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TIDINGS FOR OUR READERS

PRESENTED IN THE BRIEFEST POSSIBLE FORM.

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

Madrid is suffering from a mysterious disease with over 300,000 patients.

A German destroyer struck a mine eight miles off Zeebrugge and went down.

There are over 100 cases of typhoid fever in Chatham. So far there has been one death.

The Prince of Wales has been made a major, temporarily, while he is a general staff officer.

Edward Tighe, son of a Maryboro farmer, was killed by lightning while standing at the stable door.

Toronto council is moving along to purchase next year the plant of the Toronto Electric Company.

Italian planes dropped manifestos on Vienna on Friday. The eight machines returned safe one.

Canadian Pacific Railway earnings for the week ending Aug. 10th, \$2,882,000, increase, \$323,000.

The Governor-General will visit Winnipeg about Aug. 25th, and will see Manitoba's wheat harvest.

It is estimated that the wheat crop to be gathered in the three western provinces will reach 100,000,000 bushels.

Lieut. R. Emmett Gorman, Ottawa, of the Royal Air Force, was killed on July 27th, as the result of an airplane accident.

The Ontario Municipal Board has ordered the Brantford Gas Company to furnish no gas for public buildings or stores.

Major A. T. Hunter, officer in command of the 12th York Rangers, Toronto, has been gazetted a lieutenant-colonel.

Grand Trunk Railway System traffic earnings from Aug. 1st to Aug. 7th, 1918, \$1,236,343; 1917, \$934,921; increase, \$251,422.

The Frankfurter Zeitung admits that General Foch is a good soldier, and that his strategy has been crowned with success.

Two officers of the British force have flown from England to Egypt (about 1,300 miles), with only one or two halts for petrol.

Moscow despatches claim that Soviet forces have captured Dolokoro across the Volga River, and have taken Nicolaevsk, farther east.

Premier Lenine has issued an ultimatum to Japan regarding intervention in Siberia, according to the Bolshevik newspaper Pravda.

Capt. (Rev.) J. D. Morrow, Toronto, has recovered from the attack of scarlet fever which seized him following a blood transfusion operation.

Peter McDonald, barrister, Woodstock, has been appointed local registrar, clerk of the County Court, and registrar of the Surrogate Court for Oxford.

So far this year Toronto has paid \$652,000 for insurance on lives of Toronto soldiers. There are \$279,000 in claims that are undergoing settlement.

Hsu Shi-Chang is certain of the Chinese presidency, and T'ao K'un is slated for the vice-presidency. Parliament opens on Aug. 12th, but it is still doubtful whether a quorum will be secured.

France has protested against the Vatican recognizing the appointment of a minister to the Holy See. The Tien-Tsin treaty of 1858 recognizes a French protectorate over the Catholics in China.

Prince Boris, eldest son of King Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, will be appointed regent during the period of his father's enforced retirement because of mental strain. It is reported from German sources.

Life imprisonment, with the sentence commuted to ten years in the penitentiary, was the sentence meted out to Pte. Comfort Hughes Thompson, a member of the Canadian Garrison Battalion at Exhibition Camp, Toronto, for refusing to don the uniform.

Dutch smugglers are working schemes to get gold coin into Germany. The coin is at high premium. Many have been caught. One smuggler caught wore a suit every button of which was a cloth-covered ten-farin or five-farin piece. There are also reports of sandwiches with gold coins instead of slices of sausage between the bread and butter.

ANOTHER, CANADIAN V.C.



Lieut. G. B. McKean, V.C. He is a native of Lethbridge and enlisted in a Calgary regiment. His cap badge, as shown in the original photograph, bears the name "Royal Montreal Regiment," but there is no local record of his transfer.

BASKET ON A STRING.

One of Italy's War Appliances That Does Fine Work.

"Jolly good work I call that for a 'basket on a string,'" was the way a visiting British officer characterized an exploit of the Italians in the course of which—in lieu of any other way of doing it—they had shot the end of a cable from a gun across a flood-swollen river and thus made it possible to rig up a teleferica for rushing over some badly needed reinforcements.

The Italians' conduct of their Alpine campaign must remain a classic of mountain warfare—something which has never been approached in the past and may never be equalled in the future.

