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Famine is sweeping over all of Asia Minor, and its dread shadow is now falling across Europe.

Milder weather is promised by the weather man. But milder weather has a habit of not keeping its appointments.

The "good German sword" is again at work in Russia. She courted it, she invited it, and we hope she will like it.

The Kaiser has succeeded in putting the trot in Trotsky, but, as far as the Allies are concerned, he is trotting in the wrong direction.

The dogs in Germany have all been eaten up, and now even the crow is a delicacy. Well, didn't we all want to see Germany eat crow?

Are you reading the Whig's new story, "The Woman Who Changed," which is appearing daily on the Woman's Page? If not, you are missing a treat.

The securing of an order for ten locomotives for the Canadian Government Railways, just announced by President Harty of the Canadian Locomotive Co., is a matter for congratulation.

It is disquieting to learn that the eastern part of the United States is face to face with a food shortage, due to railway congestion and the reluctance of farmers to release grain holdings.

Curfew will not ring to-night or any other night, is the decision of the Montreal City Council. Evidently the ringing of the curfew bell in Montreal, as in Kingston, proved to be only a farce.

Gen. Maurice announces that the British captured 4,542 guns during the past year. That sounds good until we remember that during the past week alone the Germans took 1,352 guns and about 5,000 motor cars from the Russians.

Our idea of an optimist is the man who writes the war summary in the Toronto Globe, and our idea of a pessimist is the man who writes the editorials in the Toronto Telegram. The World may have News of the Mail as a Star attraction, but we don't bother about that.

Once upon a time Jericho's walls fell flat and the city was conquered by Joshua and the priests who compassed it seven times, blowing with the trumpets. On Thursday it fell again, this time to the British, but Gen. Allenby was obliged to use sterner weapons. Other times, other manners, as it were.

An important new portfolio in the Dominion Government has been formed by the creation of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, of which Sir James Loughheed will be the head. It will have charge of all matters pertaining to returned soldiers and to the wives and children dependent upon them.

Cupid at the Church. City people are learning what has been known to the way-back country folk from time immemorial—that churchgoing leads to love and matrimony.

The present-day church is proving wonderfully productive of marriages. With its Sunday school, its athletic

clubs, sociables, picnics, concerts, large interests, it is bringing the young people together in friendly and co-operative intercourse.

Human nature is much the same in all grades of life the world over. The bashful young man of the country whose soul is in his gaze across the meeting house at the girl of his choice in her Sunday best, and who at last generates enough courage to wait for her at the door and ask to see her home, is not different either in instinct or in temperament from the more polished and more bold young man of the big city. Love levels us all.

In the country and the small towns the church is the centre of social intercourse. And to thousands of young men and young women who have gone into the cities to work, and have few connections or acquaintances there, the church serves the same social purpose.

KINGSTON'S FIRE INSURANCE RATE.

In a communication addressed to the Civic Fire and Light Committee, Ald. Hewitt calls attention to an injustice that should be remedied. After pointing out various errors—and serious errors at that—made by Inspector Wilson, of the Fire Underwriters' Association, in his report of a test made in this city last summer, the new alderman concludes his report with this significant statement:

"When the city took over the waterworks in 1887 there were forty hydrants, nearly all three inch, and poor pressure, so that it took the full capacity to supply one steamer at the corner of Princess and Montreal streets. A volunteer fire department was called by ringing the City Hall bell. There was only one fire station. THE INSURANCE RATE WAS 70c FOR THREE YEARS, AND IT IS THE SAME RATE YET."

Since 1887 extensive and important improvements have been made by the city. Many thousands of dollars have been expended in perfecting the service. New mains built, a second fire station erected, additional equipment purchased, the number of firemen increased, the pumping capacity extended and other efforts made to safeguard the city against possible fire loss. Yet, amazing as it appears, the insurance rate remains the same.

This matter should be taken up by the Fire and Light Committee, and fought to a finish. Kingston is being unfairly treated by the tariff companies, and the city will never get justice until an intelligent, vigorous campaign is inaugurated. If Inspector Wilson has made grave and startling mistakes in his report, as Ald. Hewitt alleges, then the proof ought to be submitted to the Underwriters' Association and an acknowledgment and correction of same should be insisted upon. This is a matter that affects practically every home, every business, every industry and every piece of property in Kingston. A saving of many thousands of dollars each year can be accomplished if our city authorities are alert and aggressive. Ald. Hewitt has set the ball rolling. Now is the time to follow it up.

