

THE HISTORY OF FIUME

CITIZENS HOLD FAST TO THEIR ITALIAN BIRTHRIGHT.

City Which Almost Caused a Split Among the Allies at the Peace Conference Has Known Many Rulers, But Persecution Could Never Kill Its National Inclinations.

NOW that the flurry of international policy and internal politics over Fiume has begun to subside it is worth while to review the fascinating story of that ancient port. Some settlement was there in Roman times. Early in 1914, while a couple of houses were being torn down, there came to light some Roman masonry, hidden under the wreckage of a great fire, which the local antiquaries at once suspected to be the burning of Fiume by the Venetians in 1509.

Coins of Valentinian and other fourth century Roman emperors were found in the debris, and in another spot still others were picked up, going back to the end of the Roman Republic. Whether this Roman town was the Tharsactia, which the geographer Ptolemy sets at the mouth of the river, or the Phana, which the seventh century cosmographer of Ravenna says was "near Tharsactia, at the point where the Julian Alps come down to the sea and form the last bound of Italy," has been long debated.

At any rate, there was a thriving little town here before Venice had risen from her lagoons. The Franks, who drove the Venetians out to found their new city at Rialto, destroyed Tharsactia in 800—Charlemagne's vengeance on the inhabitants for their murder of Henry of Frioul; and the name of Fiume appears in its Latin form—Terra que dicitur Flumen, or Terra Flumen, or Terra Fluminis Sancti Viti—for the River of St. Vitus gave its name to the town, which has preserved the Italian form.

When the Slav wave of about 650 flowed over all this region, there began the struggle between the Latin-Italian and Serbo-Croat languages, which has lasted ever since. Probably nowhere else does the local Italian dialect contain so many Slav words, or the speech of the Slav peasants show so large an Italian vocabulary. Elsewhere on the eastern Adriatic shore, Venice was dominant, and the constant presence of Venetian functionaries kept the dialect of Rialto itself both fashionable and necessary; but Fiume and Venice were always hostile. In 1291 Venice declared war on Fiume, and notified all Venetian traders to leave the city; in 1309, in 1509 and in 1511 Fiume was sacked by the Venetians who never held it, however, but the one year 1508-09.

Latin remained the language of the municipality till well into Renaissance times; the communal code was not translated into Italian until 1530, although we have an official price list of fish in Italian from 1475. From then on, it is a constant fight to maintain Italian, but that is so closely interwoven with the political vicissitudes of Fiume that we must examine them first. In the feudal period the city was subject to the bishops of Pola and the lords of Dajno, beyond Trieste; a century later than Trieste it was handed over to the House of Austria, and in 1523 was definitely assigned to the Province of Carniola; but even then it maintained an almost complete autonomy, and was soon erected into a tiny independent state. Charles VI sent a special invitation to Fiume to ratify the Pragmatic Sanction. That, however, availed them nothing. Maria Theresa, in her gratitude to her Hungarian supporters against Prussia, made them a present of Fiume in 1778. The original edict lumped Fiume with Croatia; the Town Council protested; and in 1779 the Empress issued a rescript annexing Fiume to Hungary as an independent unit—"separatum sacre regni coronae annexum corpus."

This precious document was Fiume's Bill of Rights against the annexationist tendencies of the Croats, who looked longingly at the city and its harbor from across the little stream which still forms the boundary. In 1848 their efforts were crowned with temporary success. Kossuth's Hungarian revolution had been stifled by Hapsburg troops, ably seconded by the famous Ban of Croatia, Jellachich, who came to the rescue of despotism with his Croatian legions. On August 21 his subordinate, Joseph Bunjevatz, occupied Fiume with Croatian soldiers, after promising to respect the municipal institutions and the use of Italian. But the Croats were hardly established when they began a Slavising campaign. In vain the Town Council appealed to Francis Joseph against the supplanting of Italian in the schools by Croatian. The editor of the Gazzetta di Fiume had to go to prison in 1862 for a year for his defence of the rights of Italian. Nevertheless the citizens kept up their use of their native tongue, and feeling ran so high that when Bishop Stromayrer, the great protagonist of Serbo-Croat literary unity, entered the city once at the head of a procession he was met with showers of stones. The citizens likewise refused to take advantage of the offer of representation in the Croatian Diet at Agram. At the first election, out of a list of 1,222 qualified voters 870 cast their ballots, but 840 of these were marked "Nessuno"—"Nobody." Finally, in 1877, a legal election took place; 133 voters designated Deputies for Fiume, but every ballot added the words: "To protest against any annexation to Croatia or any dependence upon her."

