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WHAT NEXT?

That Germany has met at Verdun the most serious reverse since the beginning of the war—not excepting the battle of the Marne—is now conceded by all the military authorities, except the Germans, and it is well known that their comments upon it and their exaggerated reports of victories never won are mere bluff.

What will be the next move? Germany is not yet in a position to make the kind of peace she would be content with. She is not yet through with her bluff. Our theologians would probably say, "her cup is not yet full."

A noted Swedish author, Dr Anton Nystrom, says: "Failing war with other powers, there must be a devastating revolution, with civil war in Germany, when the workers, reduced to desperation, will find themselves disappointed in their expectation of German power and prosperity. In this revolution, which will be the work of Socialists, the Government will no longer be able to count on the present universal discipline amongst its soldiers, for millions of them are Socialists and Republicans, and millions will rise to fight under the stress of starvation."

The Socialist element in Germany, before the war, was very strong, so strong in fact that the militarists, who possessed the soul of the nation, welcomed the war as the only offset to the Socialist propaganda. When war came the Socialists, almost to a man, forgot their anti-militarism, forgot their opposition to the existing order of things and threw in their lot with the Fatherland. With other Germans, civilian and military, they fought bravely, self-sacrificingly and whole-heartedly. They were told they were winning and they believed it; they were told that the Allies were becoming disunited, dispirited, that England hated England, was being starved, and they believed it. The successes they met with, the conquest of Belgium, of Poland, of Serbia were proof of the winning. They knew nothing of the fact that their "glorious fleet" was hiding behind the Kiel Canal, that a German merchantman was left on the seas, that their colonies were being taken from them one by one. Their eagerness to get to Paris and Calais was satisfied with the assurance that that too would come as soon as the other conquests were achieved.

The drive for Verdun and thence to Paris was to be the fulfilment of all their hopes. This, they were told, was to be the last great offensive. And it was carefully planned. The French army, on the east side of the River Meuse, was to be enveloped and captured, then "on to Paris." The Kaiser was watching the operations. The Crown Prince was in command. And after nearly five weeks of the fiercest fighting ever engaged in by the armies of any nation, after sacrificing more men than ever before had fallen in a single battle, the attempt failed and the Germans know it. They realize now that all the bloodshed, all the sacrifice the hardship at home and on the battlefield were in vain. They know now they were deceived and humbugged and sacrificed, and they are beginning to remember what they had learned and preached as Socialists. All that their Socialist teachers had told them was true. Militarism has become the curse they had claimed it to be.

What will be the next move? Will Dr Nystrom's prediction be realized? Will the French Revolution be repeated? It is possible that the Kaiser and his circle of militarists may put off the evil day a little longer; but they cannot avert it and the longer it is put off the worse it will be. They are partially awake now. The Battle of Verdun, of which the only result was trainloads of wounded and dying and dead returning, has been the preliminary shock to their awakening. There may be some further spasmodic efforts for a spectacular victory. The "glorious fleet" may put to sea and there may be something to cheer about; there may be more air raids on defenceless cities, more passenger ships sunk, but nothing will be achieved that will give the Germans a grip on their enemy or on his territory and the outraged and humbugged Germans will, sooner or later, find it out. Then, if not even now, Dr Nystrom's prediction will be fulfilled and the revolution that is going to end the war and at the same time drive the Hohenzollerns from the German throne, will come. And it may be nearer than we think.

WHERE THEY PAY TAXES

We were shown the other day a tax bill presented to and paid by a gentleman in Guelph Township, Ontario, and, like one of old, we were constrained to lift up our eyes and thank Heaven that we were not as some men are, but especially as this Ontario. His property was valued at \$3,750, the price of an ordinary farm in Prince Edward Island. On this he paid as follows:—School tax, \$17.02; County rate, \$16.65; Township rate, \$8.51. And still he lived to show his receipt. On a similar property in our "blessed Isle" a farmer would pay, in all, probably \$8 to \$10, school, roads and all.

Ontario, in spite of this—to us—high rate of taxa-

tion, is looked upon as the most prosperous province in Canada; or is it because of, not in spite of, its high taxation that the province is so prosperous?

