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WILFULNESS VS. INNOCENCE

Our contemporary the Patriot has been complaining bitterly of the "weariness of politics," and yet it considers it not out of place to start out anew at the close of nearly six weeks of the Legislature to give a rehash of all the arguments and alleged evidence of the Government's mismanagement of finances...

OBSERVATION

One of the main objects, we take it, in the introduction of nature study in our schools is to develop the faculty of observation, to go out beyond the set and rigid curriculum, in other words to enable the student to educate himself. It may as well be taken for granted at the outset that education is not what one acquires from others...

GERMAN BID FOR PEACE

A great deal of interest has been aroused in the United States by a letter written by Dr. Bernhard Dernburg, ex-Colonial Secretary of Germany. Dr. Dernburg had been invited to address a pro-German meeting in Portland, Maine, last Saturday night.

- 1. The freedom or neutralization of the high seas in time of war.
2. An open door policy regarding colonies under which German trade with the colonies of other empires, notably the British, would not be hampered by the preferential tariffs now accorded the mother country.

3. Falling the grant of demands 1 and 2 and the smoothing of the German paths of commerce through Belgium without British interference, Germany's retention of Belgium as a natural foreland and commercial doorway to the western seas.

4. The safety, which would seem to mean now the return to Germany of German colonies, into which Germany could pour her increasing population.

5. A free hand for German activity along lines already tapped in Asia Minor and Africa.

In his argument Dr. Dernburg asserted that the advantages accruing to Germany from permanently retaining the land which it had taken in Europe could be disregarded if all the other German demands, especially a guaran-

teed free sea, were fully complied with in making peace and "the natural commercial relations of Belgium and Germany were considered in a just and workable form."

This extract from the letter is significant: "I can with full authority disclaim any ambition by my country as to world power or downfall, familiar to every German ear, and too experienced on the other, not to know that such a State will never be tolerated by the rest."

Commenting on this declaration, made with "full authority," the New York Times says "This befitting modesty is newly come to her, for no maxim of her militarist authorities has had wider vogue or more eager acceptance than world power or downfall: familiar to every German ear. For that and for much else the time has passed and in any attempt to form a judgment of the present stage of the war and of what conditions in the field and of temper of the belligerents portend we cannot very well exaggerate the importance of this change in the German state of mind."

Dr. Dernburg does not admit defeat; that could not be expected, but the significance of his letter, the first authoritative German presentation of the idea and of terms of peace cannot be missed. His letter is arrogant, assertive, German, but the main point is that a distinguished German in close relations with the Imperial Government has publicly spoken of peace terms. He has asked for more than he expects to receive, as men do in practically every species of bargaining but he has expressed his willingness to make a bargain and that is much.

HON. W. S. FIELDING APPROVES

Although some Liberal papers have criticized the war tax in its various forms, a former trusted authority, Hon. W. S. Fielding, now editor of The Journal of Commerce, has stated in that paper, "The stamp tax is being paid without a murmur, Canada is willing to do her part."

"It is easy to say that a government which introduces a war tax does so in order to make up for its own extravagant expenditure. That is the natural way to attack a war tax. But it is often forgotten that every opposition in every country at war is in a position to attack the government it opposes on this ground. There never was an opposition which did not charge the government of the day with extravagance. Therefore, there never was a war which the opposition could not oppose on the very ground the opposition at Ottawa has taken in attacking the war tax introduction by Hon. W. T. White.

"Hon. W.S. Fielding is a good and as impartial an authority in this matter as Canada has. If there is a man in Canada who knows what he is talking about in this matter, Hon. W. S. Fielding, by reason of his talent and long experience, is that man. No Canadian citizen who cheerfully pays his share of the national burden at this time need fear that he is displaying too much faith in the government of the day now that Hon. Mr. Fielding has put the stamp of his approval upon this special war legislation."

HOW FRANCE PAID GERMANY

In some quarters there is a "fearful looking forward to" a financial upheaval when Germany is compelled to pay the huge indemnities that will be demanded when the war is over. What these indemnities shall be there is no means of ascertaining. The only gauge to enable us to form an idea of their probable magnitude is the demand made by Germany on France after the war of 1870. That bill, in Canadian currency was, in round numbers one thousand million dollars.

In his famous report on the subject, Leon Say, the economist, tells us in detail how the operation was managed. The Germans thought it would beggar the French and made the conditions of payment as onerous as possible. Thus coin alone, in the form of German thalers and florins, would be accepted in final settlement. Although bills on German and foreign houses were taken in millions of dollars, they were not regarded as actual money till they had been converted into coin at the expense of France.

After a time, however, German bank notes were accepted and even French bank notes at a German valuation. Another important change was that Germany agreed to pay sixty-five million dollars for the French railways in Alsace-Lorraine, that sum being deducted from the indemnity. All told, France paid Germany one thousand and sixty million dollars, which included the cost of converted foreign securities into German money and other outlays. Under no circumstances, from first to last, was any payment permitted on account; certain dates were fixed and the French agents had to pay the necessary proportion on the nail at those times and none other. It so happened that Germany owed a good deal just then to England, Belgium and Holland, where she had borrowed money for war purposes and purchased war supplies. The French purchased these German debts, paying for them in French bank notes as well as in gold and silver. To raise the wherewithal money was borrowed from the Bank of France and two national loans issued, one for three hundred million and the other for six hundred million dollars.

A syndicate of bankers, French and foreign, embracing over fifty of the principal financiers of Europe, co-operated with the Government in floating and in part guaranteeing these loans, one-third of which was taken by British, Dutch and Belgian subscribers. As the reader knows, the indemnity was paid off without creating any convulsion in the money markets and certainly without exhausting France. It led to a period of wild speculation in Germany, which terminated in the usual crash.

