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A COMPELLING FORCE.

Oscar S. Straus, of New York, does not see that the United States, as one of the neutral powers, can do very much in the way of suggesting peace to the belligerent nations. The powers engrossed in the great combat will not listen to any outsider. Mr. Straus thinks the League of Empire Peace, recently organized in America, and of which Mr. Ex-President Taft is the head, is the most powerful influence in the interest of peace, and it contemplates:

First, the submission of all justiciable questions to an international court.

Second, the submission of unjusticiable questions to a court of conciliation for consideration and recommendation.

Third, the use of the joint forces of the powers, economic and military, against anyone of their number who shall go to war without such submission of its alleged grievances.

Mr. Straus admits that the proposal is along the lines which were suggested by Sir Edward Grey in July last, but at a time when excitement, irritation, and suspicion were so largely developed as to make its adoption impossible. Hitherto all treaties with regard to peace were the results of voluntary arbitration. In future they must be, it is said, the result of a compelling force, and the League is to be counted upon as an evidence in this direction.

SERIOUS SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital is conducting weekly clinics, and as a result he advises the health authorities of the most serious social conditions. The report sent out on Saturday, and affecting the whole province, is that misery and disease are spreading. One characteristic case was cited, that of a man who earned \$9 a week, kept \$1. paid \$4 for rent, 50c for insurance, and presumed to feed and clothe his wife and seven children with the balance. The task was simply impossible, and the children, in Dr. Clark's opinion, are being slowly starved into imbecility.

In a great city like Toronto, indeed, in any city, there is poverty that baffles relief, and for the reason that it is unobtrusive. It is coming to this, that the municipality shall be held responsible for the reasonable care and comfort of the children. The law makes it necessary that until fourteen years of age they shall be kept at school, but the law does not say that they shall be clothed and fed, and there are cases in every community in which, for various reasons, the children are in a pitiable condition.

The latest report of Dr. Clark is very depressing. It is that imbecility is increasing. This must go on until the province, in the public interests, takes effective steps to check it. Imbecility is a social product that no practical attempt has been made thus far to restrict.

FORD'S PEACE COMMISSION.

Henry Ford, the motor car maker, with more money than discretion, has purchased a steamship, (which should be called the Piffle, in its New York Herald made famous in its cartoons), and he and a distinguished band of Americans will set forth for Europe to bring about peace. The party will embrace Mr. Bryan, the ex-Secretary of the State, and David Starr Jordan, of the Leland Stanford University. It is a self-constituted commission representing no party or community.

Ford hopes to get a letter from the President giving him authority to act

for the United States Government, but President Wilson is not likely to empower any man to bespeak his sentiments or the sentiments of his Government when that one is not of his or their choice. Not in the history of the world has any party set out under similar auspices; and one can imagine how far it will proceed before it lands in difficulty. It would not be at all surprising if a fast cruiser of one of the belligerents ran the Piffle, or the ship, by any other name, bearing this precious peace commission, into some safe harbor, there to be interned until the war is over, while Ford and his associates will be given the opportunity of returning to their homes wife or saner men.

There are many people in the world who are just as anxious as Mr. Ford to see the end of the war, but they are showing more sense than by supposing that they can stop it with their commands or influence. "Ma" Ford, too, will learn in time to cool down and save her thousands of dollars, or to put them to a better purpose than in financing a foolish agitation among the women of America for the peace which her husband hopes to dictate. She must be as eager as him for notoriety or fame.

MEET IT BY TAXATION.

Saturday Night thinks the Patriotic Fund should be aided and sustained by a scheme of taxation, imposed through the Federal or Provincial Governments. "To our way of thinking," it says, "it would be well if the taxation principle were applied to the whole fund, either by the Federal or Provincial Governments. The care of soldiers' dependents is a national obligation which should be a charge on the whole community. At the present time generous men and women, who can perhaps at times ill-afford it, are bearing burdens which selfish persons of greater means oftentimes refuse to share."

Our contemporary, continuing, says that it must be remembered the giving powers of even the well-disposed are limited, and that most of those who give to the Patriotic Fund must curtail their subscriptions to the Red Cross and other important objects. A general tax for the support of soldiers' dependents is therefore the one, in the opinion of Saturday Night, that any Government could easily defend and it is one that no opposition critic could successfully oppose. Since the war is likely to continue for a considerable time to come, it is necessary that Canada as a whole should systematize its givings on public and equitable lines.

