

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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OUR SHARE

Prophecies are still being persisted in, always by the arm chair experts, that the war will collapse within a few weeks or, at most, a few months, and those who are not so prophesying sit in smug contentment assuming that the end will result favorably and that there is little to do but wait.

The attitude is becoming a dangerous one, dangerous to the Empire but more dangerous to ourselves. We have become accustomed to the war; we are no longer shocked at any one of the many disasters that are befalling almost daily. The daily reports, telling of a few hundreds killed here or there; of a ship blown up by a mine or a torpedo; or trenches that had been taken at the point of the bayonet and been lost and retaken; or lost without being retaken; all these are becoming monotonous and we have forgotten that it is our war; that it is our men that are being slaughtered; that it is our men that are retaking trenches they had lost, or losing trenches they had taken. We must wake up.

That the war is the most sanguinary in the history of the world, has become an old story to us, and we no longer consider the Empire is in danger. This is not to our credit either as the citizens of the Empire whose life was in danger, or as Christian men and women. It is our war still, whatever the final result may be and the final result is by no means in sight.

When we read that the Allies advanced some two hundred yards in a day at a certain point, lost a little ground at another, held their own at still another, and with this the list of casualties, the end and the result seem fearfully far off and uncertain. We have done part of our part by giving of our abundance; we shall still have to do more and continue doing it. We do not know what or when the end may be. All that we know is that our fellow countrymen are fighting day and night, suffering all the miseries that cold and wet and uncomfortable trenches can bring to them; that in all this misery they are barely holding their own, and that the enemy's resources so far have shown little signs of exhaustion.

Our soldiers are fighting for us; what are we doing for them?

We make a serious mistake when we imagine that the end is in sight. The Germans are not building Zeppelins for nothing and they have been building them at the rate of one a month since the war began, and not one of these has yet been used. They are being built for a purpose, and they will be heard from. The Germans still hold Belgium and, according to yesterday's despatches they are compelling the Belgian youths to join the German forces.

This is not intended to be a pessimistic view; we know that, in the end, the Allies will win, that righteousness will finally triumph, but we have good ground for believing that the winning will tax the resources of the countries of the Allies, especially of the dominions of the British Empire. Are we taking our full share in contributing the resources of our part of the Empire? Do we still realize that it is our war?

WHY THEY DO IT

The New York World recently published a cable in which the atrocities suffered by the Belgians at the hands of the Germans was incidentally mentioned. The article evoked a reply from "A German Officer," which is published in the World. After venturing the opinion that in publishing the cable, The World had gone "a little too far," this "German officer" proceeds, "I send your paper today to General Oberst von Bissing, Brussels, in order to prepare in future the necessary reception to your and other American correspondents in Belgium, as well as in Germany; also after the war. So you had better prepare for the consequences of your foolishness."

For colossal impudence, even German impudence, this reaches the limit. Yet it serves, with many other similar samples of Germanism, to show how sadly we were mistaken in Germany. We had looked upon German education and German culture as real; we respected her art, her philosophy, even her religion. The war has unmasked her and she stands today before the world in the naked ugliness of primitive savagery and hate and falsehood.

This judgment is not based on the childish hate shown by the "German Officer" above quoted. He is only one, one of the thousands who have expressed themselves similarly. Even Dr. Rudolph Eucken, of Jena, who has earned the reputation of one of the noblest philosophical teachers in Europe, has been no exception. He has come out with a fervent article endeavoring to prove that Germany's vast and ever-increasing army and navy and her staggering military levies on German taxpayers were only intended for purely peaceful purposes and never for aggressive warfare; that Germany was forced into this war; that any thought of the conquest, say, of Belgium, was foreign to her; and that Great Britain has forfeited all claims to honor and justice in entering the war at all. Dr. Eucken says England shows "the immorality of a nation of shopkeepers," while of "noble, chivalrous Germany," he remarks: "We remain true to the word that we gave to our ally—true until the end, and, at the same time, hold our honor unstained. Honor and fidelity, these are the pillars of the German nature."

One would hesitate to call this, and all else like it, willful and deliberate lying. Yet, in the face of all that has occurred, in the face of the publicity given to all the facts connected with the origin and conduct of the war-facts that must be known to Germans as they are to the rest of the world—it would be difficult to find another name for it.

There is one saving condition—rather, perhaps, an excuse. All German professors, as well as German officers, are paid servants of the State, which means paid servants of a military hierarchy. In other words they defend and excuse and lie for their country because they do not dare do otherwise, or as an exchange puts it, "with a bayonet at their backs."

