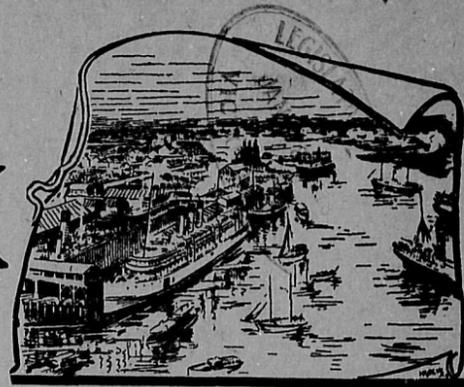




# The Week

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## Food Situation Very Grave

**T**HE food situation in the Allied countries of western Europe is graver than it has been at any time since the beginning of the war. Information has been received by the Food Controller which shows that the utmost effort must be made to increase spring acreage and to secure a much larger production of bread grains in 1918 than was done in 1917. Mr. Hoover has already pointed out that if ships have to be sent to more distant countries to carry food stuff to Europe, fewer ships will be available to carry soldiers and supplies from this continent, with a result that the continued participation of the United States and Canada in the war will be greatly hampered. The situation has been thoroughly canvassed, and among those who have studied it, there is unanimous agreement that the only solution of the food problem is greater production in North America. In this connection it is especially important that the spring acreage sown in bread grains should be as large as it can possibly be made. Every person who can possibly produce food must do so, no matter how small his or her contribution may be. Those who cannot produce food, can at least conserve it. The utmost economy is imperative. The situation today is critical and the world is rapidly approaching that condition when price will not be the most important question, but when even the people of Canada may be glad to eat any food which they can obtain. The successful prosecution of the war by the Allies will depend to a very large extent upon the extent of food production and food conservation this year by the people of North America. Baron Rhonda in a recent message says: "The food position in England, and I understand in France also, can without exaggeration be described as critical and anxious. I am now unable to avoid compulsory regulation. I fear it will have to come with long queues of people awaiting in the severe weather in practically every town in England for the daily necessities of life."

## Drifting On to the Rocks

**I**T is high time the people waked up to take note of where the country is drifting through the greed and selfishness of certain sections of the community who are governed in all their actions by personal and class interest. If the people do not get on the alert they will wake up some fine morning to find that the country is fast drifting on to the rocks. A report comes from the Okanagan that the Farmers' Institute there is appealing to the Federal Government asking that indentured Chinese labour be introduced. The reason is the shortage of white labor and the shortage of white labor has been caused by drafting the men into the trenches. It thus comes about that the white man, the citizen of the country goes away to fight for King and Country and when he comes back—if ever he does come back—it will be to find the country he went to fight for occupied by Chinamen, Hindus and Japs. If the people generally were not so steeped in ignorance and so much concerned with their own petty selfish concerns they would at once stand up and denounce this proposal root and branch. But there is not much hope that they will make the slightest protest. The people seem to be hypnotised. They do not appear to care to know, especially when the subject is likely to demand strenuous action to oppose those in power. Few people appear to know what indentured labor means. They do not seem to know that an attempt was made at the close of the Boer war to establish it in South Africa. They need to be reminded that this is an old trick of the "grab-it-all" to get cheap labor and to crush the white man down in his wages. When the people of Great Britain got to know what indentured labor meant in South Africa they demanded that it be put an end to immediately. Indentured labor is one of the most cruel schemes ever conceived for the purpose of enabling one man to exploit the labor of hundreds of others. *In some respects it is worse than slavery.* Not many months ago an attempt was made to pass a bill in the South African Parliament which aimed at bringing black native labor under the laws and regulations of indentured labor. The conditions imposed by the bill were nothing short of infamous and it had passed would have enabled the employers of labor to out-hun the huns in the most diabolical treatment that they ever meted out to the people of Belgium. But fortunately for the good name of British fair play, such a storm of opposition was roused against the bill that it had to be withdrawn, and this is the kind of thing that a group of unthinking, selfish farmers in the Okanagan are crying out for and all in the name of a patriotic desire to help production. We wish we could hope that the Government at Ottawa will turn down the request—a thing it is not likely to do: They have received such a mandate from the people that it is to be feared there is no reactionary measure which they will fail to resort to so long as it is in the interests of their friends the profiteers.

But things would seem to be becoming even more desperate than this move for indentured Chinese labor would indicate. Here is *The Times*—and a Liberal paper at that—openly calling for conscription of white labor. This is does, like the Okanagan farmers, in the supposed interest of greater production. *The Times* may be commended for its frankness in which it is almost brutal. Here is what it says: "Conscription for the fields is just as logical and proper a function as the mobilization of a country's resources or conscription for the trenches." Nobody will question the logic; but they will question both the wisdom and the sanity of the newspaper which advocates such action. It may take a little while to let the meaning of such a proposal sink into the ordinary mind; but when it has done so he will see that one of two things is bound to happen should the scheme be put in force. On the one hand, if white labor is conscripted for farm labor on the prairies, it will mean nothing short of the enslavement of the worker for generations to come. It does not matter where the

white labor is brought from, whether from the internment camps of the Allies or from British Columbia. On the other hand, failing the conscription of white labor, the door is opened for the introduction of indentured Chinese and Hindu labor. It may be that this is what *The Times* is looking for and is now trying to prepare the minds of its readers to accept it when it comes. If either scheme be carried out it needs no prophet to foresee that in a very short time this country will be given over to a form of industrial slavery which in the long run will spell social and economic ruin. We wonder what the Trades and Labor Council will have to say to this? It would be vain to hope for anything like a useful pronouncement from the ministerial bodies or the Social Service Commission. These latter seem to have fallen into a moribund condition, and yet when did they ever stand for the people against the forces by which they are oppressed and their liberties taken from them?