It may be therefore, that Germany will be able to pay the indemnity levied on her without throwing the bourgeois into a panic, although the cost of the present war to her is already many times greater than her whole expenditure on the Franco-German War, which was officially given as two hundred and seventy-five million dollars; this, however, included a fine of forty million exacted from Paris. An impartial Amsterdam banker says the war is sure to end some time this year because Germany will not be able to prolong it, and thinks the business world will "experience a marked revival of trade before the summer of 1916, notwithstanding the immense destruction of capital."

NOTES

French villages that were recently devastated by German shell fire are already showing signs of recovery, and the inhabitants have started to build up their shattered businesses. France rose superior to misfortune in the past and will do so in the present instance without a doubt. It is not a nation to be downhearted for very long.

COLLAPSE OF THE BOOT "SCANDAL"

Liberals Deserted their own Report and all their desperate efforts end in a fiasco

PARTIZANSHIP vs. PATRIOTISM

Sir Robert Borden charges Liberals with taking the bread out of the mouths of the workmen

The famous army boot "scandal" has collapsed, notwithstanding the Pioneer thinks differently.

From the moment the first criticism of the Canadian boots was heard, the Liberals in Parliament set out to find a scandal and nurse it along to maturity. They did not know that the boots were bad, but they were willing, for a political purpose, to tell the world that the boots were bad, that the Canadian boot and shoe industry was in the hands of crooks, that the militia system in Canada was not efficient, and that the equipment of the Canadian army was rotten.

The allegations circulated by the Liberal Opposition were good news for the enemies of the Dominion and good news for rival commercial interests in other countries. That would have been bad enough had the allegations been true. They were not true, they have been proven to be untrue.

The Opposition in their hunger for political capital, were not willing to wait for the facts. They were content to foul their own nest as Canadians, and to do it on the basis of what has been shown to have been a lying rumor.

Liberals Deserted their own Report.

From the noise which these Liberals made, both before and during the Parliamentary investigation, it might have been expected that they would have stood by the issue they had raised. But they did not. They brought in a minority report, which was not based upon the facts brought out in the investigation, which they knew to be contrary to those facts, and which they dared not support by a record of their votes on a formal division of the House.

The fact is that so poor a case was presented in support of the minority report that the Liberals dared not place themselves on record as subscribing to it. The report was declared "lost on division," no yeas and nays being taken or asked for. Even the mover of the minority report, Hon. Charles Murphy, himself a member of the investigating committee, was discreet enough to absent himself from the Chamber when the debate came to an end.

Every other Liberal, with the exception of five, did the same thing. The five were Hon. William Pugsley, F. B. Carvell, Edmund Proulx, Hon. Charles Marcell, and Dr. Warnock. Of these only one man, Macdonald, had served on the committee. Only one Liberal from Ontario, Proulx, was in the Chamber.

Never in the history of Parliament did a "scandal" flatten out so quickly and so completely.

Took the Bread Out of the Mouths of the Workers.

As pointed out by Sir Robert Borden, the Opposition had sympathized with an effort to discredit those engaged in the boot and shoe industry in Canada. "Because I have not the slightest doubt," said Sir Robert Borden, "that statements which have been made in the press, even before this matter could be thoroughly investigated, have led to the detriment of business conditions in Canada and have deprived this country of contracts which it otherwise would have obtained, and in that way have taken the bread out of the mouths of Canadian workmen."

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE BROKEN PINION

"I walked through the woodland meadows, Where sweet the thrushes sing; And found on a bed of mosses A bird with a broken wing. I healed its wound, and each morning It sang its old sweet strain, But the bird with the broken pinion Never soared as high again."

I found a young life broken By sin's seductive art; And, touched with a Christ-like pity, I took him to my heart. He lived with a noble purpose And struggled not in vain; But the life that sin had stricken Never soared as high again."

But the bird with the broken pinion Kept another from the snare; And the life that sin had stricken Raised another from despair. Each loss has its compensation. There is healing for every pain; But the bird with a broken pinion Never soars as high again. —Hezekiah Butterworth

April's Arrived



Aprils Buttericks Fashion Patterns also Delineator Patons

Material and Linings thrown in Ladies Tailored Suits and Skirts--See Paton's Window For Less Money than they can be Tailored--Material and Lining thrown in

If prices and values speak loud in printers ink, Patons' ought to have a rush with these Tailor Made Suits that they are putting on sale to-day at \$9.48. This price is below the Cost of Material. Most of these Suits are in Blue and Black with about a dozen Fancy colors and Checks, the sizes range 16, 18, 34 and 36 Black's only running up to 40. Styles while not exact are still stylish. The coats are silk lined, Suits strictly Men Tailored and finished with Hair cloth bust forms. Samples to be seen in the Eastern Window. The regular prices of these suits run up to \$25.00 and are one of the best bargains that Paton & Co. ever offered. \$9.48 PATON'S \$9.48

Canada's Fire Loss Is Higher Than Any Other Country in the World, According to the Report of the Conservation Commission at Ottawa

This should bring home to every property holder the necessity of Fire Insurance. Have you ever stopped to think how you would feel to have your accumulations suddenly obliterated? A fire may produce this result. The only absolute protection is Insurance. The cost is so trifling no one can afford to be without it. If you own any property liable to be destroyed by fire, it is a duty you owe yourself and to your family to insure it. A fire loss is always a misfortune to an honest man. For A1 protection at lowest rates apply to

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