

The British Whig



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END OF THE CONFLICT.

A Canadian, who is employed in a munition works in Scotland, having crossed the ocean some months ago in order to meet the demands in the Old Country for emergent labor, is very anxious to return. "I expect to come back soon," he writes, "the war will be over before long. Meanwhile I am working on the goods that will put a finishing touch to Kaiser Bill's career in Germany."

A greater authority, Lord Derby, who is now Lloyd-George's assistant in the War Office, does not know when the war will be over and he does not presume to know. He says he does not see the end. "But," he added, "I have always thought that the end will come suddenly. Yet if you wait to the end of the war to prepare for demobilization you are going to have absolute chaos and ruin."

Our Canadian recruiting must go on apace, and as many as possible of our Canadian soldiers must be pushed to the front if they are to participate in the proceedings that must go on in advance of peace.

In these days when wealthy people want in the home all that is pleasant to the eye and are willing to pay for it, house decorating is a business in itself. The big stores in Toronto have their artists, and they have the entry everywhere "because they know."

CABINET CHANGES FEW.

There are rumors of changes in the Federal Government, and changes that must amount to a reconstruction. They have been suggested by the Conservative press, which more accurately than the ministers appear to read the signs of the times.

Both the Government of Ontario and the Government of the Dominion are subject to some shake-up, and it has been urged for strong party reasons, without result. The cause is apparent. The premiers are not masters of their respective administrations.

The retirement of Hon. Frank Cochrane, the Minister of Railways, and on account of his ill-health, is an early contingency. But this one change will not remove all the weaknesses of government which the press has so candidly criticized.

In Ontario the troubles of to-day could have been avoided had the lieutenant-governor called upon some senior member of the Whitney government, when Sir James died, to select a cabinet, and, if he declined, to pass the honor on until some one would have been free to select his colleagues and become their master, not their servant.

Mr. Hearst may, on personal grounds, be the most likely man of them all for the office he holds, but he is not the choice of the lieutenant-governor, nor of the party, and he suffers in prestige in consequence. He certainly is not free to strengthen the administration as he has been advised to do.

It will be amazing if the Imperial Government permits any manipulating of the soldier voters in the military camps of England. The representations that will be made by representatives of the Opposition will have their effect.

EQUIPPED FOR SERVICE. There is a scarcity of departmental labor at Ottawa, and for reasons which have not been explained. It may be that some of the civil servants—and there is a perfect army of them—have enlisted for active military duty, which is a proper

and a most becoming, thin. But the vacancies—what of them? There was an understanding that the military heroes, the men who have been in the war and been retired for physical defects, would be accommodated with places in the public service.

Sir Rider Haggard, in the north-west, has intimated that many of the returned soldiers will be located on the land, that to a large extent they will be given a preference in the choice or gift of station, and that they should become producers. He has reference, of course, to the physically fit, for these only can engage in the manual labor of the farm, and especially in the work of the pioneer.

What about those who have been put out of the run in respect of their former trades and occupations? They should be the wards of the Government, and for these the commissions appointed by the Government should at once provide. Representative men have visited the industrial centres, the technical and other schools of France and England, and have gained information of the greatest value. These commissions should put the knowledge they have gained to practical account. Among the invalided, and later the pensioned of our army, will be many who will be able to do office work when they are trained for it. The commissions should see that the civil service is reserved as far as possible for the men who can be qualified for it, and the Government should establish the schools, provide the equipment, and open the way to a livelihood and a greater usefulness for these men. The Government owes all this, and more, to the retired Canadian soldiers.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Before the next election comes around Sir Adam Beck may be the leader of the Conservative party. With the Union of Municipalities behind him, he is the strongest man available. Hon. Mr. Hearst seems to be preparing for his retirement.

Canada's losses from fire are enormous. They are to be reckoned by millions. The money they represent would pay the interest charges on the one hundred million war loan, and \$2,200,000 on the principal.

Sir Daniel Mann, who has been building railways in the west for 37 years, says he never says the crops look as well as they do now. Last year's crops are being moved out at the rate of 500,000 bushels a day.

The Allies are preparing for an advance in the Balkans. The army which is there, an exceedingly large one, supported by the Serbians, is in a position to help in rounding up the enemy. The period of German expansion has passed. The era of German contraction has surely set in.

King Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, must now be sorry that he entered the ring with the Kaiser and as a representative of the Central Powers. He is being harassed on all sides. The enemy is closing in upon him, and his name will presently be changed from Ferdinand the Fox to Ferdinand the Fool.

The talk of a nickel company being able to account for every pound of ore or metal which leaves its hands does not amount to much. Where is the nickel the Americans are exporting to Germany coming from? Can the Canadian sleuths answer this question?

Paul H. Davis, writing in the August Photoplay Magazine, says that many of the cinema investments have not been paying. Over-production in films has led to disaster in many directions. "This," says Mr. Davis, "is a mighty good time to go pussy-footing into investments in movies." We'll make a note of this.

Regret has been expressed in one of the Conservative papers that the Whitney-Beck-Hanna combination no longer rules at Queen's Park as it did in former days. When Sir James went, the combination failed. Hanna still acts, but says nothing. He is no longer the power behind the premier. Sir Adam has been pushed out of the government.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The children of Chalmers church held a big picnic to-day at Long Island Park. Elliott Bros. are building a large extension to their shop on Princess Street.

Superintendent Howard Folger, of the Thousand Island Steamboat Company, was presented with a valuable mascot.

