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Hun Scheme to Conquer Canada Told by German

Halifax Was to Be the New World Base of German Navy-- England, Canada, Australia and India Were to Be Levied On for Tribute to Enhance the Power and Prosperity of the Fatherland--Great Fortifications Were to be Constructed at Halifax.

(By Gordon Smith, in Canada Weekly.)

Canada a German province, its business controlled from Berlin, with a stream of German colonists flowing over seas to take possession of Canadian lands. Such was the programme mapped out by the gentlemen in the Wilhelmstrasse, and used as a means of enticing money from German capitalists to assist in financing the conquest. These and many other amazing facts have just been made known through a pamphlet that recently came into the hands of the authorities at Washington. August Thyssen, the author, admits that in company with other German merchants he contributed to the Kaiser's war chest, expecting a share of the spoils. His immediate reward was to be \$30,000 acres of land in Australia, with a loan of \$750,000 from the Teutonic government for purposes of development. He was to get this loan at three per cent, with a liberal time allowance for repayment.

The Thyssen pamphlet is perhaps the most remarkable document that the war has yet revealed. It confirms with definite exactitude what diplomats and economic students have long suspected. Herr Thyssen wrote it out of spite. After entering into the Kaiser's plans and giving a share of his capital to further their mutual war aims, he was again called upon for funds in a considerable amount. But Herr Thyssen had become a more cautious man in the interim, and declined to heed the summons. So his business was practically confiscated. Whereupon he wrote the document, which expresses in detail just what commercial Germany expected to gain from the war. Immediately afterward the pamphlet was suppressed, and its author fined for his plans. Then it was published surreptitiously, and in the course of time reached the hands of the Fatherland's enemies.

Herr Thyssen states that he has had a change of heart as the result of telling his most interesting tale out of school.

"I am writing this pamphlet," he notes, "because I want to open the eyes of Germans, especially of the business community, to facts. When the Hohenzollerns wanted to get the support of the commercial class for their war plans they put their ideas before us as a business proposition. A large number of commercial men were asked to support the Hohenzollern war policy on the ground that it would pay them to do so. Let me frankly confess that I am one of those men who were led to agree. In 1912, the Hohenzollerns saw that the war had become a necessity to the preservation of the military system upon which their power depends. In that year the Hohenzollerns might have directed foreign affairs so that peace would have been insured in Europe for at least fifty years."

He then recites the promises made him, regard to his own reward in Australia, and the accompanying loan. Other influential men were to

obtain equally desirable boons. Some of them had specific promises of line estates in England. "These were all catalogued, with their approximate value, location, other points of interest, duly noted. It was only necessary for those in the chosen circle to ask and receive a promise. Of course, these promises were contingent upon the success of the war, and the war was contingent upon the support of business Germany. That was the shape in which the Kaiser attacked the case. And business Germany evidently lent eager ear, for Herr Thyssen sets forth that money was forthcoming in abundant measure.

Not only England, Canada and Australia were to yield tribute for the Teutonic banner of big business. India was remembered as well. The Kaiser was especially sanguine of results in that corner of the world. "India," he said, in addressing a gathering of the men called into his hall, "is occupied by the British. It is in a way governed by the British, but it is by no means completely governed by them. We shall not merely occupy India, we shall conquer it, and the vast revenues that the British allow to be taken by Indian princes will be ours. In this, as in all the other richest lands of the earth, the German flag shall fly over every other flag."

It was during 1912, according to Herr Thyssen, that final touches were added to the scheme for Canada's future. A syndicate was formed, having a capital of \$100,000,000 for exploitation of the Dominion after the war. Of course that was merely in the way of beginning. No doubt the Wilhelmstrasse decided that Canada herself should supply future capital for her own "Kultur." But as a means of making the first step easy, the Kaiser's government volunteered half of the \$100,000,000, and the balance was quickly subscribed by 12 German business men. This group were all executives of big enterprises, and they might expect to profit enormously from their investment.

Of first importance in the German version's plan was to be the development of Halifax. This, the Germans decided, must be made one of the world's great ports, as it already was in a fair way of being. Extensive plans of fortifications were contemplated, making the harbor a base for the German navy on this side of the world, and a menace against the United States. Next in order, and closely allied with the operations of Halifax, was the development of transportation facilities both by rail and water with the interior. It was proposed to establish a line of steamers between Bremen and lake ports, thus laying bare all of the Dominion's broad lands, from which wheat, cattle and ore would be shipped to the Fatherland.