If there was any hope of an enforcement of industrial conscription being fairly carried out by drafting into the fields a number of the big well fed patriots who are battering on war profits and shouting themselves hoarse to drive the young lads into the trenches, *THE WEEK*

## LORD BEACONSFIELD ON THE INDIAN MUTINY

**T**HE horrors of war need no stimulant. The horrors of a war carried on as the war in India is at present especially needs no stimulant. I am persuaded that our soldiers and our sailors will exact a retribution which it may perhaps be too terrible to pause upon. But I do, without the slightest hesitation, declare my humble disapprobation of persons in high authority announcing that upon the standard of England "vengeance" and not "justice" should be inscribed. . . . I, for one, protest against taking Nava Sahib as a model for the conduct of the British soldier. I protest against meeting atrocities by atrocities. I have heard things said and seen things written of late which would make me almost suppose that the religious opinions of the people of England had undergone some sudden change, and that, instead of bowing before the name of Jesus, we were preparing to revive the worship of Moloch. I cannot believe that it is our duty to indulge in such a spirit.—Extract from speech delivered at Newport Pragnall, September 30th, 1857.

would put up both hands for industrial conscription. But that is the galling part of it. It is not the big idlers, not the men who grow rich off the sufferings and hardships of the workers; not the men who never in their lives were producers: these are not the people who will be conscripted into the fields. It is the workers still: in this case it will mean the elderly men and the elderly women and young girls. When a one-time Liberal newspaper takes to advocating industrial conscription it can only be said that supporters of Liberal principles have much reason to feel ashamed. The newspaper that can plead, as *The Times* pleads, for industrial conscription and of the kind they have in mind, has abdicated all right to pronounce judgment on the principles of Liberalism and sound judgment.

## To the Mayor and City Council

**T**HE year 1918 will bring you face to face with some pretty serious problems of finance. You will need all the courage you can muster up to tackle them, and all the intelligence you can command won't be a bit too much for the job. *THE WEEK* would suggest at the start-off that you bear this in mind while working along the lines of economy, that there is more potential wealth going to waste every year in Victoria in the way of unused labor than would make up the whole of the city's financial arrears. This is not idle josh but plain hard fact. We have got so much in the habit of thinking of prosperity in dollars and cents that we seem unable to grasp the idea that that is a very poor standard after all. A few years ago we had a real estate boom and bank clearings and business turnovers were something fabulous. It was all based on the fallacy that if you keep on turning a thing over, and getting more for it each time, the thing is continually increasing in value. If this had been correct the land here would be worth as much here now as it was in 1912-13. But it isn't—not by a jugful. Sooner or later the bottom had to fall out of things—and it did. Now it would be a jolly good thing for Victoria if we could all get it into our heads, from the Mayor down to the man in the street out of a job, that the only way the community can get real wealth is to produce. *Accumulating* it only means getting it from one another. This is why we would like to impress on our new City Council the thought that labor is the first thing entitled to consideration—not capital. The wasting of capital may be foolish but the wasting of labor is suicidal.

## Sir Edward Carson

**T**HE voluntary relinquishment by Sir Edward Carson of his seat in the War Cabinet is one of the best things Sir Edward ever did, not for himself, but for the British public. The statement made by him that his retirement is in no way connected with war problems, but is on account of difficulties in the Irish question, will lead to wonder as to what he now intends to do. His record in Ireland just previous to the war was not calculated to inspire confidence, and his future activities are not liable to tend to the peaceful solution of the troubles in the Emerald Isle. We shall watch him with considerable anxiety.

## Revolution in Austria

**N**EWs comes of a revolutionary outbreak in Austria, and everybody on our side is delighted. Wonderful, isn't it, that we are enthusiastic about a revolution coming up in an enemy country? But just whisper the faintest suggestion that it would be good to see another revolution in Britain or Canada and then watch how the lopsided patriotism of the listener breaks out. But it is just like our pharisaism to think that all the other countries need a revolutionary spring cleaning excepting our own. Revolution usually comes last where it is most needed.

