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SECOND SECTION

ONE PROBLEM SOLVED

SWEDEN HAS ALWAYS HATED AND FEARED RUSSIA.

The Three Scandinavian Countries Occupied Difficult Position During Early Days of the War, but the Slav Revolution Has Altered Materially Their Position Towards the Allied Cause.

ONE of the most complex and acute problems in the course of development in Europe to-day is the position of the Scandinavian countries in regard to the war. Geographically, as has been frequently pointed out by their statesmen, all three countries are seriously situated as regards Germany. Denmark, with its practically undefended frontier on the south, is liable to be overrun by German forces in the shortest possible time, whilst only the narrow stretch of the Baltic states and Sweden from the north coast of Germany. Economically, all three countries are very much between Scylla and Charybdis. They are under the necessity of obtaining many things which they need from Germany, and these Germany declines to supply unless, in return, it shall receive certain other products which these countries can supply. This supplying of Germany the Allies naturally object to and try to prevent, so, no matter where they turn, the northern states are confronted with difficulties.

The most important of the three countries, as far as the weight of its fighting force is concerned is, of course, Sweden, and it is in Sweden that the most extraordinary changes have been rendered possible by the events of the last few months. Before the war, the hostility of Sweden to Russia was one of the platiitudes of international diplomacy. It used to be said of the Swedish army that it was "a weapon with its point ever towards Russia," and whilst Russia was carrying out her Russiizing policy in Finland, was steadily crushing Finnish liberties, was laying strategic railways across Finnish territory, and was building a naval base at Hango, there was something more than an excuse for the Swedish attitude. This hostility to Russia steadily increased to the point when it became almost a national fetish, and produced such remarkable statements as Sven Hedin's famous "Word of Warning," and the still more famous statement by Professor Fabrik, in the Berliner Reichsbote, urging a quadruple alliance of the four northern states, with Germany as the principal partner, an alliance aimed, of course, at Russia.

Within one short week, last March, the whole situation was changed. Russia ceased to be a menace to Sweden. Finland was granted liberty and complete autonomy, but it was clear, almost from the first, that she might ultimately secure practical independence. Then, it was always well known that, although there was a very strong German sentiment in Sweden, a very large part of that sentiment was due rather to hostility to Russia than to friendliness to Germany; whilst the opinion in the country has always been preponderantly in favor of a maintenance of neutrality. Now, such men as Herr Branting, the Socialist leader, make no secret of their opinion that a German victory would be disastrous for the northern states, and in many other ways, although little that is definite has emerged, it is becoming clear that the desire of these states is, more and more, to place themselves on the side of the Allies, at any rate, to the extent of a very benevolent neutrality. From an economic point of view this is almost inevitable. The awakening, however, of the northern states to the real import of the war, and the real purpose for which it is being waged by the Allies, is an undoubted fact, whilst this awakening is a factor in the conflict by no means negligible.

Why Write on These Walls. Why would children rather write on immaculate walls than on writing paper? Because, first, their mothers caution them not to do it, and second, because the walls are whiter and the writing looks better on them than it does on paper. But the time has come, says the Popular Science Monthly, when the mothers need fear for the white nursery walls no longer. They can, indeed, be changed from a source of irritation to a practical purpose by means of a finish which makes them washable. In other words, all pencil, crayon, and pen marks may be washed away. Consequently, the wall surface is as good a place for drawing pictures or working examples as the ordinary blackboard.

Although the finish is intended primarily for the walls of the nursery, it may be used in the kitchen, living room, or other part of the house where children are wont to try out their artistic ability on the walls. The finish may be in any one of a number of different shades.

To Frighten Submarines. When a Chinese crew sets sail these days, says The New York Times, it always takes along a lot of firecrackers. The Chinese is superstitious. He has always believed that the exploding of a firecracker was the most efficacious method of putting evil spirits to flight. Now that the U-boat is a danger to ships, the Chinese sailors take with them on voyages great strings of firecrackers, which they explode in the danger zones to frighten away the German U-boats along with other evil things.

Corsican Forests. The forests of Corsica are managed by the French Government. They produce lumber, firewood, and sulphur.

BIG IRRIGATION PLAN.

Large Part of Siberia Will Be Reclaimed.