THE CAPTURE OF JERICHO.

The next most important development in connection with the British campaign in Palestine, following the fall of Jerusalem, has been the capture of Jericho, which was accomplished on Thursday, when Australian troops entered the city. Little fighting occurred, so the meagre despatches tell us.

Jericho fell once before with little or no fighting. Sacred writ relates how Joshua, a son of Nun, one of Moses' ministers, was ordered by the Lord to go over the Jordan and take possession of the land for the children of Israel. Jericho had first to be conquered, and in those far-off days it was a powerful city with a king of its own. Sunday school scholars and Bible students all know the story of how the city walls fell after being compassed seven days by priests and trumpeters. In the Book of Joshua we read:

"And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein; only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord."

"And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho."

From the fact that Jericho to-day boasts of only 300 or 300 inhabitants, it would appear as if this ancient curse was still effective. Jericho was a city of the Canaanites, situated on a plain on the west side of the Jordan, near its mouth. After being destroyed by Joshua, it was rebuilt in the time of the Judges, and formed an independent frontier fortress of Judea. It was again destroyed by Vespasian, rebuilt under Hadrian, and finally destroyed during the Crusades. The site of Jericho has usually been fixed at Ribah, a mean and foul Arab hamlet of some 200 inhabitants. Recent travellers, however, show that the probable location of Jericho was two miles west of Ribah, at the mouth of Wady

salom debouches into the plain. On the west end of Jericho rise high limestone hills, one of which, the dreary Quarantana, 1,200 or 1,500 feet high, derives its name from the modern tradition that it was the scene of our Lord's forty days' fast and temptation. No doubt these hills have been converted into strong defensive positions by the Turks, and some heavy fighting may be expected in this locality. Jericho was, in ancient days, well watered and amazingly fruitful. Under British rule it may regain something of its former grandeur and prosperity.

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS.

Don't let us make imaginary evils, when we know we have so many real ones to encounter.—Goldsmith.

There will be sleeping enough in the grave.—Franklin.

Out of the night that covers me, Black as the Pit from pole to pole, I think whatever gods there be, For my unconquerable soul.

If men can be induced to believe in the love of their fellowmen, they are well on the road to believe in the love of God.—Marcus Dods.

Love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.—I Cor. 13-7.

'Tis sweet to feel that we may be in partnership, dear Lord, with Thee.

'Tis sweet to feel that all we do To make our lives sincere and true Is known to Thee, and that we share As partners all Thy love and care.

He that will not reason is a bigot; he that cannot reason is a fool; and he that dares not reason is a slave.—W. Drummond.

France Not Bleed White.

Letter to the New York Evening Sun from an American officer in France: "Don't let them kid you with this 'bled white' stuff regarding France. 'It's German camouflage.'"

"The first thing that struck me about the men in French uniform was their large size and general fine physical appearance. I made enquiry of American officers who had been pretty much all over France, and they all said that the samples I had seen were not above the average. Of course, there are youths of the same age in this company of Americans. I have been greatly surprised, and very much encouraged to find things as they are. Both in physique and spirit the French soldiers are built to win. And while the people have suffered cruelly their one thought seems to be: How long will it take to win the war. There is no idea of simply ending it. Killing the boche off may take some time yet, but it's got to be done."

Rippling Rhymes

FOLLOWING THE RULES

If Uncle Sam appoints a man to work out conservation, I'll follow that appointee's plan, and try to save the nation. Perhaps the rules he may lay down will seem like gentle kidding, but I'll be first man in our town to hump and do his bidding. I'll do what that official says, and blithely, too, doggone it; if he insists I'll wear a fez, and soak my Sunday bonnet. If he declares that eating fowl three days a week is useless, I'll cut out chicken, duck and owl, and make the three days gooseless. No doubt there'll be some funny rules, by rushed officials handed each rule is sprung before it cools, and jars us when it's landed. And contradictions will arise, confusion worse confounded; but we'll obey, if we are wise, as soon as they're propounded. It is not ours to reason why, the loyal man is whyles; but it is ours to cut out pie, on days appointed pletess. Some rule to me may seem absurd, it leaves me dazed and frozen, but he who made it is a bird, or he would not be chosen. He knows much better where we're at, than I, so weak and giddy; at his behest I eat out fat, and eat an ancient hiddy. At his behest I sell my shoes, and barefoot glady wander, and hope my trials may amuse the soldier boys yonder.

