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SATURDAY, AUGUST 25th, 1917

BATTLE IN THE AIR

The short, thrilling account of the battle in the air off the English coast narrated in yesterday's Guardian is but a forecast of the sensational and blood-curdling aerial conflicts which will be common before the end of the war.

All authorities agree that the rate of progress in matters aerial ensures that hostilities in the air before the war is much older will be of equal importance to engagements by land or sea. No novelist in his most fantastic imaginings could have predicted the astonishing growth of aviation during the past two years. When the war broke out, the British Government possessed but a hundred odd aeroplanes engineed by the unreliable Gnome and the low-powered Renault. The powers then in authority lacked vision and did practically nothing to stimulate development of the air service. Fortunately there were in the service some most capable and enthusiastic officers and these did not rest content until they had roused newspaper opinion and House of Commons opinion to the absolute necessity of Britain possessing an aerial navy as strong proportionately and as efficient as the First Line of Defence in the North Sea.

Then followed a rapid expansion of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Aerial Service. The latter has done most valuable work, especially in connection with the North Sea Fleet scouting, chasing Zeppelins, and hunting U-boats. Owing to the strict censorship on everything pertaining to the fleet, few details are available of the doings of this branch of the service.

But with the Royal Flying Corps it is different. The tremendous service it is rendering cannot be hid, and its expansion from a tiny band of enthusiasts and experimentalists to a great service that can challenge comparison with any other branch of the army is one of the seven modern wonders of the world. Until the development of airplane scouting, wireless signalling and photography, progress on the various fronts was practically impossible. Now nothing is hid from the aerial scout, and most of the British successes have been due to the unerring accuracy of aerial photography.

With the introduction of aerial scouts for escort and protective duties came formation flying and concerted attack, and fighting craft have since then continued to increase in speed and numbers. As the struggle between the enemy airplanes have become more acute and intense, so has the scene of it moved higher and higher until today the average air battle begins at any altitude between 12,000 and 20,000 feet.

A writer in Blackwoods, one who has been through the conflict from the beginning, has this to say of aerial prospects of the present war: "The future of war flying, like all futures, is problematical; but having regard to our present unquestionable superiority in the air, and to the blend of sane imagination and practical ability now noticeable as an asset of the flying service directorate, one can hazard the statement that in the extended aerial war which is coming the R.F.C. and R.N.A.S. will nearly satisfy the most exacting of critics. The tendency is towards a rapid development of air craft even more startling than that of the past. Some of the modern scout machines have a level speed of 130-140 miles an hour, and can climb 1,000 feet a minute until an abnormal height is reached. It is certain that within a year later machines will travel 160, 180 and 200 miles an hour, level.

"Quantity as well as quality is on the up-grade, so that the power to strike hard and far will increase enormously, helped by heavier armament, high destructive bombs, and more accurate bomb sights. And above all, we shall see a great extension of ground attacks by air cavalry."

In this connection it may be of interest to those who think Canada is not in danger to know that the United States does not thus lightly treat the aerial menace. In a lecture in Boston the other day Mr. Roger Babson, the government statistician, warned the people that German submarines with two or three aeroplanes aboard may appear on the Atlantic coast and bombard Boston and other seaboard cities this fall. Should the successful escape of German submarines and other war vessels from the North Sea occur, as predicted by British Admiralty critics, then British North America and the West Indies are the certain rendezvous for their activities, whether by sea or air.

LIKE LOT'S WIFE

While War Liberals have learned that they cannot follow Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the question of conscription, some of them, (says the News) turn longing eyes backward to recall the leadership of the Party in former days. Such Liberals cannot forget "what Sir Wilfrid Laurier has done for the Empire." Others in Canada cannot forget it, but in another sense. Of all sides of Sir Wilfrid's career, this is the one most open to attack. His attitude towards any measure of Imperial co-operation has been vigorously hostile for many years. Liberals cannot deny that he was violently opposed to the sending of troops to South Africa, and yielded to the public opinion of English-speaking Canada only under protest. Liberals might review with advantage the record of Sir Wilfrid at the various Colonial and Imperial Conferences when he was the recalcitrant minority whenever a project of joint Imperial action of any sort was proposed.