Under these circumstances the Italians of Fiume looked to distant Budapest for salvation; better remote Hungary than Croatia next door! But Hungarian domination proved worse than Slav; the Magyars used even severer methods of denationalization in Fiume than did the Austrians in Trieste. In 1880 there were only 733 Hungarians in Fiume; the official census of 1910 made them 6,000 in number (15,000 Croats, Slovenes, Slovaks, etc.); 27,000 Italian residents of Fiume, 4,000 Italian subjects of Italy, 2,000 Germans, etc.; but that was not the worst. The Budapest authorities manipulated the voting lists after the most approved

Hapsburg fashion. The 700 employes of the Hungarian State Railways and the 400 Government officials and clerks were all given the ballot, and against them the rest of the town—people 44,999—had only 1,200 votes! Their terrorism of the local Italians reminds one of the Austrian excesses in Lombardy. If one applauded the chorus of "Ernani," with its "Siamo tutti una sola famiglia" (We Italians are all a single family), if one wore a daisy in his buttonhole, if one's hat were the broad-brimmed Calabrian style, if one read a Rome paper—the police notified him that he was under suspicion of disloyalty. An excursion of young Fiumans was organized to Dante's tomb at Ravenna; on their return they were accused of treason! Teachers of Italian language and literature in the local high schools were notified that their diplomas would be cancelled if they did not go up to Budapest and pass creditable examinations in Hungarian language and literature; Hungarian was substituted for Italian in the high schools and naval academy; the authorities even hired a criminal to explode a couple of bombs in the Governor's palace so that they could accuse the Italians of doing it—thus taking a leaf out of the Austrian Foreign Office' book, as revealed by the Friedjung trial of 1909.

But still deeper than the Croatian or Hungarian danger was the German menace. Germany had for years been considering Trieste as her natural port to the south, but as it became clearer that Trieste would some day be Italian, she turned her attention to Fiume. It is a little-known fact that Fiume is three miles nearer Vienna than is Trieste, and her harbor has great possibilities. Fiume is, therefore, the closest outlet not only to Hungary but also to German Austria and Germany itself! Berlin had no need to act directly; Budapest could be counted on to support German imperialism, and so could the Croats, who have been the staunchest supporters of the Hapsburgs, even during the war.

So Fiume was marked out as Germany's eventual prize, under Croatian sovereignty if necessary, when the war began. At once the Hungarian Government put into effect the severest measures—arrest and deportation—and openly boasted that by the close of the war Fiume would not have a single Italian left; but would be purely Magyar and Croat. It is quite likely that they did succeed in making the population pre-eminently Croatian, though the Italian Town Council still holds control.

It remains to be seen further whether Fiume will not inevitably decline owing to the development of Trieste and the Jugo-Slav ports and the discontinuance of the low freight rates given by the Hungarian State Railways to encourage export through Fiume; even so, it was cheaper before the war to ship Hungarian grain down the Danube and out by the Black Sea, or up the Danube, or even by the State Railways into Germany, than by Fiume. Who can foretell what economic changes will not be brought about by the new grouping in southeastern Europe? What wonder that the citizens of Fiume, who have held fast to their Italian birthright all these centuries, are now reasserting their own independence as against their oppressors of the past, the Croats and the Hungarians, and see their only comfort in the Italy to which Mazzini declared they belong?

Kaiser Joke on the Hun.
A droll story comes from the Berlin newspapers. In the last session of the Workmen's Council at Rathenow, in Mark Brandenburg, one of the members drew attention to the way in which the farmers had been fleeced by a man who gave himself out to be a special messenger of the ex-Kaiser. Well dressed and driving a fine car, he appealed to the farmers to send through him parcels of food to their "starving Emperor." In touching words he described the short commons on which the Dutch, no doubt at the instigation of the Entente, kept his woebegone and hungry master. The Kaiser begged his Mark Brandenburgers to send him a little food. The trick always worked, and the car drove off loaded with eggs, flour and ham in the direction of Amerongen.