## War Widows

**W**HEN the war is over there will be an enormous number of war widows left to struggle on through life on the pittance of a pension which a generous government will condescend to grant. It may be, however, that another fate is in store for these war widows. Once militarism is let loose on the earth there is no scheme, however revolting, that it will not resort to in order to maintain its strangle hold upon the people. In militarism the Germans have led the way—all the other nations have followed. It yet remains to be seen whether the Allies will follow all the way, and so far there is every reason to believe they will. We wonder how British and Canadian women will enjoy the prospect of following the Germans in the disposal of their war widows. Here is what they propose to do, according to the *New York Call*, which quotes from a German newspaper: "There are more than a million war widows in Germany. They cannot be allowed to remain widows, for two reasons. In the first place, the empire looks to them to provide an army for Germany's future defense, and, in the next place, many of them are attending to the business of their late husbands without possessing the necessary knowledge. All the widows, therefore, must get married at once, and preferably to wounded or otherwise unfit soldiers. They may rest assured that the national committee for the remarriage of war widows will handle the business with requisite discretion. The committee will pay special attention to men in the hospitals, and will insert anonymous advertisements in the papers generally read by war widows. It may be added that the utilization of crippled soldiers and war-stricken women in the interests of the empire's future wars has the cordial approval of our great Hindenburg." Let our women folk ponder these words and let them not be surprised when the same kind of proposal is served out to them.

## An Open Letter to Premier Borden

**M**Y DEAR PREMIER:— No man in Canada today occupies a position of so much importance as you. To no one are the opportunities of good or ill so great. The making or marring of the country is in your hands. To you, more than to any other man, we look in the hour of Canada's destiny; and I, as a common Canadian citizen, striving with thousands of others to see through some of the difficulties ahead, would ask you to listen for a few moments to what I have to say and to heed the warning of one who is probably much nearer to the heart of the common Canadian people than it is possible for you to get as Premier of Canada. I will not speak of what has already been pointed out as the greatest mistake in the history of Canada: "The passing of the Conscription Bill"; nor of the means that were employed to secure the return of your Government to power. These are now matters of history, and, right or wrong, have to be dealt with as they are, and not as they might have been. What I want to point out is the danger that faces us right now in connection with the enforcement of the act, and the certain trouble we are heading for unless something is done.

In the first place, I want to say that, in my opinion, of the hundred thousand men you are attempting to raise, and which you claim are to save the boys at the front, very few, if any, will ever get to France. You must know by this time, far better than I can tell you, that the number of men you are securing by the methods employed is out of all proportion to the energy expended in getting them. You must know, if you are properly informed, that amongst them are many who would be only too glad to act as firebrands, and that considerable trouble has already been experienced in handling some of them. You must also be aware, unless it has been kept from you, that means are being employed to force the conscientious objector into submission that are little short of diabolical; means that we never dreamt would be introduced into Canada after such means had proved so ineffectual in England. I am not arguing the point whether these men are right or wrong. It is not necessary at this moment for either you or me to pronounce judgment upon them. I am simply trying to emphasize this incontrovertible fact, that no good has ever yet been attained, and no good ever will be attained, by these methods; and that even from a military standpoint they are a gigantic failure. If you do not know these things, let me ask you to get down amongst the people who are suffering from the enforcement of the Military

Service Act, and find out whether what I say is true. Go to some of the men who have been stripped and starved into submission. Go to some of the heart-broken mothers and find out at first hand what they think, and then tell me whether I am right or wrong when I say that Canada is heading for trouble if you do not act, and act quickly.

You have the interest of our country at heart? So have I! You want to see the war brought to a successful issue? So do I! We may have different ideas as to what is the best way to go about it but we can both be sincere. I believe that you are sincere in your effort to raise more men, and I want you to credit me with the same sincerity when I say that the raising of men for fighting purposes as you are doing it will result in failure. It will take all the men you can raise to keep order at home.

My second point is that you are taking away from Canada the very men who, in the interest of the Empire and the world at large, should be kept here and put to work on the farms. It makes no difference that you are not actually taking them from the farms. Every man withdrawn from industrial life means one man less producing, and one man more consuming, and the available supply of labor for agriculture is that much reduced. We are fighting two desperate foes, Germany and Famine. You must know this. And by far the most terrible one is Famine. From every nation in arms comes the cry: More food! More food!! MORE FOOD!!! It is so insistent and persistent that it cannot be hushed, and the sending of men to the front will not help things one iota. How long can men fight on empty stomachs? The cry that was raised last December, "Save the boys at the front," will soon be changed to "Starve the boys at the front," unless all the statements made by all the food controllers are without foundation. Canada needs all the available manpower in the country, and needs it right away. There is not a moment to be lost.

"Produce! Produce! Produce! More food! More food! MORE FOOD!" "Save the boys at the front." "The men in the trenches expect us to keep them supplied with food; and Canada is the only place we can look to for it." This is what the Food Controllers tell us.

The third point I would call your attention to is that with the withdrawal of so many of our own men from Canada, and the urgent call for more production, another peril appears: The importation of Chinese labor. Just how much you foresaw this difficulty and arranged to meet it, I will not attempt to say. I would like to feel that no such idea as the introduction of indentured labor ever entered your mind. Whether this is so or not, we have this fact before us now, that a desperate effort is being made to secure labor in that way on a plea of "saving the country" and "winning the war." I appeal to you to face this matter squarely. Is it any use sending our own men to fight and filling their places with Chinamen? Are we saving Canada that way? And if so, what and who are we saving her for?

