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MAN POWER AND FOOD.

There is a decided difference of opinion with regard to the crop outlook for 1917. The impression one gets from a recent declaration of the premier in England is that if the summer can be survived, without serious suffering on the part of the people, and the crops turn out well, Britain will be able to take care of herself. There can be no hope of starving the government into a surrender. Lord Northcliffe has said that under no circumstances should the British people be reduced to serious want for food. But he does not deny that the people have been put on rations and that a policy of thrift has been prescribed by the director of foods.

Against this is the statement of Herbert C. Hoover, who was chairman of the Belgian Relief Commission, and is now the director of food supplies in the United States. He had exceptional opportunities, while in Europe, for surveying the countries agriculturally, and he says that Germany can, on the food question, hold out for two or three years, even though the crops of 1917 be a failure. Early in the war the plans that had probably been formulated prior thereto were put into execution. All the food was commandeered by the government. There was a supply of certain dimensions for each month. It could not be exceeded. It involved the greatest economy, and this economy was practiced with an unflinching regularity.

Mr. Hoover professes to know the situation of Britain and France and Holland, as well as Germany, and says there is no comparison between them. The Allies must be helped, and it will be the aim of the American government to see that this is done in the most effective way. The Americans will strengthen the man power of the Allies, and by following the methods of Britain, whose armies have been the surprise of the age. In this respect the Wilson government has shown its good sense and judgment. Possessing the courage of his convictions the president has undertaken to force the issue, and he has succeeded in carrying every measure to which he has given his support. The selective draft and anti-spy bills met with determined opposition, without result. Congress has caught the vision of the president and has upheld him in all his acts. Each has been preceded or accompanied by a statement of unquestionable clearness.

Canada should have led the United States in all its war plans. It should have anticipated every contingency, with regard to the food supply, the coal supply, and conscription, and should have had all these schemes well advanced by this time. The government, however, has lost its grip. It is afraid of the voters and of defeat by them. The result is the demoralization of all the departments of government.

The political transformation of Russia has been too sudden. Some of the people have failed to realize what they owe to the provisional government, and, in anarchy, are imperiling their own and their country's future.

PUTTING THE POINT CLEARLY. Dr. Michael Clark, M.P., of Red Deer, was a speaker at a women's meeting in Toronto. It was held under liberal auspices, but it was a

meeting of all those who were generally and deeply interested in the outcome of the war. "Party politics," said Dr. Clark, "have only a languid interest for me at the present time. One in every four we have sent from Canada to the war has become a casualty, with 15,000 casualties at Vimy Ridge and only 4,000 voluntary enlistments per month in Canada. It must be clear to every Canadian, who holds Canadian honor dear, that unless voluntary enlistment enlivens, and it shows no sign of doing this, Canada will be face to face with this situation. She will either have conscription or face the ignominy of having gaps in Canadian ranks filled with men of other nations. I believe when that alternative is put before the Canadian people, however, some people may fail to measure up to the standard established at Ypres, Festubert and Vimy Ridge. Canada as a whole will stand true to any call that may come to her." Dr. Clark hoped the government would wake up soon. There is talk at Ottawa of two things, an extension of the term of parliament, or an early election. What is wanted is a practical plan of meeting conditions bravely, courageously and efficiently. There is only one way in which this can be done, namely, by conscription. The alternative, of a Canadian defence force, out of which drafts might be made for overseas service, has proven a complete failure. There should be no further paltering with a serious subject. Those who have gone to the war have won distinction. They have surpassed all expectations. But the ranks are being rapidly decimated. They are wasting away. They must be strengthened by new recruits, and no helpful step is being taken to accomplish this purpose. Oh, the shame and the humiliation which every citizen feels as he contemplates the plight into which the government has brought this country.

Over a million and a half of Belgian children are slowly wasting away and facing death for want of food. A half million Armenians are on the verge of starvation. Do the misfortunes of these unhappy people not appeal for help?

THE CANADA WE SERVE. The Brantford Expositor suggests that a plebiscite be taken, and that if the vote in Quebec is unfavorable it be excluded from the act of conscription. Does any Canadian who believes in confederation, and in the permanency of it, see any hope of a united country, when on the one subject on which the people should be of the one mind there is a serious difference of opinion?