Generous expenditures on schools, on roads, or public utilities, ensure the best of these that money can provide. Such expenditures cannot be made without taxation and the higher the taxation is the more generous will the expenditures be on these things that make for real prosperity. It is possible that the \$42.18 paid by the gentleman from Ontario may have been the most profitable investment he could make. In fact he went so far as to admit that he received full value for it and he did not appear to be particularly impressed with the prospect he held out to him that if he settled here he would get off with a quarter of the tax he paid in Ontario.

MR. MEIGHEN AND SIR WILFRID

In its yesterday's issue the Patriot returns to a discussion of the Carvell charges, and in a somewhat rambling and incoherent article tries to make out that Mr. Meighen misrepresented the attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier when similar information was asked by the then Opposition regarding Imperial hay contracts in 1903. Our contemporary may have advanced this opinion before reading Mr Meighen's reply to Sir Wilfrid which was made on the 14th inst. In the course of his speech Mr Meighen said:

"I have no complaint to make as to the tone of the speech made by the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier); but I have to complain of one phase of that speech. Perhaps the matter is not of sufficient importance to delay the House, but I do not wish to be charged with omitting it. In the course of his address the right hon. gentleman stated that in the brief quotation I had made from a previous speech of his I had not done him justice; in fact he went so far as to say that I had curtailed, and he should say garbled his remarks. He went on to state that I had left out certain portions at the beginning and at the end, and that as a consequence, he said, I had conveyed a wrong idea of what he intended to say to the House. I know it is quite possible, by leaving out portions of a speech or of a paragraph, to allow a wrong impression to be conveyed, and I know that if I did that I should be guilty of an offence of which I should not like to be guilty. I have found the leader of the Opposition a very fair debater. I did not intend to convey a wrong impression of what he said, and I did not do so. I did leave out something at the beginning and something at the end. I do not know of any way of making an extract except by leaving out something at the beginning and at the end. But I did not leave out anything which modified the view expressed by him in what I quoted. The view expressed was that, in regard to the motion for the production of papers bearing on transactions made by departments of his Government with the British Government, we would not be justified in referring it to a special committee. He said he would not be justified in granting it, nor would he be justified in referring it to a special committee. He said he would not refer it even to the Public Accounts Committee. He went on to say that if the charges were made against the Government, then he would give an investigation. The charges he referred to were charges involving the honour of a Minister of the Crown. If charges had been made here, then it would have been my bounden duty to quote that portion of his speech, because it would have modified the view he expressed in relation to the point he was arguing. But no charges were made then, as no charges are made now, against the Government, of the nature he meant—and he will not deny he meant charges of that nature, for if he does I can show that that is what he must have meant. Consequently, the remarks I left out had no relation to the point discussed either then or now. He refused in that case even to produce papers, because he said they related to the conduct of a department of his Government acting for the British Government. I stated he could not consistently refuse that then, and now say that we should grant an investigation in regard to the conduct of a committee, not a department of the Government at all, nor could he argue, even if they were a department of the Government, that we should grant an investigation. For, even had they been a department of the Government, they would have been in exactly the same position as he was in at that time. I think he was wrong at that time, and that the present Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) was right. The war being over, and the work having been done by a department of the Government, he should have brought down the papers. But he refused to do so. I did not then try, and I do not now try, to shelter myself or the Government behind the precedent then established. I think that precedent was wrong. I say that he certainly could not consistently take that position then, and take his present position now. In quoting what I did, I quoted everything that bore in the slightest degree upon the argument that I had in upon the argument that was sought to be made by the hon. gentleman himself. I quoted everything that bore in the slightest degree upon the point that was under discussion; the rest bore upon another point altogether, upon a subject which did not enter into consideration of the facts at that time and does not enter into consideration of the facts now. I made that remark only because the leader of the Opposition went pretty far when he said that I had garbled what he said. He did not, however, go so far as certain newspapers have since gone in endeavouring to interpret my remarks. I do not want to be guilty in this House of garbling the remarks of any hon. gentleman; if I cannot argue fairly, I prefer not to argue at all."

