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FOOD FOR REFLECTION

A good deal has been said and written about the setback the fox industry has received as a result of the war. Some wisacres who, for lack of means or enterprise, failed to enter the industry as shareholders are now busy shaking their heads and remarking with an air of wisdom, "I told you so," while others who have other interests at stake and were envious of the growth and development of the fox industry as one of the most remarkable and best paying propositions in the market, are welcoming this lull in business as a suitable opportunity for further knocking it. Now what are the facts concerning the present position of the fox industry?

With very few exceptions, nearly every company promoted before 1914—and only those were in a position to have increase—has been able to declare at least a stock dividend, while many have paid or will pay a cash dividend varying from eight to 500 per cent. Is there another industry in the world can make such a showing at the present time? We think not.

De Beers Diamond Corporation, which has the monopoly of the output of the world's diamond supply, and has hitherto paid a restricted dividend of 20 per cent, has this year passed its dividend altogether.

The Ostrich industry of South America, one of the most remunerative investments of a productive character, has almost totally collapsed and ostrich feathers are being given away by the producers to raise funds for patriotic objects.

The Balata industry, which is a monopoly of the Brazils, Guianas and certain Eastern tropical countries, which relied upon in times of peace as an industry bringing a safe return of from six to 25 per cent. on investments, has this year not only failed to pay a dividend but has had to appeal to the respective governments for assistance to tide over its difficulties. In the case of British Guiana, one of the principal sources of supply, the balata companies have obtained government security for a loan from the Royal Bank of Canada to the extent of 25 per cent. of the value of balata held in stock.

Other enterprises of a similar character have been knocked on the head altogether.

Compare this with the present state of the fox industry, which is not only sound financially, but steadily adding to the value of its assets independent of outside assistance.

Certain critics have described the fox industry as unsatisfactory, presumably, because the sanguine anticipations of huge cash dividends were not realized in every instance. Why should these critics differentiate between fox investments and, say, a mail order corporation like that of Sears, Roebuck Co., the mail order corporation of Chicago. Yesterday's papers show that this company has a cumulated surplus of approximately \$23,500,000, but is unable to pay a cash dividend at all. The directors recommend the payment of \$20,000,000 stock dividend to the holders of the \$40,000,000 common stock and this, the financial press consider a very satisfactory proposition. And so it is, and so also are similar propositions on the part of fox companies of Prince Edward Island.

The stock exchanges are now open and doing business, and we have taken the trouble to compare the New York Stock Exchange list of July 16, before the war, with that of February 1st. We find that of 59 companies listed on the former date 19 have disappeared entirely from the list, while 16 others have dropped, on an average, six points, varying from 1/2 to 36 1/2 points. These, it must be remembered, are all recognized as gilt-edge securities. Only four stocks of the total of 59 listed on 16th July, show an increase averaging 20 points and these consist almost exclusively of businesses which have benefitted from the supply of war materials, such as the U. S. Steel Corporation, the stock of which alone advanced 44 1/2 points. Notwithstanding this jump the U. S. Steel Corporation has found it necessary to pass its dividend for the current year.

In view of these facts we do not see any reason whatever for pessimism concerning the present condition and prospects of the fox industry. Rather the reverse. An industry which can stand the shock of a universal commercial crisis consequent on a world-wide war and pay stock or cash dividends, or both, holds a unique position in the industrial and commercial world and deserves all the support and encouragement which investors and the community generally choose to give it.

HELPING THE ALLIES

In October last there was organized in New York The British American War Relief Fund under the patronage of the Presidents, respectively, of St. George's, St. David's, St. Andrew's and the Canadian Societies of that City. A committee was appointed consisting of some of the leading journalists, financiers and philanthropists in the United States, the President being Lady Herbert, the Secretary Mrs. Ralph Sanger, and the Treasurer Mr. Henry J. Whitehouse. The object of the organization, as its name implies, is "to provide warm clothing and comforts for British Soldiers and sailors on active service and in the hospitals." Although in existence only a comparatively short time the organization has already done much to bring comfort and hope and cheer to the men who are fighting the battles—not of Great Britain, France, Belgium and Russia alone but of the world. Contributions have been received from every state in the Union, from Canada and the West Indies and so promptly had they been received and forwarded that Lord Kitchener acknowledged the gift in a cablegram as follows: "First consignment of gifts from women in America for British on active service received with much appreciation and gratitude. Letter follows." signed "Kitchener."

