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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1915.

WHERE ARE WE AT?

Except to the man who knows it all and can tell to within a week or ten days when the war will be over, the war situation, it must be admitted, is perplexing.

Rumors and denials, official and unofficial, of a Russian defeat in the Mazurian Lakes region, have been current in our despatches of the past week or more. We have learned to discredit all Berlin reports and to place implicit reliance upon those emanating from the Allies, whether French, Belgian or Russian.

Our despatches from Paris yesterday, however, informed us that "German troops released by the German victory over the Russians in East Prussia, are pouring back into Belgium to strengthen the German lines in the western theatre of war."

All through this Petrograd continues to send out the most optimistic official reports, the war is going merrily on and the Russians everywhere victorious! Who can say just where we are in the Eastern theatre of war?

Nearer home, our despatches have ridiculed the German paper blockade around the British coast. Our despatches yesterday informed us that "the British Isles seem to be ringed with German submarines," and daily since the paper blockade began, one or two ships—small ones, it is true—have been reported sunk or disabled by German submarines, some of them practically in their docks. It is somewhat difficult to tell where we are at in this region.

And, nearer home still. A few days ago, when the Germans mapped out their war zone around Great Britain and intimidated, officially, that they would blow up any ship of any nation caught within the zone, the United States Government gave notice to the German authorities that if any harm came to a United States ship by reason of this blockade she would hold Germany responsible. Since then two United States steamers were sunk by German mines and the United States Government intimates diplomatically that it was probably an accident and, anyway, not a serious matter! Where is the United States at in this war?

To still further complicate matters, a Berlin correspondent, by the name of Edward Lyell Fox, who may or may not be a German, has sent a wireless despatch declaring that the United States has been grossly misinformed as to Germany's resources. He declares that there is no shortage of food and no fear of a shortage, because German scientists have discovered a new process of making saltpetre, thereby increasing ten fold the production of the soil. By the aid of this, unheard of yields will be secured from the occupied lands of Belgium, Poland and France. As if this were not enough, we are told that other scientists are busy inventing ways to minimize the war burden, and that a new rubber process has solved the problem of tires, while benzole, made from the inexhaustible supplies of coal, has given a satisfactory substitute for gasoline. Even copper is plentiful, thanks to the supplies captured in Belgium and France. But one naturally asks if there is abundance of copper and rubber, why are shipowners taking the risk consequent on hiding these necessary commodities in bales of cotton, etc.? If food is plentiful why has the German government taken over control of all supplies, forcing Great Britain to regard as contraband cargoes that other wise would escape seizure? Why also are German officials of the army and navy defending their inhuman warfare on all neutrals as necessary to prevent starvation?

From these, and other considerations it would appear to the lay, unphilosophical or unscientific mind that some one has been—or is still—lying considerably about the war, and that it is very difficult yet to tell just where we are at.

TRUE REFORM

The great prison of Sing Sing is about to establish a night school for the benefit of the prisoners. The move is in keeping with the progress of Christianity and of civilization. Until not so long ago the only meaning attached to the word, prison, was punishment, and the only purpose, to hold the victim till he had served his time or been hanged.

A new note has gradually worked its way into the calculation. Imprisonment today means more than punishment. The unfortunate, when he is thrown into prison, is not finally disposed of. He is still looked upon as a possibility, as a subject for reclamation, for redemption, for conservation. He is not regarded as beyond hope while life lasts, he is past record what it will.

Prison reform is one of the modern problems and it is being taken up by philanthropists everywhere, and, in very many cases with marked success. We instanced recently the case of a United States manufacturer who made it a practice to employ convicts and he was seldom disappointed in them. The secret was that he trusted them, treated them as ordinary human beings, capable of good as well as of evil. We have no more right to assume that all the thieves who have been caught and imprisoned are dishonest than we have to assume that all the thieves out of jail are honest. There are both honest and dishonest

and out of jail. And this is true of all the other sins in the decalogue, detected and undetected. The point is that, after being detected in crime, efforts at reclamation should not be abandoned, but rather increased. Punishment is seldom remedial; it may be a useful part of the means but only a part.

Reformers, and this is emphatically an age of reform, are beginning to realize that the only real reform is that which comes not by compulsion but by suasion; not by external restraint but by intelligent free will, self interest, if you will. To prevent a man from doing wrong by removing the means of wrong doing is only to delay the wrong doing until the opportunity again presents itself. Preventing him from wrong doing by teaching him that it is against his interests, temporal and spiritual, is to effect a permanent cure.

We attach too much importance to our achievements in the way of reform when we succeed in capturing the criminal and locking him up. Our work does not end there, nor does it begin there. Our responsibility covers the period of his sinning as well as of his final capture and it is not to our credit that we so often confine our reform activities to the latter stage. Reform to be effective must be educative, elevating, ennobling, and it is a hopeful sign of the times that in the world's great centres the work of prevention as well as of reclamation is in progress.

