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THE COST OF COAL.

For years there has been a conflict between the American anthracite miners and their men. The last difficulty is the greatest and the most prolonged because it includes points upon which the employers and the employees are unalterably opposed. The United Mine Workers presented a bill of ten items, and seven of them, of minor importance, have been practically settled. They are being simply held in abeyance pending the disposition of the three outstanding items—the percentage of increase in wages, the eight-hour day, and the recognition of the union.

The operators are willing to concede a five per cent. increase in wages, which means a distribution of \$5,000,000 annually among the employees, and the operators may concede the shorter day on the representation of the men that they can produce as much coal in eight as in nine hours when they put their spirit into the work. But as to the recognition of the union, the employers say they will make a fight on this question, and the men say they will accept the challenge. Meanwhile, the coal trade is simply demoralized. A local coal dealer, when asked about the supply for the season, read a letter in which it was pointed out that in consequence of the strike the companies did not know where they were at, and would certainly not enter into any obligation and make any promises. Orders would be accepted from time to time if the coal were present to send out, but the outlook was exceedingly doubtful, and one can readily see this when he reads in the New York papers of the manner in which the contending parties are being lined up for a determined struggle. Fortunately the summer season is at hand, and surely the dispute will be ended before the fall sets in. Prices may vary some, but generally they will be higher as a result of this miners' difficulty.

Civil servants, in the war, as officers, should be satisfied when they do not lose any financially by their absence from public places. Double pay is an extravagance and a scandal which some day will reflect upon the government as well as upon the recipients.

THE TAX ON MR. ASQUITH.

The London Chronicle charges that much of the troubles in the British government, in fact all of them, are due to the agitation of the British party or that part of it without the leadership of Mr. Law, Mr. Balfour, and Lord Lansdowne. These are honestly at work in the interest of that political agreement which is so necessary for the success of the work. There are others who are not so minded, who are willing to make a crisis on conscription or any other subject if it will only lead to a disruption of the government. Why? There would be an election, and a new government. How would it succeed? Could any party win out with conscription as the shibboleth?

The Chronicle is a Liberal paper, and its conclusions may be discounted by those who are unwilling to accept its gospel. The Chronicle is right, however, so far as a fair-minded onlooker can see, in assuming that if a party could succeed in forming a government without the presence and influence of the men whose leadership is now challenged, it could not prevail. "Depend upon it," says the Chronicle, "the opposition would not be negligible; it would certainly number between 150 and 200 Radical, Labor, and Irish members. Such an opposition, welded together by the war, a rallying point for all the dis-

affected elements in the nation, would in crisis after crisis hold the government at its mercy. Does anybody imagine that a party government in such a parlous position would be able to act with vigor and resolution? While the Coalition, from its very nature, arouses personal animosities it kindles no counterbalancing enthusiasm. But in spite of its defects it is incomparably better as an instrument for conducting the war than any alternative government could possibly be."

Conscription—which is not registration or natural service, but something more drastic—is then only a means to an end with the opponents of the government, and that end change in the ministry. The man they would like to sacrifice is the premier, and he acts as a balance wheel upon the machinery of government. Without him the mind cannot conceive of what would happen under present circumstances.

Britain is considering the advisability of employing in some way the large number of German prisoners who are interned within her borders. Whatever is right in England ought to be right in Canada. Why shouldn't all the German prisoners in Canada be made to earn their living?

RUSSIA'S PLAN SECURE.

The world, (signifying people generally without regard to national distinction), is impressed with the presence in France of a large contingent of Russians. The question is asked, What does this mean? More surely, than a sign of friendship that exists between the Allies, and the desire to help each other? In all probability, at the war conference held in Paris a little while ago, it was made apparent that the Germans were concentrating their power before Verdun in a final and desperate attempt to break through the French lines.

France, a couple of years before the war was declared, adopted a military system very similar to that which has been enforced in Germany, and with the result that the German Empire, in forty years, built up a ponderous military machine which was regarded as all-powerful. France had not the time in which to develop its plans completely. It has astonished the nations with its performance, but it needs the support of the Allies, and Russia, out of its colossal army, is pouring troops into France, and the Germans will presently see the meaning of this movement.

