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World News

Britain's daily war bill is now over \$25,000,000.

From Aug. 1st, 1914, to Nov. 30th, 1916, \$9,920,249 has been expended on the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway.

It is rumored that Hon. Robert Rogers will be appointed High Commissioner for Canada in London, Eng., after the war.

Canada's fire loss for January is estimated at \$1,918,000, as compared with \$3,271,000 for December, and \$1,649,000 for January of last year.

The U.S. has interned Lieut. Hans Berg and the other members of the German prize crew that brought the British liner Appam into port.

Compulsory enrolment of European British subjects for home defence is being made in India, so as to release the British regulars for service at the battle fronts.

Hon. Mr. Justice Leitch, of the Supreme Court of Ontario, and the first president of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, died recently in Toronto, aged 67 years.

Bids for textile materials to provide army uniforms for more than 500,000 men were asked for last week by the Schuykill Arsenal, U.S.A. The total expenditure is estimated at \$15,000,000.

Among the pleasing items of war news last week was the statement that the British had beaten the Turks badly near Kut and that the British had gained a footing on the hill above Amere on the western front.

Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., leader of the Ontario Liberal party, is advocating the enforcing of the Militia Act, or, in other words, suggesting what is commonly known as conscription.

German-American associations in the United States are forward with promises that they will be loyal to the United States. Promises are cheap, and they sound all right.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan wants a referendum on the question as to whether the United States should go to war or not. This would probably suit the Germans, who could be fighting while the United States was voting.

Germany is now said to be facing a serious munitions crisis owing to lack of rolling stock hampering production at Essen plant. The collapse of the transportation system is also credited with bringing on a practical food famine in many parts of Germany.

Many Ontario towns, cities and villages have been suffering from a serious coal shortage due to a freight blockade at the border. Toronto University closed last week for lack of coal, and citizens in Brantford burned their fences as fuel.

The Pas, Manitoba, expects to hold its annual dog team race in March, probably the 17th. Suitable purses will be offered for the event. The distance will be 100 miles, with a special prize for the first team to do the 50-mile stretch.

The Assistant Director of Recruiting for the Dominion is about to take a special trip across Canada for the purpose of raising a number of Forestry battalions in response to an urgent request from the War Office for a large force of Canadian bushmen for work in France and Britain.

Britain has bought the remainder of this season's wool clip, and not only all of the Commonwealth's present holdings of wheat, but also the coming season's crop which is about to be harvested. The amount of money involved is nearly two hundred and eighty million dollars.

A recent order-in-council passed at Ottawa restricts the sailing of Canadians to Britain except for good and sufficient reason, the conservation of the food supply in the Old Country and the difficulty of returning after the war being the reasons. It will be a problem to accommodate the returning soldiers after the war.

Sir Geo. E. Foster, Sir Sam Hughes and Messrs. Graham, Clarence, Jamieson, Lemieux, Macdonald, Murphy, Sevigny and Taylor, have been appointed a committee of the House of Commons to consider plans for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Canada's Confederation this year.

was honored by the delayed New Year's Eve party at the Hotel St. Charles, Montreal Star, created a new Premier—now Sir William B. Egan, Minister of the Interior, and now Sir Edward.

From the ranks of the various public institutions under the Provincial Secretary's Department in Ontario there have been enlisted up to Jan. 1st, 1917, no less than 454 men for overseas service, as well as 1 nursing sister for Orpington Hospital.

The British Red Cross Trafalga Day collection amounted to over five million dollars collected from all parts of the Empire. Of this amount Ontario alone contributed two million dollars. The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario was a good prophet when he said that Toronto would set the pace for Ontario, Ontario for the Dominion and the Dominion for the Empire.

Roumanian officers have been sentenced to penal servitude for their part in the defence of Bucharest where the Roumanians lost over 8,000 prisoners through alleged incompetence or worse on the part of the commanders. The envoys from Roumania at Vienna and Constantinople have also been dismissed for disobedience of orders. When all the facts of the war are made known there is a probability that it will be shown that Germany BOUGHT more battles and victories than it WON.

Coincident with a revolt in Cuba there has been an unusual emigration of Germans from New York to Cuba. Between 80 and 100 Germans have sailed from New York to Cuba since the severance of diplomatic relations between the U. S. and Germany. It is interesting to note two facts: that the Germans from New York have no particular legitimate reason to go to Cuba at this time; and, secondly, a revolt in Cuba of any proportions necessitates the use of U. S. troops to restore order, under the terms of the Platt Amendment.

Bert Spain, the 16-year-old murderer of Mr. and Mrs. James Vincent, of Stonewall, Manitoba, has been sentenced to be hanged on May 5th. This is a great opportunity for the "sob-sisters"—male and female—to get busy with slobbering sentimentality about cutting off the life of one so young. As the poet said, "Nero was unfortunate in losing the care and guidance of his mother at an early age. Nero might have grown up a great, strong, noble man had he not in a mad, mad, boyish prank—murdered his mother."

At a meeting of business men in Toronto last week to discuss the coal shortage and other difficulties caused by inadequate transportation, it was recommended that the Government take over the railways during the war. The G.T.R. was referred to as the chief sinner among the railway companies and its inability to handle the traffic was blamed by James Simpson, ex-Controller, of Toronto, on the fact that the company paid its men lower wages than any other company operating in Canada. His argument was that the company could not get as good men nor as many men because of the poor wages paid.

The situation between the United States and Germany last week was wittily phrased by The Toronto Star as follows:—"American vessels are all staying in port until Washington acts, and Washington is deferring action until some vessel, being out of port, is sunk by overt act of Germany. This situation might prolong itself indefinitely. But while it continues Germany's end is served, her threat works its purpose, and American shipping is cleared from the seas as effectively as if it had been sunk, without Germany being at the risk, trouble and expense of sinking it."

A British expert on submarines says that Great Britain has four thousand vessels suitable for hunting submarines. He adds that if Germany concentrated her efforts on building submarines she might possibly turn out 400 in a year, but he does not believe that the Huns have now anything like that number of undersea boats. He also points out that with enough submarine "chasers" the undersea menace can be entirely overcome. In this connection it is interesting to note that plans and specifications used in making 550 submarine chasers for the British Government have been given to the United States navy department to develop a type of craft suitable for similar work in American waters.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?

Actually There is a Defence for the Much-Abused Stockbroker.

So much abuse is heaped upon the heads of the stockbrokers that it is refreshing to read a well-considered word in their defence. And this word is all the more to be valued because it comes from a newspaper that has been in a position for years to know the truth about brokers. The paper is The Northwest Mining Truth, of Spokane, Washington, and this is what it says in its last issue:—

"One of the most popular indoor sports is blackguarding the broker. When winter months draw short-card speculators around the stove, the game becomes fast and furious. All the ills of the mining business are laid to the unfortunate dealer in mines and stocks. If a stock goes up, it is manipulation, devised as a bait for the unwary; if that same stock goes down, it is because the broker is short and anxious to shake out, at the low, a poor deluded investor, who has paid the high. No matter where the market goes, conditions would have been better but for the broker. If he puts his clients in on a good thing, he did it unintentionally; if he steers them to a 'dead one,' it was done with malice aforethought and because he was 'long.' He satisfies no one, not even himself.

"As a matter of fact, however, there would have been little mining development in this part of the world, or any other, but for the irresistible and tireless optimism of the broker. It was a broker in mines, Jim Wardner, who brought the Bunker Hill & Sullivan to the attention of the world and thus started the great stampede that created Spokane; it was a broker in mines, Steve Bailey, who started the Slovan excitement by purchase of the Payne mine from Eli Carpenter;

it was a broker in mines, Col. Topping, who sold \$1250 for the Le Roi at Rossland and thus founded the greatest copper camp in Canada; it was a broker, Jay P. Graves, who dreamed the dream of Granby and made it come true; and it is the broker who is responsible for a great portion of the prosperity now enjoyed by this city.

"For a moment let us grant that the broker is all that he is pictured. There is another side that is often lost sight of. It is he who brings new possibilities to the attention of the public and it is he who advertises—all the year round, through good times and bad. Locally he is as honest and as conscientious as his brother in any line of endeavor. The records of the exchange will show that his contract is as good as the average in other business pursuits. Within the past year it is safe to say that five or six of the leading brokerage firms of this city have paid out \$50,000 in publicity for the mining districts of the Northwest. Publicity is the great beacon light of prosperity and it is the broker who has held it up to the investing world. The broker is as honest and trustworthy as the public with which he deals, and oftentimes considerably more so. He plays the game according to the rules. If he loses, he does not whine; if he wins, he is generosity personified. He is a good citizen and the most welcome human in a life of blue—an optimist."

TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS MORE GOLD FOR NEW YORK

Last week, gold amounting to \$25,000,000 was received in New York from Canada by the firm of J. P. Morgan and Company. This gold was transmitted for the account of the British Government. This is the first large consignment of gold for British account since early last month, when the movement of gold to New York was suspended for a time with the placing of the British loan in the market.

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