One Was Enough.
"You love my daughter?" said the old man. "Love her!" he exclaimed, passionately. "Why, I would die for her. For one soft glance from those sweet eyes I would hurl myself from yonder cliff and perish—a bruised mass upon the rocks two hundred feet below." The old man shook his head. "I'm something of a liar myself," he said, "and one is enough for a small family like mine."

Venus Flytrap.
That such plants as "Venus fly-trap" actually catch and squeeze to death flies and other insects alighting on their leaves has long been known, but the discovery is comparatively recent that the plants digest the softer parts of their prey by means of peptic ferment secreted by the leaves. These are real instances of plants feeding upon animals.

Cores Abolishes Ore Royalties.
By a decree of the Government, the Korean mining ordinance has been amended so as to eliminate the royalty on gold, silver, lead and iron ores or alluvial gold and alluvial iron. The exemption of royalty will not apply, however, to special mining concessions that were granted before the date of the mining ordinance.

Shortage of Houses.
Houses and apartments seem to be scarce in cities on the other side of the Atlantic as well as here, as a result of the suspension of building during the war. Here are two humorous indications of the shortage. From a British weekly: Lady—How was it you lost your job? Tramp—Well, mum, I was a artist, I was—used to paint them "To Let" notices. From a Christiania (Norway) weekly: "Have you a room to let?" "Yes, but I entertain application only from night editors who are out all day."

PILES
Do not suffer another day with itching, bleeding, or protruding piles. Dr. Chase's Ointment will relieve you at once and as certainly cure you. See a box at J. R. ... Toronto. Sample box free on request. Paper and envelope to stamp to pay postage.

