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EDITORIALS

As the days and weeks pass it is becoming more and more evident that the understanding between the allies is complete and that when the war is over their ideas of final settlement will be in perfect accord. The recent pronouncement of Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons that Britain was in entire accord with Russia's demand for an outlet to the sea is reassuring. This can hardly mean anything else than the throwing of the Dardanelles open to the Russian navy. Whether it also includes the handing over of Constantinople is another question. The Balkan states lie in the way and a city detached from the rest of the empire would not be of much use to Russia. What is likely to happen is that Constantinople will be neutralized or handed over to one of the smaller nations and the Dardanelles stripped of its fortifications and made free to all nations.

Now is the season when men gather together, eat, drink, smoke and speak. Under one head and at many friendly tables, we dub these meetings banquets. They are held for various reasons, to give shareholders a twinkle of satisfaction at least once a year, to try and make men of different parts to think alike, to give respectability to politics and politics to respectability, and to do countless other things. The first banquet is a thing of beauty and of joy but the tinsel of delight begins to tarnish as the years pass. Yet, although men have come and men have decided never again to go, the banquet goes on forever.

The usefulness of the average banquet is spoiled. It is twice hurt,—by too much eating, and by too many speeches too long. An eight-course dinner with its trimmings,

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even should the guest take only two bites of each, followed with cigars and a few glasses of water, does not help to mould a receptive mind. Hon. W. T. White, minister of finance, once said that modern men dig their graves with their teeth. Much of the digging is done during the banquet season.

But, after all, the orators are greater sinners than the chef and the dinner committee. Less than one speaker in fifty recognizes that a good speech is short and has something worth hearing. Having, as we have, a great country rich in natural resources, so many after-dinner speakers think it necessary to start at Prince Edward Island, chronicle its history, describe its industries, taking us through the other provinces to British Columbia in the same way, discussing Canada's relation to the British Empire and to the United States, and to anything else, throwing in a few political references, and sprinkling well with enough statistics to make the already dazed head more dizzy. A good speaker can give attractively, more information in a ten minutes' address than all our poor speakers can in six hours. Everyone suffers from the bore of long and empty speeches, including even the next speaker, who forgets his recent suffering when on his feet. After each address a group of guests will leave on a vigorous search for hats and coats. The last speakers around midnight have to talk to a few faithful guests, empty tables and tired waiters.

All this is too bad, because the banquet has an excellent mission in the world. The trouble is that few seem to know how to run them. One day someone will serve the traditional bun and glass of milk, toasts with only one reply, speeches limited to fifteen minutes, speakers hand-picked by a shrewd committee, and bed for the guests before midnight. This much-needed reform is ardently desired by every banqueteer and they all say so—in private.—Monetary Times.

Salvation Army.
 Public meetings, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 p. m. Sundays at 7:30 p. m.

Natural cussedness makes criminals of some men; others run for office.

STILL PLOT FOR SEDITION IN ERIN

German Treatment of Daughter Exposed by Pan-Celtic Editor.

London, Feb. 26.—The Daily News quotes John Decourcy Macdonnell, editor of the Pan-Celtic Quarterly, as furnishing proof that the Germans have not lost hope of stirring up sedition in Ireland and winning Irish-Americans to their side. Mr. Macdonnell speaks of conversations which his eldest daughter had in Brussels last week with the German authorities there and the action of the Germans with regard to her and his younger children, whom he and his eldest sons had to leave behind in Brussels when they fled to the frontier to escape arrest and internment in November. He says:

"Things became so uncomfortable in Brussels that his daughter determined to try to leave. Although everybody assured her her attempt would be useless, she prevailed on the American minister Brand Whitlock, to give her a note to the German commander. The soldiers on guard laughed in her face when she stated her business.

"You are English," he cried. "I am Irish," replied my daughter," according to Macdonnell. "Oh," said the German, "I beg your pardon. Will you not take a seat, madam?" His tone changed. Instead of howls his words were as sweet as honey, his face was wreathed in smiles. He listened most sympathetically to my daughter's tale, and sympathized with her bad luck in being left in Brussels alone with four little sisters and her youngest brother, but expressed astonishment at my having left.

"Why did your father leave?" he asked.

Irishmen Immune.
 "Because you would have arrested him and sent him to Germany if he had stayed," said my daughter.

"Arrest an Irishman? Never," cried the lieutenant. "Why should we?"

"The English and the Irish are the same to you," my daughter ventured.

"Not at all. Not at all," was the reply of the official, who requested my daughter to call again. She returned on the appointed day. The moment she entered the office the lieutenant greeted her politely. He handed her a copy of the New York World in which, marked with a blue pencil, was an article denouncing the Germans for inhuman conduct toward women.

"You see," he said, "what they say of us, how they abuse us. This is my revenge."

"And with a dramatic bow he handed her passports to her. Armed with these my children traveled safely to London."

