

FAMOUS "WITS" OF HISTORY

By MARK STUYVESANT.

Some of the Jokes Frederick the Great Played on Voltaire.

When Frederick the Great was crown prince of Prussia he spent much of his time in literary and philosophical pursuits. The writer whom he most admired—and whom he declared he would rather be than any king upon earth—was Voltaire. They conducted a correspondence for many months, and when Frederick at last became king he eagerly desired to have Voltaire visit him.

But besides being a witty French dramatist, poet and reformer, François Marie Arnaud Voltaire was also a man of many moods, and possessed of an idea of his own importance. Therefore he insisted that Frederick should send him one thousand louis to pay his travelling expenses, and another thousand so his niece could accompany him. Frederick readily agreed to the first, but refused to pay the travelling expenses of the niece. For some time the controversy ran back and forth, Voltaire accusing the king of stinginess, the king declaring Voltaire was covetous.

Frederick determined upon a

sprung up and leaped out of bed, bounding with fury.

"Voltaire beginning to set and Baculard in his dawn! And a king can write such enormous folly. Ah, let him never think of anything but reigning! I will go! Yes, I will go and teach him the visit to Frederick! That instant the visit to Frederick was determined on. The extra thousand louis were forgotten. Voltaire was soon on his way, and Frederick greeted him with a wise smile.

During this visit an Englishman happened to be presented to the king, and while talking with them boasted that his memory was so accurate he could repeat, word for word, any discourse of any length, after having once heard it. At this moment Voltaire had come to read some new verses he had composed, so Frederick hid the Englishman in a closet, ordered Voltaire admitted, and asked him to read his verses aloud.

Frederick listened to them with apparent coolness. When Voltaire had finished, Frederick said:



The Englishman Repeated the Verses Word for Word.

bold stroke to gain his point. He sent an ambassador to Voltaire with two poems in his pocket. The ambassador had instructions to tell Voltaire that Arnaud Baculard, a rival of Voltaire's, had touched Potemkin, and that the king had received him with open arms. Then the ambassador casually declared that Baculard had read a poem in honor of Frederick, and that Frederick had read one he had written in honor of Baculard, intimating that he had two poems in his pocket at that moment.

"Quick! Let's see. Let me read these two masterpieces!" Voltaire cried, sitting up in bed.

"How insipid! How flat! How mean!" he exclaimed after reading Baculard's poem. Then, taking up the king's poem he read for a moment in silence with a look of pity. But his expression changed when he came to those lines, "Voltaire begins to set; but you are in your dawn."

Rage flushed Voltaire's face. He

"Indeed, dear Voltaire, I cannot conceive what you are about, since you sometimes take the verses of others and pass them off for your own."

Voltaire protested that the verses were his own and that he had not that moment finished them.

"Well," Frederick exclaimed, "however that may be I have just seen an Englishman who has repeated them to me as his own writing."

Voltaire was enraged, but hid his anger. The king then ordered the Englishman brought into the room, and asked him to repeat the verses. The Englishman did—word for word. Voltaire flew into a passion, declaring that the Englishman must deal with the devil.

For some time Frederick amused himself with the poet's anger, but at last—to save Voltaire's reason—Frederick told him the truth. Then they all laughed together over this extraordinary joke in which the memory of one man and the wit of another were combined against the genius of perhaps the greatest thinker and writer of his time.

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ARE MAKING READY?

For Appeal for the British Empire War Relief Fund.



HERBERT HOOVER

Herbert Hoover spoke at the Canadian Red Cross dinner at Toronto, Oct. 16th, on behalf of the British Empire War Relief Fund to combat disease and distress in the war-stricken areas of Europe. Mr. Hoover was American food administrator during the war, and was director-general of relief in Europe for the Allies and Associated governments after the armistice. It was Mr. Hoover's discerning genius which organized the saving meal a day of fat, sugar and milk for Belgian children during the occupation. After the armistice Mr. Hoover organized the European Children's relief administration, whereby, at its maximum, about 3,500,000 children in some twelve of the liberated countries received one supplementary meal a day to bring them through into normal growth and health.