In a recent letter Mr. Richard Harding Davis appeals to the people of Canada for contributions. From his letter we quote as follows:—

"In behalf of the soldiers and sailors at the front and in the hospitals the British American War Relief Fund issues this appeal to those who in this struggle sympathize with Great Britain. It asks for warm clothing, comforts and necessities. The articles required are uniforms, wristlets, socks, (size 10 or 11) woolen gloves, (size 9 and 10) abdominal belts, woolen helmets, colored handkerchiefs, woolen undershirts, cardigan jackets, sweaters and tobacco, and for the hospitals, old linen, bandages, antiseptic gauze and anesthetics. Any cash donation will be used in the purchase of those articles."

The appeal is a noble and a worthy one and the manner in which it was made and responded to is most creditable to our cousins south of the border, showing as it does, their sympathy with the Allies as well as the broader sympathy which expresses itself in tangible charity towards the needy.

In this province and throughout Canada contributions have been generously poured into all the funds instituted in connection with the war. These contributions were but a beginning, however, and the funds are by no means yet closed, although less actively canvassed than during the earlier stages of the war. Although naturally, the greater proportion of Canadian contributions to the various funds will flow through the regularly organized provincial channels, the appeal sent out by our New York friends is timely and will, we trust, serve to remind us that need for help on the battlefields, the battlefields and the hospitals is by no means over yet, and that we should not slacken our efforts until the need is over. Our early enthusiasm was fervent, our sympathies readily resolved themselves into active and valuable help and one vied with another in an endeavor to do something for those who were risking their lives in the service of their country. But we have become accustomed to the daily reports of slaughter, of hardships, of cruel suffering; we are not moved as at first; the suffering of our boys in the trenches, the cold nights spent in the stormy wintry weather; the wounded lying in water filled trenches; the weary vigil on shipboard in the North Sea in snow storms and in frost—these do not appeal to us as they did when the war was young, when human slaughter was new to us.

The war is ours. We have not yet done our duty; we shall not have done it until the war is over and peace is restored. In the meantime every possible help should be sent forward either through the provincial organizations or through the New York fund above referred to.

THE FRENCH NAVY

Although naturally the British fleet has been the supreme factor in the naval operations of the Allies, the French navy has also had an important part to play. Little, however, is heard of its operations. An occasional engagement, generally of a minor nature, in the Adriatic, is reported, and we hear that a number of French warships are helping the British maintain the blockade in the North Sea and in the forcing of the Dardanelles, but of the activities of the republic's magnificent navy, we know little.

And yet, the French squadrons are carrying out operations highly important to the allies. They have the duty of keeping the Austrian navy bottled up in the ports of the Adriatic, a duty that requires constant attention, as Austria, unlike Germany, did not concentrate all its ships at one point. When the war broke out, the Austrian navy at once took shelter in three widely-separated points—Pola, Sebenico and Cattaro, no doubt with the object of dividing the enemy's fleet as much as possible. And the problem of digging out the Austrian ships is likely to prove just as difficult and perilous as getting at the skulkers at Kiel. The entrance to the harbors have been mined, and the fortresses in all cases have batteries of the most modern sea-coast ordnance. In fact, in regard to Cattaro, the French Admiral has given up the attempt to subdue the fortress by bombardment from the sea and has placed a powerful battery from his ship on a mountain peak in Montenegro territory, from which port he is shelling the defences of the port and the ships behind them. The guns are, of course, protected by the Montenegrin army, which is able to cope with the sorties of the Austrian garrison.

Very soon now we may hear that the Austrian Admiral has scuttled the ships or sailed out to fight the French. According to British war experts, Pola will be a hard nut to crack, but they believe that Sebenico, at which there is a substantial part of the Austrian fleet, will not be able to resist much longer. With these two ports taken, a large section of the French fleet can be sent to help tighten still further the North Sea blockade, or smash a way through the Dardanelles. The French naval operations may lack the sensational and spectacular features that mark the British naval operations, but they are highly essential to the success of the Allies.

