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THE GERMANS' LAST RALLY.

The country fears that it is to have inflicted upon it another great advertising and speech-making campaign, like that for the recruiting of the army which broke down so lamentably in 1915. That means the spending of money unnecessarily and great waste of time. It is the old "wait and see" in the same old form. The statement that compulsion will be applied if volunteers do not come forward will lead many to hang back till the state can make up its mind to tell them plainly what to do, and it will involve intolerable delay. The repeated trial of the voluntary system in 1915 wasted six months, and this was one of the causes why the campaign of 1916 did not bring peace. Germany is today making an unparalleled effort, and to meet her we must have the labor now, or the campaign of 1917 will prove indecisive. This from the London Mail reads like a Canadian experience.

PARTY PATRONAGE EVILS.

Mr. Macdonald, M. P., of Pictou, has given notice of a resolution which he will move in the Commons when it resumes its sessions in April. He is ready, one assumes, to offer evidence in support of his contention that patronage, as it is now dispensed, is a menace to honest and efficient government, that it involves wastefulness, extravagance, imprudence, and, in connection with the military service, does great injury to the country, at a time when politics and patronage should be eliminated from the national service. The Montreal Gazette, which supports the government, accepts the indictment though severe, as "not without justification." But it approves of political appointments by the government on the ground that it is responsible and must select the men for public service, and to order the purchases which are required for the public use. Patronage, as an institution is, in the opinion of the Gazette, defensible, while the manner in which patronage is sometimes exercised may be condemned without reserve. The criticism can be carried further, because there never was a time when politics occupied so great a place in the public eye. Even the military service is being influenced by it without any justification. The present federal parliament has outlived its authority; at least it is presumed to be, serving the nation in a non-political way and by consent of both parties. The plea presented when its term was extended for a year was that a war was on, a war that menaced the future of the empire and the overseas dominions, and that it behooved the people to act untidily and for the accomplishment of one great purpose. Many millions of dollars have been voted for war purposes, and large sums have been directed, through political channels, and for the benefit, as far as possible, of one political party. Men, not regarded as partisans and not usually made rebellious by what they see, have fomented against the government and declared that never in local or national history have the scandals of patronage equalled those of the day. Mr. McDonald can be depended upon to drive home, with stirring conviction, some of his charges, and his arraignment of the government will probably be added to by the contributions of others. There can be

but one effect—to synchronize events so that the masses will be vividly affected and zest given to the demand that the spoils system be dropped at once or an election ordered.

NON-FIGHTERS: NON-VOTERS.

The Mother Country aims at preserving a live and up-to-date election roll which can be used on short notice should an appeal be made to the people. Quite recently the franchise was revised, and in two very notable ways. The women, after they have passed thirty or thirty-five years, will be permitted to vote in parliamentary elections, and if they behave themselves—if they are not again misled by Emily Pankhurst and others of her kind—they will have the age limit reduced to twenty-five. Then they will be completely happy.

The soldiers will have votes in any case, and they will be able to exercise the franchise wherever they are, whether at home or abroad. The slackers will be denied the franchise. Very expressly and very intentionally it has been enacted that the man who has objections to serve his country and make sacrifices in its behalf, for any reason, will not be allowed to vote on any of the issues of the day and these generally concern the war. This means that manhood suffrage is no longer a drawing proposal. It had its day. It never fulfilled the expectations of its advocates and during a great national crisis some of those who had voted proved themselves, by their unpatriotic action, to be wholly unworthy of them.

Taking its cue from the Mother Country Canada can very well consider whether some men have not forfeited their right to the franchise. Those who will not bleed for the country, or even suffer fatigue in its behalf, should be deprived of the privilege, priceless in its way, of passing upon the great questions which will surely grow out of the war. Only those who have served the government in its extremity should be given the inestimable privilege of expressing an opinion, at the polls, upon the serious subjects of the hour.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The farmers are not likely to get many retired soldiers as helpers. Most of them have had all the digging they wanted in the trenches.

Late experiences in England, regarding recruiting, remind one of passing events in Canada. Read of them in the extract from the London Mail in an adjoining column.

The military men, regardless of party, should keep out of politics. When a man dons the khaki and receives a commission he ceases, or should cease, to be a politician.

