

Some Ottawa Glimpses

Special Correspondence by H. F. Gadsby.

Meighen's Flimsy Excuses

Ottawa, Dec. 6.—The Hon. Arthur Meighen, the official explainer of the Borden Government, has his hands full these days. Little Arthur got his job because he was the best hair splitter on the Government side, but it's hard to split hairs with a safety razor, and that's what the Solicitor General is trying to do just now. The safety razor, Meighen seeks for the Borden Government is immunity from criticism on the nickel question and a shifting of the onus for the Ross rifle to the Liberal side if possible. The public is already in receipt of the pale substitutes for good reasons which Mr. Meighen advances on behalf of the Government's slackness in dealing with the International Nickel Company, whose creature the Hon. Frank Cockran, Minister of Railways in the Borden Government, is with Premier Hearst as his right hand in Ontario and the Hon. Howard Ferguson as a sort of walking delegate. According to Mr. Meighen the people of Canada are to believe in the International Nickel Company's window dressing. They are to believe that the International Nickel Company has not sold any nickel to Germany or its trade accomplices among the neutral nations since the war began. They are to believe this in face of the statistics which show that three million pounds of Ontario nickel have gone to Germany and her neutral neighbors within the last two years. They are to believe it in face of the Providence Journal, which says that right now one hundred tons of our good Ontario nickel is on its way over to the Germans in the merchant submarine, the Deutschland. They are to believe Mr. Meighen's denials because they are the International Nickel Company's and the International Nickel Company is too rich to tell a lie. And since the International Nickel Company is in that position, it follows that Mr. Meighen is also in the George Washington class. The solemn truth is that Mr. Meighen's vague rejoinders on the nickel question do not satisfy even those who are most anxious to find satisfaction. His story is too thin and the story he tells about the Ross rifle is perhaps a hundred per cent thinner. However, as I said before, the Hon. Arthur's job is to pass the buck, and he does the best he can. Now that Sir Sam is out of the lion's den, Arthur has been commissioned to unload all the cap on the ex-minister, and, if possible, to hang something on the Liberal side. Being a clever pleader Mr. Meighen works the old trick of confusing the issue—he mixes the babies. The Ross rifle that got the Borden Government into a hole and the Ross rifle the Laurier Government was responsible for are two different weapons. If you bear that in mind it will not be difficult to keep track of the devious Mr. Meighen. The Ross rifle the Laurier Government made a contract for was the Ross rifle Mark Two, a stout, serviceable weapon which has not been used in this war. The Ross rifle the Borden Government made a contract for was the Ross rifle Mark Three, a good target rifle, but too delicate to stand up against active service conditions. This is the rifle which got our soldier boys into trouble, sacrificing thousands of lives at Ypres, St. Julien and elsewhere, because it jammed after firing a dozen rounds. This is the rifle on which General Alderson reported to the British War Office, the report being forwarded to the Militia Department at Ottawa and pigeonholed for eighteen months, at the end of which time it saw the light in an Ottawa newspaper, but not through official channels. Indeed, if the people had waited for the Minister of Militia, or his friends, to make that report public, they would have been waiting yet. It got into print as a sort of private disclosure assisted by some honest indignation at Rideau Hall. The Government has never denied the existence of the report—the best it did was to struggle with the allegations. The Ross rifle Mark Three is the rifle with which Canadian contingents after Canadian contingents were equipped in face of the report from the British War Office, slumbering in the Militia Department at Ottawa. The British Government, of course, took care that the Canadian troops did not go into battle with a weapon which had proved a failure at the rifle range. They did not prevent the Government from equipping our soldiers with a rifle which they knew went into the junk heap as soon as it reached England. The pickings were too good to give up. It is estimated that from five to seven million dollars were squandered on Ross rifle Mark Three after the British Government had not only condemned but had actually discarded it. The contract entered into by the Laurier Government with Sir Charles Ross, in 1902, was simply a contract to make rifles in Canada. Any kind of rifle could be made at any time, according to the specifications given by the Government. It was not to be a Ross rifle per se, but a rifle approved by the Government, manufactured according to plans submitted by the Government and subject to change as circumstances warranted. The contract was made in 1902, which can be found in the Hansard of 1903, shows this. This was Ross rifle Mark Two—the Ross rifle that the Laurier Government was identified with. When the Borden Government came in in 1911 they gave a contract for a new Ross rifle Mark Three. That contract was entered into shortly after Sir Sam took office. It is a different rifle from Mark Two. It does not look the same. It takes a different cartridge. The very change in name indicates that it is a different arm. One of the chief differences is that it has a longer barrel than the Mark Two. Experts say that for the conditions of the present war Mark Two would have been a far better rifle than Sam's pet, the Mark Three. Our soldiers never saw Mark Three until they were broken out. It was manufactured and stored at Quebec and served out to the troops as they left for overseas. It was never properly tested under practical conditions before it was served out to the troops. The Government apparently thought it a perfect rifle. How disastrously wrong they were is shown by what happened at Ypres and elsewhere. Mr. Meighen by dexterous equivocations seeks to tie the Laurier Government up to Ross rifle Mark Three but the facts are dead against him. The Borden government will have to father its own war baby. It is being asserted that the Borden government could only change the style of rifle on giving one-year's notice, and that at the outbreak of the war they could not buy elsewhere than from the Ross Company, except after thirty days' notice had been given, and the company had replied that they could not furnish the number of rifles required. To which there are three sufficient answers—First, that it was a contract of the Borden government's making. Second, that two years were allowed to go by without the Borden government giving any notice of a change in design to meet the criticisms of the rifle, which were made right at the outbreak of the war. Third, that the Borden Government had been in power for three years before the war broke out, and had taken no steps either to change the design of the rifle or to test it properly. The question the Borden government must answer is why it gave a contract for a new rifle as soon as it came into power, and why that



