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CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

WHAT THE WAR COSTS.

Some Figures That Stagger the Ordinary Man.

Which country of France, Great Britain, and Germany, is spending most money? This is one of the questions answered in "German War Profits," where a table is given, based upon the expenditure during the first three years of warfare. Great Britain spent £111 19s. per head of population during this period. France comes next, with £88 16s. and Germany next, with £64 10s.

Assuming Germany's financial burden to be 100, France has to bear 138, and Great Britain 174. An American statistician, writing in the Century Magazine, carries these figures a step or two further. He estimates that, if the countries could devote every cent of their income to the National Debt, it would take France the longest to pay it off. She would require three and one-third years to do it in. Germany would take over two years. The United States could settle the job in two or three months!

It is impossible to calculate a nation's income with any degree of exactness, but the following may be taken as approximately correct: United States' income, \$8,000,000,000; Great Britain's income, \$2,500,000,000; Germany's income, \$2,200,000,000; France's income, \$1,200,000,000.

When we consider the cost of the war in the bulk, and compare it with the above incomes, we enter truly bewildering realms. During the first three years of the war, the Central Empires spent roughly £7,600,000,000, or an average of £2,533,000,000 odd a year. The Allies—excluding the war output of Serbia, Roumania, Greece, Japan and the United States—spent £13,370,000,000, averaging £4,456,000,000 odd a year!

The belligerents have a credit as well as a debit account, and Germany has temporarily gained a great deal of potential wealth.

Besides "movable booty," of which there is a vast quantity, she has secured possession of 212,000 square miles of territory in France, Belgium, Italy, Russia, Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro. Before the war the value of these vast tracts was estimated at about £6,400,000,000, but probably this figure is too low.

Against this, the Allies have little more than the German colonies in Africa. These undoubtedly contain much potential wealth, but they do not compare commercially with the gains of the enemy.

The "19" Superstition.

The "19" superstition has arisen and gained some vogue. The sum of the digits in 1918 makes 19. A lieutenant in the French army found time while his regiment was resting behind the lines to work out this: "Here are the dates in history on which the fate of Alsace-Lorraine has depended and in which the issue has turned out favorably for France:

1. In 1648, the treaty of Westphalia which gave Alsace to France. The sum of 1, 6, 4 and 8 is 19.
2. In 1675, the campaign in Alsace by Turanne which confirmed the French conquest. The sum again is 19.
3. In 1738, the peace of Vienna, which gave France Lorraine; 19 again.
4. In 1792, the victory of Valmy, which reestablished the French frontiers in the east. Once more the sum is 19.

And that isn't all. Why are the Americans to help us win Alsace-Lorraine? It is because we assisted them to win their independence, and in what year? In 1783."

But he pushed it a bit too far, for he foresaw peace on the 1459 day of the war, which would be July 30, 1918. But why not on the 1477th day, or the 1486th or 1495th? They all fall in 1918. Wait and see.

Imitations of Mahogany.

The name "mahogany" is applied commercially to more than fifty different woods. Perhaps the lumber now sold under that name is not true mahogany, for the demand greatly exceeds the supply.

The tree is native to only the limited area between Southern Florida and Northern South America. No where else does it really flourish. But the public will have mahogany. Women want it for furniture, business men prefer it for office fixtures, and teak and mahogany are rivals in the affections of shipbuilders. Therefore, substitutes flourish.

It is not surprising that the real wood is so expensive, when it is learned that it takes from 100 to 150 years for a mahogany tree to reach merchantable size.

Most of the substitutes bear little more than a general resemblance to the genuine wood, but skillful finishing makes them very much alike. Experts can usually distinguish between them by the aid of an ordinary pocket lens. The efforts of the superficial, however, to judge the wood by its appearance, weight, grain and color often lead them astray.

Barnum and Jenny Lind.

According to the original contract which Barnum made with Jenny Lind, she contracted to sing at 150 concerts in the United States and Havana for \$1,000 a concert, the contract providing, however, that if Barnum made a clear profit of £15,000 sterling from the first seventy-five concerts, Miss Lind should for the remaining seventy-five concerts, receive, in addition to \$1,000 a concert, one-fifth of the profits; but that, on the other hand, if the first fifty concerts fell short of Barnum's expectations, she should have half of the gross receipts from the remaining 100 concerts. Before the concerts began, however, that contract was, at Barnum's instance, rescinded and a new contract made which resulted in Miss Lind receiving in profits from the concerts which she gave under it almost twice as much as she would have received under the original contract.

Beware of the truth crushed to earth. It is liable to rise up later and take a fall out of you.

Strange to say, the world has never produced a deaf and dumb pugilist.

Insects Are Often Useful

THE importance of insects in the animal world is too generally overlooked. More knowledge along these lines is certainly desirable in view of the fact that of the million and more species in the animal world the largest place is held by the insects. Perhaps their significance may be better realized from the fact that the annual loss by insects in the United States is \$800,000,000, compared with an annual fire loss of \$143,000,000. As over against 7,000 deaths per year due to railroad accidents, there are 97,200 deaths each year in the republic to the south of us due to malaria and intestinal diseases, spread by insect carriers. And while in the whole Spanish war only 300 men were killed by Spanish bullets, 5,000 died of fly-borne diseases. Yet in the face of these startling facts and contrary to popular belief, the great majority of insects are either harmless or beneficial to man. For the damage by insects is done by less than 1 per cent. of the species and a large number of the remainder spend their lives keeping those in check.

