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The proverbial "January thaw" would at least be a welcome change.

Who put the bosh in the bosh-eviki, anyway?

There is no waste of food in Europe. Why should there be in Canada?

After this war the freedom of the air may be more important than the freedom of the seas.

As the New York Times puts it, Russia has gone stark mad and is hacking at her own vitals.

The democracies of the world have clearly stated their aims and objects. Where does autocracy stand?

German cupidity is almost always defeated by German stupidity. Even the Bolsheviks now recognize this.

Talking copiously and loudly without saying anything constitutes many a man's only claim to recognition.

Let us forget, if may be mentioned that a friend at the front will be gladdened by receiving a letter from you.

The Kaiser dwells frequently on his iron hand and his shining sword. What about his wooden head and his tarnished reputation!

First Russia lost her vodka, then she lost her punch, remarks the Rochester Post-Express. Hope she doesn't let Germany liquor.

A Toronto appeal court has allowed only a brief exemption to a dentist. Since his pull failed, he doubtless looks more down in the mouth than ever.

The origin of Johnny cake is being widely discussed in American papers. What matter where it started so long as it continues to appear on the menu?

The United States Government is now planning to have receivers take over and run the packing business. It is a pity that Canada is not keeping step with her neighbor in such war-time activities.

"He who will not economize will have to agonize." is a platitude enunciated by Confucius some 500 years B.C. Great truths have a habit of proving that history can repeat itself. This bit of Chinese advice is just as necessary and true to-day as it was in the ages long gone.

When peace terms come to be discussed, the Allies should insist that Germany make good all losses caused as a result of her submarine campaign. In this respect, as in others, she violated all the claims of humanity, and she must not be allowed to escape the consequences.

To give China due credit, one must say that she is doing no small part in helping to win the war. Already 125,000 Chinamen are behind the lines in France and Mesopotamia, serving as farmers, laborers, carpenters and bricklayers. They are efficient workers and their aid is invaluable.

Canada has \$200,000,000 invested in motor cars. The registrations for 1917 are given as 199,302, or one for every 28 of the population, as against one for every 23 in the United States. American supremacy in this field will have to look

to its laurels, or Canada will be in first place yet.

Britain has sent, as her high commissioner to the United States, Earl Reading, her chief justice and former attorney-general, as successor to Ambassador Cecil Spring-Rice. Thus does she do honor to herself, to the United States and to the Jewish race to which this distinguished statesman and diplomat belongs.

A man-to-be successful should have the patience of Job, the energy of Roosevelt, the thrift of Harry Lauder, the nerve of John W. Gates, the tact of N. W. Rowell, the watchfulness of President Wilson, the industry of Edison, the vocabulary of Billy Sunday, and last (but not least) a wife who will keep him home at nights.

The laxity of the authorities to deal firmly but justly with the Kitchener situation has evidently encouraged the disloyal element in that city to go to further extremes. Any town in Canada which persists in keeping up a propaganda in favor of the Kaiser ought to be the subject of investigation by a royal commission, and the sooner the better.

THE ART OF PRAYING.

In these days of stress and strain the people are urged to pray, and the object of prayer is to get into communion with the Most High, for we are taught that only when we are in right relationship with God when we see as He does—can our petitions be answered. We are told that if the leaders of all the warring nations were in right relationship with the Ruler of heaven and earth the present conflict would end at once, for there could be no hostilities when men saw as God sees.

What prompted this comment was on reading that several laymen had offered prayer in a city church last Sunday morning, in conjunction with their pastor, and in connection with the King's call to the Empire to prayer. Years ago public prayer by the man in the pew was a very common practice in Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The Methodist deacons and the Presbyterian elders were adepts at offering prayer in their midweek gatherings. One may read a prayer but it is an art to make an extempore prayer. Those who can make public prayers received their training early in the home and at the old-fashioned but still surviving prayer-meeting, and churches that have a goodly number of laymen who can stand up in their places and offer a prayer for their fellow-men are to be envied indeed.

BEING A GOOD LOSER.

Edmund Burke, the Irish orator and statesman, once stated that there was a limit at which forbearance ceased to be a virtue. Quite clearly we have not yet reached that point in Canada. The habits of peace and patience should still prevail. Or as Lowell happily puts it: "Endurance is the crowning quality, and patience all the passion of great hearts." The way may be difficult, the path beset with formidable obstacles, but our duty is clear: we must press on to the goal. It is all the same, whether that goal be a closer co-operation among all the citizens of Kingston, or a re-uniting of all the diverse and dividing elements of Canada for the good of all, or greater unity of action and willingness to make larger sacrifices that out of this world-catastrophe there may emerge a wider freedom and a more firmly established security for all humanity. The victor can well afford to be magnanimous; the vanquished ought to submit with grace to the will of the majority. Once the contest is ended, and the course of action decided upon, all parties would be well advised to beat their swords into plow-shares, forget their difficulties and make up their minds to bear and forbear.