HOME MAKING

Quietly, imperceptibly a great change has been going on in "the biggest business in the world"—that of home-making.

Time was when a housewife's natural inclination to thrift based upon a fair judgment of values in shopping, constituted her sole equipment as a buyer of household necessities. She depended upon her own observation of the stores, and upon hints of neighbours and acquaintances as to "special sales" or special buying opportunities in this or in the store. She rarely read the store advertisements. Somehow she felt that they were a necessary part of the newspaper, but that they had no special significance or value to her, personally.

Urged, perhaps by a timely hint in the newspaper itself, she commenced to read the store "ads" with a view to learning whether or not they were really important to her—whether or not they would help her to buy more wisely, even at the stores with which she was most familiar.

This tendency to test the value of ad-reading has been a general one; and it is safe to say that no woman who has ever made the test has failed to make ad-reading a part of her business routine thenceforth.

For she soon discovers that the advertisements have a NEWS VALUE—they give her facts AT FIRST HAND, where she has depended upon chance gossip or chance visits to the stores for them. After she has acquired the habit of studying the advertisements she would no more think of abandoning it than of neglecting to read the news columns and depending upon person-to-person gossip for her information as to what is going on in the world.

Thus, studying the advertisements, she comes to know the NEWS of the STORE-WORLD—to keep in touch with buying opportunities—to make of her buying for the home a real, practical business matter.

CAN'T BELIEVE THEM

An Irish corporal was superintending the burial of a German dead after one of the fierce battles in Flanders. The gruesome work was proceeding uneventfully when one of the "dead" sat up and remarked in an injured tone, "I vos not dead." The Corporal roared out "Go on with yer work, ye can't believe a word these Germans say!" This may or may not have happened but it has come to pass that the word of the German is unreliable.

At the beginning of the war they claimed they had food enough to last from two to five years. Later the authorities seized all foodstuffs. Britain had not, until this move on the part of the German Government, interfered with the importation of food into Germany. Now they claim to be starving and are howling about Britain's "inhuman methods" in trying to starve Germany's 65,000,000 people.

She may not be as near starvation as she pretends to be. It is quite possible that she is putting the pressure of hunger on the people to prepare them for an announcement of the hopelessness of continuing the struggle. It is possible also that this starvation cry is an excuse for the inhuman and desperate expedient in which she is now engaged in a submarine warfare against everything, neutral or belligerent, around the British coast.

In any case the Irish Corporal's advice and the reason given for it will hold good, and the starvation story need not be taken too literally. The Allies will "go on with their work."

NOTES

To assume that it is not necessary to read the advertisements because you "know the stores" is like assuming that you do not need to read today's news of the world because you "know the world."

The sermon in our Magazine section today is by an Islander now in New York, the Rev. Dr. Malcolm James MacLeod, and is a very eloquent appeal for the reading and study of the Bible.

Are Zeppelin fears illusory? If we are to believe Mr. Paul Kenny, until recently an attaché at the American Embassy in Berlin they are. He says that the general impression in Berlin when he left was that the Zeppelins are a failure from the military point of view, since every one of them, that has been used has met with disaster. "Germany probably allows England to believe that the Zeppelins are still the unknown quantity that they were before the war," said Mr. Kenny. "It serves the purpose of keeping the English continually apprehensive over a possible raid. I have not heard of any Zeppelins being built, and while formerly they were a familiar sight along the valley of the Rhine, they are never seen nowadays."

So popular were the Canadian boys at Salisbury Plains that the Medical Officer of Health of Salisbury found it necessary to issue a warning which is surely unique in medical annals. A mild epidemic of what its victims christened "Canadian throat" broke out amongst our volunteers, and with the object of preventing this from spreading to the civilian population round about, the Medical Officer of Health posted up on Salisbury and surrounding villages an appeal worded thus:

"WARNING"

"Owing to prevalence of a contagious sore throat among the Canadian troops stationed at Salisbury Plains, civilians are respectfully requested not to kiss the Canadians until further notice.

"By order of T. S. BAINBRIDGE, M. D. Medical Officer of Health."

SIX OR FOUR MEMBERS

Sir,—I see the representation question is again to come before Parliament, both in the Commons and Senate and would like to see a Prince County view of this matter put before our representatives and people fairly.

Premier Matheson deserves more credit for his handling of this matter than perhaps any other political matter he has taken up, and from various points of view has clearly stated the island's case. There are one or two particulars, however, on which I do not think enough stress has been laid.

There is first the iniquity of the principle of representation by population when it is applied to a confederation of states which are very unequal in size. The Rep. by Pop. principle is only just and equitable when it applies to a union of states or provinces of nearly equal size and importance. Hence, this question took a very strong hold of the Ontario and Quebec statesmen in the time of Confederation. They appear to have only seen the matter as it related to those two provinces, but when we know there was a great deal of jealousy and suspicion.