One more point, Sir Robert, and I am through. Asquith has said that "This war will have to be settled by the peoples of the different countries and not the present governments." Do you believe this? Do you realize the condition of things in the various countries of Europe? Do you know that the sufferings of the common people are forcing them into such an unrest that they are only kept quiet by the power of the military forces? Do you grasp the meaning of the long food lines as are daily seen in England as well as in Belgium, France, Italy, Austria and Germany? Do you fully appreciate the danger that is facing the world today? And do you imagine that the North American Continent is safe from the world catastrophe simply because the ocean lies between us and Europe? World storms are not affected by geographical boundaries, and we are no safer than Central Europe. If these things have not occupied your mind, think of them now, and tell me: "Do you want Canada to tread the road of bloody revolution with the rest of the nations? You have the power to avert it. You and your Government can act now and save the situation. What will you do about it? Canada looks to you in the hour of her trouble. Will you prove yourself her savior, and dare to stand in the face of all the storm, or will you allow yourself and your cabinet to become what most of the heads of governments are today, mere pieces of driftwood in the torrent of militarism, unable to do anything but drift?"

These are the things I have in my mind, Sir Robert, and I appeal to you to consider them. Call on the manhood of Canada to save the world from starvation and they will fall over one another in their efforts to line up. You will have a united Canada at home, and the boys at the front will thank you. Continue your plan of compulsion and you will simply be training men who may later turn on you and rend you. Do not imagine that I am threatening. Nothing is further from my mind. I am simply trying to call your attention to what appears to me to be trouble ahead; anxious to do all it is possible for a man at the bottom to do to help save his country. —W.E.P.

### WANTED: A MAN

Human intelligence can conceive squirrels and rabbits. To handle their nothing else so awfully hideous and dead bodies sends a thrill of joy horrible as war. And the mind of man through his soul. He cannot resist the knows nothing more beautiful than overwhelming passion to destroy the peace, says Bert Moses in "Newspaperdom" of New York City. This thrasher, the catbird, the goldfinch, the doctrine is as wide as the world, as oriole, the mockingbird and the sear-deep as the sea and as old as Time. let tanager. So vicious is his nature Philosophers of all schools, teachers that had the Audubon Society not of all tongues and statesmen of every come to the rescue of birds they would breed have voiced this eternal truth soon have disappeared from this beau- throughout the centuries. Christ was tiful world and our fight for existence the apotheosis of Peace, and the cor- would then have narrowed down to an- ernal battle with bugs, worms and of War. Why is it, then, that civili- zation now finds itself enmeshed in the ghastly business of universal murder? quest of quail, ducks, geese, deer and The answer can be given in four bear. In shere wantonness he long words: Human nature; money, ambi- tion.

I asked ten boys what they desired for Christmas presents. Eight specified guns or pistols and two wanted sol- diers' suits. The instinct to kill is in- herent in the human breast, and this instinct shows unmistakably before adolescence. In times of peace, as well as in war times like these, the Sub- way in New York, I marveled at lust for slaughter is sharply defined. The boy "plays Indian." He in- dug out and chiseled and blasted this indulges in sham battles. He fights with great tunnel through towering build- his fists. He aspires to be a warrior with shoulder straps, uniform and a sword dangling at his side. He yearns to lead an army into slaughter. In ing strengths and weights, there must modified form, this itch to kill shows in his inclination to slay birds and great artery through the city!

I asked the ticket chopper: "What man conceived and executed this tremendous feat of engineering—what was his name?" And his answer was this: "Damned if I know." Then I continued: "Who won the fight last night?" "Benny Leonard," was the reply.

Going into the train, I made a like inquiry of a passenger who was plainly a successful business man. He could not tell me whose brain fashioned and carried out the mighty enter- prise. Then he opened his paper, turned to the sporting page, and greedily read Jim Corbett's "Life of Bob Fitzsimmons."

Human nature craves the rending of flesh and the shedding of blood. It yearns to witness pain and look upon gore. The man who can beat other men into insensibility rises to greater fame than the man who builds a bridge across the East River, lays a steel tunnel under the North River, or hollows out Broadway and makes a subway. THE SLAYING INSTINCT OF THE STONE AGE IS WITH US YET.

From cradle to casket the pursuit of money goes on. We are taught that the noblest ambition is the garnering of gold. The sweetest dream of the parent is that the child shall grow rich. Marriages are conjured forth on a Bradstreet basis. The consideration runs 90 per cent to greenbacks and 10 per cent to character.

Marriage has proved a failure largely because the dollar has obsessed love. The modern measure of success is the size of the bank account.

Business and commerce by day and revelry by night are the highest attainments of organized society. To live in a big city and be the possessor of big riches is the goal upon which the eye of man is fixed. Business is the ignoble art of selling things for more than they cost, and the world has gone mad in the rush to sell more in order that more profits may follow.