Although we are able to determine fairly accurately the damage done by insects, it is impossible to calculate the benefits they confer. It is true that certain species destroy \$29,400,000 worth of fruit annually, but the remaining \$147,000,000 worth owes its existence largely to the pollinating of the blossoms by insects. Practically no fruits could be formed without the aid of insects and in the production of a harvest, insects, especially bees, of course, dwarf into insignificance all modern implements in husbandry. It would be impossible to get a single crop of red clover without the aid of insects and the present scarcity of bumble bees, who usually perform this service, is making itself felt in the smaller crops and lower vitality of the clover seed. The importance in this connection was realized in Australia and the Philippine Islands, which imported bumble bees for the sake of their clover crops. Figs could not be successfully grown in this country until a big pollinating insect was imported from the Mediterranean countries. A great majority of the beautiful flowers depend on insects for the development of their seed, only the inconspicuous ones being typically pollinated.

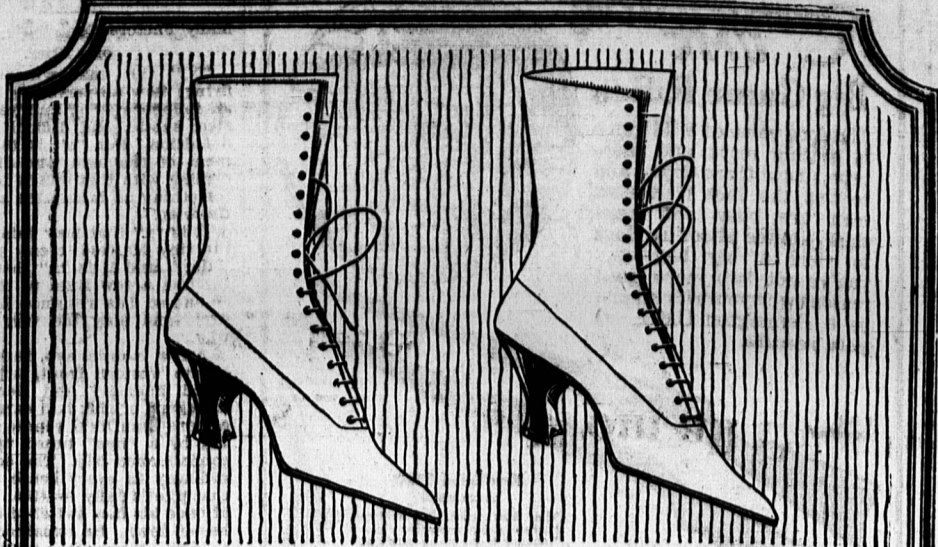
But perhaps the most valuable beneficial insects are those which function in repressing the harmful insects by preying on them. The services of the dragonfly in this capacity are of the greatest interest and importance. This insect has long been the object of fear and dislike by human beings, owing no doubt to its fierce appearance and rapid, darting motions. Children have been terrified by the superstition that the dragonfly, or "devil's darnin' needle," would pierce their ears, or sew them shut. Yet the dragonfly is not only harmless to man, but is one of his best friends in that he is the deadly enemy of the mosquito—that pest that is one of the most numerous, widely distributed and persistent of the creatures that menace the health and comfort of man. So much is the dragonfly the mosquito's enemy that he is called the "mosquito hawk"—and anyone who has watched the swift movements and cruel aspect of the dragonfly as he darts at his prey will agree that the name is well given. As both the mosquito and dragonfly are semiaquatic, the warfare between the two begins early, the young of the dragonfly feeding on the young mosquito, just as the adult dragonfly preys on the full-grown mosquito. As serious blood maladies are known to be transmitted by the mosquito, the dragonfly's service to man is no small one. At one time, in fact, it was undertaken to breed dragonflies artificially with the purpose of exterminating the mosquito, but the plan was found impracticable and was abandoned.

Another beneficial insect is the variety of Australian beetle which was used with brilliant success to save the orange orchards of the nation. The so-called "Austrian lady-beetle" was pitted against the destructive scale insect which threatened ruin to the orange industry. The beetle exterminated the scale. Parasitic wasps attack caterpillars and sting them to death, laying eggs in the dead bodies of their victims, so that their young, when hatched, may find abundant and convenient nourishment. The wheat midge, so destructive to the grain, is preyed on by several insects. Ravenous two-winged flies seize and carry it away to suck out its juices. But most powerful of its insect foes are its parasites—small, black, four-winged flies somewhat resembling ants. Their young subsist on the larvae and eggs of the midge, and live therein. As the midge increases in numbers, its enemy increases in proportion, for the numbers of the parasites depend on the amount of available nourishment. Eventually the parasite overwhelms the midge. This is illustrated by the fact that often, a year or two after an excess of midges there is a great scarcity of the noxious insect. In the same way the army worm and frightfully destructive Hessian fly are constantly kept repressed by their parasitic foes.

Occasionally a man declines a nomination for office—if there is no chance for his election.

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Dr. Tremain's Natural Hair Restorative, used as directed, is guaranteed to restore gray hair to its natural color, or money refunded. Positively not a dye and non-injurious. Price \$1.00. On sale in Charlottetown by Roddin Bros., Druggists.



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