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THE GERMAN VOTE.

Dr. Frank Bohn, who professes to know whereof he speaks, estimates in the New York Times the power of organized German-Americans in the presidential election. According to the census of 1910, there were 8,000,000 persons of German descent in the United States. Of these 2,500,000 were born in Germany. They are influenced more or less by considerations for the Fatherland. A million of them are voters. Fifty per cent. have been Democrats, forty per cent. Republicans, and ten per cent. Socialists and Independents. The Socialists will lose a relatively small number of their votes to the German Nationalistic party. If the pro-German party had favored a Democratic candidate, the Republicans would have lost 400,000 votes. As it endorses the Republican candidate the Democratic party will lose about 600,000 votes.

Mr. Bohn comments upon the attempts that have been made at different times to corral certain votes in the interest of certain causes, without result. There cannot be a German party in America any more than there can be an Italian, or Russian, or Hungarian party. No foreign force can produce a serious cleavage in national political parties, and the thought has been emphasized that "any attempt on the part of the supporters of a European monarch to politically organize those who are still mentally and morally subject to him in America is doomed to failure."

While this may be true, it is remarkable that the Hughes campaign, which began so promisingly, has lacked in force, in startling effects, and in imagination. One expects a candidate for the presidency to represent high ideals, and Mr. Hughes has for some reason, been disappointing to his friends. He has been under evident restraint, and it seems to be the restraint of the German vote.

The Department of Education expects war history to be taught in the public and high schools. It ought to do more than suggest the study. It should prescribe the books and limit the cost of them. The supplementary reading to which it refers is not in the schools, and it costs money. No teacher should be expected to buy it.

SLANDERING THE LIBERALS.
Some years ago a mayor of Kingston, and mayor by virtue of liberal as well as conservative votes, lost his head at a certain political meeting and because of his word came to his usually glib tongue, he called the liberals "rebels." At once it was apparent that he had made a mistake. There was evidence of it in the meeting, and in the election, and in the community for many days after the election. This particular mayor lived long enough to repent of his folly in sackcloth and ashes. He was eventually forgiven, and his offence has been almost forgotten.

In Toronto, at a conservative meeting last week, when a speaker could think of nothing else, and to stem the flood of adverse criticism to which the local government was exposed, he said the Tory party was the only loyal party. It was good enough for him, and he was going to vote as he has always done when the election came. Next night Alderman O'Brien, a political stripling, when called upon to speak, insulted the liberals by intimating that they were not loyal. He fell foul of the liberals at once, and at their meeting, later, they proceeded to warn him that he and his friends had not a monopoly of loyalty, and that his affronts would be remembered. He had no occasion to

cast aspersions upon the loyalty of men, who, putting their politics to one side, had enlisted for the defense of their country and had suffered for it.

Ward Five conservative Association, when it met, was assuredly under restraint, and no one was expected to say a word which could be challenged. But Mayor Church was there, and he was not to be muzzled. He was not going to stand for any disloyalty talk. "I want to say," said he, "that I am proud of the citizens of Toronto, all of them. All the loyalty is not in one party, and any one who says so does not realize what he is saying. In the good, patriotic, noble enlistment that has gone on in Toronto, the liberals deserve great credit. For all recruiting work and generous gifts of money the liberals and conservatives have shared alike. Both parties have reason to be proud of their loyal and patriotic records."

Perhaps the O'Brien faction will hold their peace in future, or if they must talk avoid the intimation that the conservative party only is fighting the battles of the empire.

Stewart Lyon, of the Globe, favors state ownership of railways. He is expressing his personal views. They have no more to do with the great newspaper which he represents than a former editor's opinion now has to do with the ex-premier whose biography he wrote.

VOTE IN AUSTRALIA.
"Are you in favor of the Government having, in this grave emergency the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to recruiting their military service for the term of this war outside the Commonwealth as it has now in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?" This was the question, and the only one, asked in the referendum election which occurred in Australia on Saturday. Already, in the Commonwealth, as the question implies, there is the right to call to arms from month to month, but it is a limited compulsion and is not so sweeping or so exacting as that which the government has sought. The new movement is the direct outcome of the visit to England of Hon. Mr. Hughes, the premier, of his study of the situation, and of his personal persuasion that without compulsion such as he suggests it will be impossible before next July to secure the 100,000 men which the Commonwealth has promised.