The chief concern of governments is business. Legislative bodies are arrangements by which great moneyed interests comb the pennies out of the countries. The laborer and the consumer are so manipulated that what they receive Saturday night goes back to the big bank accounts the following Monday. In order that a few men may become very rich, it is necessary that millions of men must be kept very poor.

The fortunes of multi-millionaires are built upon the pains and sorrows and sufferings and sacrifices and privations of the countless human bubbles that the Eternal Saki has always poured from his bowl—and forever will pour.

The thought is not, "How can the masses be made happier?" but "How can the rich be made richer?" Much money never made any man happy, but civilization has not yet found it out.

Some nations are shrewder and craftier and more calculating than others. They edge in and secure more and more business in foreign countries, so that intense international jealousies arise. Race hatreds are engendered, and the first thing you know the diplomats are engaged in the fine art of deception, pretense and falsehood. They smile and smirk, all the while keeping the right hand close to the right hip pocket. Spies are every- where, and maps and statistics are taken from pigeonholes and consulted. The armies and navies that were ostensibly taxed out of the people for the preservation of peace are set upon other armies and navies for the prosecution of war. Armies and navies never encouraged peace. They have always made war. Peace will come only when battleships and cannon are no more. All thinking men know this and always have known it, but think- ing men do not rule the world. We bow down and worship the man who slaughters most.

The world is ruled by men ambitious for unbridled power, and this consuming ambition leads straight to mad- ness. At given periods a babe is born from the womb of woman—a babe whose brain is infected with an un- holy itch to rule the earth. Among these monsters have been Attila, Alexander, Caesar and Napoleon. The paths of these men are strewn and piled high with dead men's rattling bones. The wails of ravished women, the shrieks of slaughtered babes, the moans of dying soldiers and the agonizing cries of the starving aged can yet be heard across the centuries. Destruction, devastation and death in every corner of the earth have been the price paid for the insane ambi- tions of men gone mad in reaching out for supreme power over all mankind.

And now the regal madman is the German Kaiser. His savagery and atrocities exceed those of Attila, Alexander, Caesar and Napoleon be- cause he has more savage and atro- cious weapons of destruction—science

## DEAF PEOPLE Cured His Rupture

I was badly ruptured while lifting a trunk several years ago. Doctors said my only hope of cure was an operation. Trusses did me no good. Finally I got hold of something that quickly and completely cured me. Years have passed and the rupture has never returned, al- though I am doing hard work as a car- penter. There was no operation, no lost time, no trouble. I have nothing to sell, but will give full information about how you may find a complete cure without operation, if you write to me, Eugene M. Pullen, Carpenter, 811D Marcellus Avenue, Manassas, N.J. Better out than in. I am doing hard work as a car- penter. There was no operation, no lost time, no trouble. I have nothing to sell, but will give full information about how you may find a complete cure without operation, if you write to me, Eugene M. Pullen, Carpenter, 811D Marcellus Avenue, Manassas, N.J. Better out than in. I am doing hard work as a car- penter. There was no operation, no lost time, no trouble. 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### At The Street Corner

BY THE LOUNGER

My attention has been directed to a letter in one of our local dailies written by one who signs himself (or herself) "Production." The writer puts forward an excellent suggestion which it is to be hoped, will be acted upon. It is to the effect that the Local Council of Women proceed to organize the leisureed ladies of the city and district for work on the land. This has been done with gratifying success in the Motherland and I see no reason why it should not be tried here. The marvel is that no one should have taken the initiative in this regard long ago. There are, no doubt, hundreds of women in and around Victoria who will eagerly grasp the opportunity of giving effective assistance in the vital work of production, if it is offered. The Local Council of Women possesses the machinery necessary for the inauguration of such a scheme. Within a very short time they could assemble an army of lady workers ready to do their bit towards keeping the hungry wolf, whose growls we begin to hear, from the door. Certain it is that before long, if the present decrease in production continues, we will be confronted by a situation full of the gravest danger and serious possibilities. Now, altogether, ladies!

I have attended many meetings in my life but never such a one as that held in the K. of P. Hall on Tuesday night for the purpose of organizing an Anti-Vaccination League. This was absolutely unique as far as my experience of public meetings is concerned. When the chairman requested the crowd, which filled the hall to overflowing, to signify their approval of the object for which the meeting was called by raising their hands, the assemblage presented the appearance of a regiment with fixed bayonets. Every person present shot up at least one hand. When the chairman called for "the contrary," not a hand was visible. Such a display of absolute unanimity is a rare phenomenon indeed. I attended the meeting for a two-fold reason. First, because I honestly believe vaccination to be a dangerous and expensive farce, and second, because, being the father of a family myself, and being determined that my children shall not be made the victims of such revolting treatment, I am equally determined to assist others in the fight against the abominable practice.

