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SAFEGUARDING FOX INDUSTRY

The incorporation of the Silver Black Fox Breeders' Association of Prince Edward Island by an act of the legislature just closed, and the passing of The Fox Enrolment Act, are forward steps in the development of the fox industry of this province. Under the provisions of the former all members of the Association will be required to register in the books of the Association all foxes owned by them, the executive being empowered to obtain any information that may be considered necessary regarding the breeding and pedigree of foxes, capitalization, cost of equipping and maintenance. Information not voluntarily given may be obtained by the Executive summoning such members as may be desired to appear before them to give evidence under oath.

The regulations governing membership and the rights and privileges of members are so stringent that the breeding of every fox registered, as well as the bona fides of the company or individual owner may be regarded as absolutely authentic.

The Fox Enrolment Act is, in a sense, supplementary to the above. It empowers the Commissioner of Agriculture to open and keep a register for the enrolment or registration of all foxes kept in captivity, whether silver, patch or red and the correctness of the information so registered is provided for in a similar manner to that for registration in the Silver Black Fox Company's registration. These two acts together with the new Companies' Act should do much to strengthen the fox industry and give confidence to the investing public. The Companies Act is the last word in commercial legislation. It is based on the English Limited Liability Company's Act as adapted to Canadian conditions by the legislature of British Columbia. Certain decisions and interpretations of the Supreme Court of Canada, given since the passing of the British Columbia Act, have been incorporated in the Prince Edward Island law so that we have here an act which provides every possible kind of safeguard for investors. These three acts now put the fox industry on a basis second to none in Canada or the United States.

Those interested in the fox industry would do well to emphasize this and further, to see that nothing is permitted in the flotation of companies or the selling of shares which will conflict with the letter and spirit of the law.

SATAN REBUKING SIN

In its yesterday's issue our Contemporary refrains from answering any of our challenges with regard to the mis-statements in its previous issue. It loftily proceeds to discuss dominion politics with some satisfaction to itself and those of its readers who do not take the trouble to investigate facts at first hand. Our Contemporary charges the Dominion Government with extravagance and says it does not object to the increased war taxation but does object to wholesale increases in the departmental estimates. To hoist up the contention it proceeds to make selection of the estimates for the great spending departments of the public service and by comparing these with the estimates for 1912 goes on to show what, in ordinary circumstances, would be an alarming increase. But what are the facts? The total estimates of last year were \$210,000,000; the estimates presented the House and passed for the coming year are \$180,000,000, or a reduction of \$30,000,000. How can The Patriot or any honest controversialist say that the Government is not trying to meet the situation by economies wherever economies are possible?

In the matter of public works and the great employment departments of the Government it would have been suicidal for the Government to have started wholesale reductions at a critical juncture when general depression was prevalent throughout Canada. The Toronto Globe strongly emphasized this fact, and Hon. W. S. Fielding in the Journal of Commerce went out of his way to commend Mr. White's budget in this respect. Is The Patriot superior in wisdom and the science of economics to these two authorities? We trow not.

With regard to the charge of extravagance, what are the facts? In 1912-13, the year after the Government took office, they had the largest surplus in the history of this country. In that year the Government reduced the national debt of Canada by not less than \$25,000,000 and on March 31, 1914, the net debt of Canada was less than it was when the Government took office.

From September 30, 1911, to July 31, 1914, the end of the month preceding the outbreak of the war, the increase in the debt of Canada was only \$9,000,000. Compare that with the two years and nine months preceding September 30, 1911, when, under the Liberals, the net national debt of Canada increased \$70,000,000, nine times the amount of the increase during the same period under Conservative administration, and forsooth, according to The Patriot, the present Government is extravagant. What adjective would, or could, it apply to the Laurier administration?

AT THE DARDENELLES

Now that the battle north of Ypres is over, at least temporarily, interest again centres in the operations at the Dardanelles. The Dardanelles forts were impregnable until the introduction of modern guns. The impossible of a few years ago has become possible. The strongest man-made forts can now be battered to pieces by shells hurled a distance of twenty miles. Yet the forts of the Dardanelles are not all man-made, many of them are natural fortifications, on precipitous mountain sides, almost inaccessible. Against these the British and French monster guns are now turned. The mountains alone will withstand the attack and they must be taken by land forces. According to a writer in the Fortnightly Review the strength of the land forces available for the defence of the Dardanelles is estimated at about 400,000, comprising the entire Turkish army of 310,000 in Europe, 120,000 on the Asiatic side and 10,000 Germans. This estimate is based on the supposition that Turkey has mobilized 800,000 men. An American authority declares this an exaggeration in view

of the strength developed in the Balkan war. A half million or less is the probable maximum of the armies in the field, and if from that number we subtract the forces operating in the Caucasus, in the Mesopotamian region, and against Egypt, it is not very likely that the army in Europe is more than a quarter of a million strong. Even so, the problem which the Allies are confronting in their attempt against the Dardanelles and Constantinople by land is a formidable one.