RUMANIA'S CAPITAL CAPTURED BY ENEMY. These two pictures give a good general view of Bucharest and a good detailed view of its parliament buildings.

rifle was not properly tested before the war broke out, and before it was served out to our soldiers. Rumor has it that the company at the outbreak of the war waived any objection to making immediately any changes in the design of the rifle which the government wanted and which the best experts might advise. It was even suggested that some changes should be made, and a number of experts were recommended to perfect the rifle for the conditions which it was seen would develop. Sir Sam and the government, however, seemed to be sure that the rifle was all right. Sir Sam was piggheaded about it; and the impression seemed to be under the impression that the war would only last about six months anyway, and that it would look bad if they immediately changed the rifle, and consequently they went ahead thinking only of how they could turn the war to political advantage. Another change which the Government made on the recommendation of Sir Sam Hughes was to require the company to manufacture a different cartridge. The Government furnished the specifications both for the rifle and for cartridge, and under the contract the company could not depart from these specifications. The new cartridge had .458 gauge, but the Government gauges furnished to the company were .460, and the cartridges had to be made to fit this standard gauge. The English gauge was .462, and some of the English cartridges were served out to our troops overseas with the Ross rifle. One can readily see that with a cartridge too big for the chamber the rifle was bound to jam. When the trouble came Sir Sam and some of the British ordnance men thought it could be remedied by changing the bolt and making the chamber bigger. Sir Sam thought he knew all about it and listened only to his own experts. In the work of changing the bolts they made a botch of the job and tried a new and untested process. When the bolts were changed and the chamber enlarged the rifles were sent back without first being properly tested. The result was that when the test of battle came the bolts which had been hardened under a bad process flew to pieces. Moreover, there were not enough

When You Can't Sleep YOU SHOULD USE Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills

Sleeplessness is caused by the nervous system becoming deranged. Perhaps too much worry has gotten on your nerves, perhaps you have overworked yourself, or have been excessive in your use of tobacco, but whatever the cause the nervous system must be built up again before restful sleep can be assured. Those whose rest is broken into by frightful dreams, nightmares, sinking and smothering sensations, who wake up in the morning as tired as they went to bed, can have their old, peaceful, undisturbed, refreshing sleep back again by using Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills.

Mrs. John Sloan, Haley Station, Ont., writes: "Over a year ago I was very nervous. I could not sleep at night, and I would faint at the slightest fright. I tried several doctors but they did me practically no good. I noticed your advertisement and immediately tried Dr. Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, and I am proud to say they cured me."

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are 50c a box or 3 for \$1.25, at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by the T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Baron Hardinge Dead. London, Dec. 6.—Charles Paget Fitzhardinge, the third Baron Hardinge, died on Tuesday. He was born in 1830 and came into the barony on the death of his brother in 1896. He resided in Gloucestershire.