Canada enjoys self-government, and could, if she chose, refuse to cooperate with the Mother Country in the war. She could refuse to give to the cause her moral and national support. But that would be an unexpected and extraordinary position for her to take. On the contrary, the government and parliament of Canada, acting for the whole people, have voluntarily accepted of a share in the war, and a share in its burdens, however heavy they may be. No part of Canada can be reasonably and honorably exempted from service under the circumstances. Quebec is an integral part of the confederation and cannot be excluded from the consequences of the conflict.

True, the Nationalist leaders have educated their followers to accept of strange beliefs. One is that they should not engage in any war which does not directly concern Canada, or which does not call for a defence in Canada, but the Dominion represents a territorial prize which Germany would seek, and with Britain helpless, what kind of a defence could Canada set up? There are men in Canada—or rather in Quebec—who are not regarded as insane, and still their intellectual powers fall them at certain seasons.

The woes of France should appeal to the French-Canadians, and they do not. The woes of Britain call for more than a passing sympathy. In time of peace men talk of what they owe to the traditions and language of France, and to the ideals and political freedom of Britain. In time of war they show themselves to be without discernment, judgment and appreciation. It is a lamentable and regrettable fact.

EDITORIAL NOTES. The Owen Sound Gardening Association is selling potatoes at \$2.50 a bushel. Where did the Association get the supply?

Hoover, America's food controller, wants authority to regulate the prices of wheat and bread. Canada has no controller of food, and its government does not appear to care what the people pay for their foods.

Canada does not want a referendum on the question of conscription. If ordered, the result could be written down in advance. The vote in all the provinces but one would be in favor of it. Must that one be a menace to the government at a time like this?

According to the advice of the

London Times' military critic, the Allies on the west side need reinforcements at once. France has practically put all of her available men into the field. She is waiting for help from the United States, and hopes for it at once.

The Germans in the United States have been abused by the German press and advised to drop their German pretensions and forget their parentage. Some of them, ashamed of the atrocities of their country, have already disowned their nationality.

Roosevelt is very much displeased. The United States government has refused him commission to lead a voluntary force of 200,000 men to France. The competency of the president has been questioned, and he resents this angrily. He may be looking again, some of these days, for his big stick.

United States' most distinguished leaders of industry, commerce and finance on Saturday paid high honor to Arthur J. Balfour, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and members of the War Mission visiting New York, at a reception and luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce.

A twenty-four-foot highway was ordered by the Ontario Railway Board for the five miles of the Toronto to Hamilton project nearest to Toronto.

PUBLIC OPINION

Much To Answer For. (Ottawa Citizen) "Wow; hasn't the poor old government enough to answer for?" asks a local contemporary. It has, certainly. For instance, the minister of public works.

German Spysim. (Sawgo, N.Y. Times) The German spies worming their way through all Russia are trying to prove that it is discourteous for our government to send a commission to Petrograd.

Firewood Famine. (Montreal Star) Montreal faces a firewood famine, yet every summer we burn up enough valuable forest to keep Montreal in firewood for ten years. We are a strange and wonderful people.

Give Teddy a Show. (Hamilton Herald) They are not going to allow Colonel Roosevelt to organize a division of volunteers and lead it to France. Let Teddy organize his division, bring it over to Canada, and have it go to the front as a unit of the Canadian army.

Proud Record of Queen's. (St. John Telegraph) Queen's University, Kingston, has sent to France two companies of engineers, four batteries and a large general hospital, besides contributing to infantry units. Like other Canadian colleges, Queen's has a record to be proud of.

Random Reels

"Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings"

THE SELF-STARTER go back to the crank and take out a few new accident policies. The most popular form of self-starter is operated by electricity, which is fed into it by a storage battery hung on the running board, where it can work loose and cause a short circuit in some vital spot. The battery is kept alive by hope and rainwater, and is charged by the engine whenever the speed of the engine exceeds forty-two miles an hour. When the battery dies, which usually occurs several miles from a civilized community, it can be recharged by the end of the week, provided a good start is obtained on Sunday. There are several excellent mechanical self-starters on the market, all of which are operated by the right arm and the back of the neck. In cold weather they are superior to any other, although lacking somewhat in the insouciant grace peculiar to the electric starter when it is in good health. After all, there is no greater luxury in motoring than to be able to stop buoyantly on the starter pedal, and feel it take hold with a soothing sound like feeding a pair of duck-bill pliers through a corn sheller. Some day we shall have a starter which grows stouter with age, instead of going into a decline thirty minutes after the conky wheel, at \$4 per cog. This causes a number of thoughtful owners to

