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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1916.

CIVIC ELECTION

The civic election is over and the personnel of the City Council for the next two years has been decided. To those who succeeded in securing seats at the Council Board we hasten to offer our congratulations;

It is complimentary to the late Council that it returns to the civic administration almost in its entirety and we have no doubt that under the new Mayor as under his predecessor, it will continue to administer the affairs of the city economically, prudently and progressively.

EXTENSION OF PARLIAMENT

By the unanimous vote of the House of Commons the life of the present Parliament has been extended for one year. The Senate will almost certainly follow suit and the B. N. A. Act will be altered accordingly.

It was not till May or June last that leading, responsible Liberals realized whether they were drifting and endeavoured to "call off the dogs." The Government, through the Hon. Robert Rogers, then formally intimated that unless the Leader of the Opposition chose to make good his promise to maintain the truce in reality, the Government would not hesitate to go to the country for an endorsement of their policy.

HOME DEFENCE

In a letter to The Patriot, the Hon. A. B. Warburton raises a very interesting point in the matter of home defence. Referring to the presence of 12,000,000 Germans and German-Americans in the United States, he says: "Is it not possible armed attacks on Canada may be contemplated? Of course the United States would not allow a German-Austrian force to be mobilized on the Republic's territory, but how could Washington

prevent individuals, not apparently military men, from slipping across the border into Canada, and gradually coming together at a pre-arranged rendezvous? Suppose only a few thousands, say 20,000 or so, got across and started trouble, what means of taking care of them has this Dominion? And if that number were organized, how long would it take them to increase their strength to 100,000 or more? They would have no difficulty in procuring rifles, ammunition, and possibly machine guns, if not even field guns. If such a step is being planned, they probably have them now."

Mr. Warburton assumes that 20,000 men could slip across the border individually without interference on the part of either the Canadian or United States authorities. This might be possible but hardly practicable. Both Canada and the United States have their secret service at work, and the transference of even 20,000 men across the borders in ones and twos could not escape attention. Anyway to be of any use this side of the border they would require to have a rendezvous, and to have a rendezvous implies they must be within easy reach of one another. Twenty thousand men living within a day's journey of any given point would be noticeable even without the assistance of the secret service.

Mr. Warburton then assumes that if 20,000 Germans could be smuggled across the border and mobilized, so could 100,000, but of course the same negative argument applies to this with five times the force.

Mr. Warburton having raised the possibility of invasion then questions the practicability of our defence and inquires:

"Has she (Canada) forces, armed and equipped, to meet an attack, a raid if you like, along the lines I have indicated? Has she troops sufficiently well trained and equipped to meet and drive back an inroad of German reservists? Has Canada, at this moment, the guns, machine guns, rifles, with munitions to equip a defensive force as well as her splendid overseas battalions now gone or soon to go to Europe? Halifax, Sydney and some few other places have more or less effective defences, but there are many towns and cities that have not. Most civilized nations refrain from attack on defenceless places. The Germans are different. They seem to prefer attacking the defenceless."

This speculation is extremely interesting, extremely philosophic and extremely useless, except to worry unnecessarily poor, unfortunate people who allow others to do their thinking for them.

In the first place who does Mr. Warburton expect to answer his questions in The Patriot? The Minister of Militia and Defence? Perhaps he does, perhaps he does not. Anyway Mr. Warburton is a sufficiently astute politician to know that even were his questions addressed to the Minister of Militia and Defence from a seat in the House, he would be met with the reply that it was not in the public interest to disclose what the measures for defence are, what ammunition we have in our arsenals, and what guns we possess to equip our home defence. Mr. Warburton may rest assured that the Government that has done such marvellous work for the defence of Canada in Europe has not failed to make satisfactory provision for its defence at home. He may also assume that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is perfectly satisfied in this respect, or he would not have accorded the Government a unanimous vote of confidence for another year of the war. In passing it may be remarked that any German mobilization and attack of the nature suggested by Mr. Warburton would at once involve the United States in a defence of the Monroe Doctrine. In such an eventuality could our neighbour to the South claim to be "too proud to fight?" If she did put forth such a plea, which is unthinkable, the Monroe Doctrine would go by the board, and possibly the greater part of South America would, sooner or later, become British possessions, leaving the United States in "deplorable Isolation."

NO COMPROMISE

The Wall Street Journal says: Every few weeks a shiver goes through finance and business in this country when somebody yells "Peace," or notes the illness of a European ruler as likely to bring sudden termination to the European conflict.

Once and for all, American industry should understand that the battle now raging is a conflict of systems of government, and not of crowned heads. It is fundamentally a battle of peoples. A hundred British Cabinets may fall, but the war for the defence of the British Empire goes on. A hundred Kaisers, Kings, or Emperors may be laid in the dust, but their passing will mean nothing for the interests of peace.

