

The Charlottetown Guardian

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

THE WAR

Our telegrams this morning once more turn the full light upon Germanism. The demand upon Russia for the immediate release of all German prisoners who are in good health, those who are ill remaining in Russia under the care of neutral physicians, while Russian prisoners in Germany who are ill or incapacitated shall be released, reveals Germanism not only at its worst but jubilant over recent successes. Such a demand as this has never before been made in the history of the world—at least outside the bounds of savagery.

The meaning is as clear as it is brazen and German. The physically fit German prisoners in Russia are to be released for service in the army; the burden of caring for the sick and the unfit is to be borne by Russia and any Russians prisoners in Germany who might be able to fight are to be retained in Germany!

Whether this amazing demand is the outcome of a hope of final victory based upon recent events on the western front or the last kick of despair it would be difficult to determine. Whatever may lie behind it, it is now quite clear that the Germans have thrown away the last shreds of self-respect and have snapped their fingers at the opinions of the civilized world. No nation with the faintest hope of holding or acquiring the respect of other nations, could possibly make such a demand.

In addition to this a rumour comes from Berlin that an attempt is shortly to be made to get the Reichstag to rescind the famous resolution of last summer in favor of a peace without annexations or indemnities. The popular House was more or less stampeded into the famous resolution at a time when peace talk was much more in the air than it is now. As a contemporary points out, it was almost the sole excursion of the Reichstag into affairs which Potsdam insists do not concern it. The more intimate reason for the resolution is to be found in the military situation at the moment. Things were not then going so well with the Central Powers as they have been for the last few months. The proposed action of the Reichstag is intended merely to put the official stamp on a procedure which Germany has adopted anyway. Having annexed—or virtually annexed—and having, in point of fact, demanded and received indemnities, the House is now commanded to lay the hands of benediction upon the action. It is a somersault of the most complete kind, but what is consistency to the Germans? A thing which is wrong when militarily unattainable by Germany becomes right when success in the field placed it within her reach. The incident furnishes another gleam of light upon the mentality of triumphant junkerkdom.

USEFUL OCCUPATION

By an Order-in-Council recently passed every male person in Canada between the ages of sixteen and sixty must be "regularly engaged in some useful occupation." This order was not meant for labourers or working people alone but for all classes, including those who are living on incomes earned by others. The Chief of Police of Toronto has announced his intention of applying the rule to rich and poor alike. He says:

"We have already received the names of a number of people of means who have no useful occupation and unless they obtain employment at once they will be prosecuted. No one between those ages can live on their means. Some people have no more useful occupation than riding around in a motor car. This is going to stop."

It will be interesting to watch the evolution from idly "driving around in a motor car" to earning one's bread by the sweat of his own brow in some "useful occupation." In our province we can only watch the process from afar as we have no idlers—none at least who are fortunate enough to own a motor car. It is possible however that we have some, on foot, who derive their sustenance from the activities of a past generation or even from the efforts of contemporaries. It may be difficult to find the dividing line between what is really parasitism and useful occupation but it is well to recognize that we have both, that there is a dividing line and that the times in which we live demand that the line be sharply defined.

The Toronto Chief of Police has made a most significant declaration and, if he carries out his programme as outlined, there will no doubt be something doing in Toronto and other large centres.

What is a useful occupation? Not necessarily an occupation by which a man earns a living for himself and family and lays by something for a rainy day or even lays by a competence on which his family may live in luxury after he has been taken from them. A successful burglar or thief or speculator can do that. The Order-in-Council does not define the term "useful occupation." The definition is left to the discretion of the authorities before whom the alleged offender is tried. It will be the duty of the police to round up those who, in their opinion are not engaged in useful occupation and it will be up to the magistrate to decide and, if necessary, to impose the penalty.