NOTES

The Japan Peace Society, whose president is the premier, Count Okuma, has organized a committee of fifteen prominent men to investigate the cause of friction in the relations between the United States and Japan and take the necessary steps to remove them. The movement should be crowned with success, as the authorities at Washington are desirous of maintaining friendship with the Japanese nation.

One of the unsolved mysteries of the war is the whereabouts of the Bremen. In the first week of August a message from Buenos Aires stated that she was off the Brazilian coast, shadowed by the Glasgow. On August 30 she was reported to have overhauled the Dutch steamer Gelria, then a day out from Montevideo. A month later she was the Bremen which attempted with the Dresden to capture the Ortega, when Lieutenant Douglas Reid Kinnier, R. N. R., performed the fine feat of steamship for which he was decorated in the New Year Honors List. The last report of the ship came from Valparaiso, and was to the effect that the Chilean scout Almirante Lynch escorted the Bremen outside territorial waters in order to prevent her committing a breach of neutrality.

From Calgary in Alberta the Canadian Pacific Railway climbs to the Great Divide. This is the watershed of the Rocky Mountains. Eastward the streams flow down to the prairie; westward they flow through British Columbia to the Pacific. 1914 will stand out as the Great Divide of history. It is a year of endings and beginnings. We leave an age behind us; we enter upon an age in which things will have passed away and all things will have become new. States, churches, industry, national and international relationships and ethics, literature and art, will forever be different because of 1914. We have faith to believe that when the shadows of the war tragedy have lifted, the world will breathe a freer air and live under a clearer sky in more genial sunshine.

Where Bismark isolated France and then easily crushed her, says the New York Times, the German statesmanship of this later time drives practically all Europe into Alliance with France, and then blindly, bravely, but hopelessly battles against the combined host. A more vivid demonstration of the stupid incapacity of the men whom the Kaiser has called around him could not be had or asked for than by a comparison of the Berlin diplomacy of July, 1914, with this exposition of the profound statescraft of the man who was his grandfather's adviser. The old Chancellor was no more worthy of honor and respect than these latter men. He was a militarist, he was blood and iron, he was brutal, he was Prussian, all Prussian. He was altogether without scruple in the working out of his great purposes, German unity and Prussian domination. But he had astuteness, he had brains. How he overtopped the Prussian pigmies of today!

THE CIGARETTE EVIL

Sir:—A noted physician of the neighboring republic published the following prediction, that, unless the cigarette habit in the United States would be a nation of imbeciles. In other words, the destructive power of tobacco in this form, would accomplish in ten years that which the pure weed, used in other forms, has failed to do in the centuries since its discovery. We have a law, with heavy penalties, prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors under sixteen years of age. Yet it is a common sight to see young boys on our public streets with cigarettes in their mouths. The habit is growing to an alarming extent amongst our adult boys and our young men. We have, or we think we have, the best boys on the continent. They make for themselves names at home and abroad. We are proud of them, and we have a right to be, but what will the sequel be after the cigarette habiters their nervous systems, and transforms them into mental wrecks. I know of several young men in our city, lads of splendid reputation and prospect, whose deflection of both mind and constitution, through cigarette smoking, can be read in their faces. While I personally have no use for tobacco in any form, it is the cigarette I am after. If it is to be used, let it be in the old fashioned pipe, or in any other form. It is the cigarette which especially preys upon the nerve and mental structure of our boys. And these boys are the greatest and most valued asset of our country. Let us consider the opinions of some of the great men of the world, whose utterances command respect. Henry Ford, of automobile fame, the head of the largest manufacturing institution of the world has published a pamphlet of forty pages and is leading in the war against this vice. The Great Inventor, Edison, addressed to him the following letter:— "Friend Ford:—The injurious agent in cigarettes—come principally from the burning paper wrapper. The substance thereby formed is called 'acrolein.' It has a violent action on the nerve centres, producing degeneration of the cells of the brain, which is quite rapid among tobacco smokers. Narcotics this degeneration is permanent and uncontrollable. I employ no person who smokes cigarettes." Thos. A. Edison.

E. G. Liepold, Secretary to Henry Ford, in a reply to the American Tobacco Co., says:— "I also call your attention to the statement of one of the maristates in your city (New York) who states that 99 per cent of the boys between the ages of 10 and 17 who come before him charged with crime have their fingers disfigured with cigarette stains."

