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THE END IN SIGHT

Probably the most significant statement made in connection with the war, and backed by reasonably reliable authority, was that made by the French Minister of Finance a few nights ago during the course of a speech in the Chamber of Deputies. He said: "We have reached the decisive hour. We can say without exaggeration or vain optimism that we now see the end of this terrible war." This statement was made with reference to the Battle of Verdun, a battle which, when its story is written, will rank as the bloodiest in the history of the human race up till now, and which will probably be a record in all future history.

We, reading day after day the fragmentary reports that come to us of a battle that has been raging incessantly and with scarcely a lull for four weeks, a battle fought under the eyes of the Kaiser, under the personal command of the Crown Prince and undoubtedly with what is left of the flower of the German army, cannot form any adequate idea of the holocaust that is being enacted among the hills that overlook this the Gibraltar of France. Yet reading even these fragmentary reports, we see in the German attempt only a despairing, last, suicidal effort to accomplish the impossible. The staff correspondent of the London Times who returned a few days ago from the Verdun front brings back harrowing details of the awful effect of the French fire on the German masses that are being hurled against the impossible positions. "The German dead, he said, "were being piled up in many cases to a height of twenty-five feet as their serried masses advanced to the heights dominated by French guns." This is probably an exaggeration; it is also probably an exaggeration that places the German losses at 250,000, but the long continued struggle and the successive failures to reach their objective indicate very clearly that the Allies, through the din, and the smoke and the slaughter, are looking out upon a crumbling Germany. That she is still able to work much mischief and add still more to the toll that is being enacted of those who are fighting against her tyranny cannot be overlooked.

The end, as the French Finance Minister stated, may be in sight; the German, Austrian and Turk combination may be crumbling, but the end is not yet, and the Allies fully realize that the death blow is yet to be struck. That is why Britain is calling for more men, why the manufacture of munitions is being speeded up, and why all the resources of the British Empire and its Allies are being mustered. The German machine will die hard, but it will die. It is now surrounded with a ring of steel, east, west, north and south, a ring that cannot be broken and that is slowly strangling it to death.

And the German fleet may yet have to be reckoned with. The military authorities in England regard it as almost assured that the ships, greatly strengthened and increased in numbers will make a dash from their hiding-place behind the Kiel Canal. That they will put up a stiff and a costly fight is pretty sure. They will fight to the death, and it is quite conceivable that some of them may escape to the Atlantic and these will have to be hunted down, so that we have by no means reached the point where we may safely relax our efforts. It is still up to every able-bodied man in the Empire to do his bit, by personal service at the front if possible, and it is equally up to all others to do their part in whatever way they can be of service.

RECRUITING

Little fault, if any, can be found with the manner in which this province responded to the call for recruits. The 105th Regiment is now almost at full strength and they are still coming in, and all that come will be needed, if not for the 105th, then for other units, or for reinforcements. While many sections have done nobly, have indeed made great sacrifices in sending their young and able-bodied men, other sections are still among the slackers. This is regrettable and no one will regret it more than the slackers themselves, when "all is over but the cheering."

The community that is not represented in our share of this great conflict will miss much when the history of the war is written. The fact that other portions of Canada have their slackers is not going to mend matters for us. An exchange commenting on recruiting in the middle provinces says that in the matter of recruiting Canada is going through the same experiences as did the United Kingdom. There were ordinary appeals in the first months, which were well responded to. Then came a slowing up and more energetic efforts were required. Recruiting officers worked harder, and volunteer civilians, not going to fight themselves, assisted, generally wisely but sometimes unwisely. Hundreds of thousands of men were enrolled, but as millions were required, voluntarism had to be abandoned, having reached the limit of its effectiveness. Conscription was adopted with comparatively little opposition. There were many exemptions, but these are now being reduced in number, of necessity.

The response to the call for volunteers in Canada

was quite gratifying, from a military point of view, at first. Conditions were such in some parts of the country that thousands of young men were immediately available and more than ready to enter the ranks of the ever-growing army. These young fellows literally swarmed to the colours, thus showing their patriotism. When recruiting slackened more insistent calls were made, and not unavailingly. It is a fact now that in certain localities there is a dearth of men of military calibre. In others there is plenty of material left, and from them must come most of the recruits needed if the Government's army of 500,000 is to become a reality. The number already enrolled is nearing the 300,000 mark, slowly but surely.

In some cities the work of recruiting has been carried on most strenuously. In Toronto and Winnipeg, among others, there have been taken local censuses. The men have been pleaded with and criticised, and with considerable effect, if there has been slight friction on occasion.