I have read opinions on the question of vaccination by leading authorities, and their verdict is conclusive. Vaccination is proved by statistics to be ineffective in the prevention of smallpox. The recorded cases of disease and death traceable to the loathsome practice constitute an ugly and formidable list, and, generally speaking, there is greater mortality among smallpox cases in those who have been vaccinated than among those who have not. There is one method, and one only, of preventing disease of this type, and that is a complete re-organization of the entire social system. Now, ye fathers and mothers who have regard for the welfare of your offspring, join the Anti-Vaccination League and help in the struggle to abolish a practice which threatens the health of your children and which is simply the perpetuation of a stupid superstition. You will find yourself in good company for in the register of membership is included the name of the

LOUNGER.

### BOUQUETS AND BRICKBATS

The following are the letters so far received in answer to our request for criticisms of The Week:—

No. 1 came from a prominent M.P.P. well known in all enterprises for the uplift of humanity:

Dear Editor: Enclosed find \$1, sub. for six months. I hope to see you continue as The Week is of considerable value to Victoria as a critic and as an advocate of reform.

No. 2 contained simply a note of interrogation: "?"

Whether the sender was of an enquiring turn of mind, or thought we were, is not very clear.

No. 3 came from an Episcopal Minister:

"I think a weekly paper in a town of this size is a good thing. The stand you are taking on the prohibition question is the right one. The Union Government should level up party differences. Keep your paper free from abuse."

No. 4 is from a gentleman who has lived in the city very many years. His opinion carries weight whenever it is offered. He is not a minister although he writes like one:—

To the Editor: You have kindly invited me to express any criticisms I may have upon the present attitude and conduct of The Week.

Generally I am in accord with its viewpoint. I would not subscribe to all its utterances editorially, but with its spirit, its courage, its frankness and its freedom I have strong sympathy. Its sphere is limited; its journalistic space small, and the "news" columns conspicuous by its absence.

The free forum that it offers to all and sundry is very commendable and its breezy freshness is very enjoyable. To all those who believe in arrogant and unreasoning despotism it is anathema; to liberty-lovers it is welcome. Just now it is exceedingly popular to class humanitarians and pacifists with thieves and robbers, and to salute them with the opprobrious names of traitors, pro-Germans and other literary rotten-egg arguments. Hence it is unlikely that the general editorial attitude of The Week will secure the plaudits of the multitude. As a rule the pathway of the reformer is not strewn with roses, nor is it the route by which lovers of riches usually travel. The Socialists, says:—

"The only way you can do any good is by turning your paper into a 'daily.' The daily press can have their say six times a week and you can only get back at them once."

No. 7 was written by a citizen occupying a very high position. His good opinion is worth as much to us as that of any man in Victoria:

Sir: As one who has subscribed for four copies of your paper, I do not hesitate to say that, in my opinion, it is a very valuable paper, the most valuable, I think in British Columbia, especially at this juncture, and I have no doubt that if it continues to be conducted in the sincere, sane and able way it is now being conducted, it will very greatly, and justly, extend its already widening influence and soon reap the reward it so well merits. You are performing a great and truly patriotic service in attempting successfully to lead the people along the path of reason, justice and humanity. You have my best wishes for 1918 and after, and it will be a genuine pleasure to me to renew my subscriptions.

I enclose two striking pamphlets by Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C., in case you have not seen them. It is a fortunate thing for Canada that we have in our midst a publicist of such high order as Mr. Ewart. There is no man in Canada for whom I entertain a higher respect. It is rare indeed to find some one who has so much sincerity, ability and moral courage.

No. 8 is from one of the multitude: Dear Sir.—Replying to your request for criticisms of your paper: I believe The Week, since it changed its tone, has been doing a great deal of good in pointing out the true position of many things that the local daily papers have been trying to hide from the poor, gullible public. I wish you luck and hope you will keep it up.

No. 9 is from a reverend gentleman. We believe he will like us better the more he becomes acquainted with us:

Dear Sir.—I am under a great disadvantage in writing in response to your request for I do not know who you are and I am not a regular reader of The Week.

The paper was sent to me during the evangelistic campaign conducted by Dr. Oliver and I read some of the numbers. I considered your criticisms of him very popular and very unfair. Who wrote them I do not know but there was in them a pronounced personal element which I consider always unwise in a paper of that kind.

The paper had a past which I could not endorse—especially on moral questions—and there has been no announced severance from that past, so far as I know.

For these unsatisfactory reasons I cannot promise you my support.

\*\*\*\*\*  
SUB ROSA  
\*\*\*\*\*

Bonar Law says he never heard of Billy Sunday, and Billy says he never heard of the Bonar Law but he does know that the Sunday law has been in force for some time.

Perhaps you are a miserable jitney patron and do not read the Buzzer. If so, let me tell you that the Buzzer is the class "A" comic weekly of British Columbia. Here is the proof. "Street railways probably have done more to attract capital to the localities in which they operate than any other form of industry." The 686 people who a year or so ago petitioned the company to extend the Burnside line from Washington avenue to Tillium Road, laughed loud when they read that "buzzing." The Swan Lake and Carey Road residents also ha ha'd irreverently. Buzz some more, Mr. Buzzer. Your paper was evidently designed for the short ride reader.