This Order-in-Council is only another evidence of the seriousness of the time in which we live, another proof that we all are under the scourge of war and that, whether we will or not, we each have to take a hand in it. It is recognized by those who are watching events, those who are on the inside track, that it will require the united effort of all to save the world. There is no longer any room for the slacker and the shirker and it is the intention of the authorities that there shall be none. Everybody now who is physically fit must work.

MILITARY Y.M.C.A.

As intimated by Captain Corey at the public meeting in the People's Theatre, a campaign is being launched with the object of raising \$2,250,000 in Canada for the Military Y.M.C.A. This campaign will be conducted in this province under the direction of Captain Ulrich Dawson, a veteran of the war who has recently returned from France. The campaign is to be a whirlwind one as the funds, like everything else needed for the war, are needed now.

Elsewhere in this issue advertisements will be found telling what the Y.M.C.A. has done and is doing for our boys overseas and in the camps at home. In addition to this the very large proportion of "Red Triangle" Y.M.C.A. envelopes and letter-paper received from overseas tell how closely associated the Y.M.C.A. is with the daily routine "over there" whether in camps in England or right in the front trenches.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the Y.M.C.A. is one of the institutions at the front that are helping to keep up the morale of the army by providing the soldiers with canteens, with entertainment, with amusements, all of a clean and wholesome character; by helping the wounded, by ministering in every possible way to the comfort and health of the boys returning after weary hours spent in the trenches.

Practically every home in this province has a member or a relative at the front; every home is interested in the welfare of those who are enduring the hardships of war and every home will, we feel sure, do its part when called upon to assist in the upkeep of an institution which all, from the generals of the various armies to the privates in the ranks, admit to be one of the most essential arms of the service.

What these different institutions, designed to look after the moral and spiritual as well as the bodily comfort of the soldiers, have done in maintaining the splendid morale of the army only those know who have come into contact with them. They are the resting and the recuperating places for the soldiers, the places where they are sure of a kindly welcome, a brotherly handshake and refreshments when needed.

Fuller announcement as to the manner in which contributions may be handed in and to whom, will be made in the near future. In the meantime it will be well to remember the great part played by the Y.M.C.A. in the war and in the upkeep of the soldiers and to be prepared to contribute accordingly.

NO MORE ILLUSION

President Wilson said in a recent speech that the country is no longer under an illusion as to the Prussian menace. If the Teutonic Powers should win in Europe, the United States and South America would be the next point of attack of German military power. We should have to fight on our own soil to protect our own wives and daughters from the fate which the women and children of Belgium have suffered. These statements are not based on the foreboding fears of pessimists, but on the carefully calculated conclusions of expert military judges. And this is what makes the great struggle now going on on the Western front of such supreme importance, not only to France and England, but to the United States. We are fighting now not only to make the world safe for democracy, but to make our homes safe for our children.

WHAT PROPAGANDA DID TO ITALY

It seems to be the general belief that as part of her great offensive against the Allies Germany will make another smash at Italy, especially if it is true that a considerable number of Italians may be sent to France. There are plenty of Austrian troops for the adventure, and while it is not to be supposed that to defeat Italy is to defeat the Allies, yet there is great glory to be won and solid rewards in the form of supplies and skilled labor. In the opinion of D. Thomas Curtin, war correspondent and author, who discusses German propaganda in the Boston Transcript, the blow is likely to fall on the Asiago plateau and another blow in the Trentino. Success would mean that the Germans would be able to draw on the Po valley, one of the richest in Europe for food, and on Milan for highly skilled mechanics, which are as good as soldiers to Germany. Thus her airplane output would be speeded up, and the food problem would be partly solved. The attempt would cost nothing but Austrian lives. In other words, the Central Powers, from the point of view of the war lords, have nothing to lose and much to gain by attacking Italy as soon as weather conditions permit.