Mr. Hoover commended very earnestly the Canadian Red Cross Appeal for funds to fight disease and to save the children in the war-stricken poorer countries of Europe. He said that the American Children's relief administration in Europe would cooperate in every possible way to aid in the distribution of supplies for the children through approved national and local agencies in the name of the Canadian Red Cross.

To Increase Grant.

Toronto, Oct. 20.—An increase of twenty per cent will be made in the annuities of the superannuated ministers of the Methodist church, so the superannuation board decided. The increase is from \$15 for each year of service to \$18. A superannuated minister having served forty years will now receive an annual allowance of \$720. A Methodist minister's widow will receive two-thirds of that amount.

Twenty-two residents of Galway villages were taken from their homes and severely flogged by "Black and Tans."

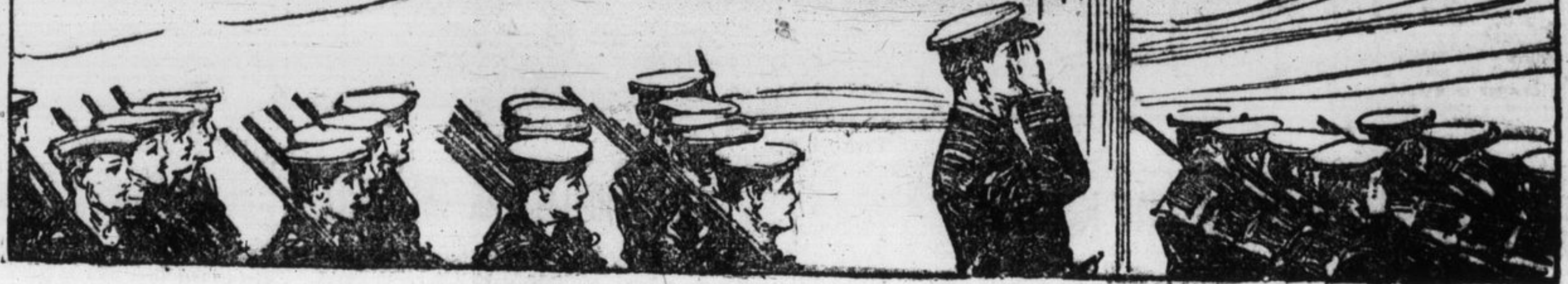
The Bolshevik army is dissolving. Two regiments surrender to Gen. Wrangel in view of hopeless conditions.

William Begley has sold his residence on Concession street, Westport, to W. H. Murch.

Canada's Sons of the Sea

The Navy League has 2000 Canadian lads in continuous training for the Sea. These boys are trained in the Nelson Attributes of—

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It takes six times as long to train a seaman as it does to build a ship.

Maritime strength cannot be achieved in a year or even a decade. Its growth can only be commensurate with the development of sea-conscious spirit in the nation.

The continuous training of over two thousand Canadian lads, in the Boys' Naval Brigades of the Navy League of Canada, is to-day having an effect upon our maritime future.

Only through this medium can the foundation be laid of trained Canadian seamen for our ships.

Since May last, sixty of these lads have completed their training and passed into the Canadian Merchant Navy. Fifty more are on the new ships of the re-organised Royal Canadian Navy.

Under the guidance of Experienced Sea Minds, it is being planned to give chosen lads from the Boys' Naval Brigades an ocean-going education second to none, so that Canada will have efficient master seamen.

The Merchant Navy of any nation is its first step to sea power.

Public opinion demands that this work be maintained. From the public, then, must come the funds.

The Navy League of Canada

SAILORS' WEEK CAMPAIGN

October 18—23. Dominion Objective \$760,000.

Canada Expects Every Man To Do His Duty

Local campaign officers: Brig-General A. E. Ross, chairman; Sherman Hill, secretary; Manager Newman, Royal Bank, treasurer.



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Harry Fyde, Wellington, has entered into partnership with Charles Pierson, Picton, in the implement

P. J. Hopkins, postmaster at Boscawen, has sold his store and post office to W. Rivers. He will move to Tamworth.

Mrs. William Pail died recently at Saskatoon. She was a sister of Messrs. Nelson and Louise Lemieux, Embroke.