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EDITORIALS

Chancellor Lloyd George, in speaking about the labor troubles in England, has the following to say about the drink problem in that country: "I have something more to say about this, and it is unpleasant. Most of our workmen are putting every ounce of strength into this urgent work for their country, loyally, patriotically. But that is not true of all. There are some, I am sorry to say, who shirk their duty in this great emergency. I hear of workmen in armaments works who refuse to work a full week's work for the nation's need."

"Let us be perfectly candid," added Mr. Lloyd George. "It is mostly the lure of the drink. They refuse to work full time, and when they return their strength and efficiency are impaired by the way in which they have spent their leisure. Drink is doing us more damage in the war than all the German submarines put together."

Mr. Lloyd George then referred to the large powers given by Parliament to use in emergencies. He said that this power would not be used recklessly, but if the necessity arose, Britain was ready to deal with the liquor question as the other allied countries had. Indeed, it would not be surprising to see the liquor business wiped out of Britain with one stroke.

Constantinople's future is now one of the most interesting questions of the day. "If we wish to compare the relative importance of Constantinople and of the Suez Canal we need only assume that another power possessed Egypt and Great Britain Constantinople," writes Mr. J. Ellis Barker in The Nineteenth Century. "While Constantinople would be useless to Great Britain the occupation of Egypt by a non-British power would jeopardize Britain's position in Indian and her Eastern trade."

"The importance of Constantinople to Russia lies in this, that it is the door to her house, that he who holds Constantinople is able to attack Russia in the Black Sea. The struggle for Constantinople can obviously end only when the city and the straits are possessed by a first-rate power. That is the only solution, and the only power which has a strong claim upon the possession of Constantinople is evidently Russia."

"The world will as little tolerate a Russian Napoleon," adds Mr. Barker, "as a French or a German one. Hitherto, every nation which has tried to enslave the world by force has been checked by a world combination. The Russians will scarcely be anxious to undertake a policy which has brought about the downfall of Turkey, ancient Spain, Napoleon's France, and modern Germany. Whenever a great danger arises to the liberty of the world the threatened nations combine for mutual protection, and a balance of power, sufficiently strong to restrain it, is automatically established. That has been the lesson of history."

"The practicability of such a scheme was first revealed some years ago by Erskine Childers in his remarkable novel, 'The Riddle of the Sands,' in which the author endeavored to show how men would be assembled secretly on the rivers that flow from Germany into the North Sea, behind a fringe of islands. They would be piloted by German sailors familiar with the British coast, and would slip through to England while the British fleet was crushed or drawn in another direction by the German fleet."

There is no doubt that the suggestion put forward by the author of this remarkable book created no small amount of sensation. Indeed, its publication is said to have led to a complete change in the British naval policy. The British fleet was centred in home waters, instead of being scattered all over the world, and two naval bases on the North Sea—one on the River Humber and the other at Rosyth in Scotland—were constructed specially to watch Germany.

VICTORY IMMINENT.

Petrograd, March 27.—The Russe Slovo correspondent interviewed General Pau in Warsaw on the fall of Permsyl. General Pau summarized his impressions in one word, "Excellent."

He declared that victory in the war was imminent. This was his conviction when leaving France, and it had been strengthened since his arrival in Russia. "The spirit of the Russian soldiers," he said, "the enthusiasm felt by them for their officers and, lastly, the military skill of the Russian citizens, which I was fully able to appreciate after personal intercourse with them, all fortify these hopes and allow me to look into the future serenely."

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WEIRD SCHEMES FOR INVASION

Germany's boast that she will land an army of 300,000 men from transports, which will sail between two complete lines of huge submarines, is almost as absurd, says "Tit-Bits," as the plan depicted by an old print published in 1798, which shows a huge French raft propelled by windmills conveying thousands of French soldiers. This, however, certainly deserved the credit of being termed an ingenious idea, as steam was not then understood, wind being the best power known.

The Germans are apparently taking a leaf out of Napoleon's book, for on several occasions they have threatened to invade England by means of shallow craft carrying 1,000 to 1,500 men each, so that the men could step ashore.

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ATE MOSS, GNAWED EQUIPMENT STRAPS TO SUSTAIN LIFE

London, March 27.—"Four thousand prisoners, mostly from Permsyl, have arrived here, says Reuler's View, Russia, correspondent. They give a pitiable description of the starving condition of the garrison before the fall. Numbers of the men, they say, were dropping from exhaustion, while other had not sufficient strength to leave the trenches and ate moss and gnawed at the straps of their equipment to keep themselves alive."