CONTRABAND OF WAR

The United States press, generally, takes a sane and sensible view of the questions involved in the now much-talked-of note to Great Britain. The Brooklyn Eagle says: "Some advices from London indicate a disposition on the part of the British Government to meet the protest of the United States against seizures of American vessels on the high seas, by offering to constitute a joint arbitral tribunal with representation equal for the two nations, to pass finally on all findings of prize courts. We trust this is more than mere rumor. There is keen sense in the proposition. Supplemented by a removal of the embargo on the exportation of crude rubber, which is almost doubling the cost of this raw material to American manufacturers, the joint court concession should remove all international friction."

"Calm-minded Americans realize clearly enough that the starving out of Germany, the shutting off of raw material from German factories, and particularly the prevention of importation into Germany of copper, steel and nickel are legitimate and proper military aims of Great Britain and her Allies. Ultimate destination is what should count when a cargo is seized. But if the ship is neutral, and is bound from one neutral port to another, the burden of proof is on the seizers."

"Conditional contraband" has always been a puzzle in international law. Belligerents in the nature of things must make their own lists of the things to be included. Their interest is to make the lists as long and as comprehensive as possible. Injustice to neutrals is certain just so long as prize court verdicts are unreversed.

"It has been hinted that Great Britain is seeking to hamper our export business in order to assure her own trade future after the war is over. We see no such purpose in what has been done, or in the present attitude of the British Government. England's military aims are first in the minds of her statesmen. Washington's duty is to see that those aims are pursued with due consideration for the rights of Americans."

The following frank statement in the Providence Journal of January 1st shows that there were ample grounds for Britain's seizure of cargoes and it shows also that the people of the United States recognize the justice of these seizures:

"It is just as well to face the facts at the beginning. If the British Government chooses to make a careful investigation, as of course it will do, it will discover inside of a week, what thousands of people in New England already know, that many of our manufacturers in this section of the country have for months been selling to German agents in the United States, machinery and material of all kinds, which they know is destined for Germany although it is consigned to middlemen in neutral ports. The New England manufacturer of course is not to blame. He gets his money and the German agent takes the risk. But it is common knowledge that this material is being manufactured for Germany and that the trick of consigning to a dummy consignee in a neutral port is being practised constantly."

Presumably the material to which reference is made is for war service, as is much or most of the copper in the cargoes that have been detained by British war craft or are held in port awaiting orders from the Admiralty in London. The making of war munitions for export, though it may be condemned on moral grounds, is justified by many business precedents. So, during war, it is the right of one fighting power to stop the supplies of another if and when it can. President Wilson and Mr. Bryan may have some awkward home-made facts to overcome before they are through with the controversy they have started.

SCANDINAVIA

It will be remembered that, a few days ago, our despatches told of the meeting of the Kings of Sweden, Denmark and Norway, and there was some speculation as to the reasons for their conference. It is well known that since the separation of Norway from Sweden, nine years ago, the relations between these countries have been somewhat strained. This accentuates the significance of the recent meeting. An exchange suggests that the meeting was the outcome of a sense of common danger and a pledge of future co-operation in meeting it. It points out that the danger is made manifest by Germany's ideas of contraband and neutrality, but it lies much deeper than these; the fear of the Scandinavian peoples formerly was a dread of Russia, but since the ruthless destruction of Belgium, it has become a dread of Germany.

There is no other part of Europe in which British people have a deeper interest than they have in Scandinavia. The Scandinavians—Danes and Norsemen—played an energetic part in the early history of what we now call the British Islands. The three countries are separately and collectively, curiously mixed up with the United Kingdom dynastically. The Queen-mother of Great Britain is the aunt of the King of Denmark and King George is the cousin; the King of Norway is his brother and the Queen of that country is his cousin. The Crown Prince of Sweden is the son-in-law of the Duke of Connaught, and there are still other relationships.

For centuries, until recently, the histories of the Scandinavian countries have been very much jumbled together. Sweden was part of the Kingdom of Denmark until 1523, and since that date it has been independent, and has during most of the time been the dominant Scandinavian power. From 1317 to 1814 Norway was part of the Kingdom of Denmark, but it became separated as the result of the Napoleonic wars. Denmark had allied herself to Napoleon, and the Kingdom suffered partition on his downfall. Norway was simply transferred to Sweden, but she never frankly accepted the subordinate position, although she was allowed a certain amount of political autonomy. The persistent agitation for separation culminated in a peaceful but not friendly dissolution of the tie between Norway and Sweden, and the Norwegians chose in 1905 as their new King Prince Charles of Denmark, whose name was changed to Haakon VII. The complete reconciliation between the peoples and rulers of the three kingdoms will gratify all who are interested for any reason in maintaining the individuality of the small States of Europe.

