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FOOD SUPPLY PERIL. As an expression of his views upon agriculture, the Prime Minister has written the following letter to the chairman of a County Council in England:

Sir,—Sir Arthur Lee has referred to me, as a question of principle, the doubt which you feel as to whether you would be justified in giving up responsible work as chairman or member of important county committees in order to place your services unreservedly at the disposal of the executive of your War Agricultural Committee.

In view of the grave perils which threaten our food supply at the present time there is no other kind of county work which could compare either in importance or urgency with the campaign for increased food production. I therefore have no hesitation in appealing to you and others in your position to set everything else aside if necessary in order to devote your whole energies to this vital and urgent task.

Yours faithfully, D. LLOYD GEORGE.

Rev. Dr. Rose, addressing the students of the Methodist College in Montreal, said the demand of the age is for shorter and better sermons, with more worshipful services. A result of the war, and an appreciative one.

A FAVORABLE REPORT.

The Dominion government, over a year ago, appointed a special commission to report upon the railway situation. The occasion of this was the application of the Canadian Northern Railway Company for further financial assistance, it being impossible to float railway loans during the war.

It is remarkable that while the government's commission has been at work, another, and an entirely different one, has been examining into the affairs of the C. N. R. This private commission, composed of E. E. Loomis, of the Lehigh Railway, and J. W. Platten, of the United States Mortgage and Trust Company, with their engineers, have reported. They find that the Canadian Northern has been soundly and economically built, that it has been well planned and located, that it has better grades and alignments than its competitors, that it could not be duplicated at double the cost.

The road can be rehabilitated, says the report, out of its net revenues, but it needs capital for improvements, a three-year plan calling for an expenditure of \$54,000,000, and a two-year plan for an expenditure of \$86,000,000. This certificate of value, from an independent commission, will be very helpful to the railway company at the present time. Will it help parliament to a solution of its railway problems?

Britain's interest on the war debt in 1916 was \$107,000,000. What will Canada's interest account be on a war debt at the end of this year on \$1,300,000,000? How much per head?

PRESIDENT AND CONSCRIPTION.

These are critical times in America. All the departments of government have been speeded up, and as far as human energy can accomplish anything the United States will make her influence felt in the war. But the experience of Canada is the experience of the neighboring republic. Enlistments have been disappointing. The patriotic ones are offering themselves freely for service to the nation, but the masses are standing back or off and awaiting the force that must be used to compel them to action.

A critic who spent the first year of the war in England, and part of the second year on the continent, tells the New York Times that recruiting dragged in the Old Land until, all other measures failing, conscription was resorted to; and he sees nothing but failure for the United States, in its preparation for war, unless conscription, or selective draft, has been put into operation. There is a feeling extant and very candidly expressed, namely, that if a plebiscite or a referendum were ordered it would be voted down. The people of America have not risen to the emergencies of the nation. Their vision is not the vision of President Wilson.

He sees the absolute necessity for a large army, and he will stand by the bill, which proposes conscription, and will, if necessary, fight it through Congress. He is not now looking for votes, nor is he making them. He has, on the contrary, realized the needs of the hour, and if he succeeds with his plans, will give evidence of a strength of character and purpose of which he was not believed to be possessed a little while ago.

Dr. Michael Clark, M.P., calls the free wheat decision of the government the "annexation of Canada to the United States by order-in-council." The expression is unique.

NEW SERVICE REQUIRED.

The hotel men had notice of what was coming in the abolition of the bar. They were blind, most of them, to the signs of the times. They felt that nothing could seriously change the sumptuary laws of the land, at least for many years. There might be a limitation of the local trade, but the extinction of it suddenly was not anticipated.

Then war came, and it introduced new experiences. These were wholly unexpected and meant very radical results. The protection of the soldiers, from undue temptation and from the excesses of the liquor trade, forced action which came as a great surprise, especially from a party that had set its face against the reform and used the liquor party to fight it. Those who have hugged the idea, that when the war is over there may be a return to the social habits and customs that formerly prevailed have been deluding themselves. The bar is gone, never to return. That is the confirmed conviction of a very large majority of the people.

This fact should have been contemplated, and it was not. The consequence is that the hotel business has not undergone the transformation which circumstances justify. The rooms in which men and women eat, and the rooms in which they rest, have not been made the most attractive, and until they are the losses that have been met with will never be relieved. The Hotel World tells of the changes that have been made in certain hostilities of America where English practices have been copied and the social spirit of the people has been cultivated on an extended, if not an elaborate, plan. The change has paid handsomely. The Canadian hotel men must follow these precedents. The owner and manager of one of the best houses in Canada declares that he is through with the bar forever. He never liked it. He never made his money into the extravagant decorations. His house, outside of the bar, was made popular and comfortable, and now that the bar is gone he is glad of it and never wants to see it again.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

If Mr. Bickerdike has his way the people in the next election will vote on the question of capital punishment. Would they vote for its abolition? It is doubtful.

Capt. Burnham's idea is that the pension of the retired or returned soldier should vary with the cost of living. The desire is to put the invalid soldier on Easy street. The soldier would not object.

The provincial treasurer says that he cannot refuse the race tracks their licenses. He can tax the gate receipts to the extent of half or more. This would have two results: It would limit the races and add immensely to the receipts of the province.

Germany's new outrage is the confiscation of all the money the people loaned the government, and all the government can seize and plunder. It is well that the Allies have some regard for public confidence, and

honor of there would not be much use in floating war loans.

Congress is considering whether it should not fix the maximum for each individual of food and fuel and clothing. Following Britain's example in this respect.

There are two opinions with regard to railway passes which are to be applied to the members of the legislature as well as of the Dominion parliament. A right to them? On what ground?

