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MAKING HISTORY

The events of the past few days have been so startling and so far-reaching that it is practically impossible to get a correct view of the situation. History is being unrolled of the wheel of destiny at a rate that we, on account of our nearness, cannot comprehend. Yet throughout all the ages to come the year 1915 will stand out as one of the greatest in history, perhaps as a turning point in the progress of civilization. We stand today in the midst of a storm the magnitude of which we cannot grasp and the consequence of which we cannot foresee. It is only when we look back to the calm of less than a year ago, and remember that within the past week we have read of the Allies landing troops at the Dardanelles, of the German raid into Russia, of the sinking of some half a dozen steamers by German submarines, the shelling of Dunkirk by a new gun with a range of over 20 miles, of Zeppelin raids on different points, and last of all, and most staggering of all, the slaughter of 899 Canadian soldiers, the flower of Canadian manhood, on the blood soaked fields of Flanders, not killed in regular warfare but murdered by one of the "cultured" nations of this 20th century; when we remember this we may realize in a small degree the tremendous significance of the events that are transpiring almost before our eyes.

And as to the future? Who can tell? Predictions have been made up to the present and their baselessness has been demonstrated. Only the other day the military critic of the London Times was attacked by some of his colleagues because he predicted that Namur would hold out for two months and that the Russians would reach Berlin by October. But in this war the failure of prediction is the rule, not the exception. Some one else of sufficient importance to be quoted predicted the fall of Paris within sixty days. Warsaw was to fall by March 1, the Dardanelles were to be forced by Easter and a certain ex-German spy, whose name has long been missing from the public prints, announced the raid upon London by a fleet of fifty Zeppelins and the prompt surrender of England to the Kaiser, everything to be arranged by Christmas Day. Even Mme. de Thebes has failed to "hit it off" now that prophecy and publicity go together in a way that makes the latter a corrective of the former.

Who dares predict what will come next? Is there anything certain about a war that features asphyxiating gases, successful undersea attack upon a giant cruiser, bomb-throwing air raiders and guns which can fire across the English Channel all within a few hours? We are even at fault in our predictions as to what will not happen. For just when the military critics were agreed that cavalry would no longer play an important part in modern warfare, we hear of a gigantic German cavalry raid which, almost overnight, has penetrated one hundred miles into Russia's Baltic granary, cutting the railroad between Duenaburg and Libau and thereby isolating several important Russian coast towns on the Baltic. Only one thing is certain; no single generation of the future will live through such a maze of big events of startling innovations. Never again will history be made at the rate at which it is being made in 1915.

OUR BLESSINGS

"To him that hath shall be given"—sometimes. Sometimes, also, it may be necessary to "take away that which he hath" in order that he may appreciate the little that is left. We who live in comparative ease, ease secured for us largely through the labours of others, are inclined to value our blessings very much too lightly. Our boys and girls, reared in the midst of advantages for educational advancement to which the pioneers of the province were strangers, place less value upon and many of them receive less benefit from these advantages, than they did who were obliged to undergo actual hardship to receive even a rudimentary education. In very many cases the more we smooth the path for the young feet the more poorly are they fitted for the upward climb that lies before them. In our tenderness and our solicitude for their welfare we forget that life is a struggle and that they only make life a success who are obliged to struggle.

To give a concrete example: Rev. Dr. F. J. Coffin, who has spent the winter in Charlottetown and who for the past twelve years has been Principal of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission College in Trinidad, received, a few days ago, a letter from a former Indian student, now in England. This young Indian, now nineteen years of age, entered the school when a young boy. The beginning was in many ways unpromising, the only gleam of hope apparently being his eagerness to learn. Physically he was unpromising, intellectually, he had uneducated and untrained generations behind him. His father, then under thirty years of age, stood in the same class with him in school, father and son beginning together to lay the foundations of an education.

The young man stuck to his work and two or three years ago won the Colonial scholarship of \$3,000 and a free term in the Edinburgh University; this, in competition with some thousands of students from every colony and every university in the British Empire, was an achievement of which any man might well feel proud. He is now completing a medical term in the Edinburgh University, but, like many more of his countrymen and ours, he has volunteered for military service and is at present caring for the wounded Sikhs and Gurkhas—whose language he knows—in a hospital in Brighton, England. Physically and intellectually he now stands the peer of any man of his age in the Empire. It may also be mentioned here that the father of this young man, who entered the school with him, finished his term and was, a few months ago, ordained as a native missionary.