The Times says that Rufus Isaac, Earl of Reading, Lord Chief Justice of Great Britain, now appointed High Commissioner to the U. S. A., is a remarkable man. Rufus himself would certainly believe it if he could see the picture which is supposed to be his likeness.

The British War Cabinet is a mystery to me. Every nation under heaven is going dry or trying to. Booze like some of the great actors of the past, appears to be taking his fare-well trip, but is he? "I don't know where I'm going to, but I'm on my way," might well be his passing ditty as far as Canada is concerned. But what about England, where booze is boss and may yet prove to be Germany's greatest ally? The grain destroyed by submarines would make a hundred and twenty thousand loaves a day. The grain wasted by breweries would daily make SEVEN HUNDRED AND

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Having moved to more commodious premises (rendered necessary by the large increase in my business) I have now ample room in which to display cloths, etc. You are invited to inspect a choice selection of new Fall and Winter goods, including Donegals, Serges and Tweeds. Come—you will not be importuned to buy.

H. H. BROWN

Late of Jay's Oxford Circus, Society's Tailor

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It operates its own Sleeping and Dining Cars, and has its own Hotels and Steamships. Its magnificent Mountain Scenery and the excellence of the Dining Car Service have made the favorite route for tourists across the American Continent.

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IN PERSTA'S LIBRARY

"Memoirs of Napoleon Bonaparte, the Court of the First Empire." By Baron C.F. De Meneval, His Private Secretary. Three volumes, cloth; P. F. Collier & Son, New York. (Albert Britnell, Yonge Street, Toronto. \$1.25.)

It is with ineffable sadness that we take down from our shelves books dealing with bloodshed, and we seem to feel the heartache of thousands of mourning relatives of soldiers killed and maimed. True that with which we are concerned today deals with the civilization of a past century, and humanity had not yet reached the heights of poison gas, machine guns, tanks, airships, and other mechanical pleasures; and fighting was carried on something after the fashion of a gentleman. Notwithstanding this fact, we confess that had we been in New York one hundred years ago, we would have used our best endeavours to dissuade excitable arm-chair warriors from getting Napoleon on their imagination, and desiring to send troops to Europe in anticipation of the Corsican coming over to attack America. History does not record, so far as we have been able to ascertain, that any Americans harbored such notions, and it certainly does not seem very likely seeing that the Atlantic cable was not in existence, and the newspapers had no electric telegraph to develop scare-mongering and hysterics. For which blessings, indeed, the American people might well have thanked God. But to our three volumes. They are bound in green cloth of a pleasing shade; on the back of each are twenty-six gold letters, not to mention Roman numerals and a gold "N" surmounted by a crown. The print is commendably clear and of fair size; the books are embellished with six illustrations, four of which are good, but we have seen them hundreds of times before; one is fair, and the other decidedly poor. All of which points are very gratifying when we consider the price, \$1.25.

In the circular advertising the publication, an enthusiastic purchaser is quoted as saying that out of the hundred books on Napoleon in his library, the work for sale is by far the best, and worth the whole lot put together, etc.

We would like to see this gentleman's library, for although we cannot pretend to have a hundred books on the subject we are by no means unacquainted with the literature dealing with this period in the history of France, and we cannot agree that the work in question is superior to others that we have perused.

If the edition of de Meneval before us, be considered as a history of Napoleon, then it is incomplete, and is not equal to Hazlitt.

Ant if it is regarded as a collection of personal memoirs, it lacks the intimate touch which is the charm of General Marbot's work.

(Marbot's Memoirs, by the way, fascinated Conan Doyle and lead to his writing the Brigadier Gerard stories.)

We are by no means certain that de Meneval's book is superior to Bourrienne's, notwithstanding that de Meneval and some other writers consider the work ascribed to Bourrienne spurious. Perhaps, however, it is Colonel Phipps' able editing of the first secretary's Memoirs, and the copious notes and additions in the new and revised edition, that appeals to us.

We most emphatically assert, however, that where a question of veracity is involved between Bourrienne and Meneval, we unhesitatingly accept the latter's version.

De Meneval's Memoirs contain more about Marie Louise than we recollect

having seen in other works of a similar nature, and it is not to be wondered at considering the duties he had to perform later in his career in connection with Napoleon's second wife.

One of our weaknesses is that the less we hear about this lady, the better we are pleased, and we now call to mind an amusing incident recorded in one of the late Elbert Hubbard's entertaining "Little Journeys" (vol. X, No. 4). Perhaps we cannot do better than quote a passage here:

"To gain admittance to the work-room of Thorwaldsen was a thing to boast of—proud ladies schemed and some sought to bribe the trusty valet; but to these the door was politely barred. Yet the servant, servant-like, was awed by titles and nobility. 'The Duchess of Parma!' whispered the valet one day in agitation—'The Duchess of Parma—she has followed me in and is now standing behind you!'

"Thorwaldsen could not just place the lady,—he turned, bowed and gazed upon a stout personage slightly overdressed. The lady quite abruptly stated that she had called to make arrangements to have a statue, or a bust at least, made of herself. The idea that Thorwaldsen would be proud to model her features seemed quite fixed in her mind. The artist cast her a swift glance and noted that Nature had put small trace of the classic in the lady's modeling. He mentally declined the commission, and muttered something about being 'so delighted and honored but unluckily I am so very busy,' etc.