MR. MEIGHEN AND MR. CARVELL

Discussing the charges levelled against the Shell Committee by Mr Pugsley and Mr Carvell, the Montreal Gazette says: The purpose of the debate in which he (Mr Pugsley) has figured so largely is less to secure an investigation than to create the impression in the country that an investigation is necessary, and that if it is denied it will be because ministers fear the result. The work to this end is being skilfully done. It might be a disappointment to the authors if they were given the committee they demand and required to make good the charges they have formulated. In cases where some of them dropped general allegations and advanced specific charges to support their positions, they were not fortunate. Mr Carvell mentioned a number of companies with headquarters in Manitoba which he said had failed to meet their contractual obligations to the Shell Committee. Mr Meighen showed in case after case that the Shell Committee had gone out of existence before they received their first orders; that the orders were placed by the Imperial Munitions Board, and that deliveries were made. The bringing out of the facts in such cases would not help the Opposition cause, and the circumstances that large new orders for war materials of all kinds are being placed with Canadian companies may be taken as evidence that the failures in this country have been few and the general results satisfactory to those who in the business represent the Government of Great Britain, which is the paymaster.

The Government of Canada would not be justified in refusing inquiry if the money being paid out was that of Canada, raised by taxation or on the credit of the country. Indeed, it could not well refuse if it had desire to. The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons has authority to call witnesses, secure documents, and investigate any or every item of public outlay without the Government's leave. It is now investigating payments by and actions of the Department of Militia and its representatives, and all without any special order of the House of Commons, any misleading appeals to the presumed prejudices or suspicions of the people, or any opposition from ministers or others responsible for the wrong that may have been done or the mistakes that have been made. But the expenditures made by the Shell Committee or by its successor, the Munitions Board, were not expenditures of Canadian money. The Public Accounts Committee cannot deal with them, and, as in the case of the hay contracts during the South African war, the circumstances that debar action by the Public Accounts Committee apply also to the House of Commons, which constituted the committee.

The Government of Great Britain, for which the Shell Committee acted and for which the Munitions Board is acting, and which pays the bills, it is announced, has been informed by the Government of Canada of every allegation made against the Shell Committee. The judgment of the men in London will decide the course ultimately to be followed by the Canadian authorities, who will either provide facilities for an inquiry, or conduct one themselves. Meantime the Canadian ministers are powerless to inquire into the doings of a body of men—Canadians though they be—who have their authority from the Government of the United Kingdom, which also provides the money they spend. This is known to all who pause to comprehend the facts. It should save ministers from such untrustworthy attacks as have been made on them, in Parliament and out of it, by men striving for political effect; but it does not.

INTERESTING COMPARISON

We notice by the annual statement of the Tryon Dairying Company that they handled last season 94,583.36 pounds of butter fat, which netted their patrons \$29,320.17, an average of 30.98 cents per pound of fat, or \$1.05 per hundred pounds of milk, or 24 cents more per hundred pounds than they paid in 1909.

This is certainly a splendid showing, and the movements which made it possible to a large extent may be summarized as follows:—Doing the business in one creamery under one management that was done in two in 1909 and the delivery of the cream to the factory instead of the whole milk. These two changes have made it possible to reduce the manufacturing charge, which means more money to the farmer, and is one of the best means to stimulate production.

Our creamerymen now realize the importance of co-operating and manufacturing at central points where large quantities of cream can be got together, thus keeping the manufacturing charge down. With the uncertainty of transportation removed, now that we have the car ferry, our creamerymen can look forward with confidence to the future.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE FULL REPORT

(Prof. Ross Continued.)

But some one may say if dairying could not afford to pay for labor in 1909, in competition with other industries can it afford profitable employment today? I say unhesitatingly, yes. In 1900 the net value of milk manufactured into cheese was 60 cents per hundred lbs. and into butter 46½ cents. For the last four years the net value of milk received at our factories and creameries was over \$1.00 per hundred and the cost of production is less today than it was in 1900. Ask a farmer today to receive his milk production and in 99 cases out of 100, he will say I would be glad if I could get the labor. He knows it is profitable, he knows there is no branch of farming that can show as large returns for the amount of money invested. He knows the returns are sure and that he does not have to wait for them till the end of the season, he knows too, that he gets a double return in the increased fertility of his soil, but he can only do so much work himself and hired labor cannot be had. Gentlemen, we are met here tonight to consider what profitable employment can be provided in this Province, for intending immigrants and for returned soldiers. Here is an industry hindered in development almost at the start for want of labor and even yet, if this want could be supplied, it would do for us what it has done for every other country, where it has been prosecuted with energy and enthusiasm. It made Denmark, impoverished and almost ruined by war one of the richest kingdoms on the face of the earth. It transformed the almost barren sands of Holland and the Netherlands into the most productive of lands. It has made the Eastern Townships of Quebec and certain sections of Ontario synonymous with improvement and prosperity and in our own Province its very inception stayed the backward movement, and started us on the road to prosperity.

DAIRYING POSSIBILITIES.