What difficulties these men, father and son, had to overcome we can have little conception of. They began their climb of life's ladder at a level far below that which the boys and girls of this province begin. The point is that they realised the need of climbing, kept their eyes on the upper rungs and succeeded in getting very much

farther up than many of us do whose ladders are padded and cushioned and even placed at a convenient angle.

We have many blessings and it is quite possible that we do not appreciate them. Perhaps when we shall have emerged from the melting pot in which the nations are at present being fused we may be in a position to place a higher value upon our blessings. One of life's great lessons is that when "things provided come without the sweet sense of providing," we place but little value upon them. To-day, as never before, we are paying the price for our liberties, for our country, for our Empire, paying it in blood and tears. Henceforward we shall love our blessings the better for the price we are paying.

PEACE TALK

While half the world is engaged in a life and death struggle in Europe part of the other half, chiefly American ladies, are demanding that the fighting be brought to a speedy end and telling how this can be brought about. The International Congress of Women at The Hague, of which Miss Jane Addams is President, recently issued invitations to many women in Canada to be present at or to elect delegates to represent them at a general Congress called for the laudable purpose of bringing the war to a close. The following communication was sent by Mrs Plumpton, of Toronto, in reply to this invitation, and it expresses, we believe, the same common-sense view of every Canadian. We reproduce the communication in full:

"I am instructed, as Secretary of the National Committee of Women for Patriotic Service in Canada, to write you as President of the International Congress of Women. The Committee is composed of the presidents or their representatives of the nationally organized societies of Women of Canada. Many women represented on this Committee have received invitations to be present or to elect delegates to represent them at the Congress. None have felt able to accept the courteous invitation, because they believe that the time for peace has not yet arrived, and therefore no women from Canada can speak as representing the opinion of Canadian women.

"An open letter concerning peace has been issued by thousands amongst the women of Canada, and we have received many resolutions endorsing the views therein expressed. It has also been commented upon by most of the women editors of our newspapers, and I have not seen any comment which did not express approval of the position taken in the matter.

"When we look at Belgium we cannot speak of peace. We speak often of the horrors of war, but there are also horrors of peace. In war there is a material and physical loss, but what of the spiritual loss involved in a peaceful acquiescence in the devastation of an unoffending country whose sole crime was her geographical position?

"The women of the Empire whose husbands, sons and brothers are bleeding on the battlefield have no need to learn from other nations of the horrors of war, but they would appeal to the women of other nations, before they condemn all belligerent nations alike, to consider once more the causes of the war set forth in the official documents issued by the various Chancellories of the nations at war.

"We would ask you once more the old question, 'What shall a man or a nation give in exchange for his soul?' The soul of any nation is the value it places upon the defence of the weak, the freedom of the many, and the keeping of its pledged word. It is to preserve our soul as an Empire that we are at war."

This calm dignified pronouncement upon the agitation for peace, of which Miss Jane Addams is the centre, will appeal to every man and woman in the British Empire, and to many in the United States as well. "It is to preserve our soul as an Empire that we are at war." Peace at the present stage would be the greatest curse that the war could bring. Peace terms with Germany while the poison fumes are still hanging green over the battlefield where our sons were murdered? Peace terms with a nation that has deliberately violated every international agreement, every code of honour, every law of God or man? Peace terms with the murderers of women and babes, while the boast is on their lips? Never, till Germany cries for mercy from the dust into which she shall be beaten. "It is to preserve our soul as an Empire that we are at war."

When peace terms are concluded they will be dictated by the Allies. Germany's signature to the terms, a signature the value of which is now well known, will not be asked for. She will be given her place, and measures will be taken to ensure her keeping it in future.

ICELAND

Trade between Iceland and Europe having been considerably interfered with on account of the war, the Icelanders are contemplating extending their business relations with America, and a delegation of merchants and bankers from the Island is on the way to New York to make the necessary preparations. A steamship line has been established and two voyages a month are contemplated. The new venture should do away with the popular belief that Iceland is a land of volcanoes and rock and ice. As a matter of fact, this Danish dependency supports a population of 85,000, there being 13,000 people in Reykjavik, the capital, alone. The people have their own legislature, the Althing, composed of two houses, of 14 and 26 representatives. Education is widespread. Cattle, sheep and horses are bred extensively and exported, and there is also a considerable exportation of fish and native woolens. In 1912 the exports were valued at \$4,666,630 and the imports at \$4,271,900. These are fair trade figures, and indicate that the new business with America may be worth while.

