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OUR CRIMINAL INSANE.

If nothing else some good will follow the enquiry into experiences at Kingston penitentiary by a special commission. It will be remembered that considerable attention was given to the care of the insane. Expert opinion, outside of the prison officials, was to the effect that the insane convicts should be regarded as special wards of the people, and given the treatment which special facilities afforded.

During a discussion of prison matters in the commons the premier made an important announcement. It was to the effect that arrangements were about completed for the transfer of the criminal insane from the federal prisons to the provincial asylums. The criminal insane were formerly treated in the provincial asylums, but they were removed to the asylum wards of the prisons on the grounds that it was not fitting that criminals should be confined with the non-criminal.

The mixing of the two classes was not regarded as according to the eternal fitness of things. They should not be herded together, and if they are not the cost of providing for them, in separate buildings and premises, will be quite as expensive as if they were, within the prison enclosure, given the accommodation, the attendance, and the comfort for which witnesses before the Commission contended.

ANSWERING THE CHALLENGE.

The first lord of the admiralty, Mr. Churchill, talks in a boastful spirit. At least the Whig thinks so when it contrasts the studied silence of the minister of war, Lord Kitchener. Of course the empire has a right to some information. Through the lords and commons it is the prerogative of the people to ask questions and suggest answers. But they have learned to expect very little from the head of the army, K. of K., as he is familiarly called, will not say anything that reveals his plans, and there is not much excitement in talking about the things that have been.

Mr. Churchill may have felt that he was compelled to say something in reply to the German challenge of a blockade of Britain, and the announcement that he made, that the German bluff would be called, was seemingly issued with the concurrence of the admiralty, since Lord Fisher was present and heard it.

Britain has reason to be proud of her navy. It is the source of her strength. It is the power that will yet subdue the tyrant that would crush the world if he were able to do so. It was Britain that settled the ambitions of Napoleon, and it is Britain that will settle the ambitions of the Kaiser. Churchill's answer to the threatened blockade of Britain, and presumed starvation of her people, is to go ahead, beginning with the 15th of February, and the allies will be ordered to put on the pressure that will speedily produce the crisis.

The submarines of Germany have had their terrors, and some people have wondered what Britain's submarines have been doing. They have been patrolling the waters close to Germany. They have appeared in the Biscay Sea without any one outside of the admiralty knowing how it happened. They have entered Kiel harbour and made an inspection of its fortifications. Germany can begin its blockade as soon as it likes. Britain's navy is active and efficient, and its return, to any audacity of the enemy, will be effective.

BRITISH EULOGY HIS BANE.

The Mail quotes, from the speech of Lord Haldane in 1913, a compliment to the Kaiser. My lord represented him as a great man, and a great leader of the people, and as one who possessed that which the German people, and others, so much loved, manly spirit. The war does not make it necessary that Lord Haldane should retract anything he said to this effect. He was toasting the diplomats at a public dinner in London. He was indulging in the eulogies that are so much in order on state occasions. A year and a half later the German emperor became the great war lord, still possessing the spirit the Germans like, and plunging into a war under a great delusion. So far as personality goes the emperor was still a leader, but deceived by the men on whom he relied for information. The war party misled him. The Von Moltke or Von Kluck, or Von Hindenburg plan miscarried. The naval party was misled through Von Tripitz. The Von Jagows, Von Bernstorffs, Bethmann-Hollwags, and others, fed him on diplomatic pulchrum that was hurtful to his constitution. The expensive spy service failed him in the crucial hour. The Kaiser would have been crushed long ago had he not been possessed of the spirit which Lord Haldane lauded. The eulogies in 1913, of men, however, who are now fighting him to the death, are not giving Wilhelm II. any comfort.

WHERE'S THE ECONOMY?

The alleged "war taxes" are not for the purposes of war. They are to meet the deficiency in revenue, superinduced, to some extent, no doubt, by the exigencies of war, yet devoted to the cause of general government. When the revenues began to run behind, and by the millions, and when the fact became increasingly evident from month to month, did the finance minister call a halt in the expenditure on any account? There is no evidence of it in the records of the government.