Perhaps the most spectacular exploit ever carried out from a teleferica was that by which a troublesome nest of Austrian machine gunners were cleared off one of the pinnacles of the great Mt. Massif in the fall of 1916. The situation was irritating enough for the Italians even when the activities of the enemy were confined only to observation, but when he took to bringing up a machine gun and peppering—almost from his roof—the headquarters of an Alpine battalion which held an important pass 3,000 feet below, it became well-nigh intolerable. What happened was related to me some months later, when I asked the major of this battalion how it chanced that the roof of the officers' mess in which we were dining was armored with sheets of steel.

"Against machine-gun bullets," was the reply: "there was a time—of accursed memory—in which he used to bring a gun out on a little splinter of rock, not 1,500 metres from here in an air line, and spray the whole of our little terrace with 'dum-dums.'"

"We were working day and night," he continued, "to excavate a gun cavern, the fire from which would make that troublesome position untenable for the Austrians. In the meantime we had to stick it out as best we could. At this juncture Captain X. came in.

"What is to prevent my rigging up a machine gun in a teleferica basket?" he said, "covering it with myself and a man to help—under a piece of canvas as if it was an ordinary load of gear, letting it be run down until I am well in the rear of the Austrians, and turning loose?"

"If I hadn't been seeing more or less red myself, and if our position had not become really serious, I would probably never have listened to the mad proposal. As it was, I entered into it heart and soul. We reckoned the slope of the cable, and hung the platform of the machine gun at an angle which would make it easy to elevate and range on the Austrian position above. Then—as a happy afterthought—we bent a sheet of bullet-proof steel for a shield on the exposed side, erected a low platform on which the gun would rest securely and—the first and last armored teleferica was complete.

"We had to do a bit of 'trimming' to put her on an even keel, after which she rode smoothly and evenly. With X. and his assistant crouched low on either side of the gun, and a black tarpaulin thrown loosely over the whole, she looked like an ordinary load of junk going down for repairs. When X. 'unmasked' and opened up we could even follow the line of brown dust spurts on the face of the cliff as the bullets ranged upward toward their mark. And that was about all there was to it. The fire of the two Austrian machine guns ceased instantly, and never resumed. Probably the gunners were killed before they had a chance even to turn round their guns and reply to the sudden attack from the air."

—Lewis R. Freeman in Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Bobby's Idea.

In a family where Bobby, the eight-year-old, was an intense admirer of his father, a dyspeptic diet came to dinner.

When the duck was being carved

"What part do you prefer?" "I never eat duck, thank you," came the reply.

The hostess had some cold roast chicken brought in and offered. "No, thank you," said the man, "I never eat chicken."

"Some cold roast beef was next brought in. "No, thank you, I never eat roast beef," came the reply.

By this time the host was visibly nonplussed, what next to eat in his guest, Bobby was quick to see it. His temper had risen at what he considered a slight upon his father.

"I say, papa," burst in the boy, with a glare at the dyspeptic, "perhaps the old idiot would like to suck an egg."

Criticizes Tirpitz.

In the current number of the Prussische Jahrbucher, Prof. Hans Delbrueck, German historian, accuses Admiral von Tirpitz of lack of foresight during his term of office in the office of construction of submarines.

"Von Tirpitz was fascinated with dreadnoughts," he says, "and even during the war hindered the construction of new submarines, in the belief that the few he had consented to build were sufficient to beat the British in a few months." Delbrueck calls upon the Reichstag to order an investigation into von Tirpitz's naval policy.

Inventions Used In War.

The chief inventions used in the present war as distinguished from the Napoleonic wars are: Steamship, submarine, aircraft, high-power guns, smokeless powder, breech-loading gun, rapid-fire gun, revolver, automatic pistol, telephone, wireless telegraphy, automobile, poisonous gas.

Doubling the Output.

Australian women have discovered a plan whereby they knit two socks at once, and thus increased their output from 50,000 pairs a month to 76,000 pairs a month. The Red Cross women of Glencoe, Ill., have learned the trick and it is spreading.

Batoche.

Thirty-three years ago the death blow was given the Riel rebellion in the Battle of Batoche, fought by a miscellaneous Canadian force under Gen. Middleton, of which the 10th Royal Grenadiers of Toronto formed the advance guard, and in which that famous citizen regiment was a very active and effective participant.