The contempt he showed for statesmen who foresaw the war and sought to prepare against its coming is a matter of recent knowledge. He and his followers were highly humorous and satirical about "the Borden Emergency" when the Canadian Government sought to add three effective units to the Grand Fleet. He and his followers used a partisan Senate to block a project which, if it had become law, would have given Germany a correct notion of the sentiment of love and loyalty held by Canada towards the Mother Land. Because the bill was thrown out, German diplomats got the impression that the British Empire would fall to fragments at the first blast of war. The man or the newspaper which exclaims over the great things Sir Wilfrid Laurier has done for the Empire is contemptuous of history and blind to patent facts. The present attitude of the Liberal leader does not differ in the slightest degree from his attitude of other years. The War Liberals who part with Sir Wilfrid to-day have been gulled and fooled by him in the past. Their defection will not help the country, if they fight languidly or with a sigh for the touch of a vanquished hand.

SOME THINGS ACCOMPLISHED

When we hear the glib-tongued Liberal aspirant to office discuss at length on the alleged failure of the Borden government to do things, it is well to counter him with a few figures that tell something about Canada's part in the war:

Enlistments in Canadian overseas forces	392,041
Active militia called out	9,052
Permanent Force	2,470
Enlistments for Canadian Navy	3,310
Sent to British Naval Service	1,600
Imperial Mechanical Transport Service	1,200
Reservists from Canada	21,250
Total	434,529
Actually left country up to May 1, 1917	312,503
Still in Canada training (In addition to 9,052 on guard duty and 1,470 of permanent force, making a total of 35,997)	25,475
Casualties among Canadian up to June, 1917	99,639
Prisoners of war	2,374
Saw service in France or the East	175,000
Workmen and inspectors on munitions work	304,000
Factories	630
Orders in 1917 (estimated)	\$700,000,000
Advanced by Canada to secure these orders	250,000,000
Other orders executed by Canadian Government for the Allied nations	200,000,000
Disbursed by War Purchasing Commission for equipment and supplies for Canadian forces, over	800,000,000

This may not convey much to those who have eyes and see not, who have ears and hear not, but to the unbiased and the reasonable man they tell of Canada's development to the proud position of a world power, something more than a "daughter in her mother's house and mistress in her own."

CANADA'S EFFORT THE DOMINION IN THE GREAT WAR

"What stronger breast-plate than a heart untainted? Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just, And he but naked though locked up in steel, Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted."

Reviewing all that has been accomplished during the last thirty months, it is no vain national boast that the Canadian people have far exceeded the expectations laid down at the outset—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

XIII.

A FINANCIAL REVOLUTION.

Nearly three years of war have had the unexpected effect of demonstrating Canada's financial resourcefulness and of establishing Canadian credit upon a firmer basis. For years before the outbreak of hostilities we had financed a great national development largely with the aid of annual borrowings of about \$300,000,000 in the British market. When the war stopped that seemingly inexhaustible source of supply, Canadian financiers regarded the outlook as very serious. How should we go on now that our chief monetary prop had suddenly been knocked from under us? How should we carry on the business of the country, complete unfinished public works, and find means of financing huge and growing war expenditures?

The outlook was far from reassuring and grave apprehension was felt in responsible quarters. The conflict has proved to our own surprise and satisfaction, and equally to the surprise and satisfaction of friendly countries, that we are far stronger than we or they knew. A great crop sold at war prices has helped us. An expanding export trade in food and munitions has proved unexpectedly profitable. Economy and decreased expenditures for ordinary purposes at home have left us more commodities available for sale abroad. We have produced amazingly and greatly reduced our usual outlays. In the fiscal year ending March, 1913, exports of domestic and foreign produce totalled \$377,068,355 and imports of merchandise \$686,044,113. For the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1915, exports increased to \$461,442,509, while imports fell to \$497,451,002. For the year ending March 31st, 1916, our exports totalled \$779,300,070, as compared with imports of \$530,211,709. For the twelve months closing February 28, 1917, our exports exclusive of gold reached \$1,117,374,093, and our imports \$805,020,622.

The foreign trade reversal embodied in these striking figures is so remarkable as to be almost incredible. At the end of 1913, no sane person would have believed such a transformation possible under any conceivable circumstances. With the aid of a providentially large crop, Canada has "improved the impossible." A country which thought it could not manage without \$300,000,000 a year from the Mother Country has actually loaned the Imperial Treasury \$275,000,000 to finance war orders on this side of the Atlantic. This achievement must be accepted as marking a new epoch in the financial history of the Empire. To that extent for the time being 'the Dominion has been changed' from a debtor into a creditor nation!