It will be some time before the result of the referendum vote is known because the men at the front, and in England, must be consulted, and must, by their votes, express their opinion on the subject of the hour. It took over a month to collect the votes of the soldiers from British Columbia on the question of whether the Bowers government should be continued in office or whether it should be supplanted by a government which would more surely represent the minds and feelings of the people. The Australian conscription will be carried so far as the soldier vote is concerned. Those who have gone through an experience in battle will know what is required better than the men at home, and the unanimous voice of these who have suffered in perigatorial fires will have no hesitation in commanding a support of the battle lines by more men and by compulsion if need be.

The government may, however, be wracked by conscription. The labor classes are against it, even the men who elevated Mr. Hughes to high office and supported him in the government. He claims to represent the needs of the empire. He is an imperialist who is ready to sacrifice himself rather than show any weakness at this crucial period. If he goes down it will be to rise again, and in the land of his adoption attain to greater prominence and power.

EDITORIAL NOTES.
The minister of war wants 100,000 more men for the production of munitions. He is not figuring upon an early ending of the conflict.

The British National Service law has enabled the Empire, says Lloyd George, to carry on the war. But there are "millions of exemptions." These have to be sifted, and that is the process which is now in progress.

Mr. Hughes, the Australian imperialist, has been expelled from the labor union of New Zealand, of which he was an honorary member. He questions the procedure, or the wisdom of the Union's action, but he does not wobble on his conscription policy.

The minister of mines is a great man, when no one is after him. Hartley Dewart would make the political meetings which Mr. Ferguson is now conducting a great deal more interesting, and one is waiting with interest to see the effect of a clash between them in the legislature.

The submarines are giving the Canadian shipyards all the contracts they can undertake. Two Norwegian freighters are now being built in Toronto for a firm in Christiania, and a banking delegation is in America with power to place orders to the extent of \$200,000,000. This means a

boom in shipbuilding for the next five years.

A father in Toronto and one in Kingston tell the magistrate that they cannot control their sons, boys under fourteen years of age. This is remarkable. The father is responsible for the up-bringing of his son. He should set him a proper example and not complain, as some fathers do, that while in their infancy command is lost of them.

Mr. Ferguson, the member of the Hearst government who was so unmercifully snubbed in the late Toronto by-elections, promises to do great things for Northern Ontario if he is continued in office for five years, and greater things if kept in power for fifteen years. His limit is probably fifteen months, or until the next election. He had better begin his house-cleaning in good time.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson wants it to be understood that the Hydro-Electric Commission is the creation of the Conservative government, "and," said he, at a recent political meeting, "we don't propose that any of our grit friends shall steal any of the glory from us." Not much glory attaches to the government of which Mr. Ferguson is a member. Sir Adam Beck made the Commission what it is against the opposition of the party which Hon. Mr. Ferguson now presumes to lead.

PUBLIC OPINION

Not Expensive.
(Ottawa Free Press)
H. H. Dewart's victorious campaign in Southwest Toronto cost him \$2,787, but it was cheap, very cheap, at that price.

Don't Need Peeling.
(Hamilton Spectator)
An edict has been issued in Germany against the peeling of potatoes before boiling. But boys never bother with a little formality like that.

Showing Independence.
(Victoria Colonist)
To be a supporter of Sir Robert Borden or Sir Wilfrid Laurier does not mean that a member must sit idle until his leader, like the angel in the New Testament story, has stepped down and "troubled" the waters." He ought to feel able to do a little "troubling" himself.

Why Shoes Are Dear.
(Syracuse Post-Standard)
Boston reports the sale of 750,000 sides of sole leather, aggregate price \$7,500,000, to Russia. At the same time the sale of 50,000 dozen skins of glazed kid to Russia is reported, price \$1,000,000. All Europe is calling on us for leather, at fancy prices. Meantime the prices are mounting at home. Keeping the family shoe has become expensive beyond all precedent; and the top has not been reached.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The city firemen have made arrangements to hold a ball. Thomas McAuley says the population of the city is getting smaller, and by next year the school board will have a school to sell. Three fishing inspectors are at work on the Rideau lakes trying to put an end to illegal fishing.

Random Reels

"Of shoes and ships, and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings."

GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM
General Israel Putnam was one of the striking figures of the Revolutionary War, and whenever he struck he left a deep and painful dent in the British crown. He was born in a Massachusetts farm which could be plowed from one end to the other with a rock crusher, but at the first call of duty he left his plow with his teeth firmly imbedded in a hardhead and flew to the colors on a patriotic roan mare. One of General Putnam's most famous feats was when he was surrounded by the entire British army and escaped by riding horseback down a steep cliff, at an angle of ninety degrees. Numerous photographs of Putnam escaping were taken at the time, and they all show what can be accomplished by a sedate Clydesdale plow horse when ridden by an American patriot who would rather die full of imported lead than surrender to the foe.

Rippling Rhymes

SWEETEST WORDS
"Inclosed find check!" The sweetest words that ever outlasted the song of birds! How they ally the widow's fears, and dry the orphan's briny tears! When used in a dire and short of kale, a letter comes by morning mail; like other letters it appears, with postage stamps and ink smears. "No doubt," we sigh, "it is a dun; some frantic gent is after me." These beautiful bills we cannot pay take all the sunshine from the day, and make us wish that we were dead, with stacks of granite overhead." And then, with languid hands we tear the envelope to see what's there, and out there comes a note, by heck, with these brave words, "Inclosed find check!" Ah, then we bid farewell to woe; and like nine Brahms roosters crowd, and to the soft drinks joint repair, and buy a quart of soapuds there. The sun once more is cutting hay. The gloomy clouds are blown away, the world is glad that was a wreck, changed by the words, "Inclosed find check!"

MAY SOLVE MYSTERY.

Skeletons Found on Island May Be Remains of Murdered Party.
When the discovery of the remains of several human beings on Griffith's Island, near Owen Sound, became known recently the logical explanation seemed to be that the remains were those of Indians. On further examination, however, new facts developed, and it may be possible that more mystery lies back of the skeleton "find" than was at first supposed.

Mr. H. G. Tucker has made quite a study of phrenology, and on examining the skull he is thoroughly convinced that the skulls are not those of Indians, but of white men. Mr. Tucker saw only three skulls, and his theory of the matter leads back to a mysterious disappearance that occurred about forty-eight years ago, over which the whole country has been agitated. This was the White Cloud Island mystery.

A Captain Charles Fothergill of Delby owned a sawmill in White Cloud Island, and in the fall of 1868 he started for that island in a sailboat with the intention of paying the wages of his mill hands with some \$2,000 in cash which he had received from the sale of a farm. The weather was good, and he had induced a number of his friends to make the voyage with him. These were George Brown, Postmaster of Owen Sound; John Robinson, a gentleman from the southern States, and Charles Kennedy, an invalid sailor. The boat was seen to pass Big Bay with another sailboat following close behind, and many afterwards believed that this second boat contained outlaws in pursuit of the party, which was never seen again.

To reach White Cloud Island a boat would pass right by this southwest corner of Griffith's Island, where the skeletons were unearthed, and if it is true that the Fothergill party were the victims of foul play, the most convenient place for the concealment of the crime would be this very point. Mr. Tucker thinks this a most probable explanation, and his statement that the skulls are those of white men will no doubt be confirmed when the matter is more thoroughly looked into.

TO PREVENT FRAUD.

Illegal Wearing of a Uniform is Now Severely Punishable.

As a result of the abuse which has grown up since the war in connection with the wearing of military and naval uniforms, medals, and the like by those who are not entitled to do so, the Dominion Government has taken action to prevent a recurrence of this in the future. Regulations have been enacted under the authority of the War Measures Act, which prohibit the unauthorized wearing of uniforms, medals, etc., under pain of penalties provided. The order-in-Council passed is as follows:

Whereas during the period of the present war there has grown up a practice which tends to bring the military and naval services into disrepute, to discourage recruiting, to weaken discipline and facilitate the commission of frauds; the practice, namely, of the wearing of military and naval uniforms and decorations and medals by persons not authorized or entitled to wear them; therefore if any unauthorized person wears any naval or military uniform or any uniform so nearly resembling any such uniform as to be calculated to deceive, or if any person without lawful authority supplies a naval or military uniform to any person not being a member of His Majesty's forces or of the Canadian militia or if any person without authority or right wears a naval or military decoration or medal he is guilty of an offence under the Criminal Code and on summary conviction is liable to a penalty not exceeding \$50 and in default of payment is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.

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