NOTES

The Canadian soldier is ready to fight the Teuton with artillery, with the bayonet, or with the rifle, at any time or in any place. But his organization, like that of other mortals, does not permit him to breathe an asphyxiated atmosphere, behind which the cowards seek refuge.

"Sir Robert Borden has a difficult task, and he has arisen honourably to it. No one in Canada can say he has failed in doing his duty, nor can anyone feel ashamed of his utterances."—Mr George H. Boivin, Liberal member for Shefford, Que., in a recent address to the members of the Montreal Canadian Club.

The spectacle of the Reciprocity party shedding crocodile tears over the British Preference is enough, as Mr Pugsley would say, "to make a horse laugh." What did the Liberal party care about the British Preference in 1911, when it turned its back upon the Motherland and sought to make Canada an "adjunct of the United States"?

The Maple Leaf quotes the following from the Catholic Register and Canadian Extension: There is still some manliness left in politicians. The House is in session in Prince Edward Island. The Oppositions there consists of two Liberals, one the Leader, absent at the opening attending his brother's funeral. The House, through Premier Mathieson, Hon. Charles Dalton and others, spoke in sympathetic terms of Hon. J. W. Richards' death, and adjourned the debate on the Address till his brother, Hon. John, could be in his place. Prince Edward Island may be small, but there is nothing small about the people.

FIELDING ANSWERS LAURIER

The British Preference Explained

Present Liberal Argument Refuted

One of the outstanding characteristics of the Canadian Liberal party is its stupidity. Only on one or two occasions in its whole history has it shown a gleam of understanding of the national temper. Its attitude upon legislation of a national or imperial character has invariably shown a curious tendency toward slipshod argument and confused thinking.

This poverty of ordinary intelligence is manifested to a striking degree in the apparent failure of the Liberal leaders and press to perceive the utter untenability of their contentions that the Government, in its recent tariff legislation, has decreased the British preference. The Liberal mind seems to confuse the idea of a preference with a lower tariff, or Free Trade, when as a matter of fact a country must have Protection to grant a preference. If all goods entered Canada free, what preference or advantage would the British manufacturer have over the foreign manufacturer? Under the old tariff the British manufacturer had a preference.

Still Be the Same

Had the Minister of Finance increased both the general and preferential rate five per cent. the British manufacturer would still have had the same preference. But instead, the Minister increased the general rate by 7½ per cent and the preferential rate by only 5 per cent. Who that can master the simple rules of addition and subtraction will say that this did not increase the preference of the British manufacturer by 2½ per cent, by \$2.50 cents on every \$100 worth of goods imported into Canada? Last year Canada imported goods to the value of \$329,000,000. On every dollar's worth of these goods the preference of the British manufacturer has been increased. It is not a question of a preference over goods made in Canada; it is a question of a preference over all other nations who sell goods to Canada. That preference over all other nations has been increased! If all last year's imports—\$329,000,000—were supplied to Canada by Britain, British manufacturers under the new tariff, would pay about nine and one-half million dollars less of duty upon them than would have to be paid by foreign manufacturers, were they supplied by foreign countries. Could there be a plainer illustration of the fact that the preference has been increased?

But He Did More

But the Minister of Finance has done more than that—he has established a new British preference. Last year Canada imported goods that were free of duty to the value of \$208,000,000. What preference did Britain have, what preference could she have in supplying us goods that were on the free list? Under the new tariff there is imposed upon the great proportion of these goods a tax of 7½ per cent, from (Continued on page seven)

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE MONTH OF MAY.

Looking back over boyhood years there is no memory that is fresher or sweeter than the memory of the birds and of the hours that were spent in meadow and hillside and wood, trying to find out something about them and to get into sympathy with their spirit and their ways. Even as we write today we have a vision of an old orchard in mid-May, the fruit trees white and pink with their canopies of blossoms, the twirls of the young foliage so exquisitely fresh and green, the air soft and warm, and everywhere, literally everywhere, the flashing of color and the cheery notes of the warblers as they come, it would seem, actually in thousands, upon that first "warbler day." Heaven cannot be much better than that day looks through the memory of the years.

There are two wonderful gifts that God sends us, fresh and new with the coming of May; one is the exquisite beauty of the opening foliage, and the other the coming of the birds. And we are ingrates indeed if we fail to appreciate either. Then too, there's the beautiful fragrant May flowers. The first flowers of Spring time in this Province by the sea. If one has not the time to go to the woods, and gather a bunch, you may buy a bouquet or two for five cents at the market. Let us all try to get nearer to the heart of nature's Spring, than ever before.