TABLE TALK AT A BOARDING HOUSE

John: "Private soldiers are never allowed to carry watches during active service."
 Pete: "Well, what about the Black Watch?"

PARLIAMENT IS TOLD WHO MADE THE SHOES

Questions Asked by Members and Answered by Minister of Militia.

Questions by Mr. Sinclair.
 1. Has an investigation been made regarding the quality of the boots supplied to the Department of Militia and Defence for the use of the Canadian volunteers?
 2. If so, who made this investigation and has the inquiry been closed?
 3. Will the results of the inquiry be laid before Parliament?

Answers by General Hughes.
 1. Yes.
 2. Board appointed by the Minister of Militia. The inquiry has been closed.
 3. Yes.

WAR CONTRACTS—PURCHASE OF BOOTS.

Questions by Mr. Lemieux.
 1. From what firms have the boots supplied by the Militia Department for the first expeditionary force been purchased?
 2. By whom have they been reported upon?
 3. What is the price to be paid for them?

Answers by General Hughes.
 1. From Ames, Holden, McCready Ltd., Montreal, \$3.85 per pair; Tetrault Mfg. Co., Montreal, \$3.85 per pair; the Slater Shoe Co., Montreal, \$3.85 per pair; Louis Gauthier Co., Quebec, \$3.85 per pair; John Macpherson Co., Hamilton, \$3.85 per pair; Hart Boot and Shoe Co., Fredericton, \$3.66 2-3 per pair; Amherst Boot and Shoe Co., N. S., \$3.80 per pair.
 2. The boots were inspected as follows: Those of Ames, Holden, McCready and Slater Shoe Companies, by J. Prenter and W. Wilson; those of Tetrault Mfg. Co., by W. Silver and A. E. Baldwin; those of L. Gauthier Co., by W. Jacques. This inspection was made in the contractors' factories. Boots made by the John Macpherson Co., Hart Boot and Shoe Co., and Amherst Boot and Shoe Co., were sent direct to Valcartier camp without any previous inspection at the factory.
 3. Answered by No. 1.

GIBBONS SEES END OF WORLD AT HAND IN WAR

Cardinal Declares the Scriptural Prophecy Appears to Be in Process of Fulfillment.

Baltimore, Feb. 25.—The scriptural prophecy of the conditions that shall prevail near the end of the world seems to be in process of fulfillment, according to a recent statement by Cardinal James Gibbons. He was commenting on the war news from Europe, which he said was terrible. "We cannot grasp its magnitude or what it means," he said. "Does it not seem that the scriptures are being fulfilled—'nation shall rise against nation and there shall be sorrow throughout the world, and then shall the end come.'"
 "Loss of life in great numbers occurs only once in a while. But now in this greatest war of the world a thousand—nay, ten thousand—lives are being sacrificed every hour the war continues."

PREPARED TO MEET PIRACY AND MURDER

Churchill's Ringing Words in the House of Commons—Britain Lost but Sixty-Three Ships During the War.

London, Feb. 26.—Britain is fully prepared to cope with the German submarine raiders, First Lord of the Admiralty Churchill told the House of Commons, though he did not go into details concerning the plan of defence. "Britain's reply to the German threat will not be ineffective," said Churchill. "We shall see that Germany is not permitted to adopt a system of open piracy and murder."

Britain entered the war as well prepared as Germany for naval eventualities, the First Lord declared. Since the outbreak of the war to the time of speaking, he asserted Britain had lost sixty-three ships, exclusive of mine trawlers. Turning to a broader discussion of England's naval plans, Churchill told the House of Commons that the new British super-dreadnoughts were being equipped with the new fifteen-inch naval guns. The First Lord added that these guns were fully equal in quality to the present 13.5-inch guns, which are the most powerful now possessed by the navy, and are vastly more destructive.

He said that efficiency was the keynote of the Admiralty's program, and that at the outbreak of the war the supplies of ammunition, men, and oil were complete. Every ship in the navy which was fit for service, as well as new ships which were built for foreign governments and armed merchantmen, had been fully manned. "In fact, the German army was no more fit for an attempted war on a gigantic scale than was the fleet for national defence," he said. "After six months of war, with new dangers and difficulties coming into view, we have every right to be content with the results of our labors in making provision for the navy."

After referring to the naval battles off the Falkland Islands and in the North Sea, Mr. Churchill said: "Only two small cruisers and two armed merchantmen remain of all the German preparations to attack our trade routes and these are in hiding."

Mr. Churchill said it was necessary to be on the lookout for another German attempt to harass British trade routes, "although the ocean is a black prospect to a German cruiser," he said.

KAISER HONORS WAR CHIEF FOR VICTORY

Von Falkenhayn Given Order of "Pour le Merite for Mazurian Battle.

Amsterdam, via London, Feb. 25.—A dispatch from Berlin says that the Emperor has conferred the order "Pour le Merite" on the chief of the General Staff, General Von Falkenhayn, "in recognition of his services in connection with the victory of the Mazurian Lakes."

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