The Journal of Commerce endorses this proposal and regards it as the only one through which this burden of the war may be fairly distributed. Of course, a system of taxation through the Governments incurs delay. The machinery for levying and collecting the taxes must be put into operation. The municipalities can get to work quicker and with more effect as its officers can collect the tax, and the Province or the Dominion can hardly make use of the municipal officials to the same extent.

England, says the Journal of Commerce, is projecting a scheme of general taxation in connection with the soldiers who are inadequately pensioned and whose families are suffering in consequence. Canada cannot do better in all these schemes than follow in the footsteps of the Mother Country, for the legislators there are men of action, and they are responding to the demands of the hour, with plans that are most practical.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Montreal's shortage on municipal account is over \$2,000,000. And the men who are responsible for this condition of things financially want re-election. Here is supreme nerve.

The Australian Cadets were tested in Kingston. They are non-smokers, and when cigarettes were passed along after one luncheon they respectfully abstained.

"Supposing Canada had universal service?" asked one. There would be fewer men at home or in the country preparing for service, and more of them across the sea, in England or in France.

The success of the unofficial labor candidate, Staunton, in the constituency so long represented by Keir Hardie in England, is due to his support of conscription. Is this an indication of the change in the labor vote in England? Keir Hardie was a most pronounced anti-conscriptionist.

In Montreal the women are agitating for positions upon the School Board. They should succeed. In Ontario women are eligible to serve as trustees, but that is not enough. Few of them succeed in filling these places. New Brunswick leads in making it necessary by law that at least two women should be members of every School Board. There is something compulsory about that

PUBLIC OPINION

Under Suspicion. ( Windsor Record.) People will look suspiciously at fellows who made "big money" during the war.

The Attraction. (Belleville Ontario.) Why do we follow the majority? Is it because they have more reason? No, because they have more power.

Must Be Some Privates. (Hamilton Times.) Young men can't all get officers' jobs. Join as privates, promotion is rapid for the right men.

Billy Sunday's Personality. (Brantford Expositor.) "Billy" is in a class by himself, but with all his eccentricities he delivers the goods, and that is all which can fairly be asked of any man.

An Incurable Disease. (Montreal Star.) Mr. Henry Ford has a severe attack of Millionitis—an almost incurable disease, due to the gaiter-like germ. It generally affects the head, causing a pronounced swelling.

They All Must Go. (Toronto World.) The Hohenzollerns must go, and so must the pretty German princes on the thrones of Europe; and Germany as a state must find a way to become a democratic government, or at least a kingdom under a constitutional monarch.

Economy's Necessary. (Montreal Herald.) Anyone familiar with the lavish methods in our own Houses of Parliament will see where a very substantial saving can be effected without going quite to the lengths that they have evidently gone at Westminster. We do not suggest that members should conduct their correspondence with constituents on the backs of old envelopes or else buy their own letter paper from the Ottawa shops. But there might at

least be a final dropping of the Christmas-box idea, which now involves an expenditure of much money for the benefit of three or four hundred people who are quite able to provide themselves with the trunks, writing paper, envelopes, scissors, paste, paper-knives, rulers, ink, fountain pens and various gir-crackery which it has become the custom to hand out year by year. Ten years ago the Christmas-box business had risen to the proportions of a serious abuse. It was discontinued, temporarily as it turns out, but has been revived, and will, no doubt, shortly be back at its old level.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

A sword swallower on the market this morning attracted much attention.

The car works will likely start the manufacture of cars for electric railways.

Richard Draper, sr., Glenburnie, renewed his subscription to the Weekly Whig to-day for the fifty-seventh time.

An Appeal For Mercy. Ottawa Citizen. Appeal is made from the West for a man who deserved to be hanged, but is under sentence of death at Macleod, Alberta, for murder. She is the wife of a brute who brought a woman of bad character into his house to consort with while his wife was there.

