whose brilliance would make Solomon's glory seem dim. Nay, who would have thought that from this same coal-tar, with its oppressive smell, we should derive some of our most delicate and exquisite perfumes? In coal-tar we can find the beauties of the dawn and the scent of the new-mown hay! And in tribulation we can find the strong grace of patience and the radiant grace of hope.

There is no dark experience from which we cannot obtain the stuff of noble characters. We can make the apparently unfriendly circumstance pay homage to our souls. "The clouds that so much dread are big with blessing." A gracious gift can come to us in a gay and tinted envelope, but it can also come to us in an envelope

with a black border. And therefore it is part of the ministry of believers in Christ Jesus to show to the world what benediction may hide in dark things. We are to be experts in growing lilies of peace in most unlikely places, and in deriving lovelier tints for the affections in the gloomy experiences of disappointment and apparent defeat. We are to make manifest that "the things which happened to us turned out to be the furtherance of the Gospel."

Now graces, like diamonds, resting on dark velvet shine most resplendently against a foil of gloomy experience. It is so with peace in the midst of tribulations, it is so with hope in the time of general fainting, it is so with the joy of the Lord in the dark and cloudy day. When "the noisome thing brings forth perfume the scent is felt to be of a superlative kind. In Christ Jesus we are made competent to give this witness before the world. It is the promise of His word:—"All things work together for good to them that love God." Yes, even the dark things become the ground-bed of everlasting flowers. "Tribulation worketh patience and patience hope."—Rev. J. H. Jowett, D.D.

John Berridge, who was vicar of Everton at the time of the great revival, in which he was one of the leaders, had critics who thought that he should jog along decorously and lazily as vicars used to do in the bad old days which he helped to displace. His enemies called him "an old devil."

"Do you know Berridge?" asked a stranger of the man himself. "Yes." "They tell me he is a troublesome, meddlesome fellow."

"I know him," answered Berridge, "and I can assure you half his wickedness has never been told." They walked on to the church, where Berridge preached. When the stranger saw him ascend the pulpit he was stupefied.

Once when pointing out to a guest at Everton the pictures on the wall he ran through them thus:—"That is Calvin, that is Luther, and that," pointing to a frame over the fireplace, "is the devil." The guest looked, and saw his own face in the mirror.

Following Suit.

A certain Nonconformist preacher of some years ago had certain peculiarities in his appearance. His hair was red, he wore blue glasses, and these features, coupled with his white tie, led the young people of his church irreverently to call him, "Red, White and Blue." One Sunday, when he was preaching at Bradford, he looked round the church and saw that a good many of the people were asleep. With a smile, he remarked, "If only a few more go to sleep I think I may have a nap, too."

John Wesley had a gift of repartee and wit, as well as of eloquence in preaching. On one occasion, when about to dine, in company with one of his preachers, with a rich Methodist, Wesley caustically snubbed both his colleague and their ostentatious host. The table was spread with more than luxury, and Wesley's colleague exclaimed, with more zeal than politeness, "O, sir, what a sumptuous dinner! Things are very different to what they were formerly. There is now but little self-denial among the Methodists."

"My brother," said Wesley, pointing to the table, "there is a fine opportunity for self-denial now."

Wesley's Brotherly Love.

On another occasion he was at one of the early conferences, when a preacher rose up and, with irrepressible emotion, began to relate his religious experience.

Wesley's brother, Charles, could not tolerate this, and cried out:—"Stop that man from speaking. Let us attend to business." But still the good man proceeded. "Unless he stops I'll leave the conference," cried Charles Wesley.

John looked up with a dry smile. "Will one of the brethren reach my brother his hat?" he said. Charles subsided.

It is inevitable that reference should be made to Peter Mackenzie, who was so popular an evangelist amongst the Wesleyans some few years ago. He was noted for his pulpit humor, and on one occasion remarked, "It's a mercy Jacob didn't keep a refreshment room, for he charged so much for his porridge." Speaking once of a man with a very wide mouth, he remarked, "I should think a man with a mouth like that could sing a duet all by himself."

Birds go on singing at the Front, unperturbed by the heaviest shell-fire.