BRITISH LEADERS ARE CONFIDENT OF VICTORY

The Prime Minister in asking for more money, representing an expenditure of nearly £2,000,000 a day for the army and navy, said: "The government are making a large pecuniary demand on the House—a demand beyond all comparison larger than any British Ministry in the whole course of our history."

"We are making that demand with the full conviction that, after seven months of war, the country and the whole Empire are every whit as determined as they were at the outset—if need be, at the cost of all we can demand—both in men and in money, to bring a righteous cause to a triumphant issue. There is much to encourage and stimulate us in what we see. Nothing has shaken, nothing can shake, our faith in the unbroken spirit of Belgium—in the undefeated heroism of indomitable Serbia—in the tenacity and resource with which our two great allies, the one in the west and the other in the east, hold their far-flung lines, and will continue to hold them till the hour comes for an irresistible and decisive advance."

"We have no reason to be other than satisfied with the progress of recruiting. The Territorial divisions, now fully trained, are capable—I say it advisably—of confronting any troops in the world."

Mr. Bonar Law and the Army.

Mr. Bonar Law, in the Commons said: "We have kept to the full the command of the sea, and have the power to apply pressure to sea power to a greater extent than has ever been known in the world before."

"We have also kept in the field since the war began an army which, though small compared with the gigantic forces in arms on the Continent, is by far the biggest army which has ever been commanded by a British general. "The officers cannot speak too highly in praise of the men, and the men are never tired of singing the praises of their officers. "We are creating, to meet the needs of this war, armies which even from the point of view of numbers, can compare with Continental armies now in the field. That is a great conception. "Our army has done great work. Small as it is, I believe it is not too much to say that at a critical hour, if it did not save Paris, at all events it gave the aid which enabled the French to save Paris for themselves, and broke the tide which seemed to be the tide of victory."

WOMAN DANCER SHOT ON EXPOSITION GROUNDS

San Francisco, March 27.—An Algerian dancer, known as the Princess Turkait, a member of a ballet in a Russian amusement concession at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, was shot and instantly killed last night by her brother, Isaac Lizraki. Lizraki then began firing indiscriminately at the entertainers on the stage and into the audience, causing a panic. The spectators made a rush for the doors. None of them was injured. Lizraki was disarmed and arrested. No reason is known for the shooting.

"I have never been doubtful about the result of the war," said Mr. Lloyd George, "nor have I been doubtful, I am sorry to say, about the length of the war and its seriousness. I have always been convinced that the result will be inevitably a triumph to this country. "The natural resources of the allied countries are overwhelmingly greater than those of their enemies—in men capable of bearing arms, in the financial and economic resources of these

countries, in their accessibility to the markets of the world through the command of the sea for the purpose of obtaining material and munitions. All these are preponderatingly in favor of the allied countries; but there is a greater reason than all. "Beyond all is the moral strength of our cause, and that counts in a struggle which involves sacrifices, suffering and privations for all those engaged in it. A nation cannot endure to the end that has on its soul the crimes of Belgium."

The Ascendancy of Sea Power.

"Just as growth from the root begins underground, so historians accustomed to look below the surface discover great origins in periods and events, giving little outward indication of their full significance," says the Observer. "It is more than possible that historians in the future may judge last week to have been the turning point of the war."

"Alike in Poland and along the Carpathians the Central Empires seem to have reached their limit no less than in France and Flanders. The mouth of the Dardanelles has been triumphantly forced by an allied fleet which we know now to include the Queen Elizabeth. This, the newest and mightiest of our super-dreadnaughts, is the wondrous ship of our navy. The seizure of the first section of the long straits which lead to Constantinople will be felt throughout the East as a sign that the fortunes of the Triple Entente are waxing, whilst those of the Central Empires wane."

"But there is yet a third thing of still deeper significance. At sea Germany has made her last desperate throw and failed."—Public Opinion.

ENDORSE MR. SMELLIE.

Depositors of Bank of Vancouver Recommend Nominee for Liquidatorship.

Vancouver, March 27.—At a meeting of depositors of the Bank of Vancouver, held Wednesday night in Pender Hall, Mr. G. L. Smellie, manager of the Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation, was endorsed as nominee for the liquidatorship of the bank. The endorsement was made on the recommendation of a committee of depositors, Messrs. Vinson, Cayley, Shantz, Saunders and Corbett.

In the discussion several speakers voiced the opinion that it was inadvisable that anyone connected with the bank should be selected as liquidator.

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