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THE KING'S BIRTHDAY

Yesterday, June 3rd His Majesty King George Fifth completed his fifty-first year and the day being Sunday the anniversary will be celebrated today throughout the Empire in all public offices as a holiday. Consistent with the policy of thrift and economy adopted on account of the war the usual royal salutes will be dispensed with. Under the shadow of the war the day will be quietly observed, the outward demonstrations being largely confined to the flying of flags and bunting. Under the shadow of the war also the National Anthem will today be more fervently sung and all loyal hearts will unite with more thoughtfulness than ever before in the prayer:

"Send him Victorious
Happy and glorious
Long to reign over us
God Save the King."

MOTIVES

Our actions flow from our motives as the rivers flow from the springs hidden away in the back country where no eye sees them. Given clear springs and no contamination en route the little rivulet swells into a mighty river, a blessing and a source of wealth to the country through which it flows; given clean motives and no contamination of selfishness or greed our actions will flow naturally on to bless and enrich the world.

Today, as never before, actions count, and the motives behind the actions count for still more. The world is at war; civilization is on trial; its quality is being tested; human liberty is battling for its life not only against "principalities and powers" which can be met and overcome by material weapons, but against principles which can be fought only with principles.

Professedly, at least, we are engaged in war to win it, to remove the menace of civilization, to restore and conserve the rights of the smaller nations, to ensure the attainment of liberty and righteousness; we are engaged in food production to reduce the cost of living in order that the people may not want, that our armies and our populations may be fed. Professedly, we are engaged in wearing this in order that we may gain access to more remunerative fields opened by the war if our loyalty and patriotism and character of the lip only, then whether we win the war or not we ourselves will be defeated and become slaves to worse Germanism.

At this time calls for honesty, honesty of purpose, honesty of action. If the temporary blessing of abnormal prices for our products, our larger reaping from the war, our feverish industrial expansion, our shadowy blighting curse of the war with its horrors and its heart breakers, our hanging millstones upon our necks that will eventually carry us down, are not at such a crisis look too narrow at the prices we are to receive in return for our extra efforts, for our participation in the campaign for increased food production. Two and a half dollars a bushel for potatoes which in peace-times brought twenty-five cents; four dollars for hay's work as compared with one dollar in peace-times will undoubtedly appeal to the labourer, but unless there is a higher motive, unless there is with each a compensating measure of sacrifice we are false to our professions of patriotism, false to the ideals for which we profess to be striving in our war against Germanism. We are all in the war. The consequences of victory or of defeat will fall upon each of us, and the motives behind our acts will determine whether these consequences shall fall as a blessing or a curse.

THE WAR

The war news during the past few days has shown a monotonous sameness. On the British and French fronts, while the fighting has never ceased, day or night,

there have been no major operations. Artillery preparation, infantry attacks and counter attacks, some of them violent enough to sadly swell the casualty lists, some of them resulting in the loss and recapture of trenches, have constituted the sum total of our official reports. While the Allied line has not moved perceptibly eastward since the first great Spring drive we must not forget that consolidation of the captured positions requires time especially in view of the fact that the Germans have greatly augmented their fighting force on the western front by withdrawals from the Russian front. It is gratifying and cheering to know that with all their augmented forces and with all the vicious attacks they have made on the Allied lines the Germans have been unable to make progress and that every attack, although made more desperately than ever before, has been repulsed. It was announced at an early stage of this advance that Generals Haig and Neville purposed exercising pressure upon the German defences rather than sacrifice men in any considerable drives. There is every reason to know that this pressure is now being exerted at a fearful cost to the enemy.

On the Italian front there has been a decided betterment. The Italians are making a determined drive for Trieste and every day sees them nearer their goal.

In the Timano salient, near the coast, they have crossed the river to San Giovanni and captured a strong series of trenches east and south of Javanaur. The Austrians are massing every available man of their reserves for a last desperate defence of Trieste. Meanwhile their troops on the left wing are gradually giving way before the irresistible Italian advance. Desperate and repeated counter-attacks have not proven successful in even staying Italian progress.

The southern wing of the Austrian line is being slowly turned under the tremendous leverage of Cardona's full force of arms, exerted westward on the Hermada plateau north of Duino. Duino itself, bounded on one side by the Gulf of Trieste, is now surrounded on two sides by Italian troops and all but detached from the Austrian hold. The Italian fighting line is within sight of the town's ruins. The capture of Duino is momentarily expected.

