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EDITORIALS

It is difficult to insure the honest expenditure of public money. The grafter and the unscrupulous contractor are to be found in all party organizations. Many of them are adroit enough to be Liberals when the Liberals are in power and Conservatives when the loaves and fishes are distributed by a Tory government. The most serious feature of this bipartisan rascality is that the unscrupulous contractor, remembering the tricks that he has played in the past to secure a dishonest profit and hoping to practice like knavery in the future, is often in a position to put in a lower bid than the man who wants to do honest work at a fair price.

From a certain Ontario town there has come to The Globe a letter respecting a public building now in process of construction, which cannot be published in the form in which it was written, because if the allegations contained in it are not provable it would be most improper to give the name of the contractor. It is charged that the contractor in this case, through connivance with the inspectors, has been able, where reinforcing of concrete called for expanding metal, to use instead a rusty old iron fence; that in another case

where 8-inch square timbers for purlines were required in the specifications three 2-inch planks nailed together sufficed. Where weeping tile and tar were to be used to insure freedom from damp both were omitted, and three coats of paint were cut to two. None of the furnaces used, it is asserted, will come up to the requirements of the specification.

Copies of the letter containing these charges, with the names of the contractor and of the writer of the letter have been sent to Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Only by the fullest investigation can the facts be established, and nothing short of a public inquiry by competent non-partisan investigators will meet the need. If corrupt contractors were taught that it does not pay to be crooked the money of the Dominion could be spent to far better advantage. Is it too much to hope that some day, under both Liberal and Conservative administration, the people of Canada will get an honest dollar's worth for every dollar spent upon public works?—Globe.

Every man has a past, although few care to use it in their business.

The first revolver—the earth.

GERMANY HAD INVADING TROOPS ON TRANSPORTS

New York, Jan. 2.—Donald Slingluff, of 17 Battle Place, who has large oil interests in Belgium, has returned from a two months' business trip to Europe.

"I lost money on a wager I made with an English friend that the Germans would capture Paris before November 14 on their second attempt," Mr. Slingluff said. "This would have been accomplished if the Emperor had not decided to crush the British first by an invasion of England."

"One of the directors of a big American oil company which has German affiliations told me just before I sailed on the Transylvania from Liverpool on December 5 that he had spent two weeks in Hamburg, and had seen the soldiers with field guns on the transports in the Elbe. They have been ready since November 1, he told me, waiting for the opportunity to start for the English coast. The German government has taken practically everything in the harbor of Hamburg that could carry men and guns, my friend said."

"I believe that the Germans will land in England within the next few days, but I do not think they will accomplish anything, as Kitchener has at least 500,000 trained men on hand. The entire coast line is protected with trenches and barbed wire entanglements."

"The educated classes realize the gravity of the situation, but the masses do not. They rely on the men at the front to beat the Germans and the navy to protect the coast. They enjoy the football matches, horse races, and music halls just the same, and enlistment is very slow. Officers told me in London that a Zeppelin raid might wake the working people up. The shelling of the seacoast towns recently may accomplish something. England has been at the zenith too long for the good of the people. Adversity would do the nation good."

"The people of Belgium are more hopeful. Capt. Ferdinand Pettit, who was the president of our oil company at Antwerp before the war started, told me that an army of 150,000 Belgians will take the field in March to drive the Germans out of Belgium. He gave an order for 200,000 pairs of shoes to a Boston firm the night before I left London."

DECLINES TO JOIN LATIN REPUBLICS

London, Jan. 2.—The British ambassador at Washington has informed the Foreign Office that the United States has definitely declined to join the Latin-American republics in their proposed joint request that European belligerents shall withdraw their warships from the coasts of the two Americas. Despite this action by the United States, the Foreign Office understands that the South American countries intend to make such a request on their own account and presume also to take joint action restricting facilities for belligerents obtaining coal and provisions in their ports.

ABUSE OF AMERICANS BY GERMAN PAPERS

Their Motto: "The Dollar, No Matter How You Get It, So Long as You Get It"

London, Jan. 4.—The Daily Express commenting on the German newspaper attacks on the United States, says:

"Berlin knows the American hearts are with the soldiers of freedom, and the knowledge has had the usual Teutonic result of frantic abuse of the people who denounce the Belgian atrocities and the bombardment of unprotected towns and who irreverently laugh at German 'culture.'"