Foreseeing the need of rapid replenishment for her industries, after a period of undue stress, which war inevitably must bring, Germany intended to inaugurate this steamship service before the last gun had been fired.

She knew almost to the ton what might be expected in the way of ore and all of the other products which her new province was to supply.

It further planned to hasten a system of imposts upon the Dominion to help pay the costs of the Fatherland's war. German experts were to speed up Canada's mines, direct in intensive cultivation cultivation of her fields, and save the last ounce of her produce with true German thoroughness. There were numerous minor points that had not been settled upon, such as post office charges, banking arrangements, and so on. But these were indeed minor matters. The central fact, ever before German eyes, was to bleed the land efficiently, expeditiously to the last home and the final breath. Naturally the programme was but temporary. When the Fatherland had been revived and her losses made good then it would be time to look toward the welfare of Canada. As a German province and the breeding ground of colonists to be sent over with every steamer, the province must in time have adequate attention.

"These promises promise not vaguely given," says Herr Thyssen. "They were made definitely by Bethmann-Hollweg on behalf of the Emperor to gatherings of business men, and in many cases to individuals. I have mentioned the promise of a grant in Australia that was made to me. Promises of a similar kind were made to at least eight other persons at special interview with the Chancellor, and particulars of these promises were entered in a book at the Foreign Office. But not only were these promises made by the Chancellor, they were confirmed by the Emperor, who, on three occasions, addressed large private gatherings of business men at Berlin, Munich and Cassel in 1912 and 1913. I was at one of these gatherings. The Emperor's speech was one of the most flowery orations I ever heard."

Evidently Wilhelm's other auditors coincided with the Thyssen estimate of these speeches. They must even have smelted the blood described by him, and which they were to have for the plucking. Certainly their elegant master drew from the coffers of commerce most of the money in which he stood in need. Then, when all was ready, Wilhelm launched the blow and flung his armies at peaceful Europe. The smug business men who were his fellow-conspirators no doubt rubbed their hands and in fancy counted the millions of marks which soon would be added to their already bulging coffers. But events began to pile up, one on another, in an unsatisfactory way. Two years passed. Still that flood of marks had not been released, the money was yet unplucked. December of 1916 found the German treasury chest almost empty. Once more Wilhelm summoned his faithful retainers from store and factory. Again they were invited to contribute. Old pledges were renewed and fresh inducements offered. This time, however, the odor of the flowery reward was less inviting. That is to say it was fainter.

Herr Thyssen makes these observations: "In December of 1916 the Chancellor, Bethmann-Hollweg, began to have interview once more with business men. The purpose of these interviews was to get more money from them. Guarantees were asked from individuals, including myself, that they would between themselves subscribe \$1,000,000,000 to the next war loan. I was personally asked to guarantee a subscription of \$1,000,000. I declined to give this guarantee, so did some others. I was then favored with private interview between myself and Bethmann-Hollweg's secretary, who told me that if I declined to give the guarantee I would lose a contract with the war office. Not only that, I was practically threatened with the ruin of my business. I described this demand as one of the worst sort, and refused to guarantee a mark to the war loan. Two months later I lost the contract and the greater part of my business."

The author tells with considerable bitterness the results of his refusal, and draws from them black deductions as to Germany's future. Where he probably never had entertained democratic beliefs, this disaster threw him into the arms of the Socialists. In their instigation he wrote the pamphlet, and thereby invited to himself further reprisals at the hands of the government. Among other things, he shows that the government also had seen some of the fruits of its folly. To prove this Herr Thyssen quotes a circular issued by the Foreign Trade Department last March, saying: "It will be wise for employers who have

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foreign trade interests to employ agents in foreign countries, who can pass themselves off as being of French or English birth. German agents and travellers will probably for some time after the war have difficulty in doing business, not only in enemy countries, but in neutral countries. The author seizes upon this warning to unburden himself of the following conclusion: "So this is the prospect we are faced with after the war. The meaning of the circular is this: so loathed and hated have Germans become outside of their own country that no one will want to have any personal dealings with them after the war. Can any German to whom such prospects are held out by the Emperor fail to see that he has fooled us into supporting a war from which the utmost we can hope to gain is to come out of it without national bankruptcy?"

