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EDITORIALS

The departure of the local contingent again brings war near home, and war is Hell. The spectacle of such a fine body of men marching out to meet the bullets of the enemy is disquieting in the extreme. The tremendous sacrifices that have already been placed upon the altar of the God of War is terrific, and should be sufficient to turn the world forever from this brutal practice. In the meantime the foes of liberty must be overthrown and it speaks well for our race that men can be found who will willingly offer themselves. What our brothers have already done others may be called upon to do a little later, and when the task appears, may it be done with a will. Only towards require coercion. Brave men do their duty voluntarily.

If there are any British subjects, Canadian other otherwise, who feel that this is not their struggle they better first of all find out what conditions are like under German rule, for this is a war to determine whether British or German laws shall rule the world. Canada and the other Dominions of the Empire have as much liberty as if no connecting tie existed. On the other hand, the colonies of Germany are ruled from Berlin with an iron hand. It is a simple matter to determine under which system one prefers to live, and the issue should not be confused. If there is anyone who wants a policeman at his elbow every time he turns around he better get away to Germany with all possible haste.

The maritime situation is put very clearly by the New York Tribune when it says that the whole German argument is simply an appeal to neutral nations to help her to overcome the military disadvantage under which she labors from the inability of her fleets to keep the sea. Because Germany cannot control the sea, she proposes to abolish international law and to sink any ship which crosses the path of one of her submarines. The position is made even more absurd by the cool proposal that every American ship which wants to be assured of safety must be accompanied by warships. That is to say, the neutral country must act as if it were at war and at enormous cost and inconvenience furnish convoys for its commerce.

The only plea that Germany can advance for its amazing threat against neutral commerce is that it is not strong enough to exercise the right of search. It must strike and run. Weakness is assigned as the excuse for lawless violence. But if weakness is the plea on sea, strength is the excuse on land. There are parts of Belgium in which Germany has exercised as great a power as that of Great Britain on the sea. But how has the power been exercised? Belgium was lawlessly invaded, and as far as Germany could do it, annexed, its people plundered, and many of them murdered. This is, upon land, an act equivalent to piracy at sea, to the seizure and capture of neutral vessels absolutely free from any suspicion of breach of neutrality, the murder of their crews, and the robbery of their cargoes. Judging by her conduct upon land, Germany would, if equally powerful at sea, have not only seized neutral cargoes without compensation, but have murdered part of the crew and compelled the rest to pay blackmail. All this would have been defended upon the plea of military necessity.

Not having the power at sea to rob in this deliberate manner, Germany resorts to reckless and indiscriminate destruction. Even the highwayman usually gives his victim the choice of holding up his hands or submitting to plunder. But as Germany cannot rob deliberately and systematically she proclaims her intention to shoot at sight. If she can accomplish her purpose the sea will be made more dangerous for an American than Belgium is for Belgians. It is no wonder that the German note is received in the United States with amazement and indignation. Germany has done her best to bring about anarchy and barbarism in Europe. She is now trying to produce the same conditions on the sea.

History and fiction have made the American familiar with the spectacle of the gunman "shooting up" a town. Having shot up a peaceful neutral nation, Germany now proposes to shoot up neutral commerce on the ocean.—Toronto Star.

Salvation Army.

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

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GERMAN HAS PRAISE FOR BRITISH ARMY

The Die Zukunft, a political review edited and published in Berlin by Herr Maximilian Harden, prints the following:

"The English army has dissipated many of the prejudices of the tacticians against mercenaries. In the British Isles there are plenty of professions bringing in good money. If a man voluntarily joins the army instead of becoming a clerk, agent, games-professional, or jobber, then he has done so because he likes it; it is pleasure in his work that raises a man's achievements above the average. On German soil England is still grimly hated, but the German warrior spirit, just in its appreciation, has over and over again praised the courage, stamina, and shooting skill of the English.

"The beggars are artists. Show them two fingers above the edge of the trench, and they hit the mark. Dum-dum bullets? Certainly. Still, such things as bomb-splinters, arrows from the sky, benzol, "minenwerfer," hardly appertain to the armory of pious nights. Tommy has amazed us. We thought that something ridiculous was on its way to us from the other side of the water. Now every one takes him seriously. Twice, three times wounded, he fights on. And when in a hand-to-hand struggle he has reached the end of his tether, he tears open his tunic and with bared breast flings himself on the glittering steel. Such fighting is worth the doing."

A VERY LIVELY PRINCE.

Prince John, the 9-year-old son of King George, jumped on a bench in St. James' Park the other day and shouted at the top of his voice, "Votes for Women." A crowd immediately gathered, and it took an embarrassed nurse some time to get her charge back to Buckingham Palace. Prince John seems to enjoy life as much as do other boys of his age. He has gathered, doubtless from his elder brothers, who bring it from the public schools, university and navy, a lot of slang, and has horrified his mother by his very apt use of it. Recently while motor-ing with the Queen he was rebuked for his use of slang and particularly for his use of the word "kids" as applied to children. At that he thought the thing was overdone, and pointed out that all boys talked about "kids" and "what else would a fellow call them?" The Queen gave it up.

RUSSIA RAISING NEW VAST ARMY

Great Force of Fresh Soldiers—British Ships Sailing as Usual.

London, Feb. 20.—The Daily Telegraph says British shipping circles are still perfectly calm. Their ships, great and small, punctually observe their appointed schedule.

The Morning Post says: "Russia is preparing vast armies of two million fresh men for the spring. The Germans in their present advance have only succeeded at best in checking, our ally. The Germans, as it were, are butting into a sack of wool."

The Times says: "Germany's latest vindictive scheme of wholesale plunder in exacting ten times last year's taxes from absent Belgian refugees unless they return to Belgium by March 1, shows no expectation of retaining the conquered territory."

A man is never as good as he says he is, or as bad as others say he is.

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The English domestic, murderer of Mr. C. A. Massey, grandson of the founder of the Massey-Harris Company and prominent Toronto society man, as sketched in the Toronto Police Court when she was committed for trial.

THE PRESS THROTTLED, FREEDOM CHOKED OFF

Decline of Free Government in Germany Told by Dr. Falconer.

Montreal, Feb. 27.—How Bismarck formed a Frankenstein, which afterwards alarmed him and caused him to warn his country against militarism and how his system was responsible for the recent blunderings of German statesmen, was told in an address here to the Canadian Club by Dr. Robert A. Falconer, president of Toronto University.

President Falconer took as his subject "The Policies of Bismarck in Preparation for the Present War."

Bismarck, he said, shaped the instruments which were to be used by the helmsman who followed him. He it was who inaugurated the system of controlling the press and directing the views the papers were to set forth.

The consequence was that the modern German is steadily deluded into believing existent a state of things which does not exist and he acts upon this belief. With the loss of her free press Germany also lost parliamentary government. One of the first things Bismarck did when he became Prime Minister in 1862 was to strengthen the Hohenzollern dynasty against the rising demand for parliamentary government. The people got a Diet, but it could not govern. The military system was then strengthened in defiance of Parliament. With the crushing of the popular will through parliamentary forms began the gradual subjecting of the people to the dominance of the military caste. The German disregard for small nations began with the seizure of Schleswig-Holstein in defiance of the protest of the Crown Prince.

It was Bismarck who styled the opposition to the bombardment of a city (Paris) as cant. Had Bismarck governed Alsace and Lorraine in conciliatory spirit instead of trying to Prussianize them he would have done much to make the present war impossible.

In his old age Bismarck saw the dangers of the militarist movement and warned his people against it, but his warning was not heeded.

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