There was no conference of ministers, no parley as to the need of economy, no call for reduced outlay in the various departments. At least there is no proof of it in any of the public documents. On the contrary there is the proof of a continuation of that prodigal expenditure of public funds which may be good for the party, but cannot be good for the state. The business man, very much against his inclination, revises his expense account and cuts off here and there the items which can be conveniently omitted while preserving generally the efficiency of his staff.

The federal government has not been cutting off anything so far as one can see, and the financial riot is to be continued because it is a good thing for the party. And this greed for spoils, for public patronage, grows on some people. It has been growing on them in Kingston, and in their greed, they are disposed to publicly grouch if they do not get all the orders they expect. "War taxes" for this sort of thing is a scandal and a shame.

MAY BREAK THE TRUCE.

Dr. Pugsley, we are told, nearly smashed the truce which had been proclaimed in the commons during the currency of the war, and because of the sharp criticism of the purchase of the Chilean submarines. It was an awful offence to intimate that there was a possible juggling in finances, and the premier, in a passion, metaphorically shook his big stick at the opposition and alleged that he would not stand for recrimination without retort in kind.

The Globe, in its usual editorial fearlessness, calls attention to the fact that the "war taxes" are not being imposed and collected on war account, but in order to meet the excesses of expenditure over revenue by a government which has been rather reckless in its administration of the public business. "War or no war," according to the Globe, "a smash could not be long deferred." The Public Accounts supply the evidence of extravagance and waste. In the last four years of the Laurier rule the expenditure had been increased from \$76,641,000 to \$87,740,000, or a little over \$11,000,000. During the next four years the expenditure went up to \$112,000,000, and when the present year ends the total will be \$141,000,000, an increase of \$52,000,000.

An increase of 8,000 in the membership of the civil service staff alone gives some indication of how the money flies; while in railway subsidies an increase of \$25,000,000 in fifteen years, under liberal rule, is offset by one of \$24,000,000 in three years under conservative rule. Still more, the interest on public debt was \$10,645,000 when the Liberals took office in 1896, and it was \$12,535,000 when they left office. Under conservative rule, since September, 1911, this interest item has risen surprisingly to \$21,000,000. It may break the truce to tell all this, and if it does the Globe assumes a dreadful responsibility.

The outlook for the Tory or blue party in Quebec is so hopeless that Mr. Teller, leader of the opposition, is retiring. He was no good anyway.

BRITAIN'S IMMENSE WEALTH.

At different times since the outbreak of the war one has heard about the wealth of Britain. She has been husbanding her resources, and, though the Chancellor of the Exchequer has intimated that they are ample for all purposes, the fact that he has counselled economy and thrift have suggested a limit to them. Now the situation has been made clearer by a glimpse into conditions that has not been hitherto available.

Mr. Lloyd-George has been meeting the financiers of Russia and France in Paris, and they have been uniting the financial strength of the powers they represent, and this appears to be prodigious. It becomes apparent when it is said that, at the present rate of expenditure, Britain can carry on the war, and allow for large deductions, "out of the proceeds of her investments abroad," for five years, and France can carry on the war, at the present rate of her expenditure, for at least two years, "out of the proceeds of her investments abroad." Even then the allies would be able to help, as they have been doing, their less fortunate associates in the struggle. What a comforting fact!

Of Russia it cannot be said that she is so well off, financially, but she is better than they in another way, namely, in the productiveness of her people. This is secured in two ways, (1) by their sudden and extraordinary sobriety, and (2) by the large increase in the fertility of the soil. She can feed her own people and the people of other nations, if necessary, by the multiplicity of her products. For the time being, and all along, Great Britain has been bearing the bigger part of the burden, because of her varied interests throughout the globe, her importations, and her command of the sea, but so far as they can, and according to a given plan, the allies will help each other, and the first act of the British people was to oversubscribe the Russian loan of \$50,000,000 in London this week.

Altogether, from the monied point of view, (and it is the main one, since a war cannot be run without an abundance of ready cash), the outlook for our allies is exceedingly bright. It is not enough to know that John Bull has a healthy bank account, but that it is practically inexhaustible.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Why should the city officials resign as a preliminary to any rearrangement of civic duties? There is a humiliation about the proceeding which should not be put upon them.

The pollution of the waters of our lakes and rivers must cease. It may mean the expenditure of money, many millions, by the frontier cities, in diverting their sewage, but the salvation of the people depends upon it.

