

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 1915.

FREE CRITICISM

The Montreal Gazette publishes a report of an interview with Sir Herbert Holt, on his recent return from England, which must come as rather a shock to Canadians. Sir Herbert is president of the Royal Bank of Canada and of the Montreal Heat and Power Co., and is one of Canada's biggest men, therefore his charges of incompetency and worse against the leaders in Britain are bound to be paid attention to, at least in the Dominion.

Among other things, he is reported as saying that "the politics of the mother country are absolutely rotten, and even the men higher up are thinking about politics and position and votes." This is a very sweeping condemnation to come from a casual visitor to the old country, even if that visitor is a knight and fairly well acquainted with conditions over there. It is an admitted fact that the British temperament tends to muddle through instead of pursuing a clear-cut policy, but it is hard to believe that, in such a time of national crisis, politics is playing such an important part. When Premier Asquith formed his coalition government politics was forgotten and it was a case of giving the right man the right job, and the press throughout the Empire endorsed every important appointment.

It is true that the war office is not organized as a business concern would be, and that many miles of red tape make its movements slow, its one great quality being that it keeps on going and ultimately comes out all right. In every war in history, the government has been whole-heartedly blamed throughout. Wellington, in his great campaign, had

as much trouble in fighting the war office for supplies and men, as he had in combating the enemy. There is the time-honored joke about the Crimean requisition for munitions which was finally passed thirty years after the war was over. Doubtless Sir Herbert has picked up many of his impressions from the press, a certain section of which has been very busy "knocking" the men in power. No government is organized along the lines of, say, the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and probably no government ever will be, but it is hard to believe that Britain's leaders today are playing the Nero stunt. Blunders have been made and time has been lost, but the country is gradually becoming organized and there can be no doubt that the men in charge of the conduct of the war have their business well in hand.

Britain's great fault was that she was unprepared, so far as the army is concerned, but that fault is to her credit. To Germany's everlasting disgrace she was prepared, because she had long since made up her mind for war, and a war of extermination of the smaller powers. That Britain has been able to build up such a huge army in such a short time, and from raw material, is greatly to the credit of the men who organized it, as well as to the men who composed it. When the story of the struggle comes to be written it will be found that the reason for the delay in producing vast quantities of high explosives at the start was the lack of any large supply of certain materials which Germany had been purchasing and storing for years. For forty years Germany has been raising men to carry on this war, while Britain's leaders



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have had no experience along this line. Men who were essentially men of peace have been suddenly asked to face a situation such as no British statesman has ever been asked to face, and which they never expected to face. If they have taken some time to get used to the great change there can be no cause for wonder, and still less for blame.

PRODUCING TOBACCO WITHOUT NICOTINE

Tobacco smokers who feel that the habit is injuring their health who have tried to quit and could not, may or may not be pleased to learn that the United States government is developing a nicotineless tobacco. There is a theory that boiled dumplings are good only when they are "gummy" and indigestible. So tobacco may be enjoyed only because it is poisonous.

At any rate, it is the nicotine in tobacco that doctors condemn. Nicotine is the poison that causes "tobacco heart" and other ills.

In an experiment station in Landisville, Pa., the government is breeding a tobacco without nicotine. The experiment began three years ago. A number of tobacco plants were analyzed and the seeds of the one having the least nicotine contents were planted the next spring. From that crop the seeds of the stalk with the least nicotine were planted again, and so on, until this year the nicotine in the stalk has been reduced by this process

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and the children should you fall ill or lose your employment? Have you money in the Bank to tide the family over until you are "on your feet" again?

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of selection from 3 1-2 per cent. to 1.31 per cent.

The flavor was said to be not affected in the least. The tobacco with only 1.31 per cent of nicotine was as satisfactory to old smokers as the other.

The government hopes to be able to "breed out" all the nicotine, and if it does we may have a kind of tobacco that may be smoked with impunity.

The government is not encouraging the tobacco habit. It is only making nature, like any other adulterator of pure foods and drugs, be good.—Ex.

TERRACE DISPATCH

The first issue of the Terrace Dispatch, which is just to hand, is a compact, newsy little sheet. Good luck to its enterprising proprietor, who is devoting half of his proceeds from subscriptions to the Red Cross fund.

Salvation Army.

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

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