H. G. Wells, the well-known political writer, favors a republic for Britain. The empire gives to every citizen the largest measure of individual liberty. He could get no more under a republic. Then why advocate a change?

If the United States government taxes war profits as it should the Bethlehem Steel Works must contribute a large percentage of the \$15,000,000 of profits which it has made during the first quarter of this year, and it will be quite an item.

PUBLIC OPINION

A By-word Surely. (Hamilton Times) Though dead, Von Blissing is a hissing and a by-word in Belgium.

Going One Way. (Toronto Globe) The British are on the move again in France. Naturally the Germans also are moving again in the same direction.

Empress Hard Up. (Toronto News) To great hopes should not be based upon the action of the German Empress in pawnshop jewelry presented to her by the late J. P. Morgan.

Some Consolation Here. (Waterbury Times) A late spring means a better fruit crop and better gardens. Everything is held back and not forced ahead to meet a destructive frost.

A Libel Indeed. (Cincinnati Mercury) Nothing short of criminal, the chap who claims he "kept an eight-room house nice and warm on six tons of coal last winter."

Perish the Thought. (Hamilton Herald) There is a rumor to the effect that the government at Ottawa may introduce conscription as an election measure. How much better it would have been if conscription had been introduced as a war measure!

KINGSTON EVENTS 26 YEARS AGO

Convicts are engaged in repairing the hill in front of the penitentiary. W. Dunnett, foreman of the Shedd Company, is home from a trip to Chicago. Prof. Adam Shortt and wife have left on a trip to the continent. The Donnelly Wrecking Company was called to raise the sunken schooner Ryan at Deseronto.

If gratified, our desires might work to our injury instead of advantage. To bring about good luck it sometimes takes genuine pluck.

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

THE SLEEPLESS BABY.

The sleepless baby is a popular form of continuous vaudeville without any price of admission. It is generally understood among people who have never had any babies to speak of that if they are left alone and not interfered with by an open safety pin they can be relied upon to sleep for hours at a time, only waking up when refreshments are served. This is a greater error than the common belief that Cain married a maiden aunt of his first wife. A baby which is perfectly healthy and is also cutting teeth at a high rate of speed does not need any more sleep than a hoot owl and can sit up all night without feeling languid and depressed in the morning.

The sleepless baby is caused by a lack of drowsiness due to becoming unduly excited over something. One of the most painful revelations which comes to the young husband is the ease with which a five-week-old baby can become excited. It is

Rippling Rhymes

BE HAPPY

Be happy while you can; that is the better plan. Oh, chortle all the day, and like the lambskins play. Full soon the flies will come, and redhot bees will hum, the nights will be so hot, you'll tumble on your cot and say you'd give a heap for seven lines of sleep. Mosquitoes will be here to murmur in your ears, the soft and gentle strain that drives strong men insane. The days will reek with heat, and you will long for sleep the while you yield your fan—be happy while you can, oh, melancholy man! For now the skies are fair and soothing is the air; there are no insect pests to build on you their nests. The sun shines overhead, but does not bake you red. Just now Nature tries to show that she is wise to every human need. Her work is smooth, indeed. The world is all serene, rejuvenated, clean, a pleasant world to scan—be happy while you can! —WALT MASON.

SEVERAL ARE IN GREAT PERIL

Toronto Star. In Manitoba Legislature in 1911 the Hon. Roger Rogers moved a resolution against reciprocity containing these words: "Whereas it is the expressed wish and desire of the people of Western Canada to maintain a high standard of grade for their chief agricultural products, namely, wheat, and to prevent the mixing thereof to the detriment of our farmers; and whereas, as the result of the proposed agreement the identity of our wheat, such as will find its way to the United States, will become subject to the mixing practices in that country."

In his speech he quoted some poetry in which the people of Canada were requested not to squander their kingship in the lure of an alien land, to bring them our loaves are our fishes, and bow themselves under their hand. Blindness, said the poet, had stricken our nation, and the doom of our land drew nigh. Reference was made also to the treason that bartered our birthright for the gold of the kings of the South.

And now to think that our wheat will lose its identity, and get mixed with low-born American wheat, and our kingship will be squandered, and our birthright bartered for the gold of the kings of the South. Mr. Rogers must surely be making the cables hot with his protests.

CANADIAN DEFENCE FORCE A FAILURE

Toronto Star. The attempt to raise a Canadian Defence Force by voluntary enlistment has not made much progress, and it is pretty well known in military circles that it never will.

One needs but look at the plan to see that it could not work. The plan contemplates that men who will not enlist for overseas service will enlist for the C. D. F., will pass the medical exam, proving that they are physically fit for overseas service, will throw up their employment and quit their homes showing that they are free to go overseas but refuse to go. They are supposed to march about as soldiers who are free to go and fit to go and trained to go, but who prefer the blank cartridges of Camp Borden to the kind used at Vimy Ridge.

Men who dodge enlistment for overseas service do not want to come into the open like that. They do not want to be assembled, organized, uniformed and paraded up and down as the Safety First Brigade.

SERGEANT ALEXANDER WOUNDED

Is Suffering Gunshot Wounds in His Left Shoulder. Word was received in the city on Thursday that Sergt. Robert Alexander, brother of Mrs. Ellen Perrin, and a nephew of Robert Alexander, Albert street, had been wounded in action. He is suffering from gunshot wounds in the left shoulder, and was admitted to the Third General Hospital at Boulogne on April 14th. He went overseas with the 47th Battalion from British Columbia. His relatives here have received many letters of a cheery nature from him. Just the other day Mrs. Perrin had a letter from him, in which he states that he was well and enjoying the life. Mrs. Perrin's husband went overseas with Queen's Field Ambulance Corps. He served in South Africa, and for many years was in one of the local batteries. He tried nine times before he was accepted for overseas service, but was determined to do his "bit" if possible.

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