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AN UNFORSEEN CONTINGENCY.

The Dacia episode, the purchase of this German steamer by Americans, her change of register and flag, and engagement to carry a load of cotton to Rotterdam, for German use, excites the derision of the international critics. The position of Britain was made quite clear by a lengthened correspondence that has been summarized and printed in this paper. A ship belonging to a belligerent, and for a time interned in an American port for safety, can not be sold during the continuance of the war.

The purchasers of the Dacia were advised to the contrary, and, without the license of the United States government, and any encouragement from it, they were prepared for a test case. The ship sailed with the expectation that she would fall into the hands of the British, and a French cruiser captured her at sea, and guided her into Brest, a French port, where she and her cargo will be disposed of by a prize court. The German-American shipbuyers, and with exalted ideas of their prowess in the world of commerce, find themselves against a contingency that spells defeat.

This seizure, following the capture of the Wilhelmnia, whose cargo will be forfeited to the British government, whatever may happen to the craft, will put an end to the schemes of certain Americans to profit by international difficulties. There will be no more purchases of German ships for service during the war, and there will be no more shipping of cargoes for Germany in American bottoms.

Capt. Boy-Ed, naval attache of the German ambassador to America, denies that he plotted against Britain through Stegler, the reservist. But he admits that he had a lot of correspondence with the man, and cannot tell why. He is lying. There is not a doubt of it.

A GREAT CIVIC FEAT.

The mountain has laboured and brought forth a mouse. The sum total of the works department's recommendations, with regard to the engineer's office, is the removal of the young man who has been assisting the engineer, and whose services during the summer months have been absolutely indispensable. His place is to be taken by a girl, who will be able to do the stenography which the department requires, but who will be unable to do the other work that has fallen to the engineer's assistant.

Girl labour is not to be deprecated, but in an engineer's office there are things that a girl cannot very conveniently discuss much less perform. How much better it would have been had the committee acted on the suggestion of the Whig and sent a couple of men to other cities with instructions to compare systems and see wherein Kingston was deficient. The one result so far recorded is an apparent reduction of expenses, by the substitution of female help for male help, under very doubtful circumstances; and only a few are able to do the stenography which the department requires, and only a few are able to do the other work that has fallen to the engineer's assistant.

One to think that in order that one minor official might be changed it was necessary to humiliate the engineer and his help by demanding their resignations, the plea being that the committee should have a free hand in the performance of its tremendous task!

RAISING THE REVENUE.

The Council this year has undertaken to do two things, (1) cut down expenses and (2) increase the revenue. The first act in one direction is a saving, for the present, of \$300 or \$400 in the salaries of the engineer's office. The intention may be to go through the City Hall, to examine into the service rendered by each civic official, and, by resignations and retirements and changes, being about an economical service in every department.

The fire department is under supervision, and report has it that a couple of men must go. The police department is not under the direction of the Council, and not subject to its dictation, and yet the commissioners are expected to hear the slogan, "Reduce, Reduce," and to act accordingly. The Utilities commissioners control their expenditures, and may see wherein they can retrench. There will be some saving when the Campbell current is applied, but the Commission has no idea that it can, while the plant is being built up, contribute to the general purpose of the Council.

On the second count—of raising more revenue—a start has been made in the licenses. It is expected that at least \$2,000 will be collected from the theatres, the movies, the pool-rooms, cabmen, carters, tobacco and cigarette sellers, and the butchers. There is a justification for taxing the luxuries and the amusements of the people, but meat does not come within this category and it, as well as the milk, should have been spared the impost.

The wonder is that the liquor licenses were not raised also, and to the extent of \$200 each. The liquor men are exempt from the taxman on this occasion, and they can thank their stars that they are organized and a power in municipal elections.

Will Hon. Mr. Hanna have his way on the Central License Commission? This, if established, will bowl out the local commissioners. Why are they failures? What is the matter with them, anyway?

SCOLDING THE PREACHERS.

For the judgment and good sense of J. W. Johnson, M.P.P., the Whig had the greatest regard. And it marvels at the petulant speech which he made at the opening of the local house. It was a repetition of the speeches he made during the last provincial election, when, to mark his displeasure of a sermon, preached by his pastor, on the closing of the bars, the issue of the day, he rose during service and left the church. He tells now that if it had not been for the restraint of friends he would have had it out with the preacher there and then. As a result of the temperance campaign "a number of citizens in Belleville had not been in a church since the election."

