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THE FOX BUSINESS

"The development of the fox breeding industry has been one of the most interesting features of Prince Edward Island of recent years. The high value of black fox pelts is a matter of common knowledge, and it only needed the proof that the animals could be successfully bred in captivity for this idea to be taken up commercially. Fur farming first took root in Prince Edward Island, where it has now grown in a few years into an established industry; indeed, according to government statistics, the value of young foxes raised in the Island Province during 1914 was over \$6,000,000."

The above is an extract from an article in the March 6th issue of "Canada," a periodical published in London, England, and circulated widely in Great Britain and dominions overseas.

The editor of "Canada," visits the outlying portions of the Empire at regular intervals, his visits to Canada being made every two years. On the occasion of his last visit to Canada, he included Prince Edward Island and, in company with Mr. J. O. Hyndman and others visited several of the Island's leading fox ranches. Naturally he was interested in an industry of which he had heard but vaguely and the wonderful possibilities of which he was able readily to grasp. As a result of his visit he wrote up the fox business in his magazine, and had it profusely illustrated with ranch views etc. Recently the publishers of "Canada" asked Mr. Hyndman for an article giving concrete information regarding the industry. Mr. Hyndman sent a report of the annual meeting of the Provincial Silver Black Foxes, Limited, which appeared some weeks ago in The Guardian, and which is published in full in "Canada." The article from which the extract at the beginning of this article is taken has reference to this report.

"Canada" is one of the leading publications in the British Empire, dealing exclusively with commercial and industrial life of the United Kingdom and of the dominions beyond the seas. The fact that it has become interested in the fox industry of Prince Edward Island is, in itself, a rare compliment to the business in view of the fact that through the influence, largely, of otherwise interested concerns, some reputable newspapers in the United States and even in Canada were not only not friendly but some of them even hostile to the industry.

The management of the Provincial Silver Black Foxes Limited are to be commended for bringing the fox business of the province thus prominently and authoritatively before the people of the United Kingdom and for keeping the possibilities of the business before the world by generous advertising at a time when other industries and enterprises were waning in the general depression that came in the wake of the war. As a result of their faith and the publicity given them in this widely circulated journal they have already received many inquiries from abroad.

If ever the fox business needed publicity it is now, when other less profitable enterprises are going a-begging. What is needed is to show to the world that whatever other industries are starving the fox business is not and that while markets are depressed and there is little call at present for the output, the foxes are multiplying, the ranches steadily and cheaply increasing their capital and laying broader foundations for the enlarged markets that will be crying out for fox-fur long before any considerable quantity of fur will go on the market. The fox business now is in breeding stock. No one in the business is looking for a fur market, for there is no fur to sell, except that of animals that have grown too old or are accidentally killed and these are few.

THE WORLD'S DEBTS

The national debts of the world, says the Journal of Commerce, according to the last compilation made, amounted to a total of 42 billion dollars, an increase of 20 per cent. in the past decade. The interest and other charges amount to 1,732 million dollars, which works out at slightly over 4 per cent.

These figures were compiled before the outbreak of the present war. When the struggle is ended, the total of the world's indebtedness will be greatly increased, especially Germany and Austria, which will be forced to a considerable extent to finance the Allies for the losses they have sustained as a result of the war.

The largest national debt is that of France, 6,284 million dollars; the next largest being Russia, 4,557 million; the United Kingdom, 3,486 million; Spain, 1,815 million; British India, 1,475 million; Japan, 1,242 million, and the United States, 1,028 million. The debt of the German Empire States is 3,736 million; that of Austria Hungary, 1,051 million; that of Austria, 1,434 million, and of Hungary, 1,268 million dollars.

All the important countries show in the past ten years a large increase in the total of their national indebtedness. In the case of France the figures for 1912 are 6,284 million, against 5,857 million in 1902; Russia, 4,553 million in 1913 against 2,561 million in 1902; the United States, 1,028 million in 1903; Japan, 1,242 million in 1913, against 262 million in 1902; the German Empire, 1,178 million in 1912, against 699 million in 1902; the German States, 3,736 million in 1912 against 2,688 million in 1902; Italy, 2,707 million in 1902, against 2,561 million in 1913, against 925 million in 1903. The United Kingdom shows a slight decrease, the figures for 1913 being 3,486 million dollars, against 3,855 million, a decade earlier.

The aggregate of national indebtedness, including all countries, for which data can be had, was in 1890, 2 1/2 billion; 1895 3 1/2 billion; 1900, 31 1/4 billion and 1912, 42 billion dollars.