A large proportion of the area of Siberia is not adapted to agricultural colonization. Since this territory serves as an outlet for the surplus population of European Russia, great importance is therefore attached to any project to enlarge the area of land available for agriculture. A project of this nature in the shape of an irrigation scheme for a district in south-west Siberia received the sanction of the authorities concerned some months ago. Although in view of recent political events it is uncertain when this project will be carried out, it may nevertheless be of interest to give some details in regard to it. The successful execution of this project should result in similar undertakings being proposed for other sections of the country.

The bulk of the population of western Siberia is settled in the black earth region, which extends south of the forest belt between latitude 55 and 57. This is the section that is most attractive for emigrants from European Russia. Farther to the south are the dry steppes, which are inhabited chiefly by nomadic Tartar tribes with flocks of cattle, horses, sheep, and goats. The soil of this region is rich, but has no underlying strata capable of holding water. The land therefore lacks sufficient moisture for grain and other crops. Proposals have been made at various times for the construction of irrigation canals to draw off water from the rivers that flow through this territory. The first of these proposals to receive official sanction relates to a district in the south-west of Akomlink Province, about forty miles to the south of the settlement of Iskl Kil. The area of the district to which water will be supplied is approximately 2,200 square miles. The soil of the district is a rich black earth, but at the present time the whole area is practically waterless. It is therefore proposed to construct a system of canals, from which pipes will be built to convey water to the various settlements. In this way the water will be rendered suitable for 200 communities of agricultural colonists in the district.

It is estimated that five years will be required for the execution of the project. The total cost will be approximately 7,000,000 rubles, of which 5,000,000 rubles will be required for the purchase of machinery and equipment and the remainder for administrative and working expenses. It is estimated that it will be necessary to excavate 13,000,000 cubic meters of earth. For this purpose a large quantity of machinery and equipment will be required, including five excavators, caterpillar tractors, piping, etc. A large part of the necessary supplies will have to be imported from foreign countries. All orders will be rendered suitable for 200 communities of agricultural colonists in the district.

This project will probably be the forerunner of a number of other undertakings of a similar nature designed for rendering cultivable large tracts of land in this part of Siberia. The report of one engineer has urged the expenditure of 50,000,000 rubles for this purpose in the near future, for per cent. of which sum would be required for the purchase of machinery and equipment. Manufacturers of ditch-digging and other machinery should therefore investigate carefully the possibilities presented for doing business in connection with these projects.—Bulletin of Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce.

"Hunger Letter" Warning. A warning inspired from official sources is going through German newspapers. The people are urged when writing to prisoners of war not to give any information as to shortage of food. "Such information," says the warning, "keeps up the delusion that Germany is at the end of its resources."

The German newspapers are filled with news concerning fruits and vegetables, which is, of course, significant of the vital importance attached to such food as urging people to hold out until the next harvest. "The cauliflower" is featured prominently in the newspapers, which state there is every reason to believe that the cauliflower is the harbinger of fuller stomachs. The cauliflower comes from Holland. The same attempt to cheer people is made in welcoming the first arrival of strawberries, cherries, and gooseberries in the Berlin market. This cheering statement is placed prominently in several newspapers, although in one of the whimsical comment is made "Despite expert assurances of splendid fruit crop prospects, prices of fruit which the middle classes must pay are still high. Obviously the weather man is not working on the side of Germany, at least so far as vital fruits and vegetables are concerned."

Chinese Printing. Chinese characters do not express sounds although the pitch of the voice is significant. Their letters are ideographic, or writings of ideas or things. Hence the Chinese have no alphabet, strictly speaking.

For this reason, says the Popular Science Monthly for August, the Chinese must employ an astounding number of characters. It takes about ten thousand characters to print a book in the Chinese language; yet sometimes an entire thought or a whole sentence is represented by one character! The word "black" is one character, and so is "mother," "dead," "yes," "yellow," and a great many other words. With such a conglomeration, it is any wonder that the Canadian printer wonders how it is possible to print anything in Chinese?

Coffee Cigarettes. Cigarettes are sometimes made of the leaves of the coffee plant. Many who have tried them prefer them to tobacco cigarettes.

ELOPEMENT HALTED BY SPEEDING



Mrs. Sprague Stiness, of Paris, France, temporarily lost her chance to elope with Captain M. Pardanei, of the French artillery, when in the United States testing ammunition, when she was arrested and fined for speeding and colliding with another machine in Baltimore. She was in the company of her intended husband when the accident occurred and on the way to have the marriage ceremony performed. It was postponed because of the accident, and besides Mr. Pardanei had to return to Sandy Hook to continue his work. The couple are well known in Narragansett and Baltimore.

