

AN OPPRESSIVE PEACE.

Europe Living the Life of a Cantonment.

Industry Inert and Progress Stagnated—None Dare Work for Fear of Call to Fight—Irritation Bred of Militarism.

Two accounts have reached London recently, says the Spectator, as to military preparations on the Continent, which may prove to have even a historic importance. According to one, the Austrian Government and people have alike determined that they will not increase the numbers of their soldiers or the expenditure on their army, believing that they have already nearly reached the limit of exertion, and had better wait for the last supreme effort until war actually breaks out. According to another, the moderate leaders of the German Liberals are earnestly entreating the Government not to dissolve on the Army bill lest the Emperor should be defeated, but rather to seek some compromise, or even withdraw the measure. The country, these Liberals had previously said, is sick of sacrifices. Even should both these accounts be a little exaggerated, and some further concessions be made to militarism, they indicate a general opinion among persons not hostile to Governments in the abstract that the great military States of Central Europe have reached the limit of war-like preparation in peace time, and must henceforward await events with all the fortitude they may. They can polish their weapons, acquire better arms, or avail themselves of any new inventions; but they can utilize no more of their population until war actually arrives. This decision, moreover, had previously been announced by Italy, which, indeed, pressed by her financial burdens, had even slightly reduced her forces, and revised, with a view to economy, all the arrangements for a sudden mobilization of her troops. The whole of central Europe, therefore, may be reported to have agreed that they will not invade, and can do no more to render themselves

SAFE AGAINST INVASION.

Nearly the same may be said of the threatening powers upon their borders. France is as completely armed as she can bear; has, indeed, reached the end of the conscription possible in peace time, has finished her fortresses, and in spite of her extraordinary wealth which the rest of the world even yet hardly realizes, is most unwilling, before war is actually upon her, to increase the burdens on her people. Russia is in almost the same position. Her finances are strained to the last point, and it is doubtful whether she would gain strength by accumulating more of her army in the West, where already the increased cost of food, forage and barrack accommodation is severely felt by the Military Department, which still requires large sums to perfect its supplies of scientific armaments of war.

If this is an accurate account—and we believe it to rest upon the best information—the whole Continent has at last reached a position in which an armed peace, excessively but not unendurably costly, may last for years, perhaps even for a generation. The rulers are afraid to break it, and the peoples are not even inclined. The former understand the magnitude of the risks to be run, the equality of the two great parties into which Europe is divided, and the difficulty of discovering the military genius which alone could secure durable victory to one side or the other. They have to pick for the most part among untried men; and in modern warfare the untried man may, if he is a failure, bring a State to destruction too speedily to allow even of his supersession. The latter understand the horrible carnage which will mark the next campaign; and though they will face it if attacked, they do not urge their rulers to begin, are inclined, indeed, to praise their wisdom when they close up questions which might lead to war. They are sensible folk, and have their bones to take care of if they can.

This is a kind of peace, and one would say a priori that, except as regards taxation, it was a satisfactory kind. The nations are not seriously hurt by the necessity of passing their lads through the military mill, in which they learn how to obey, how to face danger, and how to act together in strict association under men more enlightened than themselves. Military training, when it is not cruel, is good training; and in most armies the disposition toward cruelty is kept

UNDER STRICT REPRESSION.

There can, moreover, hardly be a stronger or more permanent basis for peace than fear of one's enemy, or doubt whether any breach of it may not, in the end, involve ruin. Treaties may be broken, distances may be overcome, the absence of pretexts may suddenly be made good, but a good healthy dread of the fight must keep the armed populations from each other's throats. That is perfectly true, and is admitted by the most statesmanlike observers.