Our dispatches of the past few days tell of the landing of British and French forces estimated at over 100,000 men on the Gallipoli Peninsula and their advance is, by this time probably under way. That they will accomplish the heretofore impossible task of forcing this impregnable passage is a forgone conclusion. They will get through but it will be a costly and desperate struggle.

LEARNING THE TRUTH

The German people, at least some of them, are beginning to realize the true condition of affairs and are honest enough to confess it. A cabled translation of an article that recently appeared in "The Berlin Tag" has been published in a New York paper, part of it as follows:—"We have been deceived in all our calculations. We expected that the whole of India would revolt at the first sound of the guns in Europe, but, lo! thousands and tens of thousands of Indians are now fighting with the English against us."

"We expected that the British Empire would crumble to pieces, but the British colonies have united, as they have never done before, with the mother country."

"We expected a victorious revolt in British South Africa, and we see there only a fiasco."

"We expected disturbances in Ireland, and Ireland sends against us some of her best contingents."

"We thought the peace party all powerful in England, but it has disappeared amid the general enthusiasm that the war against Germany has aroused."

"We reckoned that England was degenerate and incapable of being a serious factor in the war, and she shows herself to be our most dangerous enemy."

"It was the same thing with France and Russia. We thought that France was corrupt, and that she had lost the sense of national solidarity, but we now learn that the French are formidable adversaries."

"We thought that Russia could do nothing; we believed that her people were too profoundly discontented to fight in favor of the Russian government; we counted on its rapid collapse as a great military power, but Russia has mobilized her millions of men very rapidly and very well. Her people are full of enthusiasm, and her force is crushing."

"Those who have led us into all these faults, all these calculations, all these mistakes about our neighbors and their affairs, have assumed a heavy burden of responsibility."

There is a serious menace in that last statement. Once the German people realize the truth, realize that victories celebrated had never been won, that from the first the German cause was hopeless they will demand a reckoning. Once the campaign overflows into Germany the truth will be the more easily understood and the end of the war will not be far off.

WAR AND TRADE

The effect of war upon trade is well illustrated in the following paragraph clipped from Henry Clews & Co.'s weekly financial review for the week ending April 24:—

The war continues to be a vital factor in our foreign trade. It caused heavy losses during the first eight months, such as \$245,000,000 in cotton, \$50,000,000 in iron and steel, \$38,000,000 in copper, \$36,000,000 in lumber products, \$16,000,000 in agricultural implements, etc. These losses were partially offset by gains of \$246,000,000 in breadstuffs, \$30,000,000 in horses and mules, \$18,000,000 in sugar, \$16,000,000 in leather, etc. We have now reached a season when shipments in grain and cotton are naturally light; but shipments of war materials on orders placed months ago are now coming forward more freely, and for the next few months will prove a highly important factor in our international trade balance. The Russian Government alone arranged for an order for \$83,000,000 worth of war material this week through a Canadian concern, a large portion of which will be executed in the United States. The British and French Governments are also ordering materials upon a very extensive scale; and Italy, which has been a heavy buyer, is likely to largely increase her purchases should she eventually come into the war, as seems not improbable. The returns for March showed a decrease of \$25,500,000 in imports, and an increase of \$111,500,000 in exports; the latter amounting to \$299,000,000, a new high record for March. The net result was an excess of exports for the month of \$141,000,000, which explains the \$5,000,000 gold imports on the way from France.

"LEGITIMATE DEVILMENT"

The picturesque expression "legitimate devilment" covers a wide field; it is possible also that it affords an excuse for conduct that might be better described by the bare noun without the adjective. In any case it may be difficult to locate the exact line at which the legitimate overflow of animal spirits ends and the raging lawless torrent begins. Usually the little stream, begun harmlessly, ripples along pleasantly and agreeably, but develops into a torrent that is anything but pleasant.

The other night in St. John this happened when a number of young soldiers gave vent to their exuberant spirits on the street. The exuberance, in the classic words of Artemas Ward, "exuberated until it overflowed" and the police interfered. This aggravated the exuberance and the affair wound up in the police court, where mutual regrets were expressed by the police and the soldiers, and peace once more, to use another quotation, "spread her downy pinions over the scene."

There are those who, in their haste, call this kind of conduct unqualified and unpardonable "devilment." It may be "devilment" but, usually, it is neither unqualified nor unpardonable. Young men who have volunteered their services in a cause which they fully realize may mean death, are impelled in their exuberance by other forces than sheer wickedness. They take life none the less seriously because sometimes they allow their animal health, which is part of their equipment, full vent and make a noise. Our Canadian soldiers, just before the battle of Ypres and within sound of the enemy's guns, played a game of baseball, "ragged" each other and finished their game while the enemy's shells were falling among them, and we know now, and the whole British Empire knows, what they did when they faced the enemy.