THE GOVERNMENTS ACT.

United States Informs Mexico of Purpose to Recall Troops. Mexico City, July 20.—James Linn Rodgers, representative of the American government, informed the Mexican secretary of war that the American expeditionary forces in Mexico would be gradually withdrawn from Mexican territory. Mexican commissioners have been designated to reach a settlement of outstanding questions in the United States.

INDEPENDENT PRESS.

Soldiers In The Land.

Montreal Star. There will be general satisfaction over the announcement that the Government at the next session of Parliament will introduce legislation with the object of settling soldiers upon Canadian land. We should be able to profit by mistakes made when we attempted the same thing after the South African war. In too many cases the only ones who made any money out of land grants to soldiers at that time were speculators.

Nickel Must.

Saturday Night. The situation becomes the more sinister when we are told that the Nickel Trust is but a ramification of a vaster metal trust which has its headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. It is a fact that Canadian soldiers have been killed with arms manufactured in part from Canadian nickel. But for the British blockade our own metal would to-day be entering Germany to provide weapons wherewith to slay the flower of the British race. This is an intolerable situation which must be ended, or it will be the duty of the people to end the careers of the politicians who refuse to act.

LIBERAL PRESS.

Mr. Rowell's Position.

Globe. Mr. Rowell's strategic advantage

is that neither the Liberal party nor the Ontario electors expect him to "rather" compromise at any point with the liquor interests. They know he won't. And Conservatives nor any coming year will be tempted to "rather" evade his responsibility as leader when a great question of citizenship and civil government is at stake. Let Mr. Hearst honor himself, honor the Conservative party, and honor his country by standing up like a man and "rather" do his duty as Prime Minister.

A Crisis Is On.

Hamilton Times. The political machine has been running the country, the people being generally regarded as automatic parts of the machine to be cranked at will. While the blame for the present condition rests with the country at large, the time has come when the people are beginning to revolt. They do not like autocracy, or premiers (some without backbone, some without honesty), or bribery and corruption in high places, all of which they have had in the last few years in nauseating quantities. If politicians refuse to read the signs they will have to taste defeat at the polls. Defeat of such mistaken ideas of government is good for the country.

A Constantinople despatch claims the Turks captured 6,000 Italian soldiers and twenty-four guns in an engagement in Tripoli.

Random Reels

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

POPULAR MUSIC.

Popular music is a kind which can be listened to and enjoyed without using anything but the ears. It has the advantage over all other varieties of music because it has a plain, rugged melody which towers above the accompaniment like a red silhouette on a Kansas farm. The production of popular music which can be played or sung on eight hundred pre-occupied composers are engaged in turning out sentimental ballads on two themes—spoon and moon—and the supply has become so abundant that for ten cents you can purchase a masterpiece in waltz time, dealing with love which has not had time to cool off the singer's mind. The introduction of a rag-time misdeed has given a tremendous impetus to the demand for sheet music with a title-page showing a self-possessed chorus girl in a fetching pose and pink peignoir. Rag-time is ordinary music with St. Vitus dance attachment, and is one of the jerkiest methods of expressing love and affection that ever taxed the vocal chords of the singer and the nervous system of the critical listener. No music can now be said to be really popular unless it is written in the hop, skip and jump style, with breathing places eighty rods apart. Next to the early head lettuce, popular music is the most perishable of commodities on earth. Thousands of perfectly good songs are written every year and sent forth on their glad mission C. O. D., only to pine away in the department stores and die a languishing death in somebody's fur-dresser. The writer of a popular song is said to make a hit when he composes something which is able to stand on its feet at the end of thirty days. The best form of popular music is the old-fashioned kind which mother used to hum when she was stirring up a batch of bread. Mother did not know how to sing rag-time, but she had a few good old songs which were not written to make money and music with a title-page showing a whole grand opera season. Mother was a little behind the times, though, for she seldom sang about meeting anybody in the park or holding hands on the river bank. Yet her kind of popular music will outlast all the rag-time factories this side of Hoboken.

Rippling Rhymes

LEAP YEAR



WILLY MASON

"Oh, come with me and be my beau," the spinner whispered, soft and low. "Why do you smile at giddy girls, with pearty teeth and sunny curls, whose only asset is their looks, while I am learned, in life and book? Oh, I can cook, and I can sew, so come with me and be my beau. What though in years I'm getting on, the foolishness of youth is gone; experience has taught me much, with useful arts I am in touch, and I can talk of books and art; I've always been considered smart, with my own hands I made this gown, which is the smoothest thing in town; there's very little I don't know; then come with me and be my beau." The invitation was in vain, for no young man is safe and sane. He rounded up a girl to wed, who couldn't make a loaf of bread, or sew or cook or do a thing but look like flowers that bloom in spring.

Forces in Present Drive Compared With Five Other Great Battles

The forces employed in this great drive and the potential cost may be guessed at by what is known of five previous battles on the western front. The totals are necessarily an approximation only. Emphasis should be placed on the fact that in this fight the Allies—for the first time—exert the whole of their weight at once.

Table with columns: Battle Name, German, French, British, and Losses. Rows include: Going About 4 Months, First Battle of Ypres, Champagne and Artois, Battle of Marne, Second Battle of Ypres, and This Summer's Drive.

From this brief and confessedly guesswork table the cost of winning or losing a great fight may be seen. It is highly probable that in almost every instance the losses have been understated. In this summer's fight the British are at the top of their strength, and will for the first time be as well provided with big and little guns as their adversaries.

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