In the face of the war-time strain, we have developed a new sense of manhood and self-reliance in the presence of foreign nations and amongst those which compose the Empire. So far as American and British financiers are able to pause in the midst of unprecedented world complications, they are astonished at the recuperative powers evinced by this young country, which heretofore had been developed only by means of outside capital. So satisfied are the great United States banks with the Dominion's steadiness and resourcefulness that they have solicited us to go to them for whatever money we want. In a few months we have climbed to a new position in the eyes of the world. As never before, we have demonstrated the capacity of our people and the natural wealth of our country. Such a splendid war-time record means that, on the return of peace, the Dominion will hold a new place in the Empire and in the world. For this tremendous achievement the Prime Minister has, quietly and without ostentation, furnished wise and courageous leadership.

FOUR CANADIAN LOANS.

Reference has been made to the Government's borrowing in Canada and the United States. In August, 1915, the Dominion was able to float a loan for \$45,000,000 in New York; \$25,000,000 of this obligation matured on the 1st August, 1916, and \$20,000,000 will mature on the 1st August, 1917. The money derived from this loan was used to carry on the construction of public works which had been commenced prior to the war. In December, 1915, a domestic War Loan was issued. Subscriptions for \$50,000,000 were invited; over \$100,000,000 was actually subscribed, and subscriptions for the larger amount were accepted. This was a ten year five per cent. loan issued at 97 1/2 with an initial advantage to the investor, owing to the time at which the instalments were paid, of approximately one and a quarter per cent. The loan thus gives a net income to the investor approaching five and a half per cent. Over 25,000 individual subscriptions were received, the bonds being used in denominations of \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and multiples thereof.

In March, 1916, a further five per cent. loan of \$75,000,000 for other than war purposes was made in New York, \$25,000,000 thereof for a five year period, \$25,000,000 for a ten year period, and \$25,000,000 for a fifteen year period. The obligation of \$25,000,000 under the loan of August, 1915, maturing August 1st, 1916, was liquidated out of this later issue. A five per cent. war-time loan of \$100,000,000 offered to the Canadian public at 97 1/2 in September, 1916, brought more than 35,000 subscriptions running well over \$200,000,000. A third five per cent. domestic war loan of \$150,000,000, offered on March 12th, 1917, was largely over-subscribed within eleven days. The subscriptions aggregated \$267,000,000. The whole loan was a great deal over-subscribed by the public, so that the subscriptions of \$60,000,000 offered by the Canadian banks were not accepted. The issue price was 96. Petty criticism counts little in the face of these potent facts. A more striking public endorsement of strong and competent business management could not well be imagined.

BERNSTORFF'S NEPHEW CAPTURED

(Canadian Press Despatch) PARIS—Among the six hundred prisoners at Dead Man's Hill, taken by us, was a battalion commander with his staff, including Count Von Bernstorff's nephew.

WOULD PURIFY THE LANGUAGE.

(Albany, N. Y. Journal) We seem to have got rid of that British slang atrocity, "bit," and substituted for it the good word "share"; now let's eliminate "slackers." We prefer to believe that shirkers are not numerous enough to make it necessary or excusable to borrow a word from foreign slang to bring reproach upon them.

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HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Princess Patricia has appointed Miss Dorothy Yorke to be her lady-in-waiting. The Hon. Lady Edgerton formerly honorary lady-in-waiting, to the late Duchess of Connaught, will now fill the same office for the Princess Patricia. Miss Adam, also lady-in-waiting to Princess Patricia, still retains her position.

Prince Henry, the King's third son, has gone into camp with the Eton contingent of the Officers' Training Corps.

Lieut. C. H. Colwell, son of H. S. Colwell, deputy mayor of Halifax, who has been recruiting for the Nova Scotia Forestry Battalion, C.E.F., in New Glasgow during July and August, spent the week-end in this city. Lieut. Colwell has been in khaki for nearly sixteen months, ten of which he spent with the Composite Battalion, Halifax. He expects to go overseas with the Forestry Battalion.

One of the nicest afternoon teas of the season was given on Thursday afternoon when Mrs. J. T. Morris entertained at her lovely home, quite a number of visitors being present. The pleasant surroundings and daintily served tea were much enjoyed, Mrs. Morris being a most gracious hostess.

Miss Millie McMillan, after a very pleasant visit to Hon. Peter and Mrs. McNutt, returned this week to her home in Halifax.

The Misses May, of Ottawa, who are guests at the Ryss, are among the summer visitors who are being entertained this week.