With this point in Italian possession, the way will be open along the coast itself for the advance on Trieste, a way which is comparatively flat as opposed to towering crags and rocky fastnesses on the north. In such advance the guns from the British monitors in the Gulf will be of great assistance. The Italian advance is concentrated on this salient and the fighting is continuing with great violence and with every prospect of success.

Austria is evidently in the throes of a revolution. The retirement of the "iron" Premier Tisza in Hungary and his succession by Count Andrássy point to a situation of unrest and discontent which informed critics declare will result in further changes, and important developments are looked for within the next few weeks.

In the Russian situation there is little that is new but the uncertainty attached to all things Russian is such as will no doubt result in keeping a large German army on that front.

NOTES

Another Liberal member of the Commons, Mr. Hugh Guthrie, has become disgusted with the low-down partizanship of his party. The other day, goaded beyond endurance, he rose in his place in parliament and said: "I am going to say this, even if I am the only man on this side of the House to say it, I have only one policy for the present, my policy is win the war. When the war is won we can once more take up the old issues that divide us. I regret that day after day the business of this House is taken up with matters that are not essential to the winning of the war."

If we are ready to win in 1917 we must be ready to fight in 1918, and, if necessary, in 1919 as well. Let Germany imagine that we must be starving before the harvest of next year and she will hold out. When she once realizes that the longer the war lasts the greater our resources must become, she will throw up the sponge. So the government is looking far ahead. Millions of acres will be under the plough next year that are now pasture. We must pinch a little and sacrifice a great deal now, but even if the U-boats are not destroyed our food supply will gradually grow greater, and the chance of our being starved out will surely disappear. For the moment the kitchen and the dining room must emulate the patriotism of the factory and the battlefield. We must pull in our belts for victory.—The London Daily Express.

WHAT CANADA HAS DONE IS DOING AND MAY DO IN THE MATTER OF REVENUE-RAISING AND TAXATION

SIR THOMAS WHITE IN AN ABLE SPEECH REPLIES TO HON. FRANK OLIVER.

Now I come to this amendment. The amendment suggests a revision of the Customs tariff. My hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) acquiesces in that, and he says: I want a revision now and I want a revision downward. If there ever was a time in the history of Canada when it was unwise to revise the tariff, it is this present moment. What is the condition? The condition, Mr. Speaker, is that owing to the unsettled values of goods in all foreign countries, it would be absolutely impossible to prepare a customs tariff that would meet the situation at the present time and for a period after the war. A proper revision of the tariff today would be an impossible performance, and would lead to the most profound dislocation of business in this country at a time when the last thing we want to see is the dislocation of business. Yet, my hon. friend from Edmonton seriously suggests that this government, in the midst of this war, should revise the tariff. The wholesale values of two hundred commodities in the United States have increased by 55 per cent up to March, 1917, in comparison with the prices in July 1914. I pointed out that the present Customs tariff is producing a very large revenue. That revenue is needed and it is going to be needed in increasing amount until the war is over. We shall have to face, as the United States had, the problems arising out of the war, an enormous increase in the national debt, interest charges and pension outlays and my hon. friend suggests that we should actually put the tariff out of consideration in dealing with these questions. How did the United States meet the situation, and no country ever recovered from a great war so successfully as the United States. How did the United States put herself upon a gold basis after the war? A dollar in 1913 was worth only about 40 cents in gold. How did the United States bring her dollar to parity, how did the United States not only meet the interest upon her great national debt but pay off that debt in a few years? She did it by the tariff. This country cannot dispense with the tariff at this time. I do not say that the tariff is perfect. I do not say that at the proper time the tariff should not be revised, but I do say that it is idle to suggest that we can get on without a tariff. At this time it would be unwise in the extreme to revise the tariff.

