

ITALIANS HAVE BUILT ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

Great Progress Made During the Past Half Century—The Ancient Borders to be Re-established as the Result of the Great War—Now Freed from Financial Fetters—Country Has Great Natural Resources.

(The Dayton Daily News)

There are Italians still living to whom, in their youth, the word Italy was only a name. The peninsula that once formed the nucleus and the ruling center of the greatest empire the ancient world had ever seen was torn into fragments, the victim of the conflicting ambition and wanton oppression of outside powers. Now and then the buried fire of patriotism would break through to the surface but only to be drenched out with the blood of Italian patriots. A more wretched condition was hardly to be found in all Europe than under the sunny skies of Italy.

Towards the middle of the last century, however, there arose in the little kingdom of Piedmont, up against the Alps at the head of the Po, one of the greatest statesmen of modern times, Cavour. The heaven of liberty took hold of him even in boyhood, and his bold ideas of reform placed him under the cloud of suspicion with his own family, his friends and the officials of the government. Opposition only fixed his mind more firmly upon the reforms which his country needed, however, and while he is yet a comparatively young man we see him rising to the head of the Piedmontese ministry and building up the prosperity and influence of his country by wise measures not handed down from an autocratic throne, but enacted by the most democratic parliament then in existence on the continent of Europe.

No man in Italy had a deeper passion for Italian freedom and unity than he, and when the appointed hour struck in 1860 it was his sound judgment that brought substantial success out of the romantic uprising started in Sicily by Garibaldi. Almost before the outside world knew what was going on all of Italy except the papal holdings about Rome and the Austrian possessions at the north was again united. Ten years more saw Italy again in her historic capital at Rome, with Lombardy and Venetia Milan and Venice, once more in the fold. Only the "Trentino" and the historically Italian lands around the head of the Adriatic remained under foreign domination. In the recent Italian drive eastward and northward from the Piave river, the Austrian invader was hurled out of these regions too, and "Italia irredenta" at last redeemed. The ancient borders of sunny Italy are again established and the dream of Mazzini and Garibaldi, the calculated purpose of Cavour is now a reality.

The world wishes Italy well. Within the lifetime of men who were not too young to have worn the red shirt of Garibaldi's famous thousands the Italians have built up a greater power and they have built upon solid foundations. When the union was effected the House of Savoy, ruling in Piedmont and Sardinia was by free choice placed at the head of the new power. But from Piedmont came also the parliamentary system, so well developed under the leadership of Cavour. The Italian ministry is responsible for the parliament as in England, not to the throne; and so Italy is free from any danger of autocratic reaction. With the final shaking off of Austria in the north, she has shaken off also an even worse evil in the strangling gained upon her financial and industrial life and was using, characteristically to control her political course Italy would have been in the war sooner than she was had it not been necessary first to shake herself loose from this financial fetter.

In spite of the handicap of lack of fuel and of minerals. She is a land of great possibilities. Somewhere within her borders almost every agricultural product will grow, and through liberally subsidized government action the latest developments of modern agricultural science are coming to the aid of the inherited thrift and industry of her farmers.

The streams that flow out of her mountains carry an untold potential water power, and already her engineers are working upon a plan to develop this into one great connected system, running throughout the peninsula and furnishing electric power for her manufacturing industries without enormous expense of coal imported from over the seas.

The age long Mediterranean love for art and music and literature still lives in the hearts of her people, and political independence, who will doubt that through her the Latin race will again make contributions of untold value to the progress of civilization?

Her old "triple alliance" with Germany and Austria was forced upon her by conditions of the time, but was always repugnant to the inmost feeling and judgment both of her officials and her people. The war-welded alliance with the great forward-looking nations which have just cast autocracy out of the world forever is much more in accord with the taste and genius of the land of Cavour and Mazzini and Garibaldi. Now that the work begun by these nation builders has reached its territorial fulfillment

THE PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF FARM AND FACTORY PROFITS

Those who talk of automobiles and other evidences of luxury enjoyed by the farmers, says the Toronto Star, should consider Mr. Drury's proposition:

"A commission to investigate the whole matter of profits, including profits on watered stock, and to make public the findings, said commission to consist of representatives of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, organized labor and organized farmers. Then we will see if the farmers make more profit on the actual capital invested than the manufacturers. Let us turn out the whole barrel on the floor and then we will see who are rotten and who are sound, the farmers or the manufacturers."