Germany may secretly promote a Ford or any other peace propaganda, but there will be no result. Two irreconcilable systems of government have met in conflict, and the fight must be to a finish. Either Prussian system and German efficiency will rule the world; or democracy promoting peace and individual development will be the ruler.

Two systems of irreconcilable social order met in conflict fifty-five years ago, and within this nation was settled a world issue. One side had to go down to defeat. Now another world issue is to the front in the drama on this planet. One side or the other must go down to defeat. There is no possible compromise. It is on both sides the peoples' war.

NOTES

Kaiser Wilhelm in an autograph letter reminds Mehmed V. of Turkey of the close friendly relations which personally connect the two monarchs and their countries. This is enough to make Bismarck turn easily in his grave, for it was the Iron Chancellor who denounced Mehmed's predecessor, his government and country, in scathing terms. Of course, Bismarck did not get along very well with the present Kaiser.

THE GAY GORDONS HAVING A REST AFTER TRENCHES

THE PICTURE OF CAMP OF FAMOUS SCOTTISH REGIMENT.

Writing from "Somewhere in France," Philip Gibbs says: "All the village was full of Gordons, not downcast in their looks, although they were going back to that line where still beyond the Boches and the barbed wire, in barren fields where only vermin creeps, the fields were of young men who were their comrades, and to that line which is the target of high explosives and snipers' bullets, and lead from machine guns over the way. These killed boys were whistling in the backyards of untidy little farmsteads and bunting into doorways of whitewashed cottages, and going down the street, with swinging kilts and mud-splashed knees and the swagger of splendid boyhood. I was sorry they had to go back to dirty ditches over there."

And as only a looker on of war, I felt sorry again when I sat in the battalion headquarters with the young Gordons who were round the same deal table in the cottage parlor. Here were six of the handiest young men whom even Scotland could send out of the flower of youth—splendid in their animal strength, with strong, clean made limbs, and very fine and simple in their manners, like all Scottish gentlemen."

A YOUNG APOLLO.

At a table in Boulogne, a few days before a French girl leaned over to her father and whispered to him: "Look at that young officer, he is no superb? Like the young god, Apollo!" This young Apollo sat as a machine gun officer, eating shot-bread with us, a typical young Scot, with his straight nose and grey eyes, and short, straw-colored hair. One of the officers near him was a lusty fellow, dark haired and dark eyed, and with a curious Georgian look about him, like a Beau Brummel in kilts, but with a jolly, froulish smile that was always flickering about his lips, and an ironical way of speech. They spoke of the Gordons—most of the time they spoke of their men with a kind of laughing wonder at their unconquerable spirit. There was one fellow who in the big push of September advanced to the German line playing a mouth-organ at a walk. At a walk (ye gods!) when shells were bursting overhead in a frightful tempest.

One company went forward to the song of the "Robert E. Lee," with slightly altered words to suit the Gordons. Afterwards in the trenches they had had a hard time, when water was often mixed with blood, but even then they did not lose their sense of humor. Said one bonny scrapper, "I was in a communication trench with a leer in his eye. 'If they'd widen the ditch a wee bit, they could bring down the Grand Fleet for manoeuvres.' In the September fighting the thoughts of all the men go back to those days the pipe-major of a Gordon battalion played the men forward, and then struck below the knee. But he would not be touched by a doctor until the others had been tended. He was a giant of a man, and so heavy that no stretcher could hold him. So they put him on a tarpaulin and carried him back. Then he had his leg amputated and died. 'A grand old man!' said one of the young officers."

My Highland friend was decorated for gallantry, and the others round the table had been through the great ordeal of that day with the same valor. But they poke audacious jests about their desire to escape from the firing line to the safer dignity of the General Staff, and the best way to get invalidated home, and the common sense of keeping a whole skin. "When in doubt," said the Beau Brummel in kilts, "always retire." For one of our first class fighting men this was a good joke, received with a roar of laughter.

PROUD OF THEIR COUNTRY.

They told several stories about the "padre" of the battalion—a parson who lives with them in the trenches and keeps them all merry and bright, and is very useful in handling up the bombs when there is an attack on the line. (His Christian creed includes the killing of Germans, and he is not worried by the paradox.) After the great attack on the Hohenzollern redoubt, when our casualties were heavy, he went out beyond the trenches, and the padraun searched for the body of a colonel of the Staffords who lay there in a crowd of dead.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson. BE FEARLESS. Grasp the nettle with both hands. Add it shall sting. Take this bit of wisdom friend, into everything. If the lesson is long and hard. At it with your might; Do not let it conquer you. While you've strength to fight. Foolish people stand and fret, Wonder what to do. Bear their troubles twenty times—Such a silly crew! Get the trial over, friends, Never frown and pout; With a brave and steady look Put the foe to rout. "Carry not tomorrow's load Troubled heart, today; Trip with happy feet along Life's uneven way. Grasp the nettle with both hands. And it shall not sting. Take this bit of wisdom friend, into everything."