Children may not be seen in the streets of Bergen, Norway, after a certain hour, which varies with the season. The church bells of the town peal a signal for them to return home and the police see to it that they obey.

From the Ocean Shore

BITS OF NEWS FROM THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

Items of Interest From Places Lapped By Waves of the Atlantic.

Fredericton has nightly recruiting meetings in the open air.

Pocket peddling of liquor is frequent on Sundays in St. John.

About 700 families in St. John are assisted from the Patriotic Fund.

Ross Wheaton was electrocuted while at work at the Halifax terminals.

The Nova Scotia steel plant at Trenton, C. B., is working night and day.

The war tax has cost the St. John branch of the Patriotic Fund \$40 a month.

A baby was born to a Fredericton woman in an auto on the street at night.

New Glasgow, N. S., with a population of 12,000 had but five deaths in July.

Sydney has supplied 672 recruits to the army out of 2,200 from Cape Breton.

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities has decided to meet next in Halifax.

Mrs. James Russell of Lower Newcastle, is dead; she lived 86 years in Miramichi.

About 1,750 coal miners of Nova Scotia have enlisted in the Canadian war forces.

The store of Hurlbut Bros., Hartford, N.S., was destroyed by fire and the house adjoining.

Fire did \$10,000 damage to Hillcrest Apartments at Halifax, burning out five families.

F. L. Potts, of St. John, is the new president of the Union of New Brunswick municipalities.

New Brunswick, according to population, has contributed 40 cents a head to the Patriotic Fund.

Another party of Scottish settlers is on the way to Fredericton to take up land in New Brunswick.

Igonish and Victoria County fishermen have been shipping swordfish to Boston at 4½ cents a pound.

Vandals did much damage to the old Government House at Fredericton; it was wanted mischief.

The I.O.F. in St. John and Fairville will give a field kitchen to the 26th New Brunswick Battalion.

Lumbering on the St. John River shows about the results of last year, about 56,000,000 superficial feet.

J. A. Gillis, of Redbank, N.B., shot a young man for stealing beer from his shop; the victim will recover.

Austen Kane, Dartmouth's hockey player, reported killed in France, is in training as an aviator in England.

For allowing a drunken man in his saloon and threatening a policeman, Wm. O'Keefe, of St. John, was fined \$130.

Halifax was surprised at its August gale when 3½ inches of rain fell in nine hours with a 40-mile-an-hour wind.

Boycott German Goods.

The entire membership of the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament, the legislative body of the Commonwealth of Australia, has pledged itself never again to purchase German goods.

It is usually the man with the least to say that talks the most.

At an "orphans picnic," in Pittsburg, a raffle was not long ago held, for a bride, a blonde, of twenty years, who consented to marry the bachelor holding the lucky ticket.

Mr. W. T. Goy, who was born without arms or legs, can write perfectly by holding the pen in his teeth, and has been secretary and treasurer of a Labor Union in England.



SMART SIMPLICITY FOR SCHOOL.

With the opening school days, the young ladies will all have to be provided with suitable clothes for the Fall semester. The Ladies' Home Journal patterns shown herewith are excellent for the purpose. Pattern No. 8804 is a Ladies' and Misses' Single-breasted Box-coat, having a notch collar, full-length sleeves with turn-back cuffs, and is made with or without patch pockets. Sizes 32 to 42, 36 requiring 2½ yards of 42-inch material. The Skirt to go with it, No. 8938, is made in three gores, opening in front and having slightly raised waistline and with or without the

pockets and cuffs at lower edge. Sizes 14, 16, 18 and 20, size 18 requiring 3¼ yards 42-inch material.

The other pattern, No. 8899, in a Misses' Dress opening in the front and consisting of a blouse in shallow yoke effect, standing collar, which may be worn high or turned down, full-length sleeve, with shaped trimming bands, and a three-piece circular skirt. Sizes 16, 17, 18, size 18 requiring 5¼ yards 36-inch material with ¾ yard 36-inch contrasting goods.

Patterns, 15 cents each, can be obtained at your local Ladies' Home Journal dealer, or from the Home Pattern Company, 189-A George St., Toronto, Ontario.