Rippling Rhymes

THE BATTLE CALL When battle steeds are prancing, and brave men are advancing to knock the foeman silly, will you be there, oh, Willie? Big, strong and double-listed, why haven't you enlisted? You should require no urging; from craven sloth emerging, you should, in warlike manner, be marching 'neath the banner, a shotgun on your shoulder, before you're one day older. Your cheap and lame excuses aren't worth a pair of deuces. What if a German kills you? What if a Prussian drills you? If you should be a goner, we'll bury you with honor, and fire a parting volley o'er one who perished bravely. You'll live in song and story, and have all kinds of glory, and you'll look down from Aiden, with harps and white wings laden, and say, "I'm glad I perished, to be thus praised and cherished!" But if you slink and tremble, when fighting men assemble, and do some punk explaining why you're at home remaining, you'll find that shame is near you—the world will fout and jeer you. Big, strong and double-listed, why haven't you enlisted? —WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN



Bibbys Limited WE MEET OR BEAT ALL CATALOGUE PRICES; KINGSTON CASH AND ONE PRICE CLOTHING HOUSE. Clothes of Quality Handsome Spring Overcoats We are showing some dandies for \$15 See Bibbys Form Fitting Overcoat With belted back. Fine grey or blue cheviot cloth. Special value, \$15.00. See Bibbys Slip-On Overcoats English and Scotch tweeds; neat black and white checks. Fancy cheviots, etc. Special value \$15.00. See Bibbys Balmacaan Raincoat Good rain or shine. Tweed finish, thoroughly waterproof; neat patterns. Special value \$15.00. A Store that Satisfies.

Fresh Garden Seeds In Package and Bulk, from all the best seed houses. Choose Early! Special Varieties Sweet Peas in mixed and single colors. DR. CHOWN'S DRUG STORE 185 Princess St. Phone 343.

Automobile Owners, Attention! The place where all auto troubles are made right. Auto supplies of all kinds; cars washed and stored. Repair work a specialty; prices reasonable. Call and give us a trial. Always open. DALY'S GARAGE 335 King Street.



Pretty Shoes Essential to Stylish Appearance. No other part of woman's dress is more conspicuous than her shoes. Her shoes, therefore, play a very important part of the style expression of her costume. They make or mar the entire effect. Our spring showings are the newest designs from the style centres. See our display.

The Sawyer Shoe Store

BUSINESS CHANGES NAME The confectionery business of Baker & Co., 302 King street, will from now on be known as Crothers' King St. Bakery Charles Barnum, who has been doing the baking in this stand for twenty-five years will continue to do so and also look after the management of the store. Quality the best, will be our motto. Phone 141

It is a pleasure to deal with a man or store fair, in its methods, square in its dealings and prompt in its delivery. This service may be had at the UNITED GROCERY, 138 Princess St. Phone 267. The home of choice groceries.

Pure Clover Honey 20c a Section At Thompson's Grocery 294 Princess Street, Phone 387.

We Have a Nice Assortment of Pure Corn Syrup In 2-lb. tins, 5-lb. pails, and 10-lb. pails, which we are selling for one week only at the old price. E. H. BAKER Cor. Montreal and Charles St. Phone 1288.

CRAWFORD Begs to Notify His Customers that commencing May 1st. COAL SALES Will Be For CASH

At price current for the month when the order is given. The Coal situation in the United States compels this action. Foot of Queen St. Phone 9.

Carpenter and Builder W. R. BILLENNESS Specializing Store Fronts and Fittings. Remodelling Buildings of all kinds. ESTIMATES BY EXPERIENCE Address 272 University Ave.

COAL CUSTOMERS Please Notice! On and after first of May Coal Sales will be for Cash Only. BOOTH & CO. Phone 133.

FOR SALE 183 Acres, \$6200 Four miles from city. Good buildings; well watered. W. H. Godwin & Son 29 Brock Street Phone 454

CALIFORNIA JELLIES IN GLASS: Orange, Grape Fruit, Guava, Roselle, Quince, Satsuma Plum. Two sizes, 13c and 25c. JAS. REDDEN & CO. Phones 20 and 990.