Here, then, is a complete refutation of the Patriot's insinuation that Mr Meighen had misrepresented the attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and it is for our contemporary to make the explanation to its readers.

LITTLE GIRL IS REGIMENTAL PET

LONDON, March 20.—A pathetic romance centres round a bright little girl of some four years who has just arrived at Bedford in charge of a sergeant-major of the Bedfordshire Regiment. She has spent more than six months at the front with the regiment who have adopted her.

About eight months ago a company of the Bedfordshires were marching along somewhere in France for the first time of trenches, when one of them, named Philip Impey found the child in a ditch by the roadside. No one could go back so they took the child with them into the trench, and made her as comfortable as possible. In a few days she had recovered from the ill effects of the wet and exposure, and was running up and down the trench, the pet of all the officers and men.

Asleep In Trench

Once a bomb nearly filled in a part of the trench. When she had recovered from the shock she was asked anxiously asked a man to go and see that the child was safe. They had left her asleep in a snug corner and there she was found, still sleeping.

The child was about 150 yards away. One morning to their horror the men saw the child standing above the trench on the German side. Cries came from the enemy but they were not hostile this time. The slight of the girl, the more than an infant, touched their sentimental side and she had offers of chocolates and invitations to go and see them. They did not expose themselves any more than the pet of the trench, and the men who touched their sentimental side and she had offers of chocolates and invitations to go and see them. They did not expose themselves any more than the pet of the trench, and the men who touched their sentimental side and she had offers of chocolates and invitations to go and see them.

Name Her Phyllis

The eight day trench duty ended, the little daughter of the company was taken back and was not allowed to go between the lines again. She was taken in charge of by the company storeman, who had children of his own and was greatly proud of his skill in dressing and undressing the child and of his strictness about the morning bath.

A month after she was found the company thought that they ought to give her a name. Philip Impey, who had discovered her, was dead, and they gave her his surname with Phyllis, the nearest approach to Philip.

After she had been six months with the company, the sergeant-major was wounded and came to a hospital home. The girl came with him and stayed in the hospital too, the pet of the patients and nurses.

The parents of the child and who she came to be deserted in a ditch remain a mystery. She is a rosy-cheeked child with light flaxen hair. When found she was well clad but there was no sign of her identity. One thing is certain, she will be well cared for by the officers and men of the Bedfordshires.

PRESENTATION TO SOLDIER

A large and happy gathering of friends and relatives assembled in the hall of the Albert Hotel on March 3rd, to bid farewell to Gunner Harold Conrad, also to have a social time together before his departure for the front. The first part of the evening was spent in various games and tripping the light fantastic to the sweet strains of the violin. A sumptuous repast was then served by the ladies in the usual good style, after which Mr. James Green was called to the chair, and a very short but pleasing programme was carried out including speeches, songs, and violin music. The following address was then read by Miss Margaret Beaton:

Dear Friend and Brother:—You have come here this evening the honored guest of your neighbors and friends, we take this opportunity of congratulating you in offering your service to your King and country in the Empire's hour of trial and danger. We wish we could tell you how greatly we miss you from this community, and how greatly we respect and honour you, for a finer young man never donned the khaki. We could only say this knowing Gunner Conrad.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE MIRROR OF LIFE.

There are loyal hearts, there are spirit brave,
 There are souls that are pure and true!
 Then give to the world the best you
 And the best will come back to you.

Give love, and love to your life will flow,
 A strength in your utmost need;
 Have faith, and a score of hearts will show
 Their faith in your word and deed.

Give truth, and your gifts will be paid in kind,
 And honour will honour meet,
 And a smile that is sweet will surely find
 A smile that is just as sweet!

Give pity and sorrow to those who mourn;
 You will gather in flowers, again
 The scattered seeds from your thought outborne,
 Though the sowing seemed but vain.