Batoche, more than any other battle that has been fought on Canadian soil by the home defensive force, demonstrated the disciplined courage and resource of Canadians under arms. The spirit of Batoche to-day is again exemplified by the sons of the Maple Leaf on the far-away fields of France, against an enemy infinitely more resourceful and scientifically efficient, but on a par with the worst Red Indians in savagery and rejection of the ethics of civilization.

The Toronto officers of the Grenadiers surviving of those who fought at Batoche are: Lt.-Col. Grassett, C.M.G., head of the Toronto Post-Department; Surgeon-General Ryerson, Brig.-Gen. James Mason, now chief of the Organization of the Reserves, and Col. C. Gravelle-Harston, at present in England, Major D. M. Howard, an inspector in the R.N.W.M.F., was also an officer of the regiment, but not in action at the historic battle. Of the rank and file, approximately one hundred are left in Toronto. The officers of the Batoche Column Association are: Hon. president, Lt.-Col. J. W. Leslie; honorary vice-president, Lt.-Col. A. Curran; president, J. A. McDonald; vice-president, A. Devitt and secretary-treasurer, W. J. Bewley.

It is officially reported from Berlin that the bread ration in the German capital will be increased by 100 grammes (about three and a half ounces) weekly, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen. The price has also been

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TOO MUCH COMPETITION.

Disappointed Students in Japan Driven to Suicide.

According to Rev. Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, who has lived long in the Far East, suicides among Japanese students are probably more prevalent than among any other students in the world. The causes he mentions are: First, the high strung nerves and exceptional sensitiveness to anything that may be regarded as a personal humiliation; and, second, the extraordinary competition among students to secure places in the Government schools.

Dr. Gulick also notes the three causes given by the Christian Literature Society, of which he is a member, namely: The struggle for existence, the handicap of poor physique, and the absence of an enlightened faith.

As to student suicides due to failure in examinations, it may be noted that in Japan it is not easy to enter any schools. Of the boys 13 and 14 years old who strive by competitive examinations to enter the middle schools, only 61 per cent, we learn, though intellectually qualified, are admitted. The rest are excluded from lack of room in the annual applications, for admission to the higher institutions are several times greater in number than can be admitted. A year, also more than five hundred youths were refused admission to the Doshisha, the only Christian university in Japan, entirely because of lack of accommodations.