LIEUT.-COL. RATHBURN Has been appointed Assistant Director of Timber Operations in England.

VERY WORST OF ANARCHY

PREVAILED IN ATHENS—A RAID ON LIBERALS.

Minister of Greek Church at Paris Omits Prayers for King Constantine—Armed Bands in Athens Streets. Piraeus, Dec. 6.—After their victory of Friday the Greek military forces, aided by a large number of armed reservists, gave themselves over to hunting down Venizelists. All day long the worst sort of anarchy prevailed. The man hunt began before it was light. The military were in complete possession of the city, every street being guarded and Maxim guns placed at numerous points.

The streets indeed presented a most extraordinary sight. The shops were all shut and the houses all shuttered by order. Some streets, rifles in hand, ready to shoot at any windows at which any person appeared. Reservists, too, were doing the same, many of them being in civilian clothes with cartridge belts and slouch hats. Houses of Venizelists were raided and many prominent Liberals, with their hands tied, were marched through the city streets to jail. Among them was M. Benakis, mayor of Athens. Afterwards, by royal order, he was allowed to go home and remain under guard. M. Kiros, editor of the Hestia, and A. Iriavados, editor of the Nea Hellas, were also arrested. The offices of all Liberal newspapers were entered and their archives carried off. None of them, indeed, appeared that morning.

Early in the forenoon two hotels in Stadium street were riddled with bullets, because, it is stated, shots were fired from windows. A great armed crowd broke into the house which M. Venizelos once occupied, and shortly afterward two Maxim guns were mounted in Constitution Square and for ten minutes were turned on the upper story of the Iliou-Palace Hotel, from which, it is stated, shots had been fired. The walls and windows were completely riddled. The hotel was then entered and arrested.

By night practically all prominent Liberals were under lock and key, and the besieged, panic-stricken population had quietness, if nothing more.

No Prayers for King. Paris, Dec. 6.—At the Greek church yesterday the minister, while praying for the King and Queen and the Royal family of Greece, was interrupted by murmurs of protest from members of the congregation. The murmurs were quieted by influential members of the Greek colony.

Armed Bands Active. Paris, Dec. 6.—A despatch to the Temps from Athens dated Monday, says: "The city has become calm, but armed bands of reservists are still moving about the streets. King Constantine and the members of the Royal family are at the palace."

WOUNDED CANADIAN CAPTURES A TRENCH

And Sixty-two Germans—He Receives the Victoria Cross.

London, Dec. 6.—Gazetted for the Victoria Cross, is John Chipman Kerr, a private in the Canadian Infantry who single handedly captured sixty-two prisoners, although one of his hands had been wounded. The Gazette cites the Canadian "for most conspicuous bravery," and says he opened fire on the enemy at point blank range and inflicted heavy loss. The enemy, thinking they were surrounded, surrendered. "Before carrying out this very plucky act, one of Pte. Kerr's fingers had been blown off by a bomb." Kerr enlisted at Edmonton, but his next of kin is his mother, living at Cumberland, N.B.

DEATH FROM TOOTH BRUSH.

Widow Won Case Against Accident Insurance Company. Carlisle, Pa., Dec. 6.—After hours of deliberation, a jury decided that a tooth brush bristle caused the death of the husband of Mrs. Jennie A. Eby, and the Travellers' Insurance Company at Hartford, Conn., must pay the widow \$7,700.

QUEBEC BARS WILL GO.

Guthenberg or Cafe System Will be Adopted Instead. Quebec, Dec. 6.—The Province of Quebec will abolish the bar after May 1 next. On that date the Guthenberg or cafe system will be in vogue. Such was the decision arrived at to-day by the Liberal caucus after a somewhat stormy and contentious session.

THE LOST ART.

The four-year-old had just been reproved at the table. He continued to talk cheerfully, though unanswerable, to father. After some minutes of soliloquy he turned to mother and remarked: "Your husband doesn't talk very much this noon, does he, mother?"

No woman with a diamond necklace is afraid of getting a sore throat. Every man can be wrong, but not every man can be president.