What Caused Disaster

In view of what happened in the Fall of 1917, the Allies may well look anxiously to the Italian front. It is not that the fighting qualities of the Italian soldiers or the skill of their leaders is doubted. It is because Italy, next to Russia, has proved the easiest victim of German propaganda. The disaster that overwhelmed her on the Isonzo was the result of propaganda rather than of the superior military qualities of the German and Austrian troops. Indeed, had it not been for this propaganda, the Teuton leaders would never have attempted the task of thrusting the Italian army back from the mountain heights where it had been established. Had propaganda not prepared the way the Italians could not have been forced back, and had the Italian authorities not been innocently consenting parties to the spread of this propaganda it never could have succeeded.

Italian Soldiers Dissatisfied

But Mr. Curtin tells us that there was dissatisfaction in the Italian army, and he explains it under four heads: 1. Italian public men had not represented clearly enough and emphatically enough to the Italian people their reason for participation in the war; 2. troops were not moved from place to place frequently enough to keep fresh, to the extent of some other armies; 3. leave was too infrequent; 4. rations had been reduced. The German spy system being everywhere, the German generals were acquainted with these grievances. They knew that the grumblers were more numerous in some places than in others, and they discovered that they were especially numerous on the Isonzo, near Monte Nero, which happened to be a strategic point of unusual importance. It was here that the German spreaders of poison gas concentrated.

"Kamerad!"

The propagandists chosen were German, Austrian and some Bulgarian officers who had been educated in Italy. They were dressed as privates, and after fraternization, they were able to visit the Italian trenches every night, where they would discuss the war, the hardships borne by the troops, and the utter needlessness of the struggle. They handed out the well-known "man-to-man" line of argument, and the warm-hearted but disconcerted Italians responded. The Germans proposed that they should decline to fight each other, that they should organize a mutiny and kill their officers if they refused to allow the men to go home. The talk was effective, and after many discussions it was agreed that October 24th, 1917, should be the day of general homecoming. Dawn of this day found the Italians in the district of Monte Nero in a peaceful mood, but the

German had massed six of their crack storming battalions in front of them, and when they opened up with a terrific bombardment of gas and poison shells, the Italians were not able instantly to steel themselves for the conflict. The result was a break-through.

Reserves Refused to Fight

This might have been averted if the reserves behind Monte Nero had filled the gap as they were ordered to do, but they refused, and the enemy wedge was driven home. It is not pleasant to read the details of what followed, though this ugly page in Italian history is illuminated by flashes of superhuman courage on the part of soldiers and their officers who sought to save the situation. That the Germans, even after this exhibition of their perfidy, continued to believe they could deceive the Italians was proved on Christmas Day, when on several parts of the line they hoisted placards bearing the inscription, "Merry Christmas! Let us be brothers." There was no firing at all, and until four o'clock in the afternoon Italians could freely show themselves without fear of the snipers. Then, having created the impression that there was to be no fighting on Christmas, the Germans opened a terrific bombardment which caught certain parts of the Italian line unprepared and resulted in many casualties. It is not the German fighting man, but the German propagandist that Italy has to fear.

YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

BY REV. T.S. LINSOTT, D. D.
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Dr. Linscott in this column will help you solve your heart problems, religious, natural, social, financial and every other anxious care that perplexes you. If a personal answer is required, enclose a five cent stamp. No names will be published; if you prefer, sign your initials only, or use a pseudonym.

AMBITIOUS YOUNG MAN:—A young man ambitious to "make good" writes for a short recipe for success. Here it is: **MULTUM IN PARVO.** Always realizing that God is in and around you. 1st. Build yourself over, discarding the old thoughts of human weakness, etc.; fill your mind with thoughts of human greatness and power. 2nd. Seek practical knowledge, unfold your powers, mental and spiritual, thus seeking first "the Kingdom of God" within you. 3rd. Put deep and persistent thinking into your life. 4th. Believe in yourself and go forward.