But this kind of peace has, nevertheless, peculiarities which weigh upon the minds of men. For one of them it does not produce confidence, either in rulers or their peoples. The former will not disarm for an hour, however great the relief would be to their treasuries and their subjects; the latter will not enter on any undertaking which cannot be finished in a few months. Industry does not languish, and enterprise is not dead, but the capital of the world accumulates in heaps, only to be retained in heaps "until there is more certainty." The projectors of new undertakings find themselves dealing with capitalists suddenly gone old, stricken with caution, inclined to count time and to say they must leave projects so great to be considered by their successors. It is time for the direct railway to India, time for great works in the way of storage of water, time for making the interior of Africa fully accessible, but the nations shrink back, and with money choking all markets, say they would rather wait for a more assured peace. The quiet is real, as real as the quiet in a camp at night; but it has none of the material advantages of quiet. Nobody, so to speak, dare strip to his work, or put himself in any position in which, if the quiet were broken by loud cries, he could not instantly be ready to meet any danger, however unexpected. The pace of the whole industrial world has become slower, and if the truce lasts thirty years, those years will show less advance in industrial progress than in any of the recent thirties which have preceded them. The nations grow rich, it is true; but it is as men grow rich by agriculture, not as they grow rich in bustling and prosperous workshops. There is a lull even in intellectual life, a lull in the production of great men, a lull in the

appearance of great books, a life going on like the life of a cantonment, where there is no war and no peace, and everything is dully expectant of a contingency which may never occur, but to meet which everything must be kept in an orderly routine. The armed peace produces something like the halt of an army where all is quiet, but all effort is felt to be useless or out of place, and is consequently half-hearted.

It is a strange situation and there is a stranger point in it yet. The advocates of peace all say, and till to-day we should have believed say truly, that peace is a good thing because, among other results, it assuages animosities, teaches people to settle difficulties as private firms do, and disinclines nations to those exaggerations of their grievances which are the usual

PRELUDES TO WAR.

If that is not true, there is no hope for the world as far as war is concerned, and certainly, though we do not belong to the peace party, or see how nations can settle differences such as divide France or Germany except by war, we should never dream, as a rule, of denying the proposition. Peace should breed peace, but we would ask any honest advocate of peace—does this particular truce, long as it has lasted and long as it may be expected to continue, produce any of these results? As far as we can see, the irritability of the nations grows instead of lessening. The French really hate the Germans harder than they did twenty years ago, and are beginning to hate us too, who have nothing to do with that quarrel, and the Italians also, as if peace had only enriched their general fund of malignity. The Germans are hardly better, though they are less fussy, and inclined to spend more of their bottled ire upon the Russians, whom they attack, we are told, in whole series of publications which we never see. As for the Russians, the peace does not make them love the Germans one whit better, or the Austrians whom the whole Russian army would eagerly attack, more eagerly than they would have done before the peace began.

There has been no moral effect of the peace, though it has now lasted among the great powers unbroken for twenty years, which a Christian or a thinker, or a man of sense can consider in the last degree creditable or useful. There has been none of the calming effect of sleep, none of the pacifying effect of holiday, none of the good temper often begotten of a period of reflection. There is not even a recurrence to ordinary life, the smallest incident producing an angry snapping, only repressed, when it grows too loud, by prudential considerations. A visit by a monarch to a friend, like that of the Hapsburg to the Quirinal; or a false statement about a statesman, like that attributed to Herr Brandes about M. Carnot's family; or a marriage of a princelet in the far east of Europe, makes the great nations ready to bite each other from malice, and would, were not the biting likely to be so costly, compel war. If they could fight comfortably east of the Cape, as we and the French used to do, or west of Cape Horn, as we and the Spaniards formerly did, without involving Governments at home, they would do it, and feel only relieved of a portion of their spleen. We can recall nothing like it in this century except the short halts in the series of Napoleon's wars; but even they were a different aspect. They were breathing spaces in a combat known to be undetermined; but this is a truce, lasting almost a lifetime, between enemies who are not fighting, but are wearing themselves out with training in order, as they declare with sincerity, that they may not fight. Can history show anything in the least like that?

Trade And Industrial Items.

St. Louis taxes telegraph poles \$5 apiece. Ireland has thirty co-operative dairy societies.

Their are 20,187 union miners in the National Union. Boston plasterers' tenders won the eight-hour day.

In 1385 the authorities at Danzig ordered the ears cut off of strikers.

At Boston most of the machinists have been accorded the nine-hour day.