NOTES

The daring American skipper who navigated his ship through the German mine fields to Bremen, after pilots refused to accompany him, has shown that real seamen are pretty much alike the world over.

Unless we are ready to hold that the hand of God had no share in the doings of nations, that His Providence has no ultimate design hidden from men's blindness—this war, like all the wars that went before it, in our days and in days long gone, must have its part in the mighty drama of humanity. It is only when we question the pages of ancient and mediaeval and modern history and learn therefrom how strangely and wonderfully some of the grandest triumphs of our race have been brought to pass, that we are willing to admit that what seems shockingly ugly and repulsive today may in the years to come, when what is partial is complete, present a very different aspect.

THE MILITARY AT CANSO

The Canso News of recent date, in a write-up of the year 1914, tells, among other things, of the arrival and stay of the Military at Canso, from which the Guardian clips the following:

The obvious fact that a few infantry could scarcely be expected to cope with the guns of a hostile warship lent color to the report that artillery were on the way. About noon of August 6th, the Black Diamond boat Cacouca, (since wrecked—gaily strung with bunting was piloted in and tied up. The wharf and vicinity was actually covered with men, women and children, consumed with curiosity, some going without the mid-day meal to lose no item of the free show. About 50 men of the 3rd Charlottetown Artillery and an equal number of infantry of the 94th Argyle Highlanders (a Cape Breton Militia regiment) arrived in charge of the gunners, were two field guns, 10 horses and other gear connected therewith. Every incident in connection with the landing and distribution of the arrivals was closely followed by the eager spectators. The guns were finally placed in position on a hill at the rear of the town, the spot being at once renamed Artillery Hill. Tents and shelters for man and beast were stuck up in the vicinity and the militia infantry were split up among the R. C. R. camps. On August 29th, the Canso, after landing a detachment of the 75th Pictou Highlanders, made a special trip taking the R. C. R.'s to Mulgrave on their way to Bermuda. The departing Tommies were given a rousing send-off. As the boat slipped her ropes, and worked away from the pier, the soldiers sang "Tipperary" and other popular songs, punctuating the selections with lusty cheers, re-echoed by the crowds on shore.

During the fall, a severe storm forced the Artillery-men to take up quarters in the Rink and with the arrival of cold nights those tenting about the Western Union moved to Sailors' Rest. Since then two large barracks have been constructed at Hazel Hill, in which 't're now quartered all the men, except an additional lately arrived bunch of the 94th, who occupy the Rest. Since the first comes, drilling and trenching has been going on continually and recently barbed wire entanglements have been placed around the stations.

Grim and gory as war may be on the blood-stained battle-fields of Europe, it has not been without its amusing aspects of Military activity a stranger became at once an object of suspicion. Did he carry a railway time-table on his person, that fact became damning evidence that he was engaged in mapping out the coast. Did he make enquiries concerning the weather, the mail-coach or worst of all the cables then, Horrors of Horrors! the crafty villain must surely be a member of the Kaiser's Secret Service. The number of suspected spies examined and O.K'd, by the authorities, during the first month or so, was quite respectable. One poor chap, who proved to be a very much delapidated hobo, (down-in-the-mouth, out-at-elbows and empty-of-pocket), while resting in an up-country barn, was surrounded by a vigilant posse and hailed to Canso while after securing several square meals and a night's lodging, he was given certificate of character so far as espionage was concerned and with military benediction allowed to go. The writer has a shrewd suspicion that some of the newspaper tales of German spies and atrocities, so eagerly devoured, have about as trustworthy a foundation.

Suspected spies have not been our only source of excitement, German warships have been hovering off the coast with great frequency and always with a great array of smokestacks. For one exciting while, that day during which no hostile ship was sighted or reported near, was considered a day ill spent, dull and disappointing. In fact, a few far-seeing individuals, managed one or two occasions to detect airships scouting overhead. But like the "wolf" cry of the boy in the fable, which lost its vim from overuse, so these alarming reports gradually failed to excite. Consequently we have lately been living on a less exciting level.

Another amusing feature has been the complete way in which many youthful members of the fair sex have been captivated by the lure of the uniform. I understand that the Cupid would become a law compelling the universal wearing of uniforms as it would make business much easier in this line. How diverting it is to overhear, (as has been done) several charming young misses engaged in an animated discussion as to the number of stripes worn by Sergt. So-and-So, the comparative decorative of the different regimental rigs, etcetra, etcetra, ad infinitum.

