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Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1914.

EDITORIALS

The death of Lord Roberts will cause regret throughout the whole British world. Coming as it did so suddenly and at a time when the counsel of her great soldiers was so much needed by the Empire, the loss will be felt all the more. Lord Roberts has made for himself a place in British history that is on a par with great heroes. He has served his country long and well. He was the man at the helm on several occasions when the prestige and security of the Empire was at stake and he saved the honor of the flag. It will be well remembered with what enthusiasm his appointment as Field Marshal in the South African War was received and how victories followed his appointment in quick succession.

It would be folly, however, to think that the death of Lord Roberts will affect the conduct of the war. His full quota of service has been already rendered. He carried the weight of 82 years on his shoulders and his part in the war was little more than an intensely interested spectator. Indeed, it is possible that the excitement of the war in which he could not take part contributed to his hasty demise. The conduct of the war has all along fallen on the rugged shoulders of Earl Kitchener, who appears to be well able to carry the load.

It is very significant how each crisis finds some character big enough to stand in the breach. The British nation has never been without its quota of great men. One seems to follow another in regular order and when the people have finished weeping for one of their historical heroes who have already passed away they suddenly find another waiting to take his place. All this would lead one to believe that it is opportunity and responsibility that makes a man. That the potency of greatness exists in the average man and that it only requires the circumstance to draw it out.

Historians will continue to tell us that history is a record of our great men and the historians ought to know better. A man will never understand history aright until he finds out that great men are but the focus of the potential powers of the race. What is great about the British people is not their heroes but their breed; their capacity for throwing great men to the surface. Even the genius does not stand alone. He could never exist if it were not for the cumulative thought of his time. The thought of the multitude struggling for expression finds vent in some one man and he becomes the genius. He receives all the praise while the multitude that made him possible is forgotten.

NO ALUM



CANADA'S FOOD GIFTS.

Hon. George H. Perley Contradicts Unreliable London Paper.

London, Nov. 13.—Hon. George H. Perley states that there is no truth in the report published recently in a London paper that Canada's food contribution had been lying neglected on the docks owing to failure to provide sufficient accommodation for storage.

This report appeared in a London paper possessing unenviable notoriety nowadays for unreliability of its special information, but despite this it was cabled out to the United States and went through Canada. Mr. Perley represents the circulation of such stories in Canada.

The local government board, without exception, says Mr. Perley, have dealt promptly with all cargoes from Canada, which at the outside have only remained on the dock for a few hours.

HAD HALF MILLION MEN ON THE YSER

German Losses on the Belgian River Total 90,000, Officers Say.

London, Nov. 13.—Telegraphing from the north of France, under date of Thursday, the correspondent of the Times says:

"According to German officers who have fallen into the hands of the Allies, about half a million men were fighting against the Allies at the beginning of the great battle on the Yser."

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PANIC IS SPREADING THROUGHOUT GERMANY

Refugees From Silesia Fleeing Before Russian Invasion Pouring Into Berlin, Dresden and Other Towns.

London, Nov. 17.—With fog on the Aisne and snow on the heights of the Vosges the British and French continue to play the role of a stone wall, gradually wearing down the German forces, while Russia continues her pressure upon the heart of industrial Germany. Berlin messages through Holland indicate that, despite whole months of failure, Calais is still the German goal and hatred of Britain their most powerful motive. Other authoritative statements emanating from Germany show that the real situation is still hidden from the German people generally, but The Times produces evidence showing that the great bankers, shipowners and captains of industry know Germany cannot possibly win. Men like Ballin, Menken and Thyssen were assured by the general staff at the outbreak of the war that they could smash France in three weeks, and then knock out Russia before she had time to complete her mobilization. Belgium being suddenly acquiescent and Britain entirely inactive. Every one of these expectations has been falsified already, and panic is becoming evident as civilians, with all their belongings flee from Silesia to Berlin, Dresden and other towns before the Russian advance. The more German army corps Joffre and French hold up in North France the more quickly will Russia continue this invasion, bringing home to the German nation what her leading business men already realize.

Meanwhile conditions in Austria are rapidly becoming so demoralized that it is not impossible that she will be compelled to break away from the Dual Alliance and sue separately for peace.

Recruiting in England is still far too slow for the purposes of Kitchener and French. Only 800 men came forward in London on Thursday, while yesterday there were only four at Bristol, sixteen at Leeds and seventeen at Nottingham. Irish reports are much better. It is evident that the Nationalist volunteers are beginning to come forward. The Nationalist public bodies throughout the country are readily giving their servants leave of absence for military purposes. Forty-two employees of the Dublin

corporation have joined the colors, which is compared with 439 from Belfast.

The democratization of the British army continues. The last official gazette records the promotion of 121 non-commissioned officers to be second lieutenants for service in the field, but the problem of how to get along without compulsory service to raise the second million men for Kitchener's army which Parliament will vote this week remains unsolved.

Meanwhile, sixty-two men from Victoria, B. C., who came over independently, offered themselves yesterday. All could ride and shoot, and are willing to join any regiment at any pay.

FOR A PROLONGED STAY

Germans Took Their Threshing Machines to War With Them

London, Nov. 16.—A Petrograd despatch to the Post dealing with the failure of the German plans says:

"Three weeks ago the Germans planned to occupy Poland up to the Vistula, wintering in Warsaw and Ivangorod. They even brought reaping and threshing machines with them to gather the Polish crops, and there were other indications of a long stay. While established on the Vistula they were to assist Austria to recover Galicia.

"Unfortunately the Russian commander also had plans which he carried forward with iron rigidity and it is believed that Russia is preparing to move on a wide front into Germany when the time comes. This front has still a considerable extent of German territory to recover before it gets into line for this advance. "Russia's present objective is Danzig."

ALASKA'S WATER DEPTHS UNCERTAIN

Radical Changes in Ocean Floor, Affecting Navigation, Are Reported by Explorer.

San Francisco, Nov. 17.—Remarkable changes in the ocean floor off the Alaska coast were reported here by Capt. G. D. Pederson, whaling master and explorer, who returned from the Far North several days ago with the whaler Herman.

According to Captain Pederson, the water between Hog Island and Amaknak Island has shoaled from an indicated chart depth of nine and one-half fathoms to a bare two fathoms at high water, making it impossible for vessels of large draught to use the passage. Captain Pederson believes the change is due to volcanic disturbances on Bogoslof Island and in Unalaska.

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