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GERMANIC WAR TALK.

"After the war we shall be confronted with the most gigantic tasks which have ever confronted a nation.

"We shall be surrounded by enemies, whom we shall not meet with loud words, but with the internal strength of the nation."

"Woe to the statesman who does not recognize the signs of the time! Woe to him who, after this catastrophe, the like of which the world has never seen, believes he can take up the work where it was interrupted."

The people of Canada saved \$500,000,000 in two years, and they will need it all if the prophecies of some people come true; and these prophecies were not made yesterday.

BRITAIN AND ITS BEER.

The people of Britain are not going to have prohibition at present. The government party, notwithstanding its strength and unity of purpose, as the representatives of all classes and parties, and embracing all power during the war, will not abolish the manufacture of beer under any circumstances. Compensation to the brewers is out of the question. It involves an expenditure of £300,000,000. The controller of food is, therefore, compelled to order a reduction in the use of grains, or the production of beer. The consumption of next year will be 10,000,000 barrels as compared with 26,000,000 barrels in 1916, and the men who are looking for the success of British arms, and to nothing else, say that even that means the use of sixty ships all the year, of 45,000 tons of sugar, of 20,000 tons of maize, of 360,000 tons of barley. This, in a time of war, when thrift and economy are being so zealously preached, with the people on short rations, looks like an outrage.

The premier of Ontario will do what he can to banish booze from Ontario. He must, and the sooner the better, banish booze advertising. He can make it illegal.

WASTE OF FOODS.

A citizen of unquestionable earnestness asked the Whig why the foods going into the garbage cans should be wasted. It is hard to say. The man who offered \$9,000 a year for the garbage of the city, or who offered to do the sanitary service of collecting the garbage free, on condition that he utilized the foods that it contained, knew what he was doing.

The Whig has heard about the bread and meat that go to the incinerator. It cannot understand why the council allows this to go on without a protest. It could have a daily inspection of the garbage cans, and it could locate where the waste was taking place. Objection cannot be taken to the casting aside of food from the tables in the hotels because the guests pay for the right to select what they shall eat and reject what they do not want. The rejected portion goes from the hotel, but it should not go into the incinerator if it could be fed to the hogs and the hens.

The demand is growing that the council should examine into the circumstances, that the inspector should pass upon the alleged waste of foods, and send to the council a report upon which it can act.

END OF EXTRAVAGANCE.

When Sir Richard McBride, at the end of his political career, which was meteoric in its character, accepted a public office, or rather pushed his predecessor out of it, it was felt that a serious mistake was made.

British Columbia could not afford the extravagance in which it indulged. It could not afford the expensive buildings which it erected in London and equipped. It could not stand the princely representation of Sir Richard McBride especially.

It is proposed to change all this, to rent the costly offices in London to the imperial government for military purposes, to cancel by act of legislature the appointment of Sir Richard McBride, to end the improvident deal which Mr. Turner, an octogenarian, who became a perpetual burden upon the province at \$6,000.

When the McBride appointment was made the Bowser government must have felt that it has a perpetual lease of power. When this government went under it was at once apparent that its successes had to cease. Sir Richard McBride, or Sir Dick, as he was familiarly called, may not like the sudden termination of his lordly rule but the province can stand his wrath much better than it can stand the deficits arising out of his extravagance.

The Ontario government's reason for not taxing the Nickel Trust Company is that it did not desire to keep investors out of the province. Oh, fie on that. The reason is that the government and the trust are on very friendly terms, and that but for the liberals the province would not be taxing the Nickel Trust even now.

ONTARIO'S GREAT MONOPOLY.

Sir Adam Beck, in another tirade against the Electrical Development Company, vents some of his fury against a great corporation. It has some rights in business and equity. It began the power business in Ontario at a time when the province was not disposed to launch its schemes at any cost. It had its business going when the Hydro-Electric Commission was formed. It had its friends in the legislature which Sir James Whitney led. That was a time when the chief organ for the conservative party intimated that it would not do to crush out private enterprise with government machinery and government power. The late Sir James Whitney, though willing enough that people should have electric light as cheaply as candle light, was timid about some of the Beck proposals. Sir Adam has, however, fought his way, backed by municipalities, until he represents to-day an influence and capital of a most stupendous character. He is now able to fight great corporations, and he is doing it with vigor. But not much is to be gained by controversy of a bitter or personal kind. The province can, in the public interest, buy out the Electrical Development plant, as he suggests. It is the object of the Commission now, and this will, it is assumed, be very shortly attained.

