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SEED YEAR



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SENDING HOME THE CHARGE.
Mr. Maclean, of the Toronto World, has found an ally in an unexpected quarter. He quotes Lord Robert Cecil as saying that the Deutschland carried from Newport News to Germany, on her return trip, a cargo of nickel. It was "mined in allied territory" (Canada), "and found its way into the hands of those who we know will use it to help our enemies." Lord Cecil is a conservative, and one who would not knowingly do the Ontario government an injury. His statement will startle the Hearst government once more and hasten it in carrying out the plans of which announcement was made some time ago. If the province is to have a nickel refinery it is time definite plans were made known with regard to it.

Three Nationalists are still members of the Borden government, and will hold their seats until the elections. They are not recruiting. Why? Mr. Bourassa will not let them.

WHAT JUSTICE DEMANDS.
The Canadians deserve well of their countrymen. One had better believe this. The returning heroes do not want to be a burden upon the country, but they do want, and they must receive, a preference over those who have not suffered in any way on behalf of Canada or the empire.
There are many eligible young men who can join the army and have not tried to enlist. These are enjoying themselves. They do not, by any act or word, appear to worry over the war or the part their fellows are taking in it. As a matter of fact, judging by their demeanor, they are not concerned to the slightest extent about the great conflict.
By and by there will be a competition between them and the survivors of the war, and the government and people can have no hesitation with regard to the result. In every instance, when it becomes a question of precedence between a returned soldier and one who has not had his baptism of fire, the decision must be in favor of the soldier. Common justice demands that this shall be the choice.

The Ottawa Journal approves of a joint appeal of the conservative and liberal parties to the people on the question of recruits. Hon "Bob" Rogers will have none of this, and he is the boss at Ottawa.

HIGH SCHOOL FEES.
There is an agitation, originating in the country, and to the effect that the Board of Education put into force the provision of the School Act, which enables them to open the Institute to the country pupils on certain terms.
At present a county pupil is charged \$30 or \$35 per annum, payable in two parts, one at the opening of each school term. Under the law the School Board can demand that the county pay \$0 per cent of the cost of maintaining the Institute, and its pupils can be admitted at the rate which is charged for tuition at the Sydney High School, which is \$5.00 per annum.

The School Board will be asked to consider the question in the interest of many pupils who cannot attend the Sydney High School because it is inconvenient or impossible for them to do so. There are sixty county pupils now registered with the Institute. There would probably be twice the number under the new regulations. The matter is engaging the serious attention of the management committee.

NO THOUGHT OF AN ELECTION.
According to Hon. Mr. Rogers the federal government has been so busy during the last two years with the conduct of the war, as to have had no time for the consideration of politics. Mr. Rogers' performances do not tally with his professions. At the close of the first session of parliament he journeyed to Montreal, there to set off his political fireworks. The war, in his opinion, favored the conservative party. The government appealed to the soldier vote. Despite the unpropitious circumstances that appeared to be the time to go to the people. Yet Hon. Mr. Rogers declares that he was so absorbed in the details of the war that he had no time to think of anything else.

A little later, when the Roblin government collapsed, when the inequities of that corrupt combination threatened to swamp the party in Manitoba, Mr. Rogers hastened to Winnipeg. His movements were shrouded in mystery. It transpired, however, that he was the man that provided the fallen ministers with the ablest counsel, and endeavored to throw out a screen of fire behind which his friends might, for the time being, find protection. The investigation into the Agricultural College contracts, by Commissioner Gait, has served to show why Mr. Rogers was so active in Winnipeg on certain occasions, and he would have us all believe that he was so engrossed in the conduct of the war that nothing else could cross his vision.

