

DISPATCH.

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STUDY OF FOLKLORE

Songs and Dances of the Past Which Might be Preserved

Mr. Alexander Fraser, president of the Canadian Folklore Society, spoke of the practical work the society could accomplish in a field almost unoccupied by others. He laid emphasis on the fact that the purpose of the society is the serious and earnest collecting and recording of the folklore of the many races mingling in Canada and making available for succeeding generations as well as the present. It is very plain that there is a similarity between the historian and the collector of folklore, but there is a difference. For some reason history deals more with potentates than people. It tells us of rulers and the laws that emanated from them, of wars that ensued because these laws were broken, of countries conquered by the means of otherwise, and treats generally of the bigger things that affect the world and its dependencies. Folklore takes in the smaller things, the customs, manners, superstitions, songs, dances, tales, and the like, that enter into the life and homes of the people or "folk" of a country. The preservation of all of these are of much assistance in enlightening us as to the influences at work in the development of a nation. The study of folklore in Canada would bring us into intimate connection with the great tribes of Indians, and where to-day we regard them as savages we would see that every head on their war-painted belts, every design of their headdresses, as well as the different usages with which they celebrated defeat or victory, had everyone a distinct and separate meaning. The folklore of the picturesque habits could not be more intensely interesting and illuminating, supplying as it would, the link between the more serious "relations" and the perhaps more colorless life of the present day. Then, too, the Italian, Hungarian, French, Polish, Bohemian, and others from Europe, not to speak of our more immediate neighbors, Irish and Scotch, have every one their folklore, and in every case knowledge arising from research would prove of value. A branch of particular interest in the national music and dancing of a country, that is of the simple before they become modified by intercourse with others. The dance is the most expressive and beautiful, those of the children imitating in some cases the occupations of the peasantry, such as scattering and sowing the seed, and in other ways throwing light on the ways and customs of the people. These dances show a freedom of movement and a poetry of motion such as are altogether unknown to our tango and two-steps.—The Toronto World.

WALNUTS AT THE COAST

British Columbia Develops a Fine "Lazy Man's" Industry

Considerable interest has been shown in the planting of walnut trees in British Columbia in recent years, during which time several thousand have been planted in different parts of the Province. As far as can be ascertained, says a farming journal, these trees have all done well. The walnut has been planted in the adjoining states of Washington and Oregon in very considerable numbers, for over twelve years and the harvests have been very encouraging indeed. In planting this class of tree one of the main considerations is the depth of soil. Walnuts thrive best in cool, moist, mellow alluvial soil, rich in humus, but they do well in practically any well-drained soil, where hardpan is not less than 16 feet of the surface. Rolling foothill lands are most suitable for walnut growing. As to distance apart, 40 feet is said to be about right, which means 27 trees to the acre. As to the variety, after considerable study and trial by leading men, it has been found that only a very few varieties of walnut are worthy of commercial consideration, and among these for the Franquette stands pre-

Frangouette originated in California, is the best for general purposes. The harvesting and drying of the nuts, and the total cost of production as far as labor is concerned, should not be more than one-fifth of the sale price of the nuts. Young trees begin to bear at from four to six years of age and bear on an average from 24 to 36 pounds per tree, at from 9 to 11 years of age, which production should be double two or three years later. Young walnut trees want care and training to get the branches well placed and the top balanced, until 4 or 5 years' old, after which time they need little attention, hence their being known as the "lazy man's orchard."

Surge of Gold Discovered

A farmer in the Cape district of South Africa, whose farmhouse was burned down, found when ploughing up the spot where it had stood, a number of metal bars encrusted with sand. Upon closer examination they proved to be soft and yellow. It was then found that there were 16 bars of nearly pure gold. Their value was \$45,000. Some of the ingots represent the old South African Republic of the Kruger days.

Some people at once jumped to the conclusion that this was a portion of the millions which "Oom Paul" was supposed to have removed during the war. Many years ago there was a big robbery of gold from the mines, and it is possible that this find includes a portion of the booty.

To Shaving \$10,000,000

The cost to the community of shaving was calculated some years ago by an ingenious statistician, who estimated that there were 7,000,000 shavers in the United Kingdom of three classes—those who shave themselves; those who are shaved daily by a barber; and those, like the majority of the working classes, who submit themselves to the razor only once or twice a week. Charges for shaving range from 2 cents to 25 cents, and the expenditure on shaving must reach \$10,000,000 yearly.