But what is Russia fighting for? The question was answered in the Duma when M. Milukoff, the Russian leader, outlined his views. Russia, he said, did not want any more territory. She had enough and to spare. She wanted an outlet to a free sea, and will get it through the Dardanelles. Said Milukoff: "We did not begin the war for this, but without it we shall not end the war." When the Turkish government and army and navy passed under the control of Germany, Russia had to regard Turkey as her enemy and fight her. The question then becomes, not whether the straits should become Russian or remain Turkish, but "whether the straits should become Russian or remain German."

Continuing, Milukoff said that March of 1915 would be remembered by the masses of the Russian people because then "a definite agreement was reached between us and our Allies." Peace had been proposed again and again, but peace could not be attained until Germany was crushed and rendered unable to upset the peace of Europe again.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Ford, of motor car fame, is experimenting with a substitute for gasoline made from potatoes. A tip as to what may result from a great crop of tubers in 1916.

Toronto's city councillor will have the opportunity of returning to his civic duties or forfeiting the \$9,000 a year which he has been paid. He is not at the front. He is simply doing clerical work in England. Toronto does not take any stock in that.

Mr. Kelly, the Winnipeg contractor, who has lost in every appeal against extradition from the United States, now offers to settle the civil suit which has been instituted against him by paying \$1,000,000. This offer may be considered. But the criminal prosecution against Kelly will not be abandoned.

Hon. W. M. Hughes is what is called "a self-made man." He has been a great writer and thinker, and he has learned much in the school of experience. "As a leader of wharf laborers in Sydney, many years ago, he has made his first success, and he has been growing bigger and stronger and more popular ever since."

Premier Hughes, of Australia, the head of the Labor government, will pass through Canada during the next two weeks. He sails from Vancouver for his home about the second week in May. This man, in England, found the heart of the masses quite readily and won their confidence too.

Has Maximilian Harden, of Die Zukunft, become converted from the savagery to which he gave expression over a year ago? Then he

wanted the Teuton devil to throttle all who whined against German aggression. Now he favors the evacuation of Belgium and Poland rather than that the Germans should wait until they have to surrender. What has brought about this change?

PUBLIC OPINION

A Timely Change.
(Toronto Telegram)
After shaking his finger for nearly a year Mr. Wilson has again taken to shaking his fist.

Yes, How?
(Ottawa Free Press)
How did this chap at St. Catharines who calls the British "mad fools" become a Canadian shell inspector?

Not An Easter Lily.
(Brantford Expositor)
When Sir Sam Hughes asks people to believe that John Wesley Allison is in the Easter lily class he is making a large demand on public credulity.

The Devil's Work.
(Brantford Courier)
The Kaiser has decorated the commander of the submarine which sunk the Sussex. It was just the kind of devil's work to please a Hohenzollern.

Laying the Blame.
(London Advertiser)
For the Mesopotamia military bungle Austin Chamberlain says that General Sir John Nixon is responsible. Sir John is yet to be heard from.

Pretty Weak Beer.
(London Advertiser)
Hotelmen say this temperance beer with the two and a half per cent. kick is like rain water. No comparisons with the Ottawa river product are needed.

KINGSTON EVENTS
25 YEARS AGO

A. Chown traded a farm in Glenora for a house and lot in this city. Laborers are asking 20c to 25c per hour, but this figure is too high for employers.

Principal Grant has left for Owen Sound where he lectures on "Imperial Federation."

LIBERAL PRESS.

Canada vs. United States.

London Advertiser.
Sir Sam Hughes has drawn a bead on the Canadian manufacturer. He blames them for the country's failure to secure the \$22,000,000 fuse contract. The official organ of the manufacturers has another story, one that implies a breach of faith with the manufacturers on the part of certain persons at Ottawa. So we are to have the spectacle of Canada's Tory Minister of Militia defending American manufacturers and assailing Canadian manufacturers.

Plain Insolence.

Guelph Mercury.
There were parts of the answer given by the Ontario cabinet to the Hydro supporters that were not far removed from plain insolence. Hon. Mr. Lucas told J. W. Lyon that he did not understand the McGarty bill. J. W. Lyon knows more about the

RANDOM REELS

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

SPRING FEVER.