"Americans decline friendship with the vandals of Rheims and Louvain, and the Germany that has fawned on their doorstep now is throwing stones at their windows."

The Daily Chronicle says: "There is a growing uneasiness in Germany about the attitude of the United States. It begins to filter through that the efforts of Count von Bernstorff, Dr. Derrburg, and Prof. Munsterberg have not been crowned with success and intelligent Americans find increasing difficulty in accepting their presentment of the German idea. In several influential German newspapers the disposition is evident to cease the unsuccessful courting of the United States and to let them know that the German people are not satisfied with American views of neutrality."

"The Cologne Gazette prints an article by a Dr. Hexamer, a German-American, who tells his readers that he is not proud of America. He accuses the United States of praying on Sundays for peace and of supplying England and her allies with war materials on other days of the week. This he exclaims, is hypocrisy and would be more consistent were America to relinquish the 'Star Spangled Banner' and proud motto 'E Pluribus Unum' and supply herself with a flag inscribed: 'The dollar, no matter how you get it, so long as you get it.'"

Dr. Hexamer says he loves America, but he is just disgusted with a policy which allows England to lead the country by the nose and which allows England to slap its face and then licks the hand that smites it."

DENIES ABSURD STORY.

Ambassador Puts Quiet on Yarn That Russia Will Sue for Peace.

Washington, Feb. 2.—A statement having been sent widespread through the United States that Russia purposes negotiations for peace with Germany independent of her Allies, France and England, and it having been suggested that Ambassador Bakhmeteff had knowledge of such an arrangement, the Russian ambassador to the United States has not only issued a statement denying such a possibility, but has cabled to the foreign office at Petrograd and received the following message from the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs: "Certainly please deny absolutely the absurd statement.—(Signed) Sazonoff."

CANADIAN NORTHERN TRACK NEARLY DONE

Less Than 100 Miles Remain To Be Completed in British Columbia

Vancouver, Jan. 4.—Less than 100 miles of track remains to be laid to complete the British Columbia divisions of the C. N. R. it was stated at the chief engineer's office this morning. Practically all the structural work on the steel bridges from the present end of track, a few miles east of Lytton, to Kamloops has been completed, and the steel-laying gangs are rapidly lessening the gaps on that section. A temporary structure has been built near Walhachin, over the Thompson river, to convey material pending the erection of the permanent bridge to be erected at that crossing.

The line has been laid from Kamloops to bridge 8, near Walhachin, leaving about 58 miles to be laid to connect up the Port Man-Kamloops division. The track has been laid north of Kamloops to Mile 128, where a tunnel is being bored. The passage will be 330 feet long and skirts a narrow canyon colloquially known as Hell's Gate. The waters of the North Thompson river rush madly through the narrow chasm, especially during the spring freshets. The line has been advanced from the eastern end of construction 89 miles distant from the Yellowhead Pass. A section of 40 miles remains to be laid to link up the two ends of construction.

The completion of the entire British Columbia sections of the C. N. R. is looked for early next year. One estimate a short time ago mentioned February as the probable date of the driving of the last spike.

HUGE KAMLOOPS TROUT CAUGHT IN OKANAGAN

Big Fellow Weighing 24 Pounds Taken by Hook and Line.

Kelowna, Jan. 2.—Mr. A. G. Bennett, of Okanagan Mission, made a remarkable catch a couple of days ago, about a mile from the Mission. Trolling with a brass spoon, and using a fourteen-foot rod, he captured a tremendous trout of the variety known as "Kamloops," which weighed a shade under twenty-four pounds, and measured three and a half feet in length by twenty-three inches girth at its largest circumference. The size of its head may be judged from the fact that its spread of jaw was nine inches. Mr. Bennett is having this fine specimen mounted. In addition to the big fellow, he also caught half a dozen more or less big fellows, the largest of which weighed fifteen pounds. While larger fish than the twenty-four pounder have been captured in Okanagan Lake—the record is said to be thirty-two pounds—it is doubtful if so many large ones have been taken at one time, and in this respect Mr. Bennett's achievement is a notable one.

A man may be slow and sure, but it is different with his watch.

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