The preachers of New York talk of running a revival without the presence and aid of "Billy" Sunday. They can do it, but it will not be a Sunday revival. The finest play without a star would be tame enough.

Brookville, with its hundred cases of typhoid fever, appeals to the government for some action which will mean the purification of our water supply. But that action is not clear. The Waterways Commission still wrestles with the issue.

You Bernstorff, the German ambassador at Washington, is said to have a call to return to Germany. He had better go somewhere. He is all the time reminding us of the funkeys whom the cartoonists sketch as the hans of Mr. Jigg's life.

There may be method in the council's manner of doing things, but to order a staff of officials to resign without revealing what is the motive of the procedure is certainly a new way of doing business. It is without a parallel in municipal experience.

Prof. Mitchell thinks that if Canada had had compulsory training her soldiers would have been the sooner on the firing line. "Knowing something about the tactics of war" does not fit them for active service. This physical fitness does not come from any superficial training in school or college.

Germany may tempt and coerce Italy into the war, but Italy will not throw her influence into a losing fight. It is kind of the Kaiser to promise such a partition of Austria as will suit his purpose, but it is hard on the Emperor Joseph whose rule and kingdom have been ruined at the dictation of the Kaiser.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

R. McPaul buys a part of the Merritt estate land on Barrie street. Arlym ball held. W. Bassam was caterer. City council considered question of taxing the churches. Nine wagons on the market this morning. First load of freight arrived from Cape Vincent since navigation closed.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

The heart of a pretty girl may be as chilly as a dog's nose.

Some men are good because they find it cheaper than being bad.

The man who does things can afford to let his wife do all the talking.

A woman's work is never finished if she is trying to reform some man.

The Diagnosis. The doctor looks at Europe. His stethoscope disdains; "She's suffering," says the savant, "From acute shooting pains." —Philadelphia Ledger

A Thought For Yesterday. The very society of joy redoubles it; so that whilst it lights upon my friend it rebounds upon me, and the brighter his candle burns the more easily will it light mine. —R. South.

Their Difficulty. Student—"I hear your depositors are falling off." Cashier—"Yes; they can't keep a balance." —Yale Record.

So Kind. He's one of the most conscientious men I know.

So? Yes. He always says: Give me a match, please, instead of lend me a match.

Naturally. Sunday school Teacher—"What is the outward, visible sign of baptism?" Johnny—"The baby, mum." —Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Two Reasons. "Don't you love to wander out in the country where the little lambs play?" "And the graphophones don't you bet." —Louisville Courier-Journal.

Handicapped. With but three minutes to catch his train, the traveling salesman inquired of the street-car conductor. "Can't you go faster than this?" "Yes," the bell-ringer replied, "but I have to stay with my car." —Harpur's.

Its Note Of Protest. "So Miss Banger played for you? She claims that she can make the piano speak." "Well, I'll bet if it spoke it would say: 'Woman, you have played me false.'" —Boston Transcript.

Only Human. "Why do you write articles on how cheaply people can live if they try?" "In the hope of getting enough money to avoid having to live that way." —Washington Star.

Quiet Moments. It is an everlasting duty—the duty of being brave. —Thomas Carlyle.

The best preacher is the heart; The best teacher is time; The best book is the world; The best friend is God. —The Talmud.

When we are prone to think our own problems are unusually great, it is a help to remember that the neighbor has his problems also. We shall always have problems the same as the neighbor will have his. —These we can never hope to escape. —Ralph Waldo Trine.

The Principal One. "Are you familiar with the mottoes of Blak's new play?" "Yes, he needed the money." —Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Under Cover. "Parson—Robert, did you know that your mother was looking for you?" Bobby—"You bet! That's why she can't find me."

A Man Of Recourse. "He—Let's go to the theatre to-night." She—"I have nothing to wear." He—"then we'll go to one of the moving picture shows, where it's dark."

Logic Of The Loaded. "Who goes there?" the sentry challenged. "Lord Roberts," answered the tipsy recruit. Again the sentry put the question and received a like answer, whereupon he knocked the offender down. When the latter came to, the sergeant was bending over him. "See here!" said the sergeant, "by didn't you answer right when the sentry challenged you?" "Holy St. Patrick!" replied the recruit; "if he'd do that to Lord Roberts, what would he do to plain Mike Flanagan?"

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