Spring fever is a successful imitation of the creeping palsy which attacks man in the legs as soon as the snow is off the ground. It often strikes in at the busiest season of the year, when man should be full of Jamaica ginger and cayenne pepper, and converts his legs into so much ornamental shrubbery. Spring fever is caused by a feeling of deep lassitude spreading over the system and refusing to yield to argument. Many a man has been overcome by spring fever on a warm, sunny day, at the very time when he ought to be cording up dress goods in the basement or washing the front windows, and has been totally incapacitated for work. It requires strong will power to throw off an attack of spring fever which has secured a good hold, and thousands of victims find it necessary to go to the golf links in order to be properly treated. Some people have spring fever harder than others and after a few years become subject to violent attacks whenever confronted with a day's work. It is a dreary sight to see a robust young husband start-

ing out on the matrimonial sea equipped with energy and \$3 shirts, only to succumb to the spring fever which sets in on March 31st and runs until the following April Fool's day. Many of the most promising young men of this country, who were able to play base-ball and lawn tennis ten hours a day while in college, have contracted a low, tenacious form of spring fever immediately after the marriage ceremony and become afraid to venture out of the pulpit hall for fear of getting sun-struck. If this kind of spring fever were less common than it is, there would be more wives with a hopeful future and two changes of street dress.

CONSERVATIVE PRESS.

Coalition vs. Party Government.

Ottawa Journal.
When the Conservatives came into office in New Brunswick in 1908, one of the leading liberals in the province, John Morrissey, was taken into the cabinet. In a sense it was a coalition administration, and Mr. Morrissey, who was given the big spending department of the province, was looked upon as the representative of the liberals.

The arrangement has not worked as well as was expected. Mr. Morrissey continued to be an active liberal worker in federal politics, and this seems to have excited distrust and suspicion among his conservative colleagues. The situation, which had gradually grown worse during the past few days, reached a climax the other day when half a dozen or more of the conservatives in the legislature assailed Morrissey as a "rafter" and a "thief" whereupon the minister promptly retorted that he was being assailed because he is a Brit. The result is that his resignation seems probable.

The New Brunswick situation would seem to add some measure of strength to the old contention that in British countries coalition government does not often work out according to theory. The party system is subjected to constant criticism and abuse, and certainly it leaves much to be desired; but it is only by comparing it with something we should have to set up in its place that we are able to judge its advantages in a proper light.

Talk a Year Ago.

"I am merely explaining that, as far as Canada was concerned, nothing was to be added to the prices, and that we should endeavor to recompense Col. Allison in some way, because he has constantly refused to take any commission, although he has had to pay out money in express and freight charges, and I hope he has kept the bills."
(Statement by Sir Sam Hughes about Col. Allison a year before the Kite charges.)

LIBERAL ATTACKS.

Must Cease Or Lloyd George Will Resign.

London, April 25.—Reynolds' Weekly says that Lloyd George will unhesitatingly resign if the persistent Liberal attacks upon him continue, especially as his insistence in getting his own way on compulsion left much bitterness among certain of his colleagues. The account adds that when for the first time the public will learn some facts underlying the Government's terrible blunders, including shells, the disastrous Balkan development and responsibility for the Dardanelles tragedy. The Weekly concludes with the declaration that it is not a secret among his friends that Lloyd George was on the point of resigning when Sir Edward Carson resigned.

Theo. Kelly, eldest son of E. F. Kelly, Renfrew, has been highly honored by his fellow students of McGill University, Montreal, having been elected President of the Faculty of Law.

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TO-MORROW'S TANGLE

"To-morrow's tangle to the winds resign," old Omar said, and thus in one brief line, set forth more wisdom than most poets' spring, in all the years through which they live and sing. With present griefs man fearlessly combats; he pulls their ears and kicks them in the snags; and, like a knight in armor gone ahead, he quite enjoys the tilting that they yield. But, having whipped the dragons of to-day, with manner bold and debonair and gay, he feels the ardor in his breast expire: "To-morrow's dragons and chimeras dire," he mutters low, "will seize me by the throat, remove my scalp and bear away my goal." To-morrow's dragons may be one inch tall; to-morrow's troubles may not come at all. If you to-day have fought a goodly fight, forget your fears, and sleep in peace to-night, and when you wake the good old sun will shine; to-morrow's tangle to the winds resign.



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