The statement of annual revenues and expenditures of the seventy odd countries included in the list shows total expenditures of 12,308 million dollars, and total revenues of 12,719 million, the figures relating in all cases to the latest available year, chiefly 1912 or the fiscal year 1913. Their expenditures in 1902 aggregated 7,981 million dollars and their revenues 7,901 million, national expenditure having thus increased over 50 per cent. during the ten year period, while national indebtedness increased about 29 per cent. during the same period.

DO IT NOW

With the coming of "gentle spring" and the annual return of Nature's miracle of which the poets sing there comes the miracle of housecleaning whose glories no poet has yet had the courage to sing.

Usually the latter miracle comes on with the suddenness of an Alpine avalanche and it finds a whole community struggling together in one awful mess, the men unavoidably absent from home on urgent business and the women folk hunting wildly, and usually, vainly for carpenters, painters, paper hangers, &c., &c. It follows as a natural consequence that, as only a limited proportion of the population are carpenters, painters, paper hangers &c., &c., that there are not enough to go round and there are disappointments and heartburnings.

Now, this is not going to be an essay on housecleaning but a gentle reminder that this thing happens every spring as unerringly as the return of the robin and the awakening of the butterfly. And very much of it might be avoided.

There are at present in Charlottetown several dozen carpenters, painters, paper hangers, &c., &c., who are not only not busy but many of them are idle and would be glad to attend to little jobs that could as easily be done now as later, when everybody will be after them. Housecleaning can be done just as well before it becomes epidemic as after, and very much more easily.

It is not too early to put on the screen windows; to buy new ones where needed; to paint last year's screens; not too early to do the papering, the painting and the other items which go to swell the "miracle," and "the early bird catches" the carpenter, the painter or the paper hanger. Another reason why housecleaning should be done now is that, if done now, the agony will be over, and the approaching summer may be met with glad, outstretched hands right on the front porch without any danger of tripping over furniture set out for an airing.

OPTIMISM AND SOUND SENSE

"Pat Burns, the Canadian Cattle 'King,' one of the best known figures in Western Canada and one whose successful career as a cattle buyer reads like a romance, was interviewed recently on the all important topic, war and its probable effects upon Canadian business. The genial Irishman is not merely a talker. He does things and does them in a practical, common sense way as is shown by the fact that although he acquired practically a monopoly of the business he was engaged in he incurred no enmity or suspicion on the part of his competitors. Moreover, he has shown practical patriotism in connection with the present war, not by talk or gush but by munificent gifts and subscriptions to the war funds. His optimistic outlook upon the situation is well worth reading and remembering. This is what he is quoted as having said:

"Everything is all right. We're mighty lucky to be as well off as we are. We might easily be enduring the horrors of war on the battlefield instead of being permitted to go to bed and sleep soundly o' nights. We haven't much to complain about.

"What can we expect but a little discomfort when the greatest war ever known is raging? This country, as a part of the British Empire, is at war to just the same extent as England, yet we hardly realize it. Because business is a little dull we go about growling. We are mighty lucky, I can tell you—we might all be digging trenches; then we would have something to complain about.

"The business outlook? Why, that's all right. The country is just as good as ever it was. There are as many fish in the sea, as much timber and mineral as ever—we haven't scratched our resources as yet, so what is there to be down-hearted about? There is only one thing the matter with Canada—there are too many people in the cities. They must give up the notion of making money from one another and get out and go to work. That will prove the salvation of this country for the people to realize that the true basis of permanent prosperity is work.

"They had a good wheat crop last year on the prairies, they are getting higher prices than ever before, and the new crop will be the largest in the history of the country, if all goes well. I am not a bit gloomy over the outlook, and I have perhaps as much at stake in this Western country as most people.

"The war, I am sure, will work to the ultimate advantage of all of us if it rids us, as I believe it will, of that craze for all things artificial, reflected in hobble skirts, tango teas, and other forms of silly dissipation which seize and possess a foolish people in times when money is easily made in the many forms of speculation. We have got to be more thrifty and practise more self-denial from now on, and we will be better men and women for it."

THE WAR BILL

British finance is an interesting subject now. For the fiscal year which ends on March 31st, the following war votes have been made:

August 6th	£100,000,000
November 15th	225,000,000
Supplementary	37,000,000
	£362,000,000

Already Parliament has voted £250,000,000 for the war expenses of the next fiscal year, 1915-16; yet this sum may be exhausted by the end of July, so that a single year of war is likely to consume over £600,000,000. This is three times the cost of the Boer war, which lasted in all four years, and more than eight times that of the Crimean war. The war with France between 1793 and 1815 cost upwards of £800,000,000. In a recent speech Mr. Asquith estimated that from this time forward England would have to spend in the struggle well on to two million pounds a day. She will be repaid the money she is lending to Canada, Australia and South Africa, but it will be some time before she gets back her advances to Belgium and Serbia; and no one quite knows what she may have to do in the way of financing Russia. A long time ago the historian Hume and other capable men were sure she would be ruined if the national debt ever exceeded £150,000,000; but to-day there seems to be no limit to her financial strength.