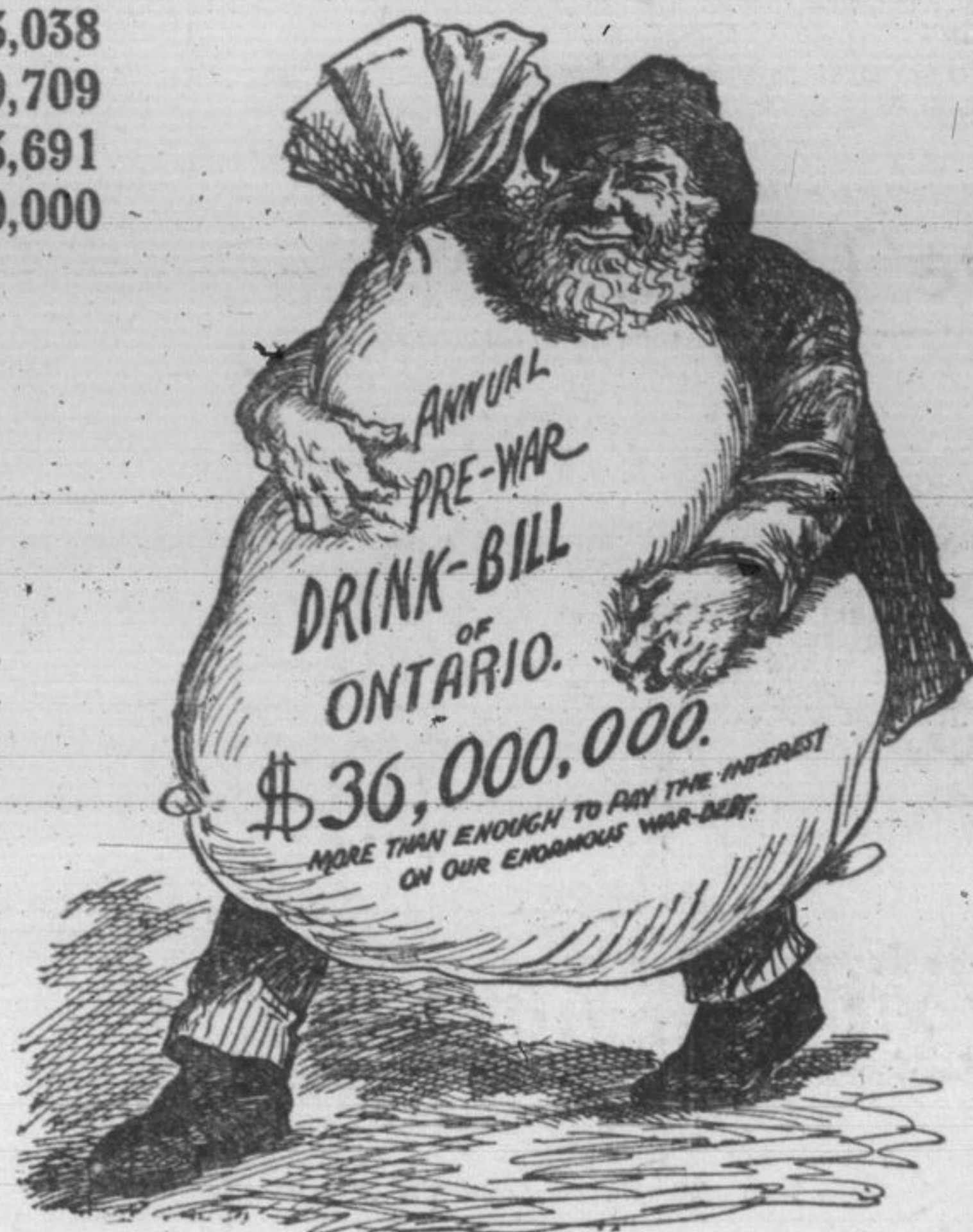
The Legacy of War

Canada's Dead and Missing	63,038
Canada's Wounded	149,709
Canada's National Debt . . .	\$1,670,263,691
Soldiers' Annual Pensions.	\$35,000,000

THE world to-day is staggering with debt. Some of the leading countries are verging on bankruptcy. The British pound shrunk from \$4.86 to as low as \$4.12 in New York and the Canadian dollar to 95 cents.

Five years ago Canada had never dreamed of the financial burden she carries to-day.

Canada entered the Great war with a national debt of \$337,000,000 or \$42 per head of population. Canada emerges with a national debt to date of \$1,670,263,691, which is expected to approximate \$2,000,000,000 by the end of the fiscal year—or about \$250 for every man, woman and child in the country.



Interest charges alone will eat up nearly one-half our present national revenue and soldiers' pensions will have to be provided as well.

Can Ontario Afford \$36,000,000 a Year on Drink?

TO Canada's effort Ontario contributed one-third of the men and nearly one-half the money. And she will bear a chief share of Canada's burden of annual charges. If efficiency was necessary to win the war, it is necessary to reconstruct for peace.

ince that increased the efficiency of our people, conserved our national strength, aided thrift and generally contributed to our fighting power to a greater extent than the Ontario Temperance Act."

Previous to the Ontario Temperance Act the drink bill of the province approximated \$36,000,000 per year, an amount about equal to Ontario's share of the annual interest on our national debt. In the face of our financial responsibilities alone is this the time to repeal the Ontario Temperance Act or relax a single one of its restrictions upon waste of money and man power? To every question on the Referendum Ballot vote—

"I say without hesitation," declared Premier Hearst, "that I do not know of one act or measure in this province that increased the efficiency of our people, conserved our national strength, aided thrift and generally contributed to our fighting power to a greater extent than the Ontario Temperance Act."

"No!"—Four Times—"No!"

No Repeal; No Government Beer Shops; No Intoxicating Beers in Standard Hotel Bars; No Government Beer and Whiskey Shops

THE Referendum will put four questions squarely up to every man and woman in the province qualified to vote. Be sure you answer every question. Be sure you mark your ballot with an X after each question under the column headed "NO" or your vote will be lost to Temperance.

Ontario Referendum Committee

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Cholera has spread from Tokyo to Yokohama, according to a cable to Honolulu.
Harvey Hastings, a hotelkeeper, of Elora, was fatally hurt when a motor car overturned into a ditch.
For the first time farmers joined with shopmen in St. Thomas in celebrating Labor Day.
Wireless service has been opened between Great Britain, Holland and Scandinavia.
Watch the news of things. There's something to prices every