United States proposes to tax wealth. Everyone earning over \$100,000 a year will have to pay 5 per cent. upon the excess. It is estimated that as a result the war treasury will be the gainer by between two and three billions of dollars. What is the Canadian government doing about the higher taxation of excess profits?

GET OUT YOUR SPADE.

The Greater Production Committee invites the co-operation of the people in the movement which, if supported as loyally as it should be, will mean their protection to some extent against a scarcity of foods in the months that are to come.

Alderman Wright's committee estimates that there are four hundred acres of arable land within the four larger wards of the city. He figures that there are two thousand plots of from one-tenth to one-fifth of an acre each, or two hundred acres more, and a total for the city of six hundred acres, exclusive of the parks, the college campus, the school and other lands which are not desirable for various reasons, and for gardening purposes.

Some of the larger plots the city will have plowed up and put under cultivation. Some of the smaller plots will be cultivated by the owners, or by those to whom the owners will hand them over for the season under agreements as to use; and the possession or transfer of the land will follow at once if there is the response that should be to the call of the committee. The advertisement will attract general attention, and the coupons printed in connection with each issue, should be cut off, filled in, and addressed to the chairman of the Committee.

Granted that there will be a sufficiency of foods in Canada for all the people at the end of the season, and that is a spook which the knocker is holding up for public attention—the men and the women and the children will find in gardening the greatest pleasure, and in the products of the garden a benefit which cannot be too highly estimated.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The food scarcity in Germany is very great. The stock is running low. The estimate with regard to it was very erroneous, and the result is the government has had to seize what remains of last year's crops and reduce the people's rations.

The poultry fanciers are showing great spirit in order to increase the products of the year. There is large money in fowl and eggs, and there is something to learn about the business. A poultry farm will not run itself, as some people imagine.

George S. Hehry, M. P. P., is after W. F. Maclean, M. P. They represent the same constituency—South York. George scores Billy for political treachery. But Billy has yet to take his innings, and when he does George may look like a hen that has been ducked in the pond.

Good Friday, it is suggested, should be observed as a day of fasting, of repentance, of prayer. Something should be done to impress the average man with the religious aspects of the times. A day of fasting and prayer would have its effects, surely.

The German socialists demand that war alliances and war declarations and declarations of peace shall not be made without the will and consent of the people. They demand that the one-man power of the Kaiser shall be at an end. This is a voice of revolution, sure. It remains to be seen how it will be answered.

PUBLIC OPINION

Russia's Saving. (Ottawa Journal-Press) Since they have cut out the vodka the Russian people saved in one year \$755,000,000. What place to run a war loan, or in peace times a real estate boom?

Should Accept. (Toronto Mail) Our Western farmers might be wise to accept the British Government's offer for their wheat. If the United States gets into the war the surplus crop of that country will be at the disposal of the Entente nations in Europe.

United States' Aid. (Montreal Star) A New York banker is quoted as saying that the United States can "end the war" by lending a large sum of money to the Allies. When will our cousins learn that there are quite a lot of things in the world that money will not do?

Touch of Sarcasm. (Montreal Herald) "Czar Nicholas should get credit for his abdication manifesto—it is a dignified, manly, patriotic document," says the Hamilton Herald. Yes, and if he had always taken the advice of such patriotic men as wrote that document for him and shoved it forward for signature, he would not be down and out to-day.

Using Public Money. (Toronto Globe) The Provincial Treasury can afford a large contribution to the Teachers' Superannuation Fund. Indeed, considering what assured Pensions will mean for the profession, the province could not afford to withhold the grant. The teachers will make an equal contribution and

Random Reels

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

THE LUNGS

The lungs are useful articles which enable man to talk and not get tired. This is also true of woman, in a small, weak way.