Finally the minister of public works informed the unsophisticated, (for no others would accept the statements), that the question of an election has never been under the consideration of the government. Never! Then why print the tons and tons of campaign literature which is stored up in Ottawa? Why print and issue the soldier ballots and store them in England for emergent use? Why revise the patronage list and command that only the faithful be fed upon the war contracts? Mr. Rogers must be talking in a sarcastic vein. He surely does not expect any one to receive his story as gospel truth.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association protests again the government's preference for American architects and contractors in connection with public works. The Lindsay armouries is causing a heap of trouble.

HIGH COST OF LIVING.
The Federal Government has been asked to appoint a commission, and give it power to speedily search into the cost of living and make such recommendations with regard to it as will bring about, in its opinion, a reduction in the price of foods. Another commission such as that which the federal government appointed two years ago is not desired. Its proceedings, secret, slow and unsatisfactory, were ineffectual.

Not so the work of the commissions which the British government has appointed. One took stock of the current cost of foods and advertised what they should be sold at, after allowing for a reasonable profit. Another has just reported. It makes a number of proposals of which these are the chief: A meatless day once a week for all not engaged in severe manual labor; municipal shops for the sale of bread, milk, meat and bacon, in the districts where the merchants are said to be reaping excessive profits; and a revision of the pay rolls in order to improve the position of those who have not sufficiently benefited by the general upward movement.

Other recommendations include the speeding-up of the building of merchant ships, especially those which are intended for the conveyance of refrigerated meat and the provision of adequate labor at the docks. Seven members of the committee recommend that there should be public control of the prices of primary food-stuffs produced at home. In many cases, they stated, far too much profit was being made by the home producers.

The meat trusts are cited on account of their extortions. They did not make any money, it is alleged, because of undue competition, in 1913. In 1914 they made moderate profits. In 1915 one cleared up \$100,000, and a second declared a dividend of 12 1/2 per cent, after putting away \$100,000 to the reserve.

Government control was the cure for high prices in Great Britain at the outset of the war. It is the only thing that will regulate the prices in Canada, and yet this is the thing which is the farthest away from the mind and will of any government.

EDITORIAL NOTES.
Coal is selling in New York at \$7.50 and \$8.00 a ton. A cold winter will bring about famine prices.

The Entente is not engaged in recruiting. That is the work of the government, and it does not fill the bill.

Which counts for the most—the big noise or a big stick? The answer reflects more than the people across the way.

If the City Council and Board of Education must pay the demurrage bill which has been presented to

them, the coal, which costs \$3.15 at the wharf, will cost, delivered at the city buildings and the schools, over \$7.00 per ton.

Ah, the racial quarrel must go on, and regardless of consequences. Peace between the people of neighboring provinces must not be, at present, for political reasons. How many conservatives will subscribe to this atrocious doctrine?

"In order to guard against the experience of this year," said a public official who was discussing the coal prices, "the city must have its own wharf and unloading apparatus." The arrangement of this year was certainly a most improvident one.

The Greeks, who are pro-German, have appealed to the United States for the protection of Greece. Will the Monroe Doctrine apply in this case? Will Uncle Sam be induced to burn his fingers by trying to pull Constantine's nuts out of the fire?

Who have the greater power—politically—the capitalist party or the labor party? Hughes has the one and Wilson has the other. That White House labor siege at the close of Congress made Wilson solid with the railway brotherhoods.

The industrial classes of the middle states are having their perplexities. They are being told that the eight-hour bill is not a blessing. It is "designed to take money out of their pockets in order that the pay of 400,000 railway men may be increased." Playing class against class, eh? That game is not unknown in Canada.

Quebec is said to have contributed only 18,000 recruits to date, and 10,000 of these are said to have deserted. According to the recent information sent out from Ottawa, Montreal is credited with 31,961 recruits, and Quebec with 7,341. In the recruiting of the last fortnight Montreal leads the list with 762 recruits. And no desertions.

PUBLIC OPINION
Cost of High Living.
The cost of living may be high; but it is also true that most folks never lived better.