IN THIS CONNECTION THE RED INDIAN'S PRAYER—WHO PENNED IT OR IN WHAT BOOK IT APPEARED HAS ESCAPED THE MEMORY OF THE WRITER—MIGHT SPLY BE QUOTED. IT RAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

"O Powers that be, make me sufficient to mine own ends! Teach me to learn and observe the rules of the game and to mind mine own business at all times. If it is decreed that I should suffer, let me go out and take a lesson from the deer, wild, well-bred beasts of the field, and, as far as humanly possible, go out and bear my sufferings alone. Help me to win, if win I may; but this, O Powers, 'tis specially, if I may not win, make me a good loser!"

IN UNITY IS STRENGTH.

Many no doubt are familiar with the following story taken from the French: One day in the time when travelling from necessity had to be done largely on foot, a man heavily laden was winding his way along a mountain path, when, on turning a corner, he found himself confronted by a huge boulder, which had rolled down the hillside and now blocked his onward path. He tried for hours to remove the obstacle, but in vain. Finally, forced by fatigue, he sat down, and soon was gladdened by the appearance of another traveller.

Together they endeavored to remove the rock, but after many fruitless and tiring efforts they were forced to desist. Presently another joined them and then another, until soon many were gathered there, all bound in the one direction. With one end in view, and with all their might, they all pushed in the same direction. The rock was removed, and they were able to pass on to their various destinations.

Now, is there not a lesson for all of us in this simple little story? We are engaged in a great struggle for the world's freedom; for the freedom which our forefathers so bravely fought and suffered for and finally obtained for us; that freedom which cannot exist where militarism exists. This true sense of us suffer now from lack of freedom due to the iron glove which holds us, and which glove is necessary in order to eliminate for all-time this detestable system. How severe was the discipline in England in Cromwell's time, but how glorious the freedom that came of it! There are no doubt many miscarriages of justice in the case of this or that individual, but these are mainly if not solely caused through the imperfections in a huge system hastily organized. However, these are being gradually eliminated, and in cause of time will doubtlessly entirely disappear.

The point is not to lose sight of the great object in view—the end of our long road—and not to allow our minds to be clouded or prejudiced by this trifle and that. Let us rather put our shoulders bravely against the obstacles, and with might and main all push together whole-heartedly, all working together in free-hearted good-fellowship to surmount in time these seemingly impossible barriers. In unity there is strength.

A Curious Gift.

Chequers, one of the great mansions of England, itself only a few miles from Israel's house, at Hughenden has been given, by its owner, to the British nation, as a county home for future prime ministers. The beautiful old house stands amidst the Chiltern hills, and in its parks are the remains of the famous castle reputed to have been the stronghold of Cymbeline and the birthplace of Caractacus. One of the most interesting features of the deed of gift is, however, the provision that if any prime minister does not wish to occupy it, it shall be offered for the time being, in turn, to the chancellor of the exchequer, the foreign minister, the American ambassador, the speaker of the House of Commons, the minister of agriculture, the first lord of the admiralty, the secretary of state for war, and the first commissioner of works.

Using Pronouns.

Writing amusingly of the pronouns he, she, and it, Mr. E. V. Lucas says that we ought not to refer to Germany as "she." Germany, he says, is not a lady, but a big, burly, Locomotive. It seems, share with ships the feminine gender, as "She's late to-day." So with motor cars, "Have you ever seen a car take a hill better than she does?" An airplane, however, in Mr. Lucas's opinion, is always referred to as "it." The sun, of course, is "he," and the moon "she." A friend tells me, "the essayist concludes, 'that at Charterhouse, for some unknown reason, cake is 'he.' 'I'll have another slice of 'he.' 'I'll say the hungry or greedy Cartesian, to the despair of his instructor in grammar."

The Lesser Evil.

A variation of the familiar "grind" on the sermon as an antidote for sleepiness is this: Lord Rosebery remarked to Dr. Creighton that at times he could not sleep. The bishop replied, "I never suffer from sleeplessness, for whenever I feel weary I begin to read a sermon, and I am off in a few seconds." "Ah, my lord," rejoined Lord Rosebery, "of two evils I will choose the least. Much rather would I go without sleep than read a sermon."