NOTES

Gifts of \$6,200,000 have been contributed by the people of the United States to Belgian relief. It is to be said for the Americans that when they are touched by the story of a foreign people's pains they are most generous givers.

The Russians are waging war on a tremendous scale. In the capture of Przemysl they took nine generals, 300 other officers and 117,000 men. This is only one occasion on which they have gathered in prisoners by the tens of thousands, from both the Austrian and German ranks. Their enemies by this time must fully realize the prowess of the armies of the Czar.

In connection with the Government scheme to place women in the situations vacated by men going to the front in Great Britain, the question is being asked as to whether the soldiers will get their places back when they return to civil life, and if so what is to become of the women in question if in the meantime they have become self-dependent? The situation has the elements of much trouble.

EVERY CANADIAN KEYED UP AND READY FOR ALL

LONDON, March 24.—In a despatch from British headquarters in France Frederick Palmer describes a visit he paid to that part of the line held by Canadians. He says: "It was pitch dark, and at the hour when the supplies go to the trenches. There was not a light on any vehicle or in any habitation, but after stumbling along the correspondent passed through an open door and the darkened hall of a farmer's house, and entered the brilliantly illuminated room—with thickly curtained windows—of the brigade headquarters. An officer was talking over the telephone. He had just had word that a man had been shot in the back by a concealed sniper in the rear of the trenches. The commander and his officers gathered around the correspondent, whose request to go into the trenches had been gladly granted."

OTTAWA SERGEANT AS GUIDE.

The correspondent soon was on his way down a dark road, with a sergeant from Ottawa as his guide to the battalion headquarters. Passing through the ruins of a village, the sergeant remarked, "The Germans are not satisfied yet. They chuck a few shells into the wreckage every day. The shells made us kind of nervous at first, but we are used to them now, all right."

In a pleasant cottage, batted as tight as a photographer's darkroom (an enemy always fires at a light) the correspondent found the battalion commander, who was from Quebec. He sleeps in the cellar and the other officers of the battalion staff in dug-outs. The officers remarked that a shell had knocked off a piece of the roof the other day, but that the missile did no harm except to make some dust. The colonel was going down into the trenches himself for the night and took the correspondent with him.

WHERE THE ENEMY LOOSENS UP.

"Right along here is a favorite place for the Germans to loosen up with a machine gun, for they have a clear field, for fire," the Colonel remarked when an open space was reached.

"There is nothing to do but to lie flat and wait until they have done shooting."

A German searchlight rays swung toward the colonel and the correspondent, and then rested on the clear spot. "Stand still," said the officer. "That's the rule until it sweeps off. Thus they are not able to spot us."

THE SPIRIT OF COMRADESHIP.

The colonel and the correspondent kept passing along soldiers carrying food and ammunition to the trenches or returning from the trenches empty handed. The colonel spoke to them as

FUNERAL CAR MADE INTO TANGO TROLLEY

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., March 26.—The Atlantic City and Shore Fast Line six months ago went to considerable expense to have a finely equipped car twice the size of ordinary cars, constructed to carry funeral parties to the cemetery on the mainland. At the end of six months they found the car a dead loss.

Work was started this morning to make it pay. It will be transformed this morning into a tango car. The central seats will be moved, a maple floor will be put down and waxed, and then the car will be put in special service to carry parties to the country on the main line. They may tango over and tango back.

"There's more than one way of making ends meet," said the officials.

LACE GIRL WINS HUSBAND

SOUTH NORWALK, Conn., March 26.—Leo Robert Mangering, of St. Louis, Mo., found a girl's name a year ago written on a piece of lace. The girl who wrote the name on a dare today became Mrs. Mangering.

The wedding took place at St. Mary's rectory here after a year's courtship by mail. Mrs. Mangering was Rose Martha, the daughter of the superintendent of the Dresden Lace Works, where the lace was made. She is twenty one and pretty. The bridegroom is twenty-two. The couple are now on a tour of the South and intend to live in St. Louis.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS

Strangers and pilgrims through the world we wander,
Like exiles longing for their native land,
And all our longing for the sweet rest
Yonder, the homelick hearts of earth will understand.
Pilgrims and strangers, wearily we roam,
But in God's own good time we'll all get home.

Strangers and pilgrims! When, like souls benighted,
We grope through darkness for our Father's hand,
Lo! Just ahead we see the heavenly lamps lighted,
To guide our footsteps to the Father-land.
Be patient while a little time we roam
At twilight will come the gathering home.