"I could appear that the statements contained in your letter are not of such a nature as to be for the benefit and uplift of our wayward lads; and in justice to the American youth who knows not what permanent injury accompanies this habit, this growing evil should be combated."—E. G. Liepold. Hudson Maxim the great inventor of high explosives, who gave us in evidence on the battlefields of Europe, writes:— "The wreath of cigarette smoke which curls about the head of the growing lad holds his brain in an iron grip which prevents it from growing as it should. It is not of such a nature as to be for the benefit and uplift of our wayward lads; and in justice to the American youth who knows not what permanent injury accompanies this habit, this growing evil should be combated."—E. G. Liepold.

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"If the terrible struggle for survival against the deadly cigarette smoke, development and growth are sacrificed by nature, which in the fight for very life itself must yield up every vital luxury such as healthy body, growth and a bright brain and mind." "If all boys could be made to know that, with every breath of cigarette smoke they inhale imbecility and exalate manhood; that they are tapping their arteries as surely as they are letting their life blood out as truly as though their veins and arteries were severed, and that the cigarette is a maker of invalids, criminals, and fools—not men—it ought to deter them some. The yellow finger is an emblem of deeper degradation and enslavement than the ball and chain."

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the Federal Bureau of Chemistry, unquestionably the leading health and food authority in the United States says:— "I commend Mr. Ford, Mr. Edison, and all people who join in efforts to curtail or restrict, obliterate, or destroy the pernicious habit of cigarette smoking. The use of cigarettes is making inroads on the strength of the nerves of all who smoke them, especially boys of ten years, or women who smoke them because they think the practice is smart."

Connie Mack, leader of the Philadelphia Athletics, and known as one of the greatest baseball generals ever known, writes thus to the Scientific Temperance Journal:— "It is my candid opinion, and I have watched very closely the last twelve years or more, that boys at the age of ten to fifteen who have continued smoking cigarettes do not as a rule amount to anything. They are unfitted in every way for any kind of work where brains are needed. No boy or man can expect to succeed in this world to a high position and continue the use of cigarettes."

Hon. Benj. B. Lindsay, judge of the Juvenile Court of Denver, called the "golden rule judge" because of his deep interest in boys and girls, writes:— "One of the very worst habits of boys and girls is the cigarette habit. This has long been recognized by all the judges who deal with young criminals, and especially by judges of police courts, before whom pass thousands of men every year who are addicted to intemperate habits. These judges know that in nearly every case the drunken sons who appear before them, a disgrace to their parents, themselves, and the State, began as boys smoking cigarettes. One bad habit led to another. The nicotine and poison in the cigarettes created an appetite for alcoholic drink. The cigarette habit not only had a grip upon them in boyhood but it followed them all the other days of their lives. We live in an age in which brilliancy of intellect and vigorous constitution command mere admiration than the decorations of borrowed exterior. If our boys can be taught to realize the great value of mental and physical development, the genuine honor of manliness, and the impossibility of its attainment with cigarette shattered nerves, would the deadly fumes be so prevalent in our midst? As gladiators and athletes of ancient Rome willingly sacrificed their uncouth methods of living, in training themselves to win the plaudits of the people, so surely our noble island boys should cheerfully put this destructive habit under the ban, that the reputation of our province might be held in honour, and that the character, prowess, and intelligence of our lads, shall class them throughout the continent as Spartans and heroes."

I am Sir, &c. L. P. TANTON.

CONSUL AND FOXES

Sir:—For a longer time than I wish to admit to, I have been following the correspondence stirred up by the letters contributed to the press by Dr. Livingston T. Mays, a man accredited to this Province as American Consul. Since Dr. Livingston T. Mays habitation on this island it has been his duty to attend to matters connected with his office, and a particular duty which has been made upon him from the New England States with regard to investments in the Fox business in Prince Edward Island. Dr. Livingston T. Mays has felt it incumbent upon him to knock the report of appropriation to the department at Washington by his highly qualified predecessor.