"It was the preacher's duty," said Mr. Johnson, "to save sinners," and instead of that his preaching had driven them—that is the sinners—away. Now is not that a frivolous way to talk, at this late date, and so long since the election? It is the privilege of any member of the legislature to support or oppose any public issue, upon its merits. The temperance question will not be abandoned because a political party, for political reasons, does not like it. The temperance party deserves censure occasionally. It is composed of some men who academically approve of its proposals and politically condemn them. Had all of them voted as they talked, had they for once put politics aside and voted according to "conscience," the bar would to-day have lost its menace.

Mr. Johnson says it is for the preachers to save sinners, and when they essay to use their powers of persuasion to that end, and feel that the first obstacle to success is the drink habit, they are scolded by their parishioners. The preacher that would suit and please some men would have no mind nor opinion on any thing where the politicians were concerned. Mr. Johnson's man would be a mere cypher in the pulpit and out of it.

The United States government cannot afford to have a German nest of traitors in New York city, and at work in a most compromising way. A neutral country, that is absolutely neutral, cannot tolerate a brood like this.

CONSPIRACY IN AMERICA.

The Bernstorff crew—ambassador, naval attache, military attache, and all the rest of them—are escaping from America in a merciful way. The German government has heard enough about the Stegler case to see that it will never do to have an exposure of the spy system, and of the connection of its high officials with the case. Hence, true to the general practice of the "diplomatic corps," (called such by courtesy), has been summoned home.

In that way the Washington government will be saved the necessity of ordering Count Von Bernstorff and his attache out of America as men who have misbehaved and are not to be trusted. Richard F. Stegler, who has given the diplomats away, and made the situation too hot for

them, is a German reservist who was in the pay of the German government. He had undertaken a dangerous commission. It was to go to England, locate certain British battalions, and communicate information with regard to them to the German admiralty. He was to essay the feat that had been entrusted to Lody, the German naval officer, who suffered capital punishment.

The attache of Von Bernstorff had Stegler ready for his desperate task, and he was seeking the passport of an American citizen when his wife forbade him to expose the plot. She was to be paid \$150 a month for life—if Stegler failed. The charge against the German naval attache is denied, but it is significant that he, and all the rest of the diplomatic corps, have been hurriedly ordered to Germany, and the whole proceeding points significantly to their guilt. They are a bad lot, and the United States, for any reason and on any account, is well rid of them.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The leader of the Quebec opposition wants the local legislature abolished and replaced with a legislative union. What is the matter with him?

The local license board, before an election, issued the order that the liquor dealers were not to assess the license holders for election expenses. Must it go on that account?

Chat's Falls, at Ottawa, is still looked forward to, as the source of cheap power in Eastern Ontario. The supply which Brockville is getting from Morrisburg is limited in its quantity.

Sir Lomer Gouin denies that he has any desire to desert the Quebec government and seek a seat in the Commons. But wherever he is he will be the champion of Quebec's interests.

The difficulty of collecting a staff of men, once they scatter, is being felt by the Locomotive Works. Many of its best employees are either off to the war, or they are doing duty in the city.

A Toronto preacher says that there are thousands in the city who should be fast as a religious duty. And there are thousands who must fast, as a physical necessity, and because they cannot help themselves.

The British army is described more like old Cromwell's than any that has taken the field in recent years. The men offer prayers before going into the trenches. And they are different from the prayers of the Kaiser.

The gas department had a surplus of only \$78.02 last year, but there was a lot of money spent on capital account. The department should, in changing its records, keep ordinary expenditure and capital expenditure entirely separate.

Hon. Frank Hugo, a Kingston man, the New York secretary of state, will have to arrange for the taking of a census in New York state. He will have the naming of 6,000 persons for the job that, call for salaries or stipends that run all the way from \$500 to \$2,500. The whole outlay will be \$465,000. The man who can lay out such a sum to the satisfaction of every one will be a wonder.

PUBLIC OPINION

Will He Do It? Toronto Star. There is nothing for it but that Hon. James Duff must thump the premier's desk and say what he thinks.

It Surely Will. London Advertiser. A score or more of keen-eyed folk have seen the first robin, but it will be a robin that will see the first worm.

Juvenile Education. Montreal Mail. In the German schools at prayers the schoolmaster says, "God punish England," and the pupils respond in chorus, "God punish her." Even the children are made the dupes of Prussian militarism.