Of course there are differences between manufacturers. All have not been making easy money or excessive profits. Such an inquiry as Mr. Drury proposes would settle the question.

Those who think that the blame for high prices lies at the farmers' door have the chance to clear up that matter also. Mr. Drury is evidently not afraid of the result. The farmer performs an essential service for the community, and is entitled to a good living, and the possession of an automobile in these days is no more evidence of profiteering than the possession of a team of horses used to be.

SOME CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE KAISER IS MADE PUBLIC

Prince Albert of Monaco Hands the Associated Press a Remarkable Letter—Shows How He Put It Up Straight to the Kaiser.

Paris, Dec. 27.—Prince Albert of Monaco has given to the Associated Press a remarkable letter he has addressed to former Emperor William, which promises to rival the notable revelations made by Prince Lichnowsky, German ambassador at London, at the outbreak of the war, and Dr. Muehlen, the former Krupp director.

Prince Albert's letter gives textually many conversations with the former Emperor on his war projects, and also a number of letters from the former German ruler to the Prince. The letters are addressed to the Prince as "My dear cousin," and are signed "Your Highness, devoted friend, cousin and admirer, William II."

The conversations between the former Emperor and the Prince cover years of close intimacy, during which Prince Albert was a frequent guest of the Emperor at Berlin and Kiel, and at the Emperor's summer palace on the island of Corfu.

Letter to the Kaiser.

The Prince's letter is addressed "To His Majesty William II." It addresses the former German ruler directly all through as "sire." It recalls to the former Emperor the conversations in which the Emperor expressed his ideas for Germany's future, and then gives the successive steps in which he

let us all join in the glad salute, Viva Italia!

yielded to the military element.

Explaining the purpose of his letter, Prince Albert writes: "I speak with serenity, after seventeen years of effort, to enlighten you upon the only path which would maintain the rival nations within the limits of justice and dignity, and would reunite in peace, the interests of France and Germany. I speak with firmness of soul in revolt against the spectacle of the plot of force to annihilate and dishonor all the beauties of civilization and all the conquests of man over the brute."

Some Good Advice.

"It was open to you to become the greatest figure of all time if you had directed your power to repairing the injustice weighing on Europe, and given your mind to the ideals of right, justice and peace to which mankind is now eagerly turning. But instead, you maintained the brutal customs of a military monarchy until Germany, which could have won world power based on civilization, has dragged you down in its false ideas of blind folly."

(Continued on page 3)



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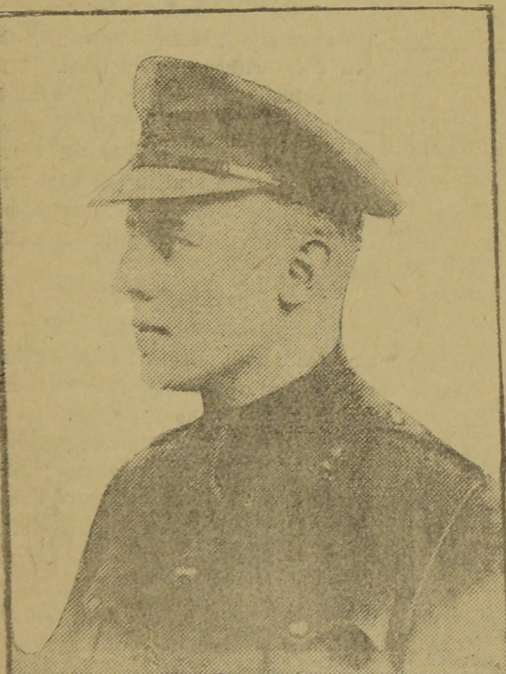
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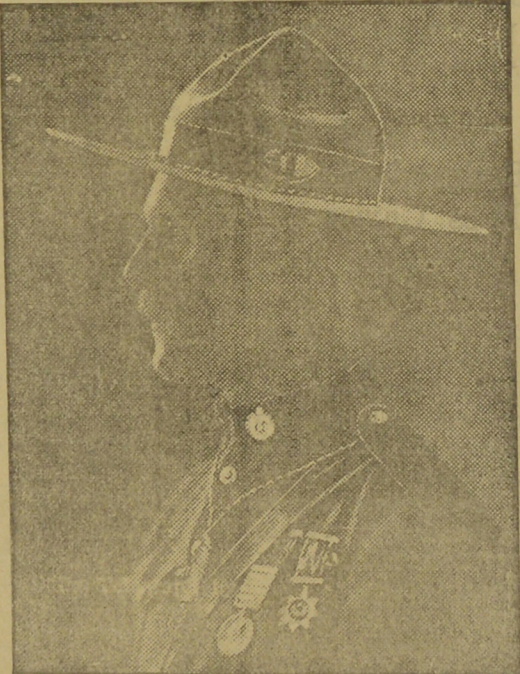
Three Canadian War Authors.