Xmas Necessaries You will all need boots and shoes before Christmas. Why not get them at the Model Shoe Store. We have a very heavy stock of all kinds and can suit all tastes in ladies' men's and children's boots and shoes. Which we will sell at the old prices. 184 Princess Street H. ROTGAUZE, Prop.

CATARRH OF THE BLADDER Santal MIDY. Relieved in 24 Hours. Each Capsule bears the name MIDY. Dozens of counterfeits.

TWELVE PRESENTS for \$1, \$2.50, \$3 or \$5. At Weese's New Photo Studio. Open Thursday and Saturday Nights. Good Pictures, Good Frames, Good Planos. These all make good presents. D. A. WEESE 168 Princess Street.

LADIES' WINTER COATS Get your winter coat made to measure with choice of styles for less money than ready-made. Also suits, skirts, and dresses for very low prices. New York Skirt and Suit Co. 203 Wellington Street.

NOSE CLOGGED FROM A COLD OR CATARRH Apply Cream in Nostrils To Open Up Air Passages.

Who's Your Grocer? We're After Your Trade. Have you tried dealing here? Call and let us fill your next order. If you want good, fresh groceries, of the best quality, appetizing cooked and smoked meats, from a clean, tidy store. Thompson's Grocery 294 Princess St. Phone 387

McLAUGHLIN GARAGE Why take chances when the roads are covered with snow or ice or slimy mud? Put on chains and have control of your car. All sizes carried in stock. Robt. J. Fursey, Prop. 35-37 Montreal St. Near Princess Phones 1600-931

Try This If You Have Dandruff. There is one sure way that never fails to remove dandruff completely and that is to dissolve it. This destroys it entirely. To do this, just get about four ounces of plain, ordinary liquid arvon; apply it at night when retiring; use enough to moisten the scalp and rub it in gently with the finger tips. By morning most, if not all, of your dandruff will be gone, and three or four more applications will completely dissolve and entirely destroy every single sign and trace of it, no matter how much dandruff you may have. You will find, too, that all itching and digging of the scalp will stop instantly and your hair will be fluffy, lustrous, glossy, silky and soft, and look and feel a hundred times better.

Child Was Nervous, Irritable, Tired Out She Had No Appetite, and Her Complexion Was Pale and Sallow.

How many parents realize the strain which going to school means to the child who is naturally nervous and of delicate health? You see them come from the schools daily with pale faces, many wearing glasses, and looking tired and worn. At home they are irritable, do not sleep well at nights, and are upset by a little extra excitement. If they are to grow to healthy manhood and womanhood their systems must have attention now. Such treatment as Dr. Chase's Nerve Food does wonders for children in this condition. We are constantly receiving letters from grateful parents, telling what the Nerve Food has done for their children. This one is a fair sample. Mrs. Stephen Hartman, Italy Cross, Lunenburg Co., N.S., writes: "My little sister at eleven years of age became nervous, irritable and seemed all tired out. She had no appetite,

was lifeless and drowsy and her complexion grew pale and sallow. Finally she had to keep her bed and have somebody with her all the time. She was afraid of everything, would get excited and tremble till the best would shake. As she seemed to be getting worse under the doctor's treatment, mother decided to try Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. After she had used about four boxes, improvement was noticeable and it was wonderful to see how much brighter and stronger she grew week by week. She used ten boxes altogether and they cured her. She got fat and rosy and went to school every day with an ambition that she never seemed to have before. I do not hesitate to recommend Dr. Chase's Nerve Food to anyone, for it was indeed wonderful what it did for her." Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50c a box, \$3.50, all dealers, or Edmanston, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto.

FEEL FINE! TAKE "CASCARETS" FOR LIVER, BOWELS

Spend 10 Cents! Don't Stay Billious, Sick, Headachy, Constipated.

Can't Harm You! Best Cathartic for Men, Women and Children.

Enjoy life! Your system is filled with accumulation of bile and bowel poison which keeps you bilious, headachy, dizzy, tongue coated, breath bad and stomach sour—Why don't you get a 10-cent box of Cascarets at the drug store and feel better. Take Cascarets tonight and enjoy the nicest, gentlest liver and bowel cleansing you ever experienced. You'll wake up with a clear head, clean tongue, lively step, rosy skin, and looking and feeling fit. Mothers can give a whole Cascaret to a sick, cross, bilious, feverish child any time—they are harmless—never gripe or sicken.