Let us look briefly at dairying as it is at present in our Province. The Census and Statistics returns for 1915 give the number of milch cows in the Province as 47,000. These gave in the vicinity of 160,000,000 lbs of milk or 3,355 lbs each. Of this amount about 35,000,000 lbs went to our factories and creameries and was exported as cheese and butter, the remainder was consumed at home. In the herd competition conducted by the Dairy-farmers' Association last year, 17 patrons owning 120 milch cows sent to the factories or Creameries 885,339 lbs or 7,377 lbs. per cow, while one of these patrons without any special effort have doubled the average milk production per cow and what they have done could be done by others if only more labor were available.

If this 180,000,000 lbs of milk were added to our present production it would all or almost all be available for export and at present prices would be worth over \$2,400,000 or our dairy export would be more than 5½ times its present value. This is what could be done, what might be done, what ought to be done with our present dairy plant, adequately supplied with labour.

Some sections are doing it now. They are approximating the 60 bushels yield per acre and their neighbours are looking anxiously for the labor to do likewise.

I have not yet touched on the possibilities of dairying in our Province. I have only looked at the development that might be expected from an adequate supply of labour and from a well directed publicity campaign among our own farmers. I have, however, looked into the matter a little further. I am persuaded that if all of our arable land were farmed as some of it is now farmed, this Province would support 200,000 milch cows and the horses necessary to do the work and if each of these cows produced a little more than the average of the best herd in the 1915 competition.

The income from the 200,000 would be in the vicinity of \$30,000,000 or about three times our present entire agricultural production. True this is not possible with our present population, but increased population is what we are looking for, is what a developed dairy industry would inevitably bring about. Increased population profitably employed, brings about better roads, better schools, better churches, better social life, better institutions of all kinds. In short, it means better opportunities for men and women to lead sweeter, happier, more helpful lives.

This gentlemen has been the experience of those countries that have developed a dairy industry and in formulating plans for the profitable employment of intending immigrants and returned soldiers, I sincerely trust you will give it your most careful consideration.

Co-operation

ADDRESS BY REV. DR. GAUTHIER

Rev. Dr. P. C. Gauthier spoke as follows: I was asked yesterday to speak on certain features of agriculture. I see they have my name down for "Co-operation." Before saying anything about co-operation, I would remark, in reference to drainage—a subject we have not yet finished—that there are thousands of acres of land in the province that can be drained to advantage and with profit. I believe this business of drainage should be more fully discussed. We want some practical hints from men right here that have experience. Mr. Clark is an expert on the subject, and others might wish to make suggestions.

Speaking about co-operation I am certainly delighted to see all classes here, men of both political persuasions coming here to-day to co-operate, to work together in unity. If I had time to prepare an address on the subject, I would make as good a speech as Mr. Mathieson. He was talking co-operation all along, and he unconsciously took my subject from me. Now, politics, is all right; we must have it. It will be always with us, of course, like the poor; but we don't want to see too much of it. There are certain times for politics; but bitter politics and sectional differences and petty disputes and jealousies in a small country like this are to be deplored. The war is drawing us closer together. The blood of our children is cementing us in closer union and we are beginning to work together. We have been losing precious time; we should all be friends and pull together. The object of this meeting is to co-operate, and men of all nationalities and all creeds should strive to work in harmony with a view to making this Island what it should have been long ago. Co-operation is opposed to self, and we have been selfish. That is one of the effects of original sin; we are all too selfish. We are not broad enough.

(To be Continued.)

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Lutton.

OUT OF THE SILENCE.

And what can you say when the day is done
 And you've gone to your bed of rest?
 When the shadows come and the light has gone
 O'er the rim of the golden west.
 And a silvery beam of the moon creeps in
 As if in an aimless quest?
 What do you say
 When a kindly voice that you seem to know,
 Out of the shadows speaks soft and low,
 "Well, what did you do today?"

O, what can you say when you're all alone
 With the Master of all the tasks?
 How much of sin do you have to own
 When the voice of the Master asks?
 How many things that you left undone
 Your studied answer makes?
 What do you say
 When out of the shade of the silent night
 The Master speaks with the Master's right?

right: "Well, what did you do today?"

Thrice blest is he of the humble way
 Who sinks to his bed of rest—
 The rest is earned with a toiling day
 With love of his labor blest—
 Who hears the voice of his Master ask
 And can truthfully say "My best!"
 The man who can say
 "I've trod the way of my best intent,
 I've helped a friend and I've made a friend."
 To "What did you do today?"
 —JOHN D. WELLS.

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terms of highest praise. "I never spent ninety-eight cents to better purpose in my life," a well known lawyer declared. "I have long been wanting just such a dictionary. It is thoroughly up to date, gives a simple, accurate definition of a lot of new words, and the illustrations are both interesting and instructive. Its convenient size and practical style of binding further recommend it." The New Universities Dictionary was designed to serve as a guide to the correct use of today's English. It is accurate in its definitions and contains the latest and newest words whose general usage warrants their incorporation into a dictionary designed as this one was, primarily for every day folks who want to speak and write the English language correctly and in well.

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