A belted knight in England assumed to build huts for the soldiers at cost, but later exacted a profit which amounted to \$150,000. The solicitor-general alluded to the agreement as a deplorable one.

Trim up your lamps. See that you have a supply of refined coal oil on the premises. The day may come and very soon when the gas supply of the city will fail. The Utilities Commission has been simply baffled in their attempts to secure gas oil.

The London Mail recommends that the Germans of Britain be denaturalized and sent home. They cannot be trusted anywhere. According to German law they can be naturalized and still serve the German empire as spies.

The war is being fought by liberals as well as conservatives, and the expenditure upon the war is being diverted through conservative channels. Is that right? Is that the way to indicate an enthusiastic support of recruiting?

A citizen says that yesterday he called on several coal dealers and did not get any fuel. There appears to be plenty of coal in the city, but for the patrons of the coal dealers only. These dealers held that they had to look after their customers. What is there wrong about that?

Gen. Maude, that is—Major Maude that was, and the terror of the newspaper men of Canada while he acted as military secretary to the Marquis of Lorne—is leading the hosts on the banks of the Tigris. What a change must have come over his spirit in the last thirty years.

Public men in England are not so eager for knighthood. Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright did, without it in their day, and Mr. Balfour, Mr. Asquith, and Lloyd-George, have done without it so far. Canada is being overlaid with titles, and they are not congenial to the soil.

The present government will not be in office forever—some think it will not be in office very much longer—and certainly every government official who is now acting the partisan will be remembered. He ought to recall the commissions which were appointed by the present government, and some of them needless, to en-

quire into the alleged pernicious activity of certain Liberals prior to the last election.

A married man, who has enlisted in the artillery, states that there are 1,600 unmarried men of military age in the Government Civil Service able to don the khaki and go overseas. The Government should enquire into this and invite its employees to enlist as an example to others.

PUBLIC OPINION

Change of Weather.
(Hamilton Times)
In Montreal the thermometer has this year registered as low as 20 degrees. But up at Drumheller, Sask., the mercury took a drop down to 50 below. Drumheller has got hold of the wrong name. In comparison, Hamilton weather is geniality itself.

How Can It?
(Ottawa Citizen)
How can the lesser people of law-breaking tendencies be expected to have regard for the law when the prime minister allows Mr. Rogers to degrade it, and to vilify a provincial supreme court judge for finding against him in a commission of inquiry?

Campaign Uncertain.
(Toronto World)
While the hopes of the British command are high, nothing can be more uncertain than the result of the coming campaign. Lack of preparation for further campaigning would be folly. If we fall this year and are unprepared to carry on, we are defeated. Yet in the presence of this hazard the present government sits easy, and is not concerned about recruiting.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

J. L. Jones has purchased Nos. 1 and 2 dwellings, Victoria Terrace, Montreal street.
H. D. Bibby has the contract for the city's supply of hardware.
A big gang of men are employed by the Montreal Forwarding Company repairing barges.
George Smith, the well-known traveller, has left on a trip to the Pacific coast.

WAY THEY DO THINGS IN ENGLAND

London Mail.

An important Order is issued by the Imperial Government, warning the tribunals from the end of this month not to exempt "on the ground of business" men who are under thirty-one, fit for general service or garrison duty abroad, and not employed in work of national importance, such as the manufacture of munitions or agriculture.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain at Birmingham, stated our needs in the proper order. First, he said, "they are the men for the Army. We have got to provide them, and we have got to provide them in a steady flow." Second, there are the men who make munitions, which includes those who win coal, grow food, and construct ships. Third, there are the men who procure money and help by trade to maintain the foreign exchanges. Victory comes before business. The vital necessity is to beat the Germans; everything else is secondary to that.

Random Reels

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

THE EUROPEAN WAR DEBT.

The European war debt is a colossal attempt to convince oncoming generations that there are several things worse than suicide.

When we step back in a calm and unbiased frame of mind and consider that a package is being prepared over in Europe for the taxpayers of the next 2,000 years, we are inclined to wonder why the average American kicks so lustily over the special sewer assessment. If the war hangs on for a year or two more it will cost more to live on the continent of Europe than it does to serve a restaurant dinner with three kinds of meat for 25 cents per.

