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EDITORIALS

A number of people are writing letters to The Star and to other daily papers in this city denouncing the Literary Digest and the Saturday Evening post and urging that these publications be excluded from circulation in Canada.

We understood that the Ottawa government has received similar urgings, but does not feel warranted in resorting to the extreme measure of excluding the journals mentioned. In this we believe the government takes the right view, as it did also, we think, in deciding to exclude from this country certain publications that were started for no other purpose but to disseminate views favorable to the enemy.

* * *

As for the two American weeklies, The Disgest and The Post, we are as familiar with them as anybody can be. They are merely doing what they have done for years. The chane is not in them; the change is in the Canadians who read those papers, and who are now deeply stirred by this war. The Digest is doing what it has always done. It is not proffering opinions of its own—it is reproducing from newspapers at home and abroad all kinds of views on the war. The Post is doing what it always did. It is featuring the biggest interests of the day in special articles and in fiction.

But as a people we in this country are partisans in regard to this war and do not want to be anything else. It makes a man fighting mad to read in the Literary Digest some of the articles reproduced from German newspapers, or the articleo by Professor Dernburg in the Saturday Evening Post. Most people do not want to read such stuff at all, do not want to know what the German newspapers are saying, nor with what line of reasoning. Professor Dernburg tries to make a bad cause seem good to the American public. There are Conservatives who would not let The Globe inside their doors, and there are Liberals who would not pick up The Mail and Empire unless they had a pair of mitts on.

* * *

Yet newspapers cannot be suppressed for such reasons, nor would it be wise to apply Prussian rigor to American publications entering Canada. They are not British journals. Most of them are, however, pretty strongly with us in this war, and we should not rashly spoil a situation that is, on the whole, extremely gratifying.

Nothing would, perhaps, please Professor Dernburg more than to think that he had provoked Canada into taking hostile action against American journals that circulate all over the States.—Toronto Star.

ROYAL YEAST
MAKES PERFECT BREAD

RESERVIST TALE OF HORRORS.

Germans Bridged River With Corpses of Own Dead.

Montreal, Dec. 2.—Eugene Geanniene, a Belgian reservist, has arrived back hom here, having been injured in action in Flanders. He fought at Antwerp and in several other engagements. He was kicked in the chest by a German charger on the Ripell River. Geanniene possesses as souvenirs of his fights a dumdum bullet, which he says was fired by the enemy, and a German belt with the legend of "Got Wit Us" on it.

From Antwerp, Geanniene says he was sent to Lierre, and the most of his fighting he saw in the series of battles about the Rupell and Nethe Rivers. At Wave-St. Catherine, on the Rupell River, 20,000 Belgians, supported by a British naval brigade, held off 85,000 Germans for days.

The Germans, says Geanniene, were endeavoring to cross the hiver by a pontoon bridge. When the bridge was crowded with Germans, a British officer whistled. That was the signal. Then the artillery opened fire, and in a few seconds the bridge and those on it were swept away.

Three times the Germans rebuilt the bridges and repeated the same tactics. Three times the Allies wiped out the advancing hordes. After the third attempt, the little river was so choked with dead men and debris that the German troops were actually able to march across on the top of the corpses. In the strugggle that followed and after he had killed two Germans, Geanniene received his wound.

Geanniene claims to have sure evidence of the reported German atrocities on women and children.

HOW MILITARY CONTRACTS HELP SOME CANADIAN FIRMS

BELIEVED THAT PATRONAGE LIST OF THE GOVERNMENT IS LETTING CONTRACTS—LARGE FIRMS SAID TO BE INVOLVED.