A WORRIER:—There are two things you can do when in trouble: writing your hands and your heart with grief, or keep calm; think philosophically and believe that the trouble will work out for your good. It seems folly to ask, which is the better way? Look over your life and you will see that the sad things have been the glad things; the calamities have been blessings in disguise. The story of Joseph is an example; he was sold as a slave, and after a series of darkest calamities became Prime Minister of Egypt. Each calamity was a necessary step to the throne.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

BIDE A WEE!

Though the times be dark and dreary,
Though the way be long,
Keep your spirits bright and cheery—
"Bide a wee, and dianna weary!"
Is a heartsome song.

"I confess," says a thoughtful writer, "that increasing years bring with them an interesting respect for men who do not succeed in life, as those words are commonly used." Ill success sometimes arises from a conscience to a sensitive, a taste too fastidious, a self-forgetfulness too romantic, a modesty too retiring—

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved penny, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul; who has never lost appreciation of the earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others and given the best he had; whose life is an inspiration and whose memory a benediction.

Morale!

British Staff Officer Defines It— How Y.M.C.A. Enhances This Great Factor of Victory

"IS VICTORY always on the side of the biggest battalions?" was asked of a British staff officer, as recorded by Dr. John R. Mott in the "Ladies Home Journal."

"It is and it isn't," he replied. "There's something else. You cannot chart it, you cannot weigh it, you cannot express it in any military figures. But Napoleon knew what it was, and he called it 'morale.'"

How Morale Is Created

"I cannot define for you exactly what morale is, but I can tell you it comes in many different ways. I have known morale to be found in a cup of hot coffee. That sounds unromantic. But think what that means to a man who has had ten hours consecutive shelling.

"I have seen morale created by a man's taking a big risk; I have seen it sustained by a man's merely writing a letter home just before he went into action. You can describe morale," he continued, "in a score of ways, little and big.

"It may come from faith in a future life or from the thought that one is protecting the loved ones at home. But if you want an easy and short definition of morale, you will find a good one in the four letters Y. M. C. A."

Strengthening Morale

And he took his questioner to the window and shewed him men trooping into a Y. M. C. A. hut.

"Those are men," he said, "who will be going up to the front line to-morrow. Some of them will be playing games, others will be writing home, others will be attending divine service, but each in his own way will find a strengthening of his morale in the comradeship of his fellows beneath the symbol of the Red Triangle and the inspiration for which it stands.

Y. M. C. A. Playing Big Part

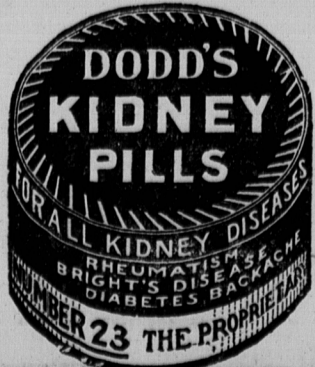
"All this is a thing which I cannot show on my charts. But it is also a thing which is going to turn the balance in our favor. Go back and tell the people at home that a dry soldier, concerned alone with military calculations, believes that the Y.M.C.A. is playing a far bigger part in winning the war than any mere civilian can recognize.

"I do not speak to you as a philanthropist. That is not my job. But I want to see the end of this horrible business, and if a soldier's words have any weight, tell those at home to help the Y.M.C.A. to carry on its work."

Canadian Government Railway Change of Time

Effective 1st May, changes as follows will be made in the time of trains:

arrive Emerald 5.40 p. m., Summerside 7.25 p. m., and Charlottetown 8.00 p. m.
Train will leave Summerside 4.10 p. m., arrive Emerald 5.40 p. m., Borden 6.55 p. m., Summerside 7.25 p. m.
Train will leave Summerside 4.15 p. m., arrive Emerald 5.30 p. m., Borden 6.55 p. m., Charlottetown 8.00 p. m.
All other trains are unchanged. See timetable in afternoon papers for further particulars. 4735.



Ladies' New Spring Boots Just Received

Black, Grey, Mahogany and others pretty shades on all the newest lasts.

GOFF BROS