For life is the mirror of king and slave,
 'Tis just what we are, and do,
 Then give to the world the best you
 Give,
 And the best will come back to you.

rad as we do. We know and feel sure that when his hour of trial comes he will be just as brave and heroic and will do as gallant deeds as have been done. In conclusion we ask you to accept this accompanying gift, as a souvenir of remembrance from your friends who gathered here to bid you farewell, whom you are leaving behind, friends whose constant wish and prayers will be that Almighty God will keep and protect you from all harm and danger while away and bring you safely home when this cruel war is over, when truth and justice shall have triumphed over Germany's tyranny and brutality, then you will belong the honor and glory of one who helped to win one of the most glorious victories ever won. A gold piece was then presented to Gunner Conrad, for which he thanked the donors very heartily, also making a suitable reply to the address, stating that he was sure he was worthy of these tributes paid to him, he had only done his duty as thousands of other boys have done.

Gunner Conrad enlisted with the 3rd Overseas Royal Siege Artillery, St. John, N. B., he was given a special course on siege guns at the Royal Siege Schools Halifax. He left direct for St. John where ships are waiting to convey them to England on short notice. Gunner Harold Conrad, is a son of Nathan Conrad of Sturgeon and has formerly been employed in the office of the W. H. Miller Company of Campbellton, N. B., for several years.

IN MEMORIAM

COL. F. L. DOGHERTY.

There passed away in the P. E. Island Hospital at 8.15 o'clock Monday evening one of the oldest and most highly esteemed residents of Charlotte town in the person of Colonel Francis Longworth Dogherty, for many years identified with the military and farming interests of Prince Edward Island. He was 84 years of age and goes to his rest full of honors and respected by all. Deceased was a thorough gentleman of the old school, honored because he had held honor higher than all things. As Colonel of the 82nd Battalion he was a very popular commander and did much to promote the welfare of the militia in this Province. He took a deep interest in agriculture and his farm in West Royalty was a well conducted one, showing the thoroughness and perseverance of its owner. One sister is left to mourn. The funeral takes place today at 2.30 p. m. from Wright's Undertaking rooms to the Peoples Cemetery.

MR. ALBERT H. PAYNTER.

On Wednesday, March 15th, there entered into rest a young man of great promise, Albert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Paynter of Long River aged 22 years. A graduate of the Charlottetown Business College, he had just commenced active work, when he was stricken down by illness; and after a brave fight of nearly two years duration, marked throughout by cheerfulness and patience and unflinching hope he peacefully passed away, leaving to mourn his father, mother, sister and brother, besides a wide circle of relations and friends. The funeral took place on March 17th and a large attendance, despite the almost impassable condition of the roads bore eloquent testimony to the esteem in which he was held, and the profound sympathy felt with his sorrowing family. The hymns sung were of his own selection and sufficiently indicate the ideas he cherished during his short life:

"Just as I am, Thine own to be
 Friend of the young who love me,
 To consecrate myself to Thee,
 O Jesus Christ I come,
 Just as I am, young, strong and free
 To be the best that I can be
 For truth and righteousness and Thee
 Lord of my life I come."

THOMAS H. JOHNSTON.

The funeral of the late Mr Thomas H. Johnston took place on Friday, February 18th, from the residence of his father, Mr. E. W. Johnston, Elmisdale, to the Methodist Cemetery at Casumpec. The deceased was 24 years of age and for some time past had resided in Missoula, Montana, where the sad accident occurred which cut off his life in its very prime. The young man, it seems, reached out his hand taking hold of a gun standing nearby which by some unaccountable reason was immediately discharged, the load passing through the lower portion of the left lung. The unfortunate young man was taken to St. Patrick's Hospital, where he fought valiantly for life, finally succumbing eight days after the accident. The large number of people who attended the remains on their last sad journey bore ample evidence of the esteem and respect in which the deceased was held. Funeral services were conducted by the Revs. Dawson, Gosden and Lockhart. The pall-bearers, all former schoolmates, were Messrs Geo. Sinclair, Heber Hardy, Hampton Horne, G. Sydney Fielding and Hugh Williams. The deceased leaves to mourn their irreparable loss his parents, four sisters, Mrs Irving Williams, Elmisdale; Mrs Wm. McKay, East Bedford; Annie and Olive, together with eight brothers at home.

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