Rep. by Pop. became a fad with statesmen like Brown for instance, and it was this question more than any other question that kept our island out of the union from '67 to '73. The island fathers of confederation saw the iniquity of the principle when it applied to the little Province of P. E. I., uniting herself to a coterie of large provinces, and especially as the Canadian Constitution (British North America Act) for the protection of Provincial Rights, such as the American Constitution had provided through the United States Senate, to which I will refer later.

Rep. by Pop. has never obtained in the United Kingdom for the reason that Ireland, one of the members of the Union, was smaller than Great Britain in area, population in influence. Because of this condition Ireland always had a representation far in excess of the Island of Great Britain, when reckoned in proportion to population, and notwithstanding very occasional attempts by individuals in the Imperial Parliament to have the representation of Ireland reduced in accordance with the principle of Rep. by Pop. no English parliament would dare to propose such legislation. Notwithstanding there were times when the Irish members of parliament, through their strenuous obstructionism, tormented the representatives of Great Britain almost to despatch.

When the United States constitution was framed the greatest intellects of the age, including friendly British statesmen, saw this difficulty

(Continued on Page Seven.)

THE ORIGINS OF THE PRESENT WAR

(BY SIR VALENTINE CHIROL, FOREIGN EDITOR OF THE LONDON TIMES)

Serbia, for more than a quarter of a century after the Treaty of Berlin, and especially throughout the reign of the miserable King Milan, was regarded in Vienna and Pesth as an Austrian satrapy, and any sign of restiveness as inexcusable rebellion. When the revolution of Eastern Rumania with Bulgaria took place in 1885, to the detriment, as it was then held, of Austro-Hungarian influence in the Balkan Peninsula, it was Austria-Hungary who mobilised the Servians—though with signally unfortunate results—against their "bulgarian" brothers. There are perhaps few more discredited pages in history than the attitude of Austria-Hungary towards Serbia throughout that period. Both politically and economically, the Dual Monarchy held Serbia in a vice.

No nation has paid more heavily for the sins of its rulers than Serbia. The ruler of King Alexander and Queen Draga gave her a bad name all over the world, but in Vienna it excited only belated reprobation. Under King Peter Karageorgevitch, things went on very much as under the Obrenovitchs, until, in 1905, Serbia ventured to seek some relief from economic servitude to Austria-Hungary by concluding a commercial convention with Bulgaria. The Dual Monarchy replied by a merciless tariff war. For the first time, Serbia offered systematic resistance and sought, not unsuccessfully, to work out by the development of new channels for her foreign trade, the economic emancipation which was to be the prelude to her political emancipation. It was felt in Vienna and in Pesth that some big counter-move was necessary; and, in Baron von Aehrenthal, Austria-Hungary found a Foreign Minister who was burning to show that the Dual Monarchy was capable, in its turn, of piping the tune to Berlin.

The Turkish Revolution of 1908 furnished an excuse for at last proceeding

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson

"BABY, GO TO BED."

Almost any man can say it. Can say, "Baby, go to bed." But how many can enforce it? When the little tounge-head perks his head up sort of sideways in the way we daddies know And says, half a smile, half tearful "Papa, me don't 'ants to doe."

And pleads: "Me ain't seeepy, papa. Me don't 'ants to doe to bed." And you see the curls a-tumble On the little baby head; And you look up at his mother In a deprecating way, And you hide behind your paper And let the baby play.

Yes, most any dad can say it. Can say, "Baby, go to bed." But how many can enforce it? When a little tounge-head Says: "I'm busy now a-payin.' Whispers soft, "Don't papa know?" Saying, "I'm ain't seeepy, papa." Pleading, "I'm don't 'ants to doe."

JUDG MORTIMER LEWIS.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

The ideal weather, lovely moonlight nights and the splendid ice on the river and ponds tempted great crowds to enjoy that popular and beautiful outdoor pastime this week and skating was widely indulged in night and day, till the mild weather upset things. Several very enjoyable informal skating parties were held followed by light suppers. The horse races were also keenly enjoyed, the course being eagerly followed by hundreds of excited enthusiasts, some driving, others walking or skating.

Deepest sympathy is being extended to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Artemas Lord, in the loss they have sustained in the death of Mr. Ernest Lord, and especially to his young widow, who, during her short residence here has endeared herself to all.

Miss Geraldine Fitzgerald, who has been visiting friends at North Bay, Halleybury and other places, is now spending some time in Ottawa, the guest of Sir Louis and Madam Davies.

The continued illness of Mrs. Donald McKinnon, McGill Avenue, is deeply regretted by her wide circle of friends.