AVANCEMENTS OF RUBBER

Expensive as Yet But a Distinct Probability of the Future

It is not yet practicable to construct roads with surfaces of rubber except at a cost of \$25 per yard, but there is little doubt that they will ultimately be adopted, says The Canadian Engineer. At the International Rubber Exhibition held in London recently, rubber paving was shown both for use on footpaths and on roads. In some cases the rubber constituted a surface cushion on blocks of concrete, the material being held tightly in position by dovetailing while a special joint locked the paving, preventing when laid, the access of water to the concrete foundations. It is contended that thinner foundations are necessary owing to the reduced amount of vibration which occurs by heavy and fast-moving traffic, and further, that it never becomes slippery and that motor vehicles do not "skid" upon it under unfavorable conditions of weather. A section of rubber paving laid in the Old Kent Road, London, where the traffic is heavy, is not perceptibly worn after a year's use.

Concrete as a Bridge Material

Without an arched support or centre pier a single span concrete bridge 64 feet long, strong enough for the heaviest vehicle traffic, has been built in Illinois.

Climbing to Better Nerves

On the theory that mountain climbing develops the nerves as well as the muscles a Philadelphia college physical director has his pupils climb the sides of quarries.

TIMBER ROYALTIES

Profit Sharing Between the Government and the Licensee

The Timber Royalty Act of British Columbia is chiefly significant in that it makes provision for the basing of all timber royalties, subsequent to January 1, 1920, on the sale value of the timber cut, over and above an arbitrarily fixed price of \$18 per thousand feet board measure. The percentage taken by the Government of this value-increase will be at first 25 per cent, gradually rising to 40 per cent in the succeeding 25 years.

This is no new principle, for as early as 1839 the Dominion Government required from holders of timber limits in western Canada...

at 5 per cent, of the stump value of the lumber cut, which value was to be based on the average price obtained during the three months preceding the sale. But at that time the price of lumber was not sufficiently high to bring in any very large revenue on this percentage basis, so in 1893 the stumpage dues were changed to the fixed rate of 50 cents per thousand feet, board measure, which is the rate at present. Although the retention of the percentage royalty would have secured larger returns from this source with the steadily rising lumber prices, yet the principle of selling the timber at a widely advertised public auction ensures the obtaining, through the additional bonus offered, practically the same price for the timber without the former inconvenience of constantly adjusting the stumpage dues.

As the competitive sale of timber by means of the bonus system is common throughout Canada, there is little likelihood that the Government does not secure a fair share of the present value of the timber sold, and by reserving the right to alter the stumpage dues as the price of lumber increases, a share in its future value is also ensured.

No Hope Of An Early Peace

London May 25.—The Chronicle's parliament correspondent writes this morning:

"There is not a phrase nor word in Sir Edward Grey's speech in the House of Commons on Wednesday which encouraged the hope of an early peace. He dismissed, at the outset, as impossible any idea of this country acting separately from its Allies. Mr. Ponsonby had spoken of the necessity of appealing to the reason of nations. 'You cannot reason with the German people,' Sir Edward replied, 'so long as they are only fed on lies.'

"He repudiated with scorn the German Chancellor's endeavor to place the blame for the continuance of war on the Allies, because they cannot accept Germany's terms of peace, terms that would place the other nations of Europe at her mercy.

"Ringing applause followed his statement that the Allies are not beaten and are not going to be beaten. If any of the Allies had a special right to speak of peace it was France, upon whom the concentrated fury of the German attack has fallen. But France stands firm. Amid great cheering, he declared that the prowess of the French army at Verdun was saving France and saving her Allies.

"Quoting Premier Briand's statement of yesterday that 'peace must be based on international right,' Sir Edward Grey said: 'That is what we feel' too."

"This impressive speech ended with the statement that the duty of diplomacy at present was to maintain the solidarity of the Allies and give its utmost support to the naval and military measures necessary to carry on the war."

The Conscription Bill passed the House of Lords on Tuesday and will now go to King George for the royal signature.

In proposing a vote of \$1,500,000,000 of credit, Premier Asquith laid before the House of Commons an account in some detail of the government's recent financial operations. Allies and Dominions had been loaned \$372,500,000. The average expenditure for the army, the navy

and for munitions was just under \$15,000,000 daily.