Arthur Hunt Chute.

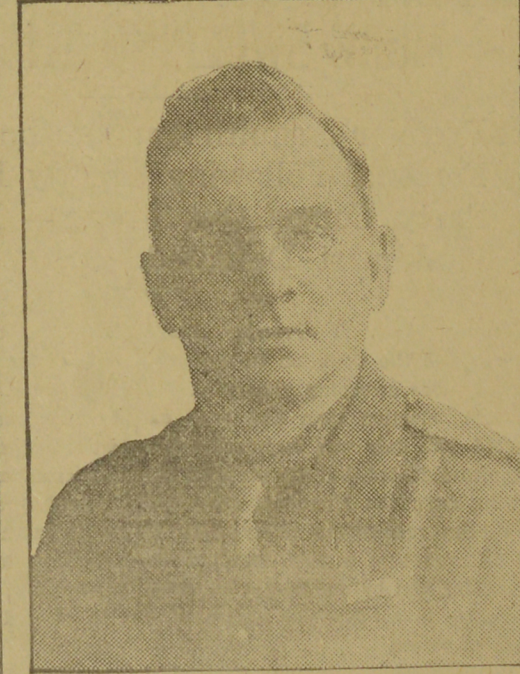
Among the many recent books of war experiences, "The Real Front," by Arthur Hunt Chute, has particular interest for Canadians, as the author, although an American citizen, went overseas with the first Canadian Expeditionary Force and for two years was in the Ypres Salient. "If where an Englishman," he says, "is buried in a foreign soil is called 'a little bit of England,' then we may call the Ypres salient a mighty bit of Canada. If anyone were to inquire what is the most important city of Canada, we might answer unhesitatingly, 'The city of Ypres.' The hosts of our young men who have fallen in battle around that city have hallowed the name for all Canadian hearts, and rendered the place ours in the deepest sense."

Mr. Chute suggests in a wonderful way the atmosphere of the actual fighting line and the psychology of the men while under fire, their nervous strain reaching at times to physical agony and yet their unconquerable determination to "carry on." "The Real Front" is published by Harper & Brothers, of New York.



Ralph S. Kendall.

No body of men has been associated with more romantic interest than the Royal North-West Mounted Police—whose work in maintaining law and order in the prairie provinces of Canada during the period of settlement and in the more remote North has inspired many an author to write a stirring story. For the most part, however, these stories have too much fiction and too little fact, with the result that the "Riders of the Plains," as they have been called, are rather shy of the professional writer. "Benton of the Royal Mounted," a new novel published by S. B. Gundy, of Toronto, has this advantage, that the author, Sergeant Ralph S. Kendall, has himself been for many years a member of the Force, of which he is still Sergeant-in-Charge at Calgary. This is a real man's book, in which the men talk the language that men do talk out West. One feels also that the many stirring incidents that occur have their basis in fact. "Benton of the Royal Mounted" is a book that should find a place on the shelves of all who are interested in the development of Canadian literature.



F. A. McKenzie.

Mr. F. A. McKenzie, the War Correspondent, who has come to Canada straight from the fighting front to deliver a series of lectures on the recent battles in France, is a Canadian by birth, although he has lived most of his life in Great Britain and other parts of the British Empire. Mr. McKenzie's main lecture is "Through the Hindenburg Lines," in which he tells a first hand story of Canada's fighting men and their great victories. His second lecture, "Britain Hits Back," deals with the effort and sacrifice of the English people, and gives an intimate and first hand account of how England has fought her way through to victory. Three Governments have placed their moving pictures and photographs at Mr. McKenzie's disposal for these lectures. Mr. McKenzie is the War Correspondent of a group of prominent Canadian daily newspapers. He saw much of war before this campaign. He has a straightforward story to tell the Canadian people of what their sons have done. Mr. McKenzie's book on the war, "Canada's Day of Glory," has just been published by William Briggs of Toronto. His one claim for it is that it tells what he has seen and is a faithful first hand picture of war as it is.