Ottawa, Dec. 2.—For various reasons it would seem to be expedient that war contracts should be distributed among as many firms as possible. By so doing every point in the Dominion would benefit; industries now struggling for an existence would be enabled to keep their wheels turning, and their employees working, while in addition equipment would be provided as quickly as possible. It cannot be denied that complaints are registered from time to time to the effect that this course is not being pursued, and that many reputable firms are not receiving their share of contracts awarded, while others are reaping a harvest. The government declines to give out for publication information concerning the contracts let by the sub-committee of the cabinet, the chairman of which is Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Customs, and whose membership includes Hon. Frank Cochrane, Hon. Louis Coderre, Hon. C. J. Doherty, and Sir George E. Foster, who, as Minister of Trade and Commerce, has a vital interest in the stimulating of industry. Just how far politics enter into the question is not known, but certain it is that the patronage list is often consulted when contracts are let.

Certain specifications are presented for the materials by the government, and the firms selected are asked to submit a statement as to the price and time at which the goods can be manufactured. In few cases, it is believed, are tenders called for, though the government believes that by the elimination of the middleman the materials can be procured at the lowest price.

The work of providing uniforms for the first contingent was largely secured by the usual militia contractors, Mark Workman of Montreal, and W. E. Sanford of Hamilton. The cost per uniform was about $10, and per great coat about $9. The contracts for supplying fatigue clothing fell largely to the J. Woods Co. of Ottawa, and J. Mackenzie of the same city. The largest contract for boots fell to Ames, Holden & Tereault, of Montreal, at $4 per pair. Since then contracts have been let to the Regal firm of Toronto, the two Slater firms, and the J. & T. Bell Co., of Montreal, together with some smaller companies in Winnipeg.

The heavy contract of supplying tents for Valcartier Camp fell to the Woods Co., of Ottawa, of which Col. James Woods, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, is the head.

The privilege of supplying rubber goods, consisting of tarpaulins, capes, rubbers, top boots etc., fell to various companies, including the Gutta-Percha and Rubber Co., of Toronto, the Dunlop Tire Co., of Toronto, the Canadian Rubber Co., of Montreal, and others.

There have been further heavy contracts for knitted goods of various sorts, including underwear, caps, socks, etc. Stanfields, Ltd., Penman's of Paris, the Monarch Knitting Co., the Kingston Knitting Co., the Renfrew Knitting Co. and others have participated in these.

The Ford and the Russell companies have figured extensively in contracts for motor trucks and autos, while Woodstock and Brantford wagon companies have supplied heavy contracts in vehicles.

It is difficult to procure information concerning the British contracts, and those from the other allied countries, as these are attended to by their own agents. Mr. Fred Stobart is the British agent with headquarters at Montreal and Winnipeg. The clothing, boots, saddlery and harness purchased by the latter are roughly estimated in value at between five and six millions with promise of more to come if first orders are satisfactorily filled. In addition, the Russian and French governments have placed orders for saddles and harness to the number of nearly thirty thousand. These have been divided pretty well among all the saddlery firms of the Dominion.

More definite information as to the extent Canadian industries are being benefitted by the heavy army contracts which, and are still being placed by the Dominion and the allied governments, is not ascertainable here at present. It is not considered to be the part of wisdom or expediency to make public official particulars of the amounts of contracts given, nor the names of the firms who have secured them. It is contended that to do so just now would cause jealousy among the various firms and would result in very considerable worry to the members of the government to whom the task of letting contracts has been entrusted.

Some idea of the money which is being spent in Canada as a result of the war may be gained by estimating the cost of equipment of the men who are leaving for the front, having consideration for the fact that all of this equipment is manufactured in Canada. It is estimated that it costs $150 to equip a soldier with clothing, boots, ammunition, rifle and kit. Canada now contemplates having under arms, at the front and in the Dominion, 108,000 men by the New Year. To equip these men alone it would therefore cost $16,200,000, not taking into account their maintenance afterwards. This does not include motor trucks, wagons, tents, tarpaulins and the thousand and one other details necessary for the full equipment of an army division. Altogether it is calculated that Canada's war expenses will approximate $100,000,000 per year.

A large proportion of this, it is to be noted, will be spent in Canada. As a matter of fact, it is conceivable that a good percentage of the pay of Canada's soldiers will be spent in the Dominion.

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