A COBOURG LADY'S REPLY

TO FOUR TORY WOMEN WHO OVERSTEPS AUTHORITY.

Mrs. Macdonald Has Son at Front, But She is Opposed to Conscription of Men Except as Last Resort.

The following letter appears in the Toronto Globe: In all fairness to those women members of the organizations represented by Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, President of the National Equal Franchise Union; Mrs. Albert Gooderham, President of the Daughters of the Empire; Mrs. F. H. Torrington, President of the National Council of Women; and by Mrs. E. A. Stevens, President of the Ontario W. C. T. U., will you publish in your valuable paper the following protest from one member against the stand taken by these ladies in favor of the war-time franchise act? First, let me state I am the mother of a dear boy overseas whom I have not seen for three years, who, although a university student, enlisted as a private, later joining the Royal Flying Corps as an officer, and has been flying for one year in France, passing through many perilous adventures. I am heart and soul in the war, but I am absolutely opposed to conscription of men except as a last resort. I am in favor of securing as many more volunteers as possible, and of conscripting fifty or one hundred million dollars, or "silver bullets," which Bonar Law says are now beginning to have as much importance as "the last reserves of men."

I want to ask these four leading Conservative ladies, heads of the above named women's organizations, the following questions: What women and what societies of women did they consult, and I desire to ask them to publish in the public press, over their own signatures, a full and complete list of those women and those societies so consulted? I am a member, and have been for eleven years, of a large and very important chapter of the Daughters of the Empire, having held different offices in the same, at one time filling the office of First Vice-Regent. The Regent of our chapter has been several thousand miles distant from her home all summer, so who spoke for our chapter? I, for one, frankly state that the first intimation I had that I, as a member of that chapter, had been consulted was when I read in the public press that I, with other members of various women's associations, had unselfishly (in the interests of the Conservative party) with which these so-called leaders of women are in such close touch) desired to be disenfranchised.

I admit, with all due deference to these so-called "leaders of thought," that I think they should have taken time "to think" a little longer before thinking out such a very weak and poor reason why we British-born women should have the votes withheld from us.

How could the giving of the franchise to women have brought about any disastrous results to the carrying

on of the war by the Canadian people, when the British-born women outnumber the foreign by at least four to one? These ladies have offered a franchise to the intelligent and patriotic British women of Canada when they take such a position and state it so publicly in the press.

If upon consultation and investigation it was decided not wise to enfranchise the foreign women during the period of the war, why did not these four Conservative ladies lay stress upon this feature of the franchise but, at the same time, urge upon the Premier that that should not be a deterrent cause why the British-born women, thoroughly patriotic and loyal, should not receive it? Why should the woman's franchise be conferred upon the select few? Can it be that these four prominent Conservative ladies, upon due consultation with others of the same political brand, have very thoughtfully decided to offer up as a sacrifice on the altar—not the altar of their country, but on the altar of their political party—the votes of all women, British-born and other, to his country of Artemus Ward, who considered his duty in the Civil War was shown by the willingness with which he "sacrificed all his wife's relations." Can it be that, instead of consulting as many representative women societies as possible these four Conservative ladies consulted their Conservative husbands instead?

EDITH KERR MACDONALD. "The Maples," Cobourg, Ont.

FORM HABITS IN ARMY.

Soldiers Who Perform Duties by Clock Never Forget. Ottawa, Oct. 1.—One of the strongest recommendations for military life, in the opinion of men back from the front, is that it tends to give one settled habits of living. The soldier has a regular round of daily duties, including lengthy periods for his grog used to this method of ordering his existence quickly.

It is a tradition of the race that the easiest way to go through life enjoying oneself is to form good habits, such as regularity in rising, going to bed, eating, shaving, and the like. All these are learned by men in the army. Their duties are so ordered that they may perform the day's task with the least possible delay and without confusion.

Furthermore, the discipline maintained in the citizen armies which are fighting in the present war is by no means like that of former times, when harshness and severity were considered essential. It has been found out by those who did not realize it at once that the men of the present Allied armies work and fight better when treated as self-respecting individuals, each one possessed of his freedom if willing to observe discipline for the good of the whole.

HOW FOOD CONTROL RULES

PRICES FOR GREAT BRITAIN IN WAR TIME.

Figures Show Effect of New Regulations on Market Values—Comparison Thus Easily Made Between These and Canadian Prices.