Considerable diversity of opinion exists as to the practical value of the military preparations, some—holding that a German navy ship would make short work of the whole outfit. Be that as it may, not possessing much military knowledge, I shall reserve my own opinion for more private occasions. Two facts, however seem plain to me. One that the troops in our midst taken as a whole, are a fine body of honest gentlemanly fellows, as any representative collection of Maritime Province men would naturally be. No doubt they are trying to do their duty as they understand it. Let us, therefore, continue to treat them as friends and as fellow-citizens pro tem, and let us hope no hostile force ever gets near enough to put their fighting qualities to the test. The other fact is that the war, even as it has benefited our town financially. Nevertheless, Canso, in common with the world at large, would welcome peace, for any community that would willingly buy commercial prosperity at the price of human suffering and of human blood, must be less than human at heart.

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AUSTRALIA EMULATING CANADA

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The Times' Sydney correspondent says Liberal leaders and all sections of the press have begun an agitation calling upon the Commonwealth to follow the example of Canada by sending greatly increased contingents to Europe.

A DONATION AND GOOD SUGGESTION

Mr. J. K. Ross, President of the Y. M. C. A., Charlottetown, received yesterday the following letter which The Guardian gladly publishes for the sake of the excellent suggestion it contains and in the hope that it may be acted upon by others:

Dear Bro. Ross.—Enclosed please find \$1.00 handed me, by a party living outside Charlottetown interested in the Y. M. C. A. struggle in this city. The thought has occurred to me, that many islanders, knowing the value of such an institution for young men and girls attending college and schools, would also duplicate this kind act if given the opportunity of doing so. If one thousand, one dollar, free will donations, were sent to your excellent Secretary, Mr. Cross, I feel sure the people of Charlottetown, would band themselves together and clear off the balance of the indebtedness. From personal experience I know full well, what you and your faithful Board of Directors are going through at the present time.

I have faith enough to believe that the amount you require, to keep the doors of the oldest Y. M. C. A. building in Canada, open to the public, will be forthcoming. One of the happiest experiences of my residence in your city was when several years ago, the good people of this province lifted a mortgage of some three thousand dollars on the present building. Keep the public well informed of all your endeavors, subscriptions, etc., and the Y. M. C. A. doors will not be closed, for want of funds.

With kindest wishes for the New year.

I am Sir, &c., W. S. Louson.

KITCHENER'S STATEMENT

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The House of Lords reassembles on Wednesday. The House of Commons stands adjourned until the first week of February, and there seems no disposition on the part of either party to advance the date of its meeting.

The present intention is that the House shall only sit on two days, Wednesday and Thursday, and then be formally adjourned for a period. Its function presumably will be that of questioning Ministers on new phases of the National crisis which have arisen in the month or five weeks which have elapsed since the last adjournment.

There will be opportunity for a further statement on the military situation from Lord Kitchener in continuation of the two interesting and lucid statements which he has already made to the House since his appointment as Minister of War.

No attempt, of course, will be made to press the Government to disclose information which might be prejudicial to the National interest, but Ministers may be asked if they cannot give more detailed accounts of some of the operations in which our forces are engaged, especially in our more distant territories. Other questions which will certainly be raised deal with points of administration such as the raising and equipment of the new army, the still unsolved problem of the leakage of information to Germany, and the need for the issue of detailed instructions to the civilian population in case of a raid.

Moreover, the Government are likely to be asked to explain clearly the principles on which they are proceeding in the organization of the nations resources to continue the campaign on the Continent.

WARNS SOLDIERS AGAINST WATCHES

LONDON, Jan. 7.—A warning is issued in The Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift against the wearing of wrist watches by German soldiers in the field. The author of the article, Dr. Melchior, relates that in treating cases of wounded soldiers he found many who had suffered horrible wounds as a result of their wrist watches having been struck with bits of shrapnel, which thereupon caused a great spreading of the wound and impeded parts of the watch in the wrist.

The danger is the greater, he adds, because the watches are usually worn on the left wrist, and it is the left hand and arm that, as a rule, are wounded, rather than the right.

WAR BREAD TO BE SERVED TO KAISER

BERLIN, January 7.—Emperor William has given orders that the so-called war bread be served to himself and the members of his entourage. This bread, styled also "K" bread consists of 85 per cent of rye flour and 15 per cent of potato flakes. It is being consumed in accordance with a war time proclamation with the idea of making the supply of foodstuff, in the empire last longer. Up to the present time it has not been bought readily by the general public. It is hoped, however, that the decision of the emperor to eat this bread himself will influence the people to follow his example. The newspapers are giving much attention to the course of his majesty in this connection.

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