Forests for England.

England is planning to spend \$30,000,000 within the next ten years for reforestation in the United Kingdom. This involves an elaborate plan for timber planting, especially in Ireland, where large areas have been denuded to furnish mine timbers.

Uniformly kind, courteous and polite treatment of all persons is one mark of the true man or woman.

Partly Names.

(Montreal Gazette) The great strength of Liberalism

Potatoes and Coal.

(Washington Star) The ultimate consumer was permitted to make arrangements for digging his own potatoes, but unfortunate circumstances forbid his taking the same course with reference to coal.

A Broken-Down War.

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch) Jerusalem, Bagdad, and Mekka—the three holy cities of Islam—are all in the hands of the Allies. This is the Entente's answer to the holy war that Germany sought to foment in the Mohammedan possessions of Great Britain and France.

Public Opinion

Before the Dawn (Chicago News) These are indeed dark hours for the world, but let us not forget our most familiar proverb.

Rippling Rhymes

RUSSIA'S RUMPUSS

With frenzied elocution the Russian leaders flock, and start a revolution each day at 9 o'clock. Bewildered men and grizzled assume the high command; by sunset they have fazed, by twilight they are canned. A government is started that holds out promise rich; in half a day it's carted out to the dump-pitch. One liberator chases another to his lair; no mortal can keep cases on all that's doing there. We read the stories hazy, of what is going on, and say, "Those boobs are crazy, they're nuts, so help us John!" But let us not be hurried in handing out rebukes, for criticisms hurled are often worse than flukes. The Russians, wildly screaming, from despot's rule set free, are reaching, blindly reaching, for all the boons there be. Like men who have been hidden for black years underground, and who at last are bidden into the light, unbound, they're startled and they're frightened by such a stunt as that; of age-long burdens lightened, they know not where they're at. The despot long had bossed her, and Russia must obey; now fatter and impostor must have their little day; but some day they'll be stranded, and nations will declare, "See where old Russia's landed—she's right side up with care!"

WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

By GENE BYRNES.

RIBBONS

I DON'T THINK ILL BOTHER WITH ANYTHING TO-DAY

IT'S NO BOTHER AT ALL THIS IS WHAT I'M GETTING PAID FOR.

RIGHT FROM THE HEART

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THE LATEST NEWS BRIEFLY GIVEN

Despatches That Come From Near And Distant Places.

TIDINGS FOR OUR READERS

PRESENTED IN THE BRIEFEST POSSIBLE FORM.

The Whig's Daily Condensation of the News of the World From Telegraph Service and Newspaper Exchange.

Germany have given a free hand to ruffians to plunder Belgium. Measures to admit women to practice law in Quebec is to come up again.

Seven hundred returning soldiers have arrived at Halifax from overseas.

A permanent fire department is demanded for Halifax, abolishing call men.

Trotzky is rebuffed and told he must not talk of Germans in an insolent tone.

Lithuania has declared itself independent of Russia, according to a cable from the Lithuanian relief committee in Stockholm.

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Rev. Clarence H. Waldron, of Windsor, Vt., was brought before the United States court charged with sedition in advising young men not to enlist.

It is definitely stated that Sir Edward Kemp intends to remain at his new post in London, and has absolutely no thought of returning to Canada.

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Gen. von Ludendorff's daughter was married on Jan. 8th to Lieut. Captain Schumacher, of the German navy, in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin.

Lieut. J. A. M. Robertson, Westmount, on the general list of the Royal Flying Corps, and who was with the flying services in Italy, is reported a prisoner in Austria.

The honor conferred on Col. Gerald Birks, Montreal, as an officer of the Order of the Empire, is one of several granted to the Y.M.C.A. workers, the good work of which receives this recognition.

A traveller states that the number of persons killed in the recent earthquakes in Guatemala is estimated at six thousand. The traveller said that more than one hundred persons were shot while robbing the dead.

Japanese financiers have signed, in the name of the international group of bankers, a ten-million yen gold loan to China. The terms of the loan are that it shall run one year, with interest at 7 per cent, and a bank's commission of 1 per cent. The security given is the surplus of the salt revenue.

A Kansas City broker tells of an attempt by a German submarine to sink the ship carrying A. J. Balfour, British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, on the return trip to England after his visit to the United States, and of the destruction of the submarine by an American war vessel.

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