He Can Do It. Hamilton Times. Mr. Rowell did a graceful thing in the legislature yesterday when he proposed that the house should congratulate the Canadians at the front on their heroic conduct in the trenches.

A Tack To Starboard. Toronto Star. The German crown prince says Russia and France are England's cats-paws. Not long ago the Germans were telling England that she ought to be glad to sit back and see the Teutons conquer barbarous Russia and decadent France.

Live To Repent It. Hamilton Spectator. Italy has spent already \$200,000,000 in a state of neutrality. Some folks there are now beginning to clamor for a return for their money in the shape of substantial butchers' bills. Later on, they may wish they hadn't.

Lodz, Russia, has a population of 300,000. The factories of the city are closed and 150,000 men and women are without employment.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

Breck & Booth have been commissioned to load the schooners Jessie Breck and Neelon with ice for Toledo. The freight rates are high. The fence around Victoria Park has been removed. It is no ornament to the park. The English government are sending seven graduates of the Royal Military College at present in the Royal Engineers school, at Chatham, to the continent, with a professor, to visit the principle battle fields of Europe, and to inspect the fortifications of the principle cities.



BERNSTORFF RECALLED? A Washington despatch says the active German Ambassador has been recalled to Germany to talk over American relations with the Kaiser, but has refused to go. This picture was taken recently in Washington.

Rise in The Price of Food.

London Mail. The principal fact which emerges from the debate in the House of Commons on the price of food is that the rise in that price has been only about half what experts anticipated before the war. In the struggle with Napoleon, when the British navy commanded the sea, the price of wheat for the year 1801 averaged 119s., and actually reached 126s. 6d. in 1812. The British people are paying less than half as much to-day, though two of the main sources of supply—Australia and Russia—have failed. In every possible respect they are better off than the German people, who are now menaced with a real shortage of bread.

Such hardship as the advance of prices may have caused in this country has been greatly alleviated by the heavy expenditure from the war votes, a large proportion of which passes direct to the pockets of the working class.



ADMIRAL VON POHL. New commander of the German Baltic fleet succeeding Admiral Von Ingenohl, who was removed recently. Von Pohl was the man who announced the blockade of Britain.

Armored Motors Silenced Battery. Petrograd, March 2.—An official statement describes Russian feats in the recent fighting.

"As a German battery to the south-east of Pzenezysz was impeding our offensive," says the statement, "Captain Gourloff sent several armoured automobiles, under fire, in the direction of a hostile battery, and at a distance of twenty yards they killed all the gunners. Capt. Gourloff was killed at the very moment his valor had turned the battle in our favor.

"Since the beginning of the war Gen. Brussloff's army has captured 1,900 officers and 186,000 soldiers."



DACIA CAPTURED BY FRENCH CRUISER.

The issue raised by the Dacia is that of the transfer of ownership during war, she having been a Hamburg-American boat, recently sold to an American named Breitung and sent to Germany laden with cotton on a test trip. It was expected she would be seized by England. The New York World says England has cleverly escaped a sharp controversy.

Advertisement for Bibbys boys' suits and men's fine shoes. Features 'New Spring Attire!' and 'Men's Fine Shoes \$4.00'. Includes contact information: BIBBYS: 78-80-82 Princess.

Advertisement for 'Wanted' services. Lists two options: 1. Loan of about \$4,000 on Farm Property, worth \$15,000, and assessed for 13,500. 2. A purchaser for Farm of 200 acres, about four miles from Kingston. Contact: T. J. LOCKHART, Real Estate and Insurance.

Advertisement for 'Life Buoy Brand Rubbers'. Claims to be sole agents in Kingston for the celebrated brand. All shapes, all sizes, all fresh new stock. Contact: J. H. SUTHERLAND & BRO., The Home of Good Shoes.

Advertisement for 'BIG INDIAN CHIEF' motorcycles. Has sent us one of the new 1915 models for the inspection of the Indian Warriors, and expected Braves of Kingston and vicinity. Contact: Treadgold Sporting Goods Co.

Advertisement for 'TREADGOLD SPORTING GOODS CO.' Bicycles and sporting goods. Phone 529, 88-90 Princess St.

Advertisement for 'BETTER GET YOUR MIND ON THE COAL QUESTION NOW'.

Advertisement for 'CRAWFORDS COAL'. Use Crawford's Coal.