When man was created he was given a tongue, but until the lungs were set up he had nothing to propel it with. Why is it, therefore, that people speak with so much enthusiasm of the silver-tongued Chautauqua lecturer and fail to realize that if it were not for his large, kneecap-like lungs he would be as helpless as a deaf mute in a joint debate?

Every summer, all over this fair land of free speech and \$3 potatoes, the Chautauqua lecturer runs amuck, flourishing his tongue in the faces of engrossed audiences who forget that back of that agile implement are located two tireless, gear-driven bellows which are harder to tire out than an amateur pianist who has just come home with a silver medal.

The lungs are used both for inspiration, and expiration, and when they become thoroughly inspired they

can hold a congregation spell-bound for an hour and a half without causing any rise in the temperature of the collection box. During the summer the lungs feed on nothing but fresh air, but in the winter they grow careless and allow the pestiferous grip germ to enter and start a sneeze factory. It is very disappointing to a man whose bronchial tubes have always operated in a reliable, noiseless manner to wake up some morning and discover that they need a new set of piston rings and a mustard plaster. There would be much less hay fever in this country if the bronchial tubes could be given a general overhauling every winter, like a touring car which is about to be traded for anything in sight.

The lungs are the main stay and sole prop of the orator and the new member of congress. Nobody ever got very far in congress without a pair of double-expansion lungs, and that is why so many of our public men have chests like a Portland cutter.

Rippling Rhymes

THE SPECTRE



WALT MASON

Last night when I had gone to rest, a ghost came to my side; it was the most astounding guest that ever man espied; it wouldn't go at my behest, but watched me fery-eyed. Before last night I used to scoff at ghostly things of dread; I laughed to scorn the timid toff who said he'd heard their tread, and told him where he might get off, and where to soak his head. But, oh, the horror of last night, I shall not soon forget! I lay and gazed in mortal fright and oozed all kinds of sweat; that ghost, aglow with bluish light, was something fierce, you bet. How long 'twas there, I do not know—it felt the me ten years; and through my soul I seamed the flow of grim and ice fears; at last I saw the phantom go, back to its misty spheres. Then I arose and said, "By heck, no more will I eat pie, no more consume of shrimps a peck, ere to my couch I lie; I'd surely be a mental wreck, if more such ghosts were nigh!"

—WALT MASON.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

"Tom" McAuley's steam yacht is the envy of all the local yachtmen. It cost \$800. Charles Chambers, carter, sold his horse and truck to E. McFadden and left for Detroit to go as mate in a vessel. "Nat" Greenwood will resign the leadership of St. Andrew's church choir after the Easter services.

THE EXPENDITURE IS VERY LARGE

Toronto Weekly Star. The Legislature of Alberta, having voted to spend eleven millions during the coming year, eight and three-quarters millions on revenue and two and a half millions on capital account, weakens the claim of the province to be a farmers' commonwealth. The population of Alberta, which was, in 1911, 375,000, is probably, at present, not more than 500,000. If Ontario, which is thought to be recklessly extravagant, were to spend with the same proportion to population, its budget this year would be for forty-three millions on revenue and twelve millions on capital account. Alberta's revenue is mainly derived from taxes which increase the cost of production and diminish the gains of industry. If we have correctly apprehended the motive of the farmers' agitation in the west, it is that the margin of gain over production cost is so small that industry is disheartened. Industry, that is, farm industry, asks, therefore, for free wheat with the United States and free trade with the United Kingdom. Farm industry, it is obvious, could not gain, if its legislature spent the gains of freer trade, as it now seems disposed to do.

GOVERNMENT WON'T QUIT OFFICE

Montreal Herald. The Fredericton Gleaner makes the astonishing announcement that although defeated at the polls a month ago, the Murray Government would be lacking in patriotism if they were to resign. "It is not the intention of the loyal people of this province to abdicate at this time," says the Gleaner. In other words, the defeated Conservative administration are quite right in defying the will of the people, as expressed at the general election! It is at a juncture like this that we realize the real function of the Lieutenant-Governor. The purpose of his office is to meet occasions like this and see that the will of the people is put into effect.

If a girl works hard to obtain a husband that is no sign she will work for him afterward.

Bibbys

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