The European war debt is caused largely by the use of \$24,000 worth of ammunition to kill one enemy. All over Europe today expert gunners are firing huge shells which cost more to produce than an eight-cylinder brougham, with whipcord trimmings, without injuring anybody but terra firma. As these shells proceed to explode immediately upon alighting they cannot be used over again and are as much of a dead loss as a delinquent subscription account.

War debts are like grocery bills which are not presented until the recipient has moved into another state. England has never paid the debt on the War of the Roses, and in order to meet the interest on her present obligations she will have to live closer than an old-time Methodist circuit rider with a family of twelve children. It will be a pleasant occupation to live anywhere in Europe after the war is over and have the tax collector lead the family cow home as collateral.

One of the privileges of the free-born American citizen is the right to kick, but how any American who sees what is being shaped up for the common people of Europe can complain of his lot is a greater mystery than the findings of a pett jury.

Rippling Rhymes

THE SLUGGARD

I heard the sluggard say, when he was young and fair, "This is too fine a day, for labor, I declare. Beside a babbling brook in comfort I'll recline, and read a helpful book and make its message mine. The papers read their grain, the farmers bale their hay; and work no doubt seems same to people-built that way. But better is a dream than any kind of toil; so by the babbling stream I'll read up 'What on hoyle.'"

I heard the sluggard say, when age had made him blue, "All through the weary day I wander far and to; some little job I ask, however small the wage; most any kind of task, to help me in old age. But for my plea and groan no sympathy is felt; the hearts of men are stone, and granite will not melt." Where'er I see a youth who wastes his golden years, I'd like to push some truth into his foolish ears. Age is the time to rest beside a babbling brook, white whiskers on your chest, and in your hands a book. Youth is the time, my dears, to cut a goodly swath, and your declining years won't find you in the broth.

—WALT MASON.

that, and we shall only do it if we provide the men and keep on fighting. To stint the Army of men in order to carry on "business as usual" would only mean losing the war and losing the business too.

SUBMARINE MENACE NOT SO BAD

Toronto Globe.
British naval engineers long ago proved their ability to reduce them almost to impotence in the English Channel and the North Sea, and there is little reason to doubt that they will sooner or later achieve a like result throughout both the open and the larger German danger zone.

British merchant ships are being supplied with artillery as rapidly as gun emplacements, guns, and gunners can be procured; and if the United States has taken or is about to take similar action, that course has been suggested by what the British naval authorities are already doing. The proportion of ineffective torpedo attacks is already very large: say, five or six to one. This is due to the submarine being forced to send torpedoes through too great a distance, because the farther off a submarine is the harder it is for a missile from her to find its mark. If the United States merchant vessels are also to be armed, the peril for the submarines will be indefinitely increased.

There must now be swarming in the blockade zone thousands of British light cruisers, destroyers, mine sweepers, and submarines. The United States has several armed cruisers quite fast enough to serve effectively as either commerce protectors or commerce destroyers, and has a large mosquito fleet to guard its own shores or convoy merchant ships. All this might take place without a formal declaration of war, so that almost any day the public may be told war has already begun between Germany and the United States.

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT DEMANDED

Toronto World.

The World favors national government, because it will break the strangle-hold that the German nickel trust and the associated armament trust has on the government at Ottawa and the government at Toronto, and has had for years now on leading men of both parties in this country.

It will break the strangle-hold of the Nationalists of Quebec, headed by Henri Bourassa, have had on the Conservative party for about eight or nine years now, and certainly have had on the Conservative government since it came into office in 1911.

It will break the strangle-hold that the Ross rifle interests have had on both parties in this country now for many years.
It will break the strangle-hold that the railways have had on both political parties in this country for some time and once broken, national railways, telegraphs, express, etc., will come into effect.

It will break the strangle-hold that the banks and other financial interests have had on both parties in this country for years and lead to improved currency and banking.
Most of all it will break the strangle-hold of indecision in regard to the conduct of the war brought about by party bickerings and party jealousies; and give us a war cabinet of five or six men whose sole object will be to win the war before anything else.

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- 15—Brick, 10 rooms, University Ave., Price \$8000.

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