Mrs. R. Johnson, Mrs. R. M. Johnson, and Miss Eleanor Johnson are spending a few days this week very pleasantly among friends in St. John.

Many precedents may be found for the presence upon battlefields of British queens, but Queen Mary has assuredly established one record. She has been present in two continents during the progress of hostilities. As Princess of Wales she reached South Africa while the war was in progress; now, journeying into France, she has witnessed evidences of hostilities as no queen ever saw. And who shall now say that we cannot keep secrets, that the German spy is ubiquitous? None but the select few knew a word of the visit until the story was revealed in the official report.

The Lawn Festival on Thursday evening at Mr. D. O. M. Reddin's residence at Brighton, was quite widely patronized as the evening was lovely for out-of-door festivities. It was a pleasing sight to see the prettily dressed girls flitting among the guests serving delicious ice cream and cake, under the glow of the Japanese lanterns and electric lights so nicely arranged.

Lord Airle, who married Lady Bridget Coke recently, rode to his wedding on horseback, the first instance of this at a fashionable wedding in London for over a century.

The marriage of Miss Charlotte Worrall, of Halifax, daughter of His Grace Archbishop Worrall, and Mr. DesBrisay takes place the 18th of September, in the quietest possible manner, with no invitations.

Miss Ilene Christie of North Sydney, has been having a delightfully gay visit among her girl friends here.

Miss Elie Reddin returned this week to her home at Niagara Falls after a several weeks' visit among her old friends and relatives, who greatly enjoyed having her with them.

H. R. H. Princess Louise visited the Maple Leaf Club in Berkeley Square, London, recently. She was received by Lady Perley, Lady Drummond and several others.

Among the hostesses entertaining on several occasions during the past few weeks for visiting friends was Miss Hobkirk, Longworth Avenue.

The Misses Emma and Gladys Nicholson are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Nicholson, at the Westminister. They will likely remain in Ottawa until the end of the session. Miss Alberta McFarlane, of Summerside, who went up from the Island with them, spent a day or two in Ottawa on her way to Vancouver.

Among the visitors leaving this week were Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Hornsby and family of Cuba, who are now spending a few days in Quebec. Prince John, the King's youngest son, was twelve the other day.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bremner announced the engagement this week of their daughter, Hazel Beatrice, to Mr. G. Burton, Lord of Fitzburg, Mass., the marriage to take place in September. Miss Bremner's many friends are offering their heartiest congratulations.

Now that the evenings are closing in so early Bridge is being again indulged in, one and two tables being the popular mode of entertainment.

Eight communal kitchens are now in operation in East London. By this means it has been possible to supply well-cooked food at the lowest possible prices, and thus effect economies in food, fuel and labor.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. B. Longworth, and the Misses Longworth, are spending a few weeks at Brackley Beach, guests at the Gregor Hotel.

Mrs. Herbert and her sister Miss Collins, are being welcomed home on a visit. They have been spending the past week very pleasantly at Brackley Beach.

Rev. Basil King is still true to New Hampshire this summer, but has chosen another portion of the State. He is at Monadnock, and will be occupied correcting the proofs of a new novel, The High Heart, which follows The Lifted Veil within less than a year.

Silverware For The Bride

The enduring gift, the useful gift, the one that pleases most. We have sterling silver and best silverplate that make exquisite wedding gifts in a variety of forms.

G. H. TAYLOR
Jeweler Optician Engraver

Encourage Thrift

Extravagance, always a folly, in these days becomes a crime; thrift, always a virtue, in these days becomes a national duty.

Is there any more intelligent manner of exercising the virtue of thrift than by regularly saving the amount necessary to pay for sufficient life insurance protection? The numberless premium contributed by thrifty people, are redistributed by the Companies in helping to finance the Country and the War—as well as in providing homes and other necessities for thousands of widows and children.

More than half a century of statistics develops the fact that only three men in every hundred are self supporting at the age of 65, and that the other ninety-seven are absolutely dependent upon others for the common necessities of life.

A large proportion of this unfortunate situation is due to the failure of young men to establish a definite financial plan for the future. For such a plan Life Insurance is the medium most available and dependable.

The policies of the Great West Life give the most protection for the least money and pay the highest dividends to policy holders.

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Managers P. E. I. Charlottetown.

NEW BOOTS

Women's colored tops in choc Light and Dark, Grey. Also some pretty styles of Black and Dark Brown. Calf high, cut with medium heels just the kind for fall and winter wear.

GOFF BROS