The German machine guns were busy, and there was no great distance from the German line to that clergyman who tramped through the darkness to the abandoned dead. But he collected a large number of identification disks, and found the body of the colonel, and brought it back.

As soon as the story had been told the chaplain himself came in and sat down to table with us. He was a bright eyed, alert man of middle age, and seemed to me more of the soldier type than the priest. "Are the men sorry to be going back to the line?" I asked. "Not glad," he said, "but they make the best of it. Other officers came from time to time. One of them, who looked very ill and pale, said good-bye, because he was going to be left behind in hospital. That seemed to hurt him. The others were very cheery, but beneath all their jokes there was the underlying gravity of men who are on the eve of another ordeal in which life is a question of chance. I wished good luck to all the Gordons and went away."

ASK YOURSELF.

The call my country gives, shall I not heed. Shall I not help her in her greatest need? Neath her protection have I lived thus far, Shall I not fight for her, now she's at war. Where millions strive for justice against might, Shall not my hand be one of those to smite? Where thousands died, their country's life to save, Shall not I also offer all I have? Shall I not go, and prove myself as brave. As those who now sleep in a soldier's grave. Or in the trenches fight for England still? Ask yourself this; then answer, "yes I will!" JOSEPHINE MacLELLAN

AN AGED WOMAN.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hopkins, of Lindsay, claims to be 100 years old, celebrating her birthday on Saturday. Mrs. Hopkins was born at Arundel, Sussex, England. She came to Canada and Lindsay in 1858 with her husband, the late James Holmes Hopkins, who died in 1872, and consequently has been a resident of Lindsay for 58 years and a widow for 44 years. For the past few years she has resided with her son, Mr. James Hopkins. Prior to that for many years she had her summer residence at Sturgeon Point, and being one of the first residents, she was known as "The Mother of the Point."

APPEAL OF HORN HEARD BY JUDGES

(Boston Advertiser) The appeal of Werner Horn, the German army officer who was arrested in connection with the dynamiting of the international bridge at Vanceboro, Me., Feb. 2, 1915, was argued before Judges Bingham, Aldrich and Brown in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday. At the close the court took the case under advisement.

No mention was made by either side of the \$700 alleged to have been paid to Horn by von Pappen, the German attaché of the German Embassy who was forced to leave the United States and whose papers, referring to a reported payment of this nature, were seized by the British authorities while von Pappen was on his way to Germany.

Horn's appeal is from a decree of Judge Morton of the United States District Court denying Horn's petition for a writ of habeas corpus, by which he sought to escape trial in Massachusetts on a charge of unlawfully carrying explosives on a passenger train from New York to Vanceboro, for which he has been indicted.

Horn bases his right to a writ of habeas corpus, first, on the contention that his constitutional rights under the treaties with Prussia have been violated, and second, on the contention that the offense with which he has been charged is a matter for the State department to deal with and not a matter for the criminal courts of Massachusetts.

At the time of his arrest, Horn, according to his attorney, Joseph F. O'Connell, declared that he was an officer in the German army, admitted having participated in the dynamiting of the bridge, and claimed that it was an act of war directed against Great Britain, with which his country was at war. Horn's declaration of his identity and purpose in dynamiting the bridge clearly brought the case under the law of nations, Attorney O'Connell contended.

U. S. Dist. Atty. George W. Anderson argued in behalf of the United States. He contended that, so far as the habeas corpus proceedings are concerned, courts may exercise discretion and hear or refuse to consider a writ of habeas corpus in advance of trial. Consequently, he maintained, the proceedings resulting in his removal from Maine to Massachusetts were legal, and not in violation of any constitutional right enjoyed by Horn. Regarding the dynamiting of the bridge, Mr. Anderson contended that it was purely a personal matter, and not an act for which the German Empire was responsible. To permit patriots like Horn to invoke the law of nations would be an inducement, he declared, to every reservist in this

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PATON'S

country to go about blowing up munition factories, bridges, and even the Fore River shipyards, where vessels for belligerent countries are now under construction. In rebuttal, Attorney O'Connell contended that Horn should be interned like the crew of the German cruiser Prince Eitel Frederick, who had not merely endangered the lives of American citizens, but had actually destroyed an American vessel.

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