A CALL TO ARMS

Sir.—The stirring letter of Dr. Fullerton is timely. Instead of siding with the total abstinence pledge and the Home Guards, things good enough in themselves, we must prepare ourselves to make the supreme sacrifice and make our resolve now to volunteer to fill the gaps in the ranks of the heroic Canadians who fell at Ypres.

The awful onslaught of the Germans on the lines of the Allies at that place, shows their vigor and power. Those who think those people are near the end of their resources are simply deluding themselves. It would look just now as if they are stronger than all the Allies put together. They not only hold them down on all sides but seem to be capable of delivering a smashing blow whenever they want to.

We have in Canada and especially in Prince Edward Island hitherto been complacently regarding the struggle from the distance, buoyed up by telegrams that are only half truths ground out, many of them, by the hirelings of a yellow press. But the terrible loss of our brave fellow countrymen at Ypres has at last brought home to us, as nothing else could do, the ruthlessness and strength of our savage enemy.

Let us face the situation calmly and consider the position of the Germans winning out in this titanic struggle, which is now no longer among the remote possibilities but is looming up in the realm of probabilities. What would happen to us?

Our hopes, our aspirations, our ideals would be shattered, our wealth and properties at the mercy of the savages, our homes sacked by a savage and lustful barbarism, our sons drafted into German armies and bounded on in foreign wars at the point of the revolver in the hands of a German officer, our mothers, wives and daughters—the thought is too shuddering.

The time has come to rise above our petty and selfish interests. Let the fathers urge their sons to enlist. Let the mothers and wives no longer hold back their sons and husbands. Our dead brave are calling to us from the blood soaked fields at Ypres not to avenge them but to uphold the ideals for which they have paid the last great price.

I am Sir &c.

A VOLUNTEER...

ATTACK ON DUNKIRK SHOWS GERMANS CAN RESUME OFFENSIVE.

LONDON, May 4.—The British public has been greatly impressed by the German bombardment of Dunkirk, which it is believed in military circles here must have been from a distance of from eighteen to twenty miles.

The Times, dealing with the situation in an editorial, says the incident is of small importance from a military standpoint, but that it brings the war closer to England's shores than at any earlier period of the struggle.

"We have," the Times says, "in the events of the past ten days the clearest possible proof that far from being on the run the Germans can at any time resume the offensive in the west with great power and obstinate courage, with an ample supply of men and guns, and in a spirit that will stop at nothing. The bombardment of Dunkirk is only one more sign of their settled purpose to reach the coast towns near England, and it ought to bring us with a bound out of that world of illusion in which the nation has been encouraged to gaze at the facts through the mist of facile optimism."

Passengers who arrived in London from France yesterday said that the shells that fell in Dunkirk were of large calibre and were supposed to have come from guns at least seven miles inland. An Englishman who was in the town during the bombardment said the German artillery got the range quickly, and that their shells fell for some time at intervals of five minutes. Many persons were killed outright, while others died later from their injuries.

Bombardment, Ninety Minutes.

The Times correspondent in Northern France says the first shell fell in Dunkirk at 3.30 o'clock Thursday afternoon, almost at the same moment that three German aeroplanes were seen hovering overhead. Soon other shells came in quick succession and it became clear that the Germans had brought their big guns into range and that their fire was being directed by airmen.

"The bombardment," the correspondent adds, "continued for ninety minutes. Inhabitants hid in the cellars or fled the town. The military authorities of Dunkirk (at that time) were powerless to reply to the enemy's big guns, the whereabouts of which was unknown, but they opened a furious fire at the aeroplanes and drove them off. On Friday morning, it was quiet and the bombardment had not been renewed up to noon."

... Newspaper Man's Story

PARIS, May 4.—Dunkirk remained calm and there was no sign of a panic while it was being bombarded by shells from giant German guns, according to the editor of a newspaper of that city who has arrived in Paris. He said the bombardment began at 11.30 Thursday and continued until 2.30 p.m. Twenty projectiles in all were hurled in the city. They fell at intervals of about seven minutes.



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All of them were 15½ inch shells which blasted craters sometimes forty feet across and sent up great columns of dense black smoke. A despatch to the Havas Agency from Dunkirk says that British and French sea-planes which reconnoitered during the bombardment were at that time unable to discover any enemy ships in the vicinity of Dunkirk although there was a German light squadron off Ostend.

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