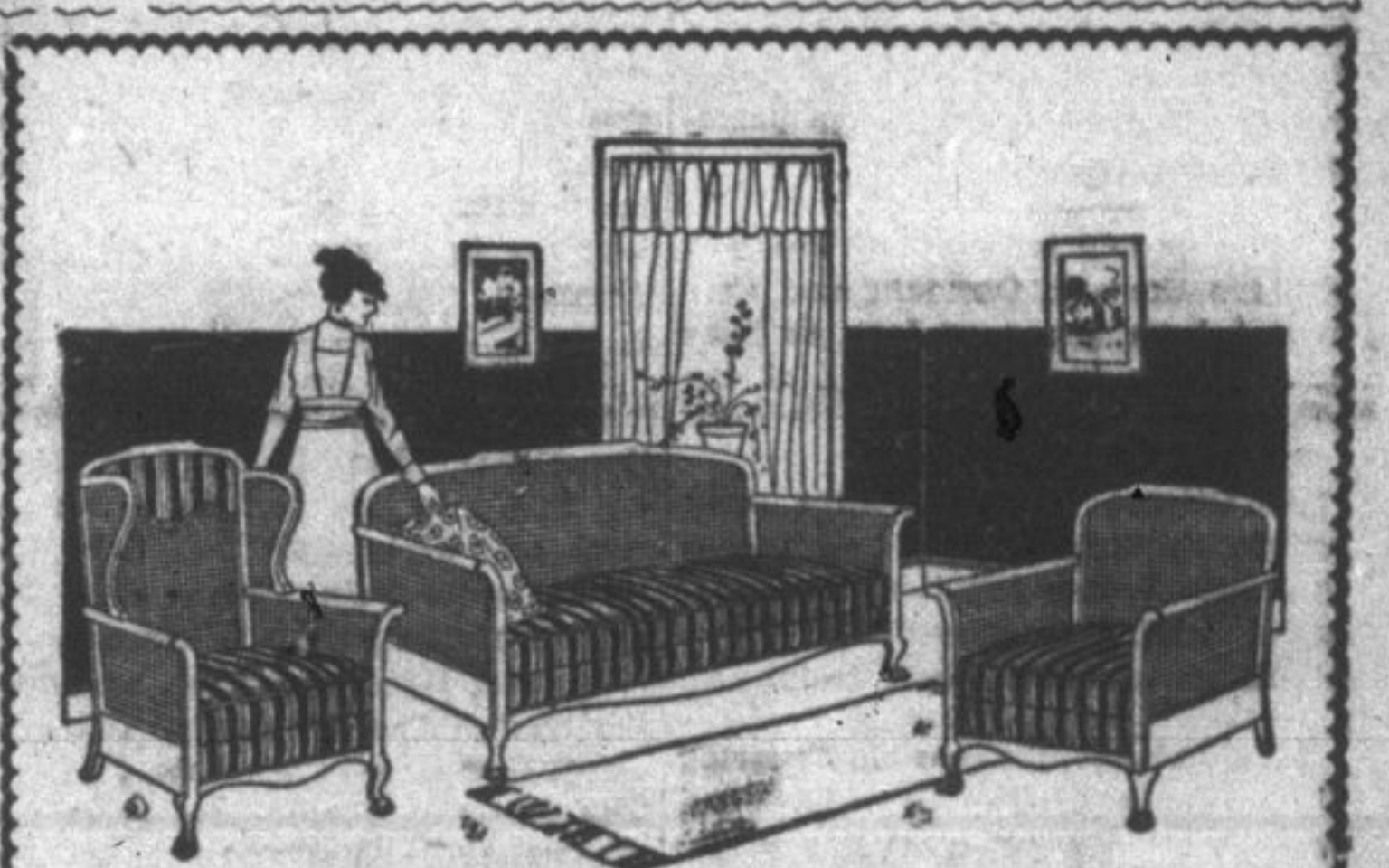
It is interesting to compare the above with the statement that suicides among German school children are widespread. This leads to the conclusion that these catastrophes, both in Japan and Germany, may be due to still another factor than those mentioned, namely, to the ingrained teaching of materialism. If boys and girls are taught that material success is the measure of life, and do not achieve it, they naturally feel that life is a failure.—The Outlook.

Corrupt Prussian Elections.

The present electoral system is indirect; the ballot is open and verbal instead of secret and written; no real redistribution of seats has been made to conform to the great shifting in population since 1860, and the three-class system, the rock on which the state is built, has come to be grossly and perilously unfair.

Indirect election to the Legislature and public voting are both agencies through which a dominant class may revamp the popular will to suit its own interests. The former cannot be defended by the junketers themselves, for Bismarck condemned it fifty years ago: "I am convinced that indirect suffrage falsifies the result of elections, and that direct elections would bring more talent to the Chamber." On the other hand, there is a serious attempt to justify the open ballot. In Conservative circles the stock argument in its defence is the salutary oversight which it makes possible over the proletariat, whose caprice and material interests would lead them to abuse the franchise, if unrestrained. It is certainly true that the Prussian system leaves little room for the personification, re-peating, and ballot-switching with which American elections are afflicted. Elections are more honestly conducted. The Conservatives also claim that the open ballot calls out the highest of all Prussian virtues, die echte Buggertugend. It is a test of the courage of a man's convictions, a challenge to his civic sense of duty.

Such is probably the case where the majority of the electorate is free to speak its own mind. But John Stuart Mill wrote: "If the dependencies are such that the individual voter in any considerable number or to any great degree is



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The Sawyer Shoe Store

Waterproof Match. An inventor who is said to have once won a large prize from the Belgian Government for inventing a non-phosphorous safety match, has recently developed a match which, he claims, is waterproof, wind proof, and also foolproof. After tests made by United States authorities, orders have been placed for a quantity of these matches, which will be especially serviceable in light signal rockets, certain types of bombs, and on shipboard in bad weather. Water does not harm them and in the face of a strong wind they will burn for five seconds at least. As soon as a blaze is extinguished the ash is cool, and the burned match can be thrown away.