There has been a lot of writing in the papers devoted to Dr. Livingston T. Mays; and this has been so much wasted energy. The assertions that Dr. Livingston T. Mays made are mostly inaccurate, and this being so, the Fox breeders Association should cite him before their board of qualified experts. Meantime, if their board is not completed, cite him before the Boards of Trade of this Province and question him as to whether he was sent here to build or destroy trade. The Provincial Government is one of the predominant partners in our Fox business, considering that the revenue from Fox Raunches last year was in the vicinity of \$40,000.00, and it is in a fair way, bar knackers, to still grow. Of course, if men like Dr. Livingston T. Mays are turned loose on the business one must expect a setback, because, plenty of people, not knowing him, will believe his representation of the Fox business to be a truly comprehensive one. Apparently it has been Dr. Livingston T. Mays wish to have his views on the Fox Business investigated, and it is the wish of all the readers of your paper that a Royal Commission be appointed and every charge made by Dr. Livingston T. Mays investigated. Also, although the said Dr. Livingston T. Mays is the accredited American Consul for Charlottetown it might not be out of place to find out what his previous experience in finance, knocking &c has been.

I am Sir &c. J. A. MacKINNON, Coleman, P. E. I. Feb. 4, 1915.

NINETY MILE RIDE TO AVOID REBELS

An officer in the South African police writes:—

Thank goodness we have captured some thousands of the rebels now, and I trust that the thing will soon settle down, so that we can have another go at the Germans in German Southwest Africa.

I had a rather nice experience. A large number of the blighters in my district turned out, and as the news only trickled through to me in a very underhand manner, I had to ride out thirty miles from here and get information on the spot so as to put in a proper report. I had quite an exciting time and got right in amongst them as they were preparing for the field, managed to get all the information I required, and then retired in good order.

I reported the matter by wire, and had orders to hang on till the last moment, and then clear with horses, saddles and all arms and ammunition.

RAN INTO THE REBELS.

The first appearance of the blighters was about 10 p. m., and as they came into the town I cleared out, but they had covered the northern, eastern and western roads, and my only chance was to break through the south road; this meant a devil of a ride for me, as the road led right away from the direction I had to go. The night was as dark as a bag and bitterly cold, so I had a picnic. As I doubled back on my tracks to pick up the proper road I ran into a party of the rebels at about 1 a. m., and I'm hanged if I knew who got the worst fright, they or me, but anyway I got through them and left them behind some distance.

I felt sure they would try to prevent me from getting through, so when I thought that I had got out of sight, I broke off from the road and hid my horse, and then took up a position behind a wall that allowed me to cover the whole road for about three miles. I would have given them a surprise if they had come along there in range. Anyhow I arrived at headquarters in good order the following night after a little jaunt of ninety miles, and considering that I had not put a leg across a horse for months, I was not as stiff as I expected to be.

CAPTURED TWO OF THEM.

Well, whilst I was away from town the blighters had a good time. They looted the stores and put the fear of

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God into the few people who remained loyal; they pinched all the horses they could lay hands on, and also all the fire arms; made the most careful search of the town for me, but as you are now aware I was missing. I wish we could have got sufficient Loyalists to defend the town. But it would never have done to have attempted it. Well, after being away for a few days, I got orders to return by myself and take particular notice of what was going on. Naturally I did not bring any government firearms here, so they cannot capture them when they come back; but I bought a splendid automatic pistol, and you can bet that it does not go far away from my hand night or day. I managed to capture two of the blighters when I got back and they are now both cooling their heels in jail.

The GEM Safety Razor is steadily gaining in popularity with those who appreciate a quick, smooth, satisfactory shave. Get a GEM Safety Razor. Price \$1.00 MacKinnon Drug Co., Cor. Great George and Kent Streets.—Mt.

SEWING ON BUTTONS.

Following is the correct method to sew buttons on boys' clothing. When learning to sew on a button, place the knot in the thread so that it will be hidden under the button.

Put the thread through one of the holes from the wrong side. Put a pin across the button and sew over it.

Sew the button so that the threads run one hole to the other will be parallel with the corresponding buttonhole.

When you have gone into these holes six or eight times, take the pin out. This will loosen the threads. Bring the needle onto the right side under the button this time.

Wind the thread around the stitches several times under the button. This keeps the thread from being worn out so quickly by the buttonhole.

Bring the thread through onto the wrong side and fasten in the usual way.

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