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

THE SEWING MACHINE.
The sewing machine is a useful household implement which prevents woman from becoming an idle doll of fashion. One of the first things a young husband does after an airtight marriage ceremony is to make a present of a six-drawer sewing machine to his wife, so that she may have something to occupy her mind and feet and not want to sit up after nine o'clock.

Before the sewing machine was invented women had to do all of their sewing by hand, and were thus able to keep their feet in a pliable and good-natured condition. Some women became very expert with the needle and could make a pair of father's discarded trousers fit a nine-year-old boy while waiting for a batch of bread to rise to his knees. From this lowly beginning originated the sewing circle, which has become a community centre of missionary effort and vocal enthusiasm. If it were not for the sewing circle thousands of benighted heathen in India, China and Japan would be obliged to wear the rude castus skirt and frail palm leaf chemise, which would be a greater hardship than having to commit to memory the fourteenth chapter of the Book of Ezekiel.

One of the noblest tributes to man's generosity is the fact that it was he who invented the sewing machine, thus enabling the resolute woman with muscular feet to do more work than six by the old method. Yet man seldom gets any credit for this act, which has filled our homes with the happy hum of industry and made woman a sharer in life's joys and sorrows. What is more interesting than to look inside an

Rippling Rhymes

THE BOOB
I often think that old Bill Wax should occupy a padded cell; his intellect is full of cracks. Like some outworn, discordant bell. All lunatics should be in charge of keepers at the booby place; that old Bill Wax remains at large, you will admit is a disgrace. I talk with him from day to day, no word of mine, to him appeals; disputing everything I say, he makes me hot from head to heels. When I explain that Charley Hughes is, as a statesman, truly great, old Bill hands out his moldy views, indorsing 't'other candidate. When I rebuke the Kaiser's course, and say his conduct is a shame, old Wax will argue, till he's hoarse, that Nicholas must bear the blame. Whatever argument I make, whatever words of truth I say, old Bill the other side will take, and chew the rag for half a day. And I have heard that he explains to those who'll listen for a spell, that I have whoevil in my brains, and should be in a padded cell!

an answer to the problem of the world-wide high cost of living.

Hughes is Downed.
(Toronto Telegram)
The Republican campaign is doomed, and Hughes will be defeated unless the Republicans can hold the labor vote.

Suggestive Signs.
(Montreal Mail)
The discovery of valuable relics of former Governors-General in Ottawa pawn shops may stimulate the move to increase the salaries of these high dignitaries.

The Barbers' Vote.
(Ottawa Free Press)
Candidate Hughes in the States is offered a solid barber vote if he shaves off his whiskers. If he caters to the barbers' vote like this he is sure to lose that of the cartoonists.

Billy Very Much Alive.
(New York Herald)
"Billy" Sunday was never caught asleep on the bases when he was a professional baseball player, and he doesn't intend to let anybody else sleep while he is coaching for the Lord.

A GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF PRICES

London Chronicle.
The Royal Commission should have dealt with the home supplies of meat, bacon and milk. In many cases far too much profit is being made by the producers, and we are of the opinion that a large measure of public control should be exercised over these home supplies and that reasonable prices should be fixed.
There is no new principle in this. The Board of Trade, which has taken wide action in respect to the price of coal, is now extending its powers. There has been legislative action affecting the rents of houses. The Government has taken over the whole woollen of the United Kingdom at a price determined by reference to the prices of the previous year.
We know of no adequate reason why the public control of prices should not embrace the primary foodstuffs produced at home. In regard to the milk industry, for instance, a Committee of men and women acquainted with the conditions of the trade, might be appointed to regulate prices, taking all the factors fully into account, and endeavoring to act fairly as between the farmers, the distributors, and the public.

We believe that machinery could be set up by Parliament which, whilst allowing for the increased cost of production and distribution, and laying down safeguards to prevent a decrease in the number of milk cows, would eliminate from milk prices any element of extortion and encourage more efficient organization in distribution.
The danger of it is that the occasional drink may later on become semi-occasional.

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