Winston Churchill made a speech full of hostile criticism. He urged that every available man be used in the prosecution of the war. "The Allies have 200,000 officers with a similar number of servants and 50 000 grooms," he said. "These servants and grooms and great masses of cavalrymen now idle should be used at the front."

"Looks Like The Last Gasp"

New York, May 23.—The Paris correspondent of the Tribune cables the following:

"I talked this morning with one of the American military observers in France who has just returned from the front, where he witnessed the German attacks on Verdun on Saturday and Sunday.

"What do you think the attack means?" I asked.

"It looks to me like the dying gasp," he replied.

"But haven't there been a good many of these dying gasps?" I said.

"Yes," he answered, "they began several weeks ago, and since they began the French, who until that time had acted purely on the defensive, have been gradually taking the offensive into their hands. If you follow the action closely you will see that recently the offensive as often, if not more often, comes from the French as well as from the Germans."

"This puts the Germans in the position where they have to attack. They are now in the position of the man who was wrestling with the bear. The man



was ready to quit, but the bear would not. The Germans have either got to attack Verdun, or submit to attacks by the French, while the French hold the dominating positions.

"This seems the veritable dying gasp by the Germans before Verdun, but it is a terrible convulsion."

London, May 23.—The Times has the following from Paris:

The Germans are now installed at the foot of the southern slopes of Le Mort Homme and have carried the position which has defied their efforts since the first of March. The success has cost them an untold number of killed and wounded. It brings them no measurable distance nearer the achievement of the objective with which they started the battle in February. Great obstacles are still to be overcome before the Germans get within striking distance of the main left bank's defences of Verdun, those bulwarks formed by the great plateau covered by the Bourras Woods. The position at Mort Homme itself is just as reassuring. The fighting by no means has ended on this section of the line, and before now the French have shown their tenacious energy in holding their own and the power to wrest back the gains of the Germans.

The general idea of the Germans was to cut in behind the hill top of Mort Homme from the northeast and north west. This operation was not successful. The attack from the northeast, in to which the troops of a fresh division were thrown, made slight headway at the outset, but getting into the French first line trenches they were unable to consolidate their gains and reeled under the French counter attack.

A division brought up to help push through the offensive was unable to make any headway, and after fierce fighting in which the French grenadiers played a great part, the Germans had to accept a check.

The attack launched from the West

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met with slightly better success. Here, after very heavy fighting, in which the Germans were made to pay a terrible price for each foot of ground, they broke the first French line, but were driven back from the second.

According to the testimony of one who witnessed Saturday's assault on Mort Homme, it was carried out by seven and at some points by eight successive waves of infantry, with but 50 or 100 yards between each wave. The whole Bavarian brigade took part, and was caught by a curtain of fire from the French machine guns. It suffered so terribly that before it got to grips with the French infantry it had already lost close upon 40 per cent. In the bayonet and hand grenade fighting which followed the German losses were again very heavy.

Evidence of the battlefield itself, as well as statements made by prisoners, justifies the belief that about seventy-five per cent. of the columns attacking the Mort Homme from the northeast were killed or wounded.

Turks Retreat Towards Bagdad

London, May 23.—The Daily Chronicle says:

"The Turkish army has begun its retreat toward Bagdad. Evidently orders have been given to concentrate in that locality, in view of the new Russian menace from the northeast. The Turkish base in Mesopotamia is at Mosul, which is now the railroad, and it is clearly a good strategic policy on the part of the enemy to shorten his long and exposed line of communication along the Tigris to Kut-el-Amara. "At Bagdad the Turks would be in a position to meet the British and Russian thrusts at their point of convergence, an obvious advantage, but from Kut to Bagdad is a distance of 100 miles.

The river is the real highway, but that the Turks can hardly use, not possessing steamers and barges. Their only practicable road is that along the north bank of the river. If the enemy succeeds in withdrawing several divisions of troops with heavy loss he will be singularly fortunate. Forced marches will have to be made if he is to escape our pursuit, which the possession of river transports will enormously facilitate. The extricating of the Turkish rear guards, which must be in fair strength, will be especially difficult."

Amsterdam, via London, May 23. The Munich Neueste Nachrichten publishes a wireless despatch from Madrid, which says that negotiations are in progress there between the Pope and King Alfonso, and the Pope and President Wilson, for the purpose of arranging an armistice among the belligerent nations with the object of discussing peace terms."

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