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WHY HE SURRENDERED.
Mr. Asquith says that so far about 5,000,000 men have been enrolled for the service of Britain in the army and navy, and a large percentage of them has had their baptism of fire. About 900,000 have been wounded or killed. There is still an army of over 4,000,000, and the plan is to maintain this number of British troops against the wastage that is now going on.

It may be asked why should there be compulsory service, in view of such an excellent exhibit? Because the enthusiasm of recruiting has disappeared, and something must be done to revive it. Ordinary methods have failed. Other appeals have lost their power. The need of some new stimulus towards action is evident, and only the Conscription Act will produce the desired result.

There has been a difference of opinion in the British cabinet upon the subject. Some members of it have hesitated to apply force in the recruiting. Some of them have been opposed to it under any circumstances. Some of them have advocated it from the beginning of the war on the ground that without compulsion Britain can never accomplish the tasks she has set herself to do. Mr. Asquith, and those who have cooperated with him, feel that the psychological time has arrived and that compulsion is now indispensable.

Most men in public life will act when they are sure that they are proceeding in conformity with public opinion. Mr. Asquith is satisfied that the people will support conscription now, and so he proposes to enact it. Canada is quite as determined as Britain has been to resist conscription, but the records of the recruiting during the last ten days indicate that sooner or later Canada will have to follow the example of the Mother Country if she is to raise the remainder of the 500,000 men which she has promised to Britain.

FATE OF THE TRAITORS.
The Irish revolutionary leaders have met the only fate that could be measured out to them in view of their offenses. Men who are engaged in street brawls, in political disturbances, in resistance or defiance of constituted authority, must expect at any time the penalties they invoke.

Peter Pearce, the school master, with a taste for insurrection and with an inflated idea of his own importance, must have realized what he was inviting when he signed the proclamation of the Irish republic as its provisional president; and James Connolly, the commander of the revolutionary forces, and a third not named or known, must have bidden good-bye to liberty and life itself when taken red-handed in their treasonable plots.

Sir Roger Casement can hardly expect to escape the doom of his fellow traitors, though nothing is really known with regard to the disposition of his case. He has been called another Emmet, but the confession fits Pearce better than Casement, and the misguided ex-consular chief cannot lay claim to some of Pearce's virtues.

land," the nationalist paper which is published in New York. He thinks the men at the bottom of Ireland's recent rebellion, or the men who investigated it, were the irreconcilables who have been warring against home rule and the Irish party. The uprising was organized in America and executed in Ireland, and under circumstances which made it impossible that it could succeed.

The Irish national cause has been injured. It could not be otherwise in view of the damage that has been done to the public buildings and public reputation of Dublin. But the troubles of Ireland, from a certain element, are apparently over, and not a day too soon.

Circumstances have compelled a resort to conscription in England. The standing army of 4,000,000 during the war, and preserved against all wastage, makes compulsory service unnecessary. Mr. Asquith at last favors it because he cannot help himself.

LATE BRITISH REVERSES.
Opinions differ as to the loss of Kut-el-Amara. There is a disposition, which is explainable, on the part of American papers to criticize the British forces. There is a disposition also in the Canadian press to say that the British command of the army has not been marked by masterly activity. First the American press, as represented by the Syracuse Post-Standard, quotes the late Richard Harding Davis, author and war correspondent, as saying that Great Britain weakened herself and her cause by distributing her forces over too much territory, thus inviting attack and defeat where they were not expected.

In conducting campaigns in Flanders, Egypt, German East Africa, Salonika, and Mesopotamia, thousands of men were diverted from the main offensive. Had these been concentrated in the west of France, Germany's troops would have been driven back, if not routed. "This war," said Mr. Davis, in one of his latest books, "should be fought in France. If it is, Germany will be utterly defeated. She cannot long survive another failure like that of Verdun, and even if she occupied Verdun she could not survive the victory." Of course, it has to be remembered that in some instances Britain has been on the defensive, and that it was part of Germany's programme to cause the diversion of power which has taken place.

The Ottawa Journal represents the Canadian papers which hold that the reverses coming to the British arms are due to the blundering of the men who are higher up. They have never fully realized the dangers confronting Britain. That which has surely appeared to our contemporary is the fact that while Gen. Townshend had been cooped up in Kut-el-Amara, which had been besieged for one hundred and forty-three days, hundreds of thousands of soldiers were in Britain and simply preparing for active military service. "The record of a year is very disappointing," says the Journal; "Gallipoli bungled. Bulgaria bungled. Greece bungled. Serbia bungled. Ireland bungled. Mesopotamia bungled. None of these problems at bottom required expert military knowledge. They did require watchfulness, common sense and determination on the part of governing voices somewhere. The leadership which has brought us to the surrender at Kut is it to continue unbettered?"

Dr. Clark, of Red Deer, a liberal of the liberals, felt compelled to call his fellow members of the Commons to account when they appeared to be frivolous in debate during the emergency which is upon the country. The perspective of war itself sometimes fades before the members, and because it does they may indulge in petty discussions. But Canada has, in its political life, been more serious than the Mother Country, where the criticism of the government is both pernicious and everlasting. It is coming to this—if succeeding crises in the government means anything—that the conduct of the campaign has been defective, and to the manifest injury of the greater cause. The imperial government is in a serious position at the present time, and it will be unsettled if it does not go down one of these days.

In Hamilton steps are to be taken to suppress the smoke nuisance. In Kingston something should be done along these lines and the beginning might be made with the Utilities Commission whose power plant, with regard to smoke, is very offensive to the workers for several blocks around it.