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

By GENE BYRNES



RUSSIAN CAPITULATION

Is Regarded as a Stroke of Super-Cunning.

Petrograd, Feb. 23.—The Pravda newspaper believes the apparent capitulation of Lenin and Trotsky is a bold and super-cunning stroke, because Germany, after her declarations regarding the protection of civilization from Bolshevism, cannot make peace with Russia until Bolshevism is destroyed. Thus Germany's refusal to accept Russia's plea for peace at any price places a weapon in the hands of the Soviet, which enable it to raise a revolutionary army.

No Difference.

"I see you're moving," said Smith to his neighbor, who was superintending the placing of his household goods in a large furniture van. "Yes, I am. I'm sorry to say," replied the neighbor, "I hate to leave this district, too. Everything has always been so pleasant, the neighbors so friendly, and I don't know how it will be where I am going."

"Oh, it will be the same," said Smith, going on his way. A little later he met another neighbor who was also having his furniture carted away. "I see you're moving," he said.

"Yes," said the one, "and might glad, too. I never lived in such a neighborhood in all my life. Nothing but bad feeling, back-biting and slander. I don't know how it will be where I am going."

"Oh, it will be the same," said Smith.

No Hard Feelings Towards Anybody.

An old Baptist deacon in the South where negro Baptists abound, had a mule whose temper was rather uncertain. One day the good man was driving the animal along a street on which there was a slight incline. His muleship balked. The deacon descended from the wagon and reasoned with that mule. It was of no avail. Then he thrashed him, but the mule was obdurate. He even prayed over him, but still the mule did not stir. A white man, who had been watching the performance said: "Deacon, they tell me that if you tie some stones to his tail he will soon move on." The deacon had very definite views concerning the future of the wicked, but he had a kindly heart. Perhaps that was why he replied as he did: "White folks, let de man dat has no sin tie de fust stone."

Sailing Around Watertown.

Joseph H. Slater. Sailing, sailing over Mt. and Main, Not many a slippery step I take 'Till I fall down again.

Sailing, sailing across the Public Square, My hat flies off—one rubber gone, And then I start to swear.

Sailing, sailing through all the slush and sloop, I'd rather be a soldier boy aging O'er the top.

Sailing, sailing, no more verse in rhyme, I'm going to stay in bed, Until the summer time.

—WALT MASON.

Bibbys advertisement for men's and boys' overcoats. Features a man in a suit and a boy in a suit. Text includes: 'The Store That Keeps the Prices Down', 'Bibbys Overcoat Sale!', 'Bibbys Clearing Price \$15.00', 'Boys' Suit Sale \$7.50', 'Boys' Mackinaw Reeters \$5.00'.

FARMS FOR SALE. Neart the city, at low prices. W.H. Godwin & Son, 23 Brock Street, Phone 424.

Nujol for CONSTIPATION. \$1.00 Large Bottle. A refined, clear mineral oil—Tasteless and odorless. Pleasant to take. Does not upset digestion. Absolutely cures Constipation.

DR. CHOWN'S DRUG STORE. 185 Princess Street. Phone 343.

Suggestion on Eczema. It will take just a few moments to step in and ask us what our experience has been in the way of grateful customers with the soothing wash of oils, D.D.D. Your money back unless the first bottle relieves you. Mahood's Drug Store, Kingston. D.D.D. The Liquid Wash.

IRON BEDS — SPRINGS — MATTRESSES. Brass Beds, \$15 and up. Springs, No. 91 Special, \$4.25. Best grade Iron Frames, \$6.50. Mattresses, all felt, \$9.50 \$12.50. Dixie, no tuft, \$25.00. R. J. REID, Leading Undertaker, Phone 577.

Our Own Special Blend and our Club Blend at 40c per lb. Compare this with the high priced package teas, and buy while the stock lasts. Jas. REDDEN & Co. Phones 20 and 990.

WATCH YOUR FURNACE. ECONOMIZE IN COAL. DO NOT WASTE. CRAWFORD. Foot of Queen St. Phone 9.