The danger of allowing the little stream of exuberance to run wild, to go too far, is always present; but they who have tried to check the little stream by damming it, know the danger and the folly of that process. There is a "legitimate devilment" to which the healthy young of the human race, as of the other animal races, have a right. It requires direction and wholesome restraint but, if checked entirely, will break loose and become anything but legitimate.

LIBERALS FEAR ELECTION ANTICIPATING DISSOLUTION LIBERALS CANVAS AGAINST IT. WHY?

The action of the Toronto Star, Liberal, in canvassing the mayors of Ontario against a June election is characteristic of the attitude of the Opposition at Ottawa ever since the "emergency" materialized in war, damning the statesmanship and political sanity of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues. They naturally do not want an election—at least not until their sins are less fresh in the public mind. They do not put it that way of course. They adopt a high and mighty policy of concern for the public weal. It would be a crime, some of their leaders assert, to have a contest in war time. The same leaders have been heard to declare that they deem a Conservative defeat not improbable. The reader will note the combination of a desire not to go to the country, when there is a chance of winning, as something unusual for political strategists to put forward in a serious manner. If the Government decides upon an election, so it is said, the campaign will be short and sharp. There is nothing like a year and a half of unexpired time in the life of the present Parliament. It is not usual to allow Parliament to pass out of existence by effluxion of time; it is only done when the Opposition can bring it about as in 1896. No doubt the Governor-General would grant dissolution at any time. The Government can easily use anyone or all of a half-dozen factors in order to give weight to such a request of His Royal Highness. The war budget has been challenged. The Liberals allege the Government has lost the confidence of the country as a result of the war out-fitting scandals. The Government may ask for a decision on that statement at the polls, claiming that, in view of it, a new mandate from the electors would strengthen their hands for the remainder of the war. If the elections are not held until the autumn, as may be decided, there is not much chance of the political truce being observed during the summer, which is the best campaigning season in Canada.

The Liberals fear an election, but they also want an opportunity to campaign against their own past record. Their history of the last three years is a history of political restlessness in which the highest considerations of natural statesmanship were disregarded in favour of considerations of political partisanship. The party needs of Liberalism, as understood by the party leaders, were placed before the imperative demand for not only national but imperial unity in the face of a common danger. It suited this party game to deny this danger, to default on the most sacred national obligation, reckless of the possible result to the Empire and to Canada.

The declaration of war between the British and German Empires found the Liberal party of Canada convicted and disgraced. No man in Canada was more quick in the realization of this than Laurier. Something had to be done, some refuge found and Laurier sought that refuge in the folds of the flag he had deserted. Then followed the familiar business of out-heroding Herod. The Liberal party was as ready ready to stand by the Empire as they had lately been resolved to stand away from it.

Plenty of Lip-Loyalty
If lip-loyalty could save the Empire in the absence of Canadian dreadnoughts, the Liberals of Canada were ready with quantities of it. They would help the Government in every way; they would have a party truce. Every Canadian knows what sort of help they gave and what sort of turce they maintained. There is an old fable of an ass in the lion's skin. An

Hoodwinking the People
Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his friends pay no compliment to the Canadian people in attempting to hoodwink them with this cheap imitation of regard for the motherland. At a moment when the hands of the Government should be strengthened for carrying on the war, the Liberal party is found playing a petty partisan game, shouting loyalty and at the same time placing obstacles in the path which Canada is pursuing in a great fight for national existence. The Minister of Finance stripped the disguise from the Opposition when he said, "I say to my right hon. friend (Laurier) that there are two ways in which it is possible to oppose effectual participation by the Government in this war. Firstly, such participation may be directly opposed. This has not been done. Secondly, participation can be opposed by opposition to measures, such as our fiscal proposals, necessary and essential to the carrying on of the Government of this country, the fulfilment of our contractual and other honourable obligations, the maintenance of the credit by which we are enabled to prosecute the war. It is obvious that we

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN
Furnished by W. S. Louson.

A SONG OF DUTY.
Sorrow comes, and sorrow goes,
Life is flecked with shine and shadow.
Now the tear of grieving flows,
Now we smile in happy hour;
Death awaits us every one,
Toller, dreamer, preacher, writer,
Let us, then, ere life be done,
Make the world a little brighter.

Burdens that our neighbors bear,
Easier let us try to make them,
Chains, perhaps, our neighbors wear
Let us do our best to break them;
From the straightened hand and mind
Let us loose the binding fetter,
Let us, as the Lord designed,
Make the world a little better.

Selfish brooding sears the soul,
Fills the mind with clouds of sorrow,
Darkens all the shining goal
Of the sun-illumined morrow.
Wherefore should our lives be spent
Daily growing blind and blinder—
Let us, as the Master meant,
Make the world a little kinder!
—DENIS A. MCCARTHY,
in the congregationalist.

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