Miss Clair McLeod, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, who has been visiting her home in this city for the past week, has left on return to Montreal. Miss McLeod leaves in the very near future with the McGill Medical Corps for active service at the front. She was commended by the good wishes of home friends.

Mrs. A. A. McLean has joined her husband, Mr. McLean, M. P., in Ottawa, having had a most enjoyable visit to Mr. McLean's sister, Mrs. J. A. Nicholson, in Montreal.

Mrs. Rogers, of Government House received Wednesday afternoon, the last Wednesday of the month, and was assisted by Mrs. Cecil Stewart. The unfavorable walking did not deter the ladies from paying their respects to Mrs. Rogers and a pleasant social hour was enjoyed.

The Royal Edward Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire will hold their annual meeting this afternoon, Paardeburg Day, at the home of Mrs. C. W. Hodgson. A most interesting meeting is anticipated as the ladies of this society have done inestimable work in connection with the present war.

Miss Janet Hogan entertained at a small but pleasantly arranged bridge on Tuesday evening.

The slight improvement reported in Mr. S. W. Crabbe's condition is pleasing news to his wide circle of friends.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Flood were visitors in Halifax this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mahon returned to Halifax on Monday after a short visit to friends in this city.

Miss Bartlett was a passenger to Georgetown on coming en route to Montreal to join her parents, Major and Mrs. Bartlett. Mrs. Bartlett's friends will regret to hear that she is still suffering from the effects of her accident. Major Bartlett is expected home next week. Miss Bartlett stopping in Montreal as company for her mother.

Mrs. Charles Rogers entertained the members of the Presbyterian Church Choir most pleasantly at her prettily appointed home on Central Street, Summerside, on Wednesday evening.

to the formal annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, whilst, in connivance with Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria at the same moment proclaimed her independence and Prince Ferdinand assumed the title of Bulgarian Tsar. The Sultan was by no means disposed to surrender without some quid pro quo the shadowy rights of sovereignty which had been left to him both over Bulgaria and over Bosnia and Herzegovina. In spite of the Powers, and more especially to Russia, where she found a ready response from a Foreign Minister who was smarting under the sense of having been personally attacked by his Austro-Hungary colleague, Russia demanded compensation for Serbia by coming to a direct agreement with her, and the question of compensation for Serbia had resolved itself into a direct trial of strength between Austria and Russia, that Germany stepped into the forefront of the fray. Then a scarcely veiled ultimatum was delivered by Germany in St. Petersburg, summoning Russia to abandon her championship of Serbian pretensions. It was a

(Continued on Page Seven.)



Women's Corset Shop

SPRING MODELS—featuring the new slightly curved waist line and higher bust, in Tricot, Batiste or Coutil.

Prices away below actual values

50c, 98c, \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$2.00. Patons' Special Corsets 98c, well worth \$1.50.

A Special Purchase of Imported Tailored Serge

54 inches wide, in black and navy blue, will be placed on sale at the very low price (for this quality) of 1.10 others 1.25, 1.35, 1.75, 1.98 and 2.35.

New Wash Goods

The following are some of the new novelty Wash Goods received at Patons', Printed Holly Batiste, Irish Linette, Irish Polin, Sampson, Galatesa, Reception Voile, Shadow Lace Voile, Palm Beach Rice Cloth, Fashion Crepe Voile, Fancy striped organdies, Improved Shepherd Plaids Woven [Shepherd Checks, All of Burton's celebrated make. Samples for the asking.

Patons

VICTORIA ROW Phone 96

Rehall Cough Mixture will relieve you after every other remedy has failed. Get a bottle, if you are not satisfied with these results we'll refund your money. Put up in two sizes, price 25c and 50c. The MacKinnon Drug Co., Cor. Great George and Kent Streets.

"Any morning now you are liable to wake up and find two or three days' rain storm started. So don't be caught shy of an umbrella when only such little prices as these stand between you and a sturdy, good looking one. 75c. each. PATONS. 8781-37m31 MEI.

INSURANCE advertisement for Hyndman & Co. Ltd. Established in 1876. 61 Queen Street, Telephone 67. Insurance of All Kinds. Absolute Security - Lowest Rates.

A New and Good Finish For Wood in 30 Minutes advertisement for Johnson's Wood Dye. Apply Johnson's Wood Dye to your soft wood furniture, and in thirty minutes it is possible for it to have as beautiful and artistic a finish as the most expensive hard woods.

Bargains for you at Goff Bros advertisement. Ladies Boots Pat. Dong. & Tan calf first price \$3.00 to \$4.00 now \$2.19. Misses Boots Sizes—1-2 Price \$1.25. Ladies Slippers Dong. 1 strap \$1.15 for 85c. Ladies Trimmed Slippers 39c. Men's Boots the best value yet. Tan & Gun Metal, Butt. & Laced priced from \$3.00 to \$5.00 at 25 p. c. off.