

“It is in England as it always has been in defeated countries. Before admitting defeat, the people try to fix the blame and to oust from office the responsible men.” This quotation is from an editorial written by a former citizen of Vancouver for the Seattle “German Press.” Whether it was the rotund Dