

The British Whig



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RAILWAY AS A SCHOOL.

There is some likelihood of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's retirement from the presidency of the C.P.R. When he does leave the office the work will be divided. Which does not mean that a successor to Sir Thomas cannot be found. It is not that a successor can be found to any one in any walk of life. But the C.P.R. is a growing concern, and the responsibilities of any office, even with divided duties, are heavy enough for any man to carry. Besides this railway has been the means of developing talent in an extraordinary way. Since its conception some of Canada's ablest men have been trained by it. Its departmental heads have been very successful in picking out and placing the officials who have been rapidly developed and promoted. So that there has been a constant supply of experts who have been ready for any service that has opened up, each one seeming to surpass his predecessor in the brilliancy of his accomplishments. In a word the C. P.R. has been a great school in which men have been educated in all that qualifies them for a work of importance and permanency. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy is one of the greatest railway men of his time, perhaps the greatest that Canada has ever had, but it is only necessary to give some one else a chance to show what he can do to prove that he is only one of his kind. Sir Thomas is not in any event likely to become idle. A man of his activity must be occupied in some way.

Dr. Godfrey, M.P.P., is after the minister of militia. He thinks that if the war in Europe is to be stopped all Canada has to do is to send Major-General Hughes to the front. Sarcasm, pure sarcasm, and nothing else.

A VERY SORRY EXHIBIT.

The German prisoners, conveyed from Belgium to England, have been causing some surprises. The first is the quality of the men. They do not represent the brawn of Germany. The regular army has been composed of sturdy fellows, many of whom have fallen. The recruiting has been going on vigorously under conscription. But the new blood is not that of young or able-bodied men. Many of them have been handicapped by physical infirmities. Says a writer for the London Chronicle: "I noticed men who were so deformed that one wondered how they managed to carry their pack and rifle, others who were club-footed, and finally one soldier, named Hermann Weber, born at Siegen, in Westphalia, and belonging to the recruits of 1914, who had only one eye, the left."

Moreover these troops were not armed with the latest rifles, but old Mausers of 1871, and even Sniders with the old-fashioned breech blocks. This is the second surprise. This is interesting to Canadians in view of the fact that some men, to their everlasting humiliation, have been declined because they were not physically perfect. It is not that Germany is sending to the front her crippled and feeble-minded, as one way of getting rid of them, and of contributing to the general slaughter the human material that can best be spared, but that the ranks of good men have been decimated. These unfortunates in Britain, in the concentration camps, are a sorry exhibit of the fourteen millions Germany boasts she has to aid her in this war.

The penitentiary scandal has been revived. The government, through the warden, wants to know who, if any, have been grafting during the last ten years. Wasn't the late enquiry confined to five years? Is the government on a new track?

NAVY OF THE FUTURE.

The Canadian Gazette, of London, must, to be in fashion with the government press, talk rot about the Canadian navy. Speaking about the need of naval protection in the Pacific ocean, our contemporary remarks: "Every British Columbian would today sleep far more easily in his bed had Canada at this moment three first-class fighting ships at sea in the company of Australian, New Zealand and British ships forming part of such an imperial flying squadron as the British admiralty contemplated at the time of Canada's offer. As it is, Canada and the rest of the empire in the Pacific must look mostly to our ally Japan for immunity from German assault. We accept the protection gratefully, but it is not exactly what we would have wished." And the Canadian Gazette knows very well that the three first-class fighting ships it talks about would not, if ordered at the time it refers to, be in the service now, not being built, and they were not destined, in any case, for duty on the Pacific ocean. Mr. Churchill's idea was to send them to the North Sea, and station them there, to be commissioned, of course, to go elsewhere as there was occasion for it. Every British Columbian can sleep as soundly without these ships as with them. The fleet that will serve Canadian interests the best will be located contiguous to the Canadian coasts, and this is the fleet that Canada will have if parties will only drop politics out of the issue and agree, as the Canadian Courier suggests, upon a new policy and one unhampered by the memories, the controversies and the conflict of the past.

The Canadian and American Peace Associations are of the opinion that the Hundred Years of Peace should be celebrated, even in a modified form. The public men who have been consulted vary in their views, but the majority of them are favourable to a celebration of some kind.

MILITARY EXPERT SPEAKS.

A military expert, who has had opportunity to study conditions at the front, makes a prophecy. It is given in the London Mail. He divides the time occupied with the war into six periods. Two have passed. One was the advance through Belgium into France, and one the retreat to the Aisne. The third is now on, and covers the efforts of the Germans to reach Calais. The three that are to come include the retreat of the Germans and battle on the Meuse, about the end of April or beginning of May in 1915; the campaign on the Rhine, lasting twice as long, and continuing until February, 1916; and, finally, the march to Berlin and negotiations for peace in 1917. A three years' war. The prophecy was made by a high French military authority some time ago. The situation may have changed since, and surely Mr. Asquith and General French would not predict an early settlement of the war if they had not some ground for it. There are three things which suggest an early surrender: (1) The serious defeats and losses at the hands of the Russians; (2) the resort to greater fortifications in Germany and the poverty of the common people; and (3) the unwilling confession of Von Buelow, who was chancellor for so many years, and who is familiar with German conditions. But the outlook for his country is discouraging, and he says it will not be so easy for the army to win in the war. It is a long, long time since Count Bernstorff said the war was over, and that it only remained for his government to determine the terms of peace. The surprise is that if this were the case the conflict and the carnage should continue with unabated vigour.

The fact that there is a war on in Europe, and of a very vicious nature, does not depreciate the knowledge that there has been an hundred years of peace between Canada and the United States. This should be observed in some way.

A LIMIT TO POLITICS.

The New York Times is not pleased with the attitude of Canada towards the Germans, and especially with its attitude towards the German press in the United States. It thinks that Canada can survive the circulation of a few German papers and the expression of their opinion on the phases of the war. To be sure, Canada could stand this, and a good deal more. But toleration is one thing and trouble is another. It is not pertinent to say that Americans can endure the prolechnics of the German editors during a time of stress, but the German papers are not lying and about the American government, and near-presenting it, and preaching treason as a daily occupation. The people of Ireland can put up with the diabolical of the Sinn Fein, and kindred bodies, and the truculent and trashy articles which their papers print. But it is a question how far the British government can or should exercise patience towards them. As a matter of fact it was not until these prints became absolutely insulting that the British government ordered their suppression. The Americans are free to encourage the Germans all they please. They may, however, be protecting the enemy,

a sort of viper, that will sting and hurt any one, and even the one that would spare it. The vision of the Kaiser was a large one. It took in the world as a field of conquest. He was not expecting to confine his victories to Europe. First in importance was the formation of a great German confederacy. Then he would look to America, and his generals had already worked on how it might be invaded and subdued. Let the German press boom, this idea for a while and perhaps the American press and government may be inclined to take notice.

The government of Quebec purposes to make the political prisoners work in the forests. Our local government should provide some work for the prisoners in Fort Henry. It is pretty hard on the people who must feed these men to know that their hardest occupation is kicking football.

A NERVOUS CROWN PRINCE.

One does not hear much nowadays about the Crown Prince of Germany. As the darling of the war party he was spoiled. He was made to feel that he was a wonderful fellow. His father, impetuous generally, was not rash enough for him, and several times in recent years he had kicked over the traces, which is another way of saying that he chafed under the restraint of the imperial government. Just as his father was inclined to worry and annoy his father the crown prince was disposed to irritate the Kaiser. This trouble was born in the blood.

A book, recently published, entitled "The Real Kaiser," and written by one who is familiar with the facts, gives some sidelights upon the career of the young upstart. In 1908 he began his rebellion. He championed armed aggression. The press lauded him, occasionally to the mortification of the Kaiser. He trucked to the proletariat. He attended socialistic plays, and applauded what his father condemned. He went so far in his eccentricity that he was banished to India, on a hunting expedition, for a season, but, returning, in 1911, butted into the Duke of Cumberland case, and declared that the duke should not marry Princess Victoria Louise unless he renounced his claim to the throne of Hanover.

Finally, in 1914, while his father was with Admiral Von Tirpitz, at Kordpitz, while on a visit to the Crown Prince of Austria, plotting mischief to Serbia, the Crown Prince of Germany was touring the French and Belgian frontier and scouting the roads which a German army of invasion would follow. The Crown Prince does not say that the sword has been thrust into his father's hand by the enemy. If any one did the thrusting it is the Crown Prince of Germany and when the day of trial comes he will stand indicted, as the book declares, "as an accomplice and fellow-conspirator."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Toronto Star is collecting money for Christmas presents. Our contemporary recites the sorrow which one mother caused by telling her six little children that Santa Claus was not coming this year. She didn't want to see them disappointed and unintentionally break their hearts.

Hon. Clifford Sifton says that an up-to-date policy for settlement in the west is necessary, and Canada has absolutely none now. It had a policy, a progressive one, when Sifton was in the Interior department. What has become of it? Displaced by something not so good.

The Kaiser is in an economical mood. He has ordered the dismissal of all the diplomatic corps in the countries at war with Germany. He has advised that they look up new jobs or seek other careers. Looks as if the Kaiser was giving up all hope of being the war lord of Europe.

There is no authority, under the law, for the feeding of hungry children by the public school board—as proposed in Toronto—but the minister of education will introduce legislation permitting of it. Not a war measure. England was feeding the children of the poor long before there were hostilities in Europe.

The death of "Bob" Burdette, in Pasadena, is sincerely mourned. He was a newspaper man for years, and wrote humorous skits in order to amuse his wife, who was an invalid. Under her approval he improved in his writings, and became in after years a lecturer, and later a preacher. It is seldom one swings from the gay to the severe, but Burdette did it.

Mr. Games, M.P.P., appears to have a special claim on the liquor dealers. The Globe gave a record according to which out of 665 holders of stock in the Elizabeth mine 144 have been identified with the liquor trade. Of the holders of lots in the Ganeys survey, outside of Little Current, a large number are held by the license holders of the province. It is a very noticeable fact.

Made in Germany. Hamilton Times. Guns and drums and swords are the popular Christmas toys even over in the states this year.

Public Opinion

Very Appropriate. Montreal Mail. There seems to be something particularly appropriate in the engagement of Richard Croker, former Tammany chief, to an Indian maid.

Now Understood. Toronto Globe. Does the cutting off of the supply of vodka account for the eagerness with which the Russian soldiers are approaching Er-Ze-rum?

Imitate Australia. London Advertiser. Australia did not send a money contribution to the North Sea fleet. It put its money into ships such as the liberal government of Canada proposed to build. And Australia wins glory and profit, and helps the empire.

See There Be Fair Play. Montreal Daily Mail. In refusing to dismiss a civic employee simply because he was of German birth, the London, Ont., city council has shown sound common sense. This thing can be carried too far.

What Is Culture? Chicago Tribune. Culture is chunks of metal of various sizes packed in a shell, which is discharged from a cannon. When the shell explodes the culture scatters all over the neighborhood. The manufacture of culture is the chief industry of Germany.

Wealth Counts. St. Thomas Journal. Henry Clark Frink is moving into his New York house that cost \$2,000,000, which is built on ground that cost \$2,400,000, and will have an art gallery containing \$10,000,000 worth of pictures. Wealth appears to have some compensations.

Firing The Haggis. Toronto World. London, Ont., Scotchmen have decided to give their St. Andrew's banquet money to the Belgians. We are sorry, though, about the haggis. If discharged from a mortar at the Germans it might easily become a new horror of the battle front.

Kingston Events Twenty-Five Years Ago

To-day four butchers together weighed 986 pounds. Their names are W. Harkness, W. Reid, J. McCaul and M. Walsh. Young ladies of St. Paul's church realized \$100 at a sale. The ladies took a great interest in the work. Principal Grant has been asked to dedicate the new St. Paul's church, at Ottawa.

ENGLAND AT WAR. By A. D. Godley. 'Tis past; the hour of parting's o'er. The troopship's on the main. And some have looked on England's shore. That ne'er shall look again; The last adieu come faint and low, Borne on the wintry wind, God's mercy on the men that go, And those they leave behind.

For them, the strife—for us, the fears, That grow with hope's delay, The daily dread, the nightly tears, For loved ones far away; Yet, oh, though loss be hard to bear, And sense of threatening harm, Let not the thought of private care Unnerve a nation's arm.

For sternly must the soldier fight Whose country stakes her all: Now is the day when England's might Must conquer or must fall; Though valour unrewarded die, Nor every field be won, We'll baffle no jot of courage high, Before our task be done.

Souls of our best! whose bodies fill Their unforgetten grave, By Magerfontein's murderous hill Or dark Tugela's wave, Nobly ye strove, ye gallant dead, For England's honour slain! 'Tis ours to prove the blood ye shed Has not been shed in vain! —The Spectator.

JUDGE REFUSES WRIT.

Frank Must Die For Murdering Factory Girl. Washington, Nov. 28.—Justice Lamar refused to issue a writ of error to bring to the supreme court for the review of conviction of Leo M. Frank for the murder of Mary P. Hagan, a factory girl in Atlanta, Ga., in 1913. Frank is under sentence of death. His attorneys applied to Justice Lamar for the writ on the ground that a right under the federal constitution had been denied him when the jury's verdict was returned during his absence from the court room.

No Chance in the World.

New York Times. The kindergarten teacher recited to her pupils the story of the wolf and the lamb. As she completed it she said: "Now children, you see that the lamb would not have been eaten by the wolf if he had been good and sensible."

One little boy raised his hand. "Well, John," asked the teacher, "what is it?" "If the lamb had been good and sensible," said the little boy, gravely "we should have had him to eat, wouldn't we?"

Heavy Grain Movement.

Ottawa, Nov. 28.—More than two million bushels of wheat are now being moved from the ports on the great lakes to Portland and Halifax by the Grand Trunk, whence it will be shipped to Great Britain. The movement of grain this year is much in excess of last years movement at this time, say the Grand Trunk officials here. In the past week twelve extra freight train crews have been taken on to work on the Ottawa division.

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Announcement? As I have decided to vacate my present premises in the early spring of 1915, I am now prepared to make reductions on any monument that I have in stock. If it is your intention of purchasing it would be to your advantage to buy now. J. E. MULLEN. Cor. Princess and Cherry Streets Kingston. Phone 1417.

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