O rapturous thought! Beyond the world of sorrow,
Beyond the hills of earth where now we roam,
We'll find the rest of God some glad tomorrow.
And all our dear ones safe in God's sweet home.
Be patient, heart, till He shall call to thee:
"Come home, to dwell forevermore with me!"
—(Eben E. Rexford in the Christian Herald.)

"Boys," a greeting which one never hears from an English officer. As the trenches were entered a sudden command was given to some one showing an electric flash to turn it off as the "patrols are coming in." Several men, who had been out, crawling up Indian fashion to see if the Germans were up to anything new, came hustling over the top of the trench. Some bullets swept overhead. The Germans had noted the movement and fired, but hit nobody.

CANADIAN INITIATIVE.

"When the strapping, tall Canadians took the position over from an English regiment, they found the crest too low for the height and had to raise it several inches. The Canadians have shown characteristic ingenuity and initiative in arranging the trenches to suit themselves, and besides, have made them wholly dry and comfortable.

"This beats Salisbury Plains," they kept saying, referring to their experience in drilling and waiting in England.

"All we needed was to be in," said the Colonel. "We came from home to fight and we are fighting. There is no trouble about discipline. Every man is keyed up and right on the job."

CHIPPER AS A WINNING BALL TEAM.

The entire contingent of Canadians was a chipper as a winning baseball team.

"We won't care to go to the fire-works any more when we return home," said a man from Ontario, who asked the correspondent if he knew Toronto and Buffalo. "We get enough of German flares," the man added, as the dunes kept rising at intervals, illuminating roughly the 300 yards of space between the trenches. "They are worried lest we are going to spring an attack on them, and we shall, pretty soon, too, I hope," the soldier said.

Occasionally as the correspondent walked along he could hear the sounds of snoring. In their shelter-proof trenches the men, wrapped in blankets in frontier fashion, and despite the German flares and firing which go on all night, were sleeping until their turn came to go on watch.

The absence of exhaustion among the men as they come out of the trenches is the cause of universal comment.

"They say we are making good, and I believe we are," the Colonel declared when he bade the correspondent good night.

FAMILY SECRET OF RAT-CATCHING.

LONDON, March 26.—The funeral took place recently at Nunhead Cemetery, of Mr. John Dalton, the oldest rat catcher in the country. He was born in the Borough 90 years ago, and died at Milcote street, Southwark, where he had lived for over 60 years.

He came of a family who for over 200 years have carried on business in Southwark as rat catchers. They discarded the use of poison, and had a secret method of enticing the rats from their retreats and of killing them. This secret has been handed down from father to son in the family.

Thirty years ago Mr. Dalton retired and left the business, a lucrative one, and the family secret to his son John, and the late Mr. Dalton held contracts from the leading railway and dock companies for killing rats, and his "bags" were often very large. His landau could often be seen outside the chief west-end hotels from which would emerge Mr. Dalton with his bag of rats, which he handed to his coachman.

He was a popular sportsman, and in his early days conducted the crowned heads of Europe to the various sporting rendezvous when they visited London.

The funeral was attended by all the chief rat catchers of London, and a large number of costermongers from the Borough.

DEFENCE OF DOG COST \$40.

ROUEN, France, March 26.—An American woman known as Miss Florida Settle of New York was fined \$40 today and sentenced to prison for a month for shooting at a man named Waterman because he teased her dog. Her defence was that she shot to scare, with no intention to kill.

The incident occurred on board the French line steamer Chicago, bound for New York to Havre. Certain passengers began teasing Miss Settle's dog, she objected strenuously but they would not stop. Becoming angry she drew a revolver and fired at Waterman, the leader of the group but missed him.

When the Chicago reached Havre Miss Settle was arrested.

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Trustees for an Estate, a Church, a School, or a City Corporation gamble when they carry their own Fire Risk.

The man who pays his Fire Insurance premiums for twenty years and has not a single fire during that period, gets his money's worth exactly as does the man who has had a dozen fires and is recouped of his losses accordingly, he gets what he pays for—protection against uncertainty.

A man may say that because he has not had a fire in forty years, he would have saved money by not carrying Fire Insurance during that period. But the facts prove nothing in regard to the future.

How is he to know that the next day his premises may not be entirely destroyed? He does not know, and if he is wise he doesn't talk about "Saving Money" where Fire Insurance is concerned. To the business man and any owners or trustees of property, Fire Insurance premiums are as necessary expenditures as those on purchases of food by the individual.

No one insurer can provide adequately against fire hazard out of his own resources, except at a prohibitive cost. Co-operation is necessary, so that without financial strain losses can be borne by a body of insurers that to an individual would merely spell financial disaster.

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