"My husband desires it," continued the lady, 'and so does my son, the King of Rome—a title I hope that is not strange to you!'

"It swept over Thorwaldsen like a winter's wave, that this big, brusque, bizarre woman before him was Maria Louisa, the second wife of Napoleon. He knew her history—wedded at nineteen to Napoleon—the mother of L'Aiglon at twenty—married again in unbecoming haste to the Count Nieperg Nobdy, with whom she had been on very intimate terms, as soon as word arrived of the death of Napoleon at St. Helena; and now raising a goodly brood of Nobodies! The artist grew faint before this daughter of kings who had made a mesalliance with Genius—he excused himself and left the room."

Lack of space precludes the possibility of a full review of the text of the three tomes, and we will content ourselves with saying that, on the whole, one could put \$1.25 to much worse use than purchasing Collier's edition of De Meneval.

Public Works of Canada. British Columbia Dredging Fleet.

REPAIRS TO DREDGE NO. 301 (AJAX) DIPPER ARM AND BUCKET. Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned until 4 p.m. on Monday, February 4th, 1914, for Repairs to Dipper Arm and Bucket of Dredge No. 301 ("Ajax"). Each tender must be sent in a sealed envelope endorsed "Tender for Repairs to Dredge 'Ajax' Dipper Arm and Bucket". Specifications can be seen at the office of A. F. Mitchell, Esq., Acting District Engineer, Victoria, B.C., and at the office of C. C. Worsfold, Esq., District Engineer, New Westminster, B.C., and at the office of the undersigned, 614-13 Birk's Building, Vancouver, B. C.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a Chartered Bank, payable to the order of the Honourable The Minister of Public Works, for the sum of \$200.00 (Two Hundred Dollars), which will be forfeited if the person tendering declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or fail to complete the contract. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. By Order, F. H. Shepherd, Superintendent of Dredges, Department of Public Works, Vancouver, B.C., January 21st, 1914. (Newspapers will not be paid for this advertisement if they insert it without authority from the Department.)



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Don't delay your purchase if your boy needs a new Suit or Overcoat. Read the following offerings and shop right away:—



BOYS MACKINAW, \$5.75 and \$6.75 Warm, cosy garments and just the styles the boys appreciate. Finished in red and black and blue and green plaid effects.

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BOYS' ALL-WOOL TWEED AND WORSTED SUITS AT \$5.00

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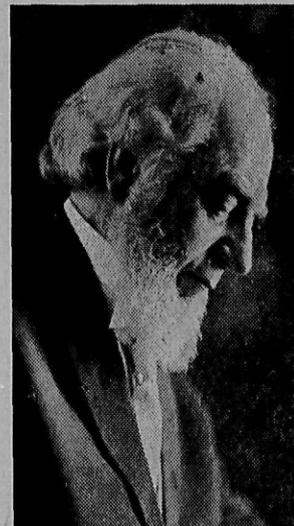
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SOTTO VOCE

BY THE HORNET

That "Objectors," whether conscientious or otherwise, are having a hard time of it just now.

That two of them got five years with hard labor in Calgary.

That some of them got a "next to nothing" diet at the Willows.

That they were given "free choice" of parading in the "altogether" or a military uniform.

That the former may LOOK attractive but is not very comfortable at 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

That our first ancestors tried it—and then decided that a few fig leaves would improve things, and—

That they lived in a warmer climate than Victoria enjoys in January.

That one man paraded in his shirt for a while, but—

That he was "persuaded" to put on khaki.

That "It's the Climate."

That it is reported one objector was given a free pass to Westminster and provided with free lodging in a certain large aristocratic boarding house.

That the Hornet does not know whether to believe it or not.

That Election Day always brings surprises.

That ex-Alderman Johns was very much surprised at losing his seat.

That everyone else was—and that they were also sorry.

That we shall miss his genial face at the City Hall, but—

That he will doubtless find other places in which to spread his smile and usefulness.

That the clerks feel very sore over the Saturday NO half-holiday.

That The Week office boy made a good suggestion—

That every Monday the holiday be changed to Wednesday and every Thursday it be changed to Saturday.

That this arrangement would suit him fine.

That the Food Controller has been telling us to eat "hulled" rice instead of the polished article.

That the Hornet enquired at the rice mill and found it could be obtained.

That he persuaded a local grocer to stock it.

That when he went to purchase some he found the price was three cents a pound higher than the polished

That he has been wondering ever since what was the reason.

That he doesn't mind soaking the rice but hates to have the dealer "soak" him.

That a brand new food controller has been appointed.

That he is a Victoria man—and quite an elocutionist.

That he will probably make a better job of controlling food than controlling speech.

That his official duty will be to regulate what goes in—and not what comes out of the mouth.

That a little elocution is a good thing—but only a little.

That he will be loyally supported by all Victorians—the Hornet included.