ROOT OR WILSON.
The convention for the nomination of a republican candidate for the presidency of the United States takes place in June, and with a date so near for the choice the party is being organized. The disposition is to no longer pursue a will o' the wisp, and so to drop Justice Hughes as a possible banner bearer. He is out of politics, and will stay out. He is not one who can be stamped into a course against which he has set his face. The party is, therefore, turning towards Hon. Elihu Root, one of

the biggest men in the United States mentally, and one of the strongest and safest in a time like this.

Mr. Root has spoken on the condition of the war. It was his speech, so emphatic and clear as to the duty of the United States at this time, which put animation and force into the notes of Mr. Wilson and brought him to himself again. At the time Mr. Root made that great appeal the Mexican trouble had not appeared. Since that has become a party issue, his spokesman and organizer in New York, J. W. Dwight, ex-member of Congress and party whip, says: "Does any one imagine that if Elihu Root had been President the fearful conditions would exist in Mexico which we all know do exist to-day? The Mexican problem, one of the biggest of all the problems which confront us, will have to be solved by a new administration. The Wilson Administration has involved us in serious trouble there by its policy. It cannot get us out. The country has lost confidence in its ability to handle the Mexican situation. With Mr. Root as President there would be no distrust of the future of our relations with Mexico."

brakes upon Mr. Johnston when he gets in the probe.

The pay of at least one member of parliament is voted without objection—that of Hon. Dr. Beland, who, while doing service as a medical man in Belgium, when the war broke out was carried into captivity by the Germans and is still held as a prisoner. As a patriot of the first water he is deserving of the special consideration of parliament.

Effect of the Parades.
(Montreal News).
These military parades should be suppressed. They make the shirkers so uncomfortable.

Where the Censor Stopped.
(Toronto Mail).
The sending of Sir John Maxwell to Ireland was the first public intimation that he had left his post as commander-in-chief in Egypt.

Russians in Evidence.
(Ottawa Free Press).
With the Czar's men pouring into France, it is evident that the Russians want to be on both ends of the pinchers when the squeeze comes.

A Good Ruling.
(Guelph Mercury).
Session judges have decided that a mother may spank her 13-year-old daughter. The family slipper is a good spring tonic even past the 13 year limit.

What It Was For.
(Grain Growers' Guide).
If the Davidson Royal Commission on war graft doesn't bring in a report pretty soon there is danger of the people forgetting what it was appointed for.

Help For Farmers.
(Ottawa Free Press).
British Columbia has appropriated a million dollars for loans to farmers, which is small in comparison to that given railway magnates and the get-rich-quick artists.

Income Tax Receipts.
(Stratford Beacon).
Government receipts from the British income tax this year are estimated to be over \$600,000,000. Small incomes are exempt. There is no grumbling about "Pay, pay, pay," with the well-to-do British citizen.

KINGSTON EVENTS
25 YEARS AGO
Ald. Rees succeeded in getting the City Council to improve the city buildings.
Dr. Hooper resigns as medical superintendent of the General Hospital.
Mechanics' Institute Library reports indebtedness of \$167.86.
Much sickness among the public school children.
Snow fell at Sharbot Lake to the depth of an inch.
City Council refused 14th Battalion a grant to assist in a Dominion Day celebration.

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

THE ABSENT-MINDED MAN.
The absent-minded man is a kind, well-meaning citizen with a leaky memory. There is an appalling number of provident husbands and fathers roaming around this country with memories which leak faster than a composition roof put on by a contractor who has discovered that he short-changed himself on the foundation.

One of the sorest trials a thoughtful, systematic wife can have is a husband whose mind fails to answer to roll call about one-third of the time. There is no cure for this ailment except ordering the groceries by telephone and getting, stung on the celery. Some wives resort to all sorts of humiliating expedients in order to compel their husbands to remember a shortage of XXX coffee in the pantry. Some go so far as to tie a blue ribbon around the third finger on the left hand of their spouse, but as this is at once covered up by a tan glove and then left in the glove, melancholy failure results. Others go to the telephone in ten minutes to twelve and breathe passionate exhortations over the wire, only to be greeted at the gate by an empty-handed hubby whose thimble is on crooked.

The absent-minded man becomes dangerous at times. Many a society-loving wife has been overcome with mortification on dragging her husband to a dinner party and discovering that he has left his necktie on the chifonier. Then some men become so absent-minded that they will forget their wives for an entire evening and commune soulfully with some strange blonde.

When this occurs, our laws give the wife the privilege of leading her recreant partner home and impressing the inviolability of the marriage contract with an axe helve, if necessary. There are times when a certain amount of absent-mindedness, however, is a great convenience. The man who makes it a practice to borrow small sums of money from loose-gear friends, with the intention of repaying the same on or before death do us part, has almost always taken the thirty-third degree in absent-mindedness and is totally unable to recall the occasion. This reminds us that we should be careful never to loan money to people whose memory needs a new roof.

The absent-minded man should be pitied, not blamed, for he is the victim of a habit which cannot be cured by putting something in his coffee.

Rippling Rhymes
AFTER DEATH
I do not know just what may hap, when I go tumbling off the map, into the outer world; I hope to draw a pair of wings, and crown and robe, and kindred things, and harp of celluloid. But little do I walk the floor, or lose a chance to sleep and snore, by worrying my head about the things that may befall when I step off this whirling ball, and line up with the dead. I think I've all a man should need, in this, the simple little creed, that's pasted in my lid: "With all your fellow-men be square; be kind and just to all, nor care a cent what others did." If one is square and just and kind, I don't believe he'll be behind, when they distribute crowns; he'll be a credit to this globe, and he will swap for snowy robe, his workworn hand-me-downs. Religion's tangled, teased and vexed, with dogma and conflicting text, by sages splitting hairs; and all that fellows really need is just that simple little creed, to climb the golden stairs.

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