The whole tenor of the document is most discouraging from the German standpoint. Herr Thyssen refers again and again to his personal woes. One cannot help but decide that he was a poor loser, and wonder why he did not foresee the misfortunes that befell him as a logical outcome of his refusal to help carry the war burden. And why should he have been increased at the second demand when he was complaining to the first? What he would have us believe to be the voice of his conscience sounds much like the wail of an evildoer who has been found out. But may his attitude not confirm what the whole world knows--the now famous lack of judgment and loss of proportion in all Germany's plans. Had the Kaiser and his advisers known Canada better, they would have been aware of one thing--no autocracy ever can conquer the people of this free land. For it is written in the books that freedom shall overcome all.

Armies of Western Front More Alert

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Feb. 11.--(By the Associated Press.)--The tension along the British-German front is tightening. As the extraordinarily bright, mild weather has continued to dry out the sodden fields, the two great armies have become more alert. The inertia of the days when the Western theatre was held in the grip of snow and impassable mud has disappeared, and the contending forces are poised, watching each other, like duellists, for the first move, which will mean that the most sanguinary period of the war has begun.

Something seems bound to happen before another month has passed, if the present weather holds. In fact, even now the ground in some sections is quite fit for fighting. The enemy continues to make intense preparations for what has been advertised as the "great offensive." German troops and guns keep pouring into the western front and there are indications that a few Austrian units are in Flanders. Certain areas back of the German front have been cleared for action, and fully bodies of troops have been practising attacks under the tutelage of experts. Prisoners say that leave for the soldiers was stopped on January 20.

So far as actual fighting is concerned it is still confined to identification raids, air activity and occasional bursts of artillery.

Along many miles of the front which the correspondent visited in the past two days, there is an ominous quiet. One may sit for hours on a vantage point so close to the German lines that the enemy can be seen working about, yet there are few sounds of strife.

The enemy is playing possum or ignoring the military movements behind the British lines, and the British themselves are sitting tight, saying little. The silence is uncanny, and it is portentous.

Naturally, the allied preparations can not be discussed, but it may be said that everywhere there is the spirit of optimism. Every soldier in the long line knows what is coming and smiles with assurance, for he knows what his supports are. The allies will have a preponderance of men and guns along the front, and they have an inclination to use this advantage. The Germans will find that their opponents have not wasted the winter months.

Explode Hun Works

Zurich, Jan. 31.--A tremendous explosion, accompanied by gun fire and followed by a huge column of fire, was heard in the direction of Friedrichshafen, yesterday morning, a telegram received at St. Gall from Rosenburg, Lake Constance, reports. The explosion probably was the result of an aerial attack on the Zeppelin works at Friedrichshafen.

A Fishy Answer

A teacher who believed in keeping her youngsters in touch with the march of events, was beginning a lesson on the recent revolution in Russia.

"Now, who can tell me what the ruler of Russia used to be called?" she asked.

"The Czar," followed the class.

"Right! And what was his wife called?"

"The Czarina," two or three ventured.

"Good," said the teacher. Now, I wonder if you know what the Czar's children were called?"

There was a long pause, then one little voice piped up: "Czarinas!"

Licensing of bakery establishments using five barrels of flour or more per month and standardization of bakery products is provided for in an order of the food controller. Hotels, restaurants and other public eating houses, baking only for the use of their patrons and not offering their products for sale to the public over the counter, are not required to obtain a baker's license. The order makes it illegal, on and after March 1st, for any baker to make bread, rolls, pastry or other bakery products without written permission from the food controller, from flour other than the standard flour already prescribed. Licenses may manufacture and sell bread only in certain weights, or multiples thereof, which shall be net weights, unwrapped, twelve hours after baking. Maritime Provinces' weight is 24 ounces, but not to exceed 25 ounces.

Didn't See the Insect

"Children," said the Sunday school superintendent, "this picture illustrates to-day's lesson: Lot was warned to take his wife and daughters and flee out of Sodom. Here are Lot and his daughter, with his wife just behind them; and there is Sodom in the background. Now, has any girl or boy a question before we take up the study of the lesson? Well, Sa'ie!"

"Pleashe, thir," lisped the latest graduate from the infant class, "where ith the tea?"

C. P. R. TRAIN CHANGES

Effective Monday Feb. 13th--train changes will be made in the Shore Line service. Instead of every week day train will leave West St. John on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and returning train will leave St. Stephen on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.