If it is unwise to revise the tariff, we need not seriously consider the question of revising the tariff downwards. The tariff was increased in 1914 by 7 1/2 per cent and 5 per cent. In the course of time, I should imagine when the war is about over, it will be necessary to revise the tariff. I do not say it should be revised upwards, I do not say it should be revised downwards, but I say it should be revised having regard to the conditions that exist at the time of its revision. If a tariff revision takes place it will have to be necessarily in the light of the situation which exists as between the Allies in this war. There may be trade conventions; there undoubtedly will be treaties between the Allies. That is the general opinion and, if so, why should we revise our tariff now when the war is moving, we hope, towards its close and when the situation that I have indicated will confront us at the conclusion of the war? What we should do is to maintain our tariff because it gives the revenues which are necessary for the purposes of the country and the prosecution of the war. At the proper time, on the conclusion of the war, and having regard to the situation which then exists, including the international situation between the Allies, be proper for us to revise the tariff. We shall know the labour and the industrial situation and the fiscal measures we take will be such as are in the public interest.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Oh, no, products such as bran, shorts and middlings are not free. Sir THOMAS WHITE: No, but wheat and flour. My hon. friend's amendment reads that: Wheat, wheat flour, and all other products of wheat be placed on the free list. Wheat, wheat flour and semolina have been placed on the free list. Mr. PUGSLEY: Your order does not place bran, shorts and so on, on the free list. Sir THOMAS WHITE: I understand that to be covered by another amendment. I think the hon. member for Huntingdon (Mr. Robb) brought that up, and I shall not have to discuss it now. Mr. CARVELL: That was ruled out of order. Sir THOMAS WHITE: Will it come up again? Mr. CARVELL: It may. Sir THOMAS WHITE: Then I shall leave it until it comes up. Mr. PUGSLEY: The minister says he is going to concede what Mr. Robb asked for. Sir THOMAS WHITE: No, my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) has gone further; he has taken a very far-reaching list of important commodities and articles which are subject to customs taxation, and he proposes to place them all upon the free list. As I said, this is not the time to revise the tariff. That being so, it is not necessary for me to discuss the particular amendments which my hon. friend brings forward with respect to the articles covered by the tariff.

My hon. friend has referred also to the British preference. Well, it is not expedient to deal with the tariff, at the present time or with the British preference; but, when the war is over, when this question of preference about the Prime Minister spoke the other day, and which has been under consideration by the Imperial War Cabinet, is before the Government, and when we know the industrial situation that confronts us and the world, and when we have before us the agreement made between the Allies, we can deal with this and all other questions in such fashion as the interests of Canada and the Empire may require. At six o'clock the House took recess. (The End.)

U. S. WAR PREPARATIONS.

Sir, A very vigorous poster campaign is now being conducted here in the interest of recruiting, and the sale of Liberty Bonds. The best artistic talent in the country has offered its services for the designing of attractive posters for these campaigns. There is to be a fifty per cent cut in passenger train service all over the United States, June 24th. The crews, and equipment a valuable through the drastic curtailment of passenger traffic will be utilized for the movement of fuel, food and war supplies. Editors and publishers all over the United States have vigorously protested against a raise in second class postal rates, for this would no doubt cause many publications to suspend; and since the war over eight hundred publications in this country have gone out of existence on account of the scarcity and high cost of print paper. Next to food and fuel, print paper is one of the world's most important commodities; without print paper the world would very soon lapse back to barbarism. The newspapers of today are the real reporters of history; and they should be encouraged, rather than hampered.

The farmers of the United States and Canada can defeat the U-boats. Every effort should be made to produce as much food as possible, plant larger areas than ever. Citizens not engaged in agriculture, but having plots of land near their homes should plant and cultivate it; for every bushel of potatoes the home gardeners raise, releases a bushel of potatoes that can be used to help feed our fighting men in the field. Registration day is to be celebrated with parades and patriotic meetings all over the country. I am, sir, etc., F. H. SIDNEY, Wakefield, Mass.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS


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LOVINGLY REMEMBERED

It came back thro' the post to-day, A little parcel tied up with string; Things purchased ere he went away: A pocket knife, a little ring, A snapshot that we sent from home For him to take where he might roam. A matchbox and a pocket-book, A Testament in Khaki bound; One or two trifles that he took. Some of our letters that were found, We looked on them with eyes all dim; And these were all they found of him. But oh! how much was left behind, Things that they had no skill to trace! The heart, so true, so loyal, so kind, The smile upon his boyish face, Ah, no they did not send these back— Yet none of these to-day we lack. Safe in our hearts for evermore, To-day, all days, these things we hold. Thieves shall not steal them, they are sure. Rags shall not dim that purest gold. With them, we never more shall part— Love's sweet effects, stored in our hearts.

LUMBER BUSINESS GREATLY HAMPERED

ST. JOHN—Lumber operators of the North Shore are in a quandary as to where and how they shall dispose of their winter stock. The great market in normal times—England—has been cut off entirely. It is next to impossible to secure bottoms to carry freight and the great majority of mills have no equipment for rail shipping, and even then there is great difficulty in getting cars.



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