Montreal Star. Many enquiries have reached The Star as to the exact manner in which the control of food and coal is being directed in Great Britain, and in reply The Star published the following taken from recent London newspapers:—

The full list of foods for which maximum prices rule is as follows: Wheat and all cereals. Coffee. Milk. Chocolate and other sweets. Jams. Marmalades. Plums for jam. Dried beans. Norwegian herrings. Oats and oatmeal. Maize foods.

Retail prices have been fixed in the following cases:— Meat.—At prices per lb. for the various cuts and joints which will limit the butcher's profit to 2 1/2 per lb. While the average prices in the shops should work out at 1s 3 1/2 per lb., the public must not expect to get the best joints at that figure, but other cuts are 2d to 3d below it. Butchers are allowed to charge 1/2d extra for credit and 1/2d more for delivery.

Butter.—At prices per lb. giving the retailer a profit of 2 1/2d per lb. Plus 1/2d extra for credit or delivery, and making the price 2s 3d to 2s 3 1/2d per lb.

Sugar.—From 5 1/2d per lb. for pieces to 6 1/2d per lb. for preserving sugar.

Tea (a proportion).—2s 4d to 3s per lb. according to class. Jams.—From 9d per lb. for plum and apple to 1s per lb. for apricot, cherry, black currant, pineapple, strawberry, and pineapple and apricot.

Jellies.—1/2d per lb. more than jams. Maize flour and other maize foods.—3 1/2d per lb. Oats and oatmeal.—1 1/2d per lb. In Scotland; 5d per lb. elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Cheese.—1s 4d per lb. (Government control cheese). Beans and Peas.—Large butter beans, 8d; haricot beans, colored, 6d; haricot beans, white, 5 1/2d; blue and green peas (whole and split), 9d; dried peas manufactured lengths, 8d; small ditto, 7d; yellow split peas, 6d per lb.

Potatoes.—Profits of a wholesale dealer must not exceed 7s 6d per ton, and no potatoes may be sold at retail at more than 5s 6d per ton, over counter. Potatoes can only be sold by weight. An extra charge of 1/2d per lb. is allowed for credit or delivery.

The price of bread has been fixed at 9d per 4 lb. loaf and flour is not to be sold at retail at more than 2 1/2d per lb.

As to coal, retail prices must not exceed the prices in operation in the twelve months prior to the war by more than 6s 6d to 7s 6d per ton, and the net profit on coal deliveries is not to exceed 1s per ton, this net profit to include all interest charges and salaries to owners, partners and directors of the business.

Any person desiring to compare the above prices with those ruling in any part of Canada can, of course, do so on the basis of one cent being equal to one halfpenny, 2 cents for 1d, and 24 for 1s.

John W. Plewes, principal of the Central School, Chatham, was nominated to oppose A. B. McCoig, Liberal member for West Kent, at the coming federal election.

The G.N.W. strike was called off from five o'clock this afternoon. F. D. Perry promised there should be no discrimination when the men came back to work.

WHY SUFFER WITH BACKACHE, KIDNEYS OR RHEUMATISM NOW?

Editor Tells of Long-looked-for Prescription. Dear Readers—If I can do any good in the world for you, I will do it, and I feel that it is my duty to write about the wonderful results I received from the use of Dr. Pierce's Kidney and Bladder Pills. I was suffering from kidney and bladder troubles, scalding urine, backache and rheumatism, and feet and ankles swelled so that at times I could not walk without assistance. Had taken several different kinds of kidney remedies but all failed. I sent for a box of Dr. Pierce's newest discovery, "Anurie," which I received by mail in tablet form. I soon got better and am convinced that this popular new medicine is good. I wish to recommend it to my neighbors and everybody suffering from such troubles. Mrs. M. J. Kasezsz.

NOTE: You've all undoubtedly heard of the famous Dr. Pierce's and his well-known medicines. Well, this prescription is one that has been successfully used for many years by the physicians and specialists at Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y., for kidney complaints, and diseases arising from disorders of the kidneys and bladder, such as backache, rheumatism, dropsy, congestion of the kidneys, inflammation of the bladder, scalding urine, and urinary troubles. Up to this time, "Anurie" has not been on sale to the public, but by the persuasion of many patients and the demand for this wonderful healing Tablet, Doctor Pierce has finally decided to put it into the stores, and 100 cents for large trial package or 50 cents for smaller package.

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