We imagine most people will feel that if ever there was a man who deserved to be hanged, it is one. It says a lot for Canadian respect for law that he is alive. In a quarrel, Mrs. Hawke struck the woman, with fatal results. Equity would be better served by hanging her husband than her. It is to be hoped the Minister of Justice will himself be able to recommend clemency.

The French Government has recognized the Haitian Government of President Darlignauve.

Sleepytime Tales

THE COUNTRY SQUIRREL'S NEW HOME.

Once upon a time a little country squirrel went to visit its city cousin and while there was carried home in a carriage with a little baby. When the baby was wrapped in the little fellow hopped out and ran up on a chair where he watched the nurse take off the baby's coat and bonnet. The baby was not afraid of the squirrel and the squirrel was not at all afraid of people who fed him every day and never harmed him. So when a big gray cat wandered into the room the little fellow never moved, but sat looking at them all with his big bright eyes. It was very different, however, with the cat. She was fond of squirrel meat and this one looked so good and plump. So she made one flying leap towards the squirrel and landed close beside it with her claws outstretched. When the squirrel saw the cat so close she was not sure that everybody in the world were harmless and he made a

great spring and landed across the room from the cat.

When the cat saw that she was going to lose her dinner she shot out her paw and just caught the end of the squirrel's tail. Just then the baby stretched out his hand towards the squirrel and up he jumped into the baby's lap, sure now that he was safe from the cat. When the baby's mother saw them together she thought they looked so cute that she went and got her camera and took their pictures and then brought a pitcher of cream for the next pet.

When baby John's father came home that evening and heard about the squirrel and saw its poor tail he said he guessed Tip would be a good name for it. The next morning when the nurse had baby John tucked into his carriage Tip came rushing up and jumped in too. When they reached the park he jumped out, ran to tell his city cousin all about his adventures and that he had decided to live with baby John.

"Low Cost of Living" Menu

Menu for Tuesday

BREAKFAST: Creamed Eggs, Potato Chips, Buckwheat Cakes, Coffee.

LUNCHEON: Royal Salad, Bread and Butter, Cherry Sauce, Cocoa.

DINNER: Pea Soup, Broiled Steak, Potatoes Stuffed With Cheese, Buttered Beets, Lima Bean Salad, Orange Shortcake.

half a cup of blanched and shredded almonds, and half a pared apple cut in cubes and sprinkled with the juice of half a lemon. Moisten with French dressing and place on a bed of lettuce leaves.

DINNER: Pea Soup—Boil two cups of dried peas in ten cups of water four hours. Mash well and add a piece of butter and seasoning.

Potatoes Stuffed with Cheese—Bake the potatoes until soft, cut in half, scoop out the insides, mash, add butter and a little milk, and a cup of grated cheese. Fill the skins, sprinkle the top with grated cheese and return to the oven to brown.

Lima Bean Salad—Chill two cups of cooked beans, add a tablespoon of prepared horseradish and some seasoning. Serve on lettuce with French dressing.

Orange Shortcake—Cream a tablespoon each of lard and butter with four cups of flour, two teaspoons of baking powder and a little salt. Bake in a round tin and, when done, cold cooked veal cut in cubes with plenty of cup of white grapes cut in halves, butter and oranges that have been the pulp of half a grapefruit, one sliced and sprinkled with sugar.

Rippling Rhymes

SUCH IS LIFE

I had a stately pony, the smoothest nag alive, no feature of him phony, and a safe for girls to drive. His skill at fancy pacing was known both wide and well, and folks were always chasing, and asking me to sell. They offered fancy prices, and dogged me every place, and often brandished slices of money in my face. "I'll keep my nifty charger," I said. "He's your rolls of kale; I treasure him, doggone him, far more than precious stones." At last I was persuaded to buy a motor car, in which I have paraded around the busy mart. I said, "I'll sell my pony, for steeds are out of date, and what he brings in money will help to pay the freight." I thought that many a buyer would hustle to my door, and bid the price up higher than e'er it was before. But not an eager hand had to swap him for rusty roller skates. And in my mind has jaunted this thought, until it's stale: A thing is seldom wanted, unless it's not for sale.



WALT MASON

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Advertisement for Crawford's Kidney Pills, 'It's High Time You were using OUR COAL'. Includes a testimonial from Right Hon. Herbert L. Samuel.