Peoria railroaders struck against the discharge of twenty-seven men for drinking. Chair manufacture is a trade in which machinery has not superseded human skill.

Bricklayers and masons on a Grand Rapids, Mich., job struck for \$4 and eight hours.

A municipal plant gives Alleghany, Pa., electric light for one and one-half cents per hour per lamp.

About 3,000 brickworkers leave Canada for the States every Spring and return to their homes in the Autumn.

The American Federation of Labor has issued a popular petition for signatures, addressed to both branches of Congress, requesting that laws be passed establishing a Government telegraph and telephone service. The petitions are to be returned to General Secretary Christopher Evans, 14 Clinton place, New York, not later than November 1st.

The Chicago Central Labor Union has instructed its affiliated unions to order their members to work on Sundays when convenient and take their holidays on Saturday during the continuation of the World's Fair. This arrangement has been contemplated to enable the workmen to visit the fair without losing a day's work, a t will be closed on Sundays.

In the heart of Toronto Junction, on Dundas St. and close to all the factories, the undersigned has a parcel of land (in lots to suit purchasers) recently held at \$150 per foot. New loan arranged of \$45 per foot at 6 per cent. Offers wanted to close this property out as existing encumbrance must be paid off. Money invested in this will treble itself very shortly. Next lot was sold lately at \$100 per foot. Apply Geo. CLARKE, 35 Wellington Street East, or A. CREEL GIBSON, Canada Life Building, 46 King Street West, Toronto.

Nearly half of the Public schools of Ontario still refuse to use the authorized Scripture readings. Of the 5,181 schools open 2,079 adhere to the Bible and 3,151, which is a decrease of four hundred as compared with the previous year, follow the plan of Scripture readings. Religious instruction is given in all the schools save 390, and during last year 5,451 visits were made by clergymen. While the spiritual welfare of the children is thus receiving attention, their morals are not being neglected. Temperance and hygiene were last year taught to 151,817 pupils, whereas fifteen years ago instruction along these lines was given to only 18,984.

The most extensive and celebrated salt mine in the world is at Wieliczka, nine miles from Cracow, in Galicia, a province of Austria-Hungary. It has been worked continuously for 600 years. The mass of salt is calculated to be 500 miles long, twenty-miles broad and 1,200 ft. thick.

Let every enfeebled woman know it! There's medicine that'll cure her, and the proof's positive!

Here's the proof—if it doesn't do you good within reasonable time, report the fact to its makers and get your money back without a word—but you won't do it!

The remedy is Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription—and it has proved itself the right remedy in nearly every case of female weakness. It is not a miracle. It won't cure everything—but it has done more to build up tired, enfeebled and broken-down women than any other medicine known.

Where's the woman who's not ready for it! All that we've to do is to get she news to her. The medicine will do the rest.

Wanted—Women. First to know it. Second to use it. Third to be cured by it. The one comes of the other.

The seat of sick headache is not in the brain. Regulate the stomach and you cure it. Dr. Pierce's Pellets are the Little Regulators. Only 25 cents a vial.

Cleveland, O., has an ordinance that limits the number of street car passengers to the seating capacity of the vehicle.

Dr. Harvey's Southern Red Pine for coughs and colds is the most reliable and perfect cough medicine in the market. For sale everywhere.

Prince Bismarck, received over eleven thousand telegrams and letters on his birthday and two following days.

GIBBONS' TOOTHACHE GUM acts as a temporary filling, and stops toothache instantly. Sold by druggists.

Chicago hodcarriers will demand a minimum wage of from twenty-five to thirty cents an hour on May 17th.



Mr. Geo. W. Turner

Simply Awful

Worst Case of Scrofula the Doctors Ever Saw

Completely Cured by HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA.

"When I was 4 or 5 years old I had a scrofulous sore on the middle finger of my left hand, which got so bad that the doctors cut the finger off, and later took off more than half my hand. Then the sore broke out on my arm, came out on my neck and face on both sides, nearly destroying the sight of one eye, also on my right arm. Doctors said it was the

Worst Case of Scrofula they ever saw. It was simply awful! Five years ago I began to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. Gradually I found that the sores were beginning to heal. I kept on till I had taken ten bottles, **ten dollars!** Just think of what a return I got for that investment! **A thousand per cent!** Yes, many thousand. For the past 4 years I have had no sores. I

Work all the Time.

Before, I could do no work. I know not what to say strong enough to express my gratitude to Hood's Sarsaparilla for my perfect cure." **GEORGE W. TURNER, Farmer, Galway, Saratoga county, N. Y.**

HOOD'S PILLS do not weaken, but aid digestion and tone the stomach. Try them. 25c.

FOR SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS, BIBLES AND ALBUMS, Write to William Briggs, Publisher, Toronto

WANTED—Ladies and young men to take work at their own homes; good prices and no canvassing. Address Standard Manufacturing Company, Lock Box 107, South Framingham, Mass. Enclose stamps mention paper.

NURSERYMEN—DEALERS—PLANTERS You will have money in your pockets if you buy your first class Trees of me at the correct prices I can quote you this Spring on application. **H. S. HURD, Halton Nurseries, Burlington, Ont.**

I CURE FITS!

Valuable treatise and bottle of medicine sent Free to any sufferer. Give Express and Post Office address. H. G. ROOL, M. C., 186 West Adelaide Street, Toronto, Ont.

PETERBOROUGH CANOE COY., (LTD.) Successor to Ontario Canoe Co., (LTD.) Makers of Peterborough Canoes for Hunting, Fishing, Shooting, Skiffs, Sail Boats, Steam Launches. Send 3 cent stamp for Catalogue.

Weak Children will derive strength and acquire robust health by a persevering use of the great **Food Medicine SCOTT'S EMULSION**

—DR. TAFT'S—**ASTHMALENE** Gives a Night's Sweet Sleep and so that you need not sit up all night gasping for breath for fear of suffocation. On receipt of name and P.O. Address send **TRIAL BOTTLE** of **DR. TAFT'S ASTHMALENE** FREE

"CAUTION."—Beware of substitutes. Genuine prepared by Scott & Bowne, Belleville, Sold by all druggists. 50c. and \$1.00.

Fifers.

Fifers do not appear in the pay-list of the Coldstream Guards till 1797, when two of these musicians are charged in the company of Grenadiers. After the Restoration the hautboy, or oboe, appears among the other instruments of the band. A warrant of the time of Charles II. was issued in 1678 for payment of the State clothing of the hautboys and four drummers.

In the early years of the following century hautboys were introduced into the different regiments of the Foot Guards. The pay of the soldiers who served at St. Quentin's in the reign of Mary was not so unlike that of the present day. The private soldier received 8s., a drummer or fifer 1s., and a trumpeter 1s. 6d. a day.

In the Good Old Days.

Not long ago the journey across the continent, which can now be accomplished in five or six days, was considered a great feat. It is related of the newly appointed Bishop of Norwich, Rev. Mr. Sheepshanks, that he went out to British Columbia in 1859, when that colony was a very isolated country. He did eight years of rough work, and then determined to go home for a holiday, electing to travel via Japan and China, in those days a by no means familiar route. For months he disappeared entirely from mortal ken, and his family entertained serious misgivings as to his fate, until they were quieted by his reappearance. Nowadays travellers go in the opposite direction to shorten their journey.

A. P. 656

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Cures Consumption, Coughs, Croup, Sore Throat. Sold by all Druggists on a Guarantee. For a Lambe Side, Back or Chest Shiloh's Porous Plaster will give great satisfaction.—25 cents.

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TORONTO CUTTING SCHOOL OFFERS Unprecedented facilities for acquiring a thorough knowledge of Cutting in all its branches; also agents for the McDowell Drafting Machine. Write for circulars, 123 Yonge St.

WANTED—Ladies or young men to take light, pleasant work at their own homes. \$1 to \$3 per day can be quietly made. Work sent by mail. No Canvassing. Address Standard Manufacturing Company, Lock-Box 107, South Framingham, Mass. Enclose stamps.

DO YOU IMAGINE That people would have been regularly using our Toilet Soap since 1845 (forty-seven long years) if they had not been GOOD? The public are not fools and do not continue to buy good unless they are satisfactory.

IF YOU WOULD SAVE TIME AND MONEY BUY A **NEW WILLIAMS SEWING MACHINE.** Agents everywhere.

CONSUMPTION. Valuable treatise and two bottles of medicine sent Free to any sufferer. Give Express and Post Office address. T. A. SLOCUM & CO., 186 West Adelaide Street, Toronto, Ont.

FOR IRON FENCING, or Ornamental Iron Works. Send for Catalogue. Toronto Fence and Ornamental Iron Works, 73 Adelaide St. West. JOS. LEA, Manager.

LADIES Dress and Mantle Cutting by this new and improved **TAILORS' SQUARES.** Satisfaction guaranteed to teach ladies the full art of cutting all garments worn by ladies and children. **PROF. SMITH, 392 QUEEN ST. W., TORONTO.** Agents Wanted.

WHY BUY a Boot or Shoe that does not fit. Why punish your self in attempting to form your foot to a boot or shoe? We make out Boots and Shoes from two to six different widths

Ask for the J. D. King & Co., Ltd., perfecting goods, and be happy.

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Canadian Agent, 186 Adelaide Street West, Toronto.

"German Syrup"

J. C. Davis, Rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, Eufaula, Ala.: "My son has been badly afflicted with a fearful and threatening cough for several months, and after trying several prescriptions from physicians which failed to relieve him, he has been perfectly restored by the use of two bottles of Booschee's German Syrup. I can recommend it without hesitation." Chronic severe, deep-seated coughs like this are as severe tests as a remedy can be subjected to. It is for these long-standing cases that Booschee's German Syrup is made a specialty. Many others afflicted as this lad was, will do well to make a note of this.

J. F. Arnold, Montevideo, Minn., writes: I always use German Syrup for a Cold on the Lungs. I have never found an equal to it—far less a superior.

G. G. GREEN, Sole Man'fr, Woodbury, N.J.

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Nine persons out of ten will look at the above letter and think that to count the number of dots would be very easy. Still there are comparatively few who can do it correctly. It requires not only perseverance but a clear head and a steady eye, with just enough ingenuity to devise a plan that will prevent mistakes and complications. If you doubt this try it and see for yourself. If you succeed it will be worth your while to consider the following offer—

To the first ten persons sending in the correct number we will give each a **CRISP, CLEAN TEN DOLLAR BANK NOTE.** To the ten persons sending in the middle correct answers we will give a **FIVE DOLLAR BILL,** while to the last ten persons having correct answers we give each **\$10.00 IN GOLD.** Should no person have the correct number the presents will be distributed among those whose answers are most nearly right. In addition each day we will give a **GENUINE DIAMOND RING** to the person whose letter is the first opened that day, whether the answer is correct or not. Each contestant must enclose 35 cents in silver, or twelve three-cent stamps, to pay for one of our little gem tea packets, which contain a half-pound of our best **YOUNG HYSON, BLACK, JAPAN, or MIXED TEA,** as desired. In ordering kindly state which kind you use and it will be sent, with all charges prepaid, to your address. Remember you pay for the tea only. The presents are given away in order to induce new customers to test our teas. This tea is guaranteed to be a better article than that you now get from your grocer for the same price. We are enabled to make this unprecedented offer because we are **SOLE IMPORTERS AND SAVE THE MIDDLEMEN'S PROFITS** which we give to our customers. We think that a trial will convince you, and that if you once buy from us you will continue to do so. That is our reason for making this offer. **AS TO OUR RELIABILITY** we would refer you to any leading bank or commercial agency in the city. **WE HAVE BEEN DOING BUSINESS IN TORONTO FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS** and have yet to find a dissatisfied customer. It costs only 35 cents to test us and our tea at the same time. Do so at once and allow us the opportunity of proving that this offer is genuine. Address **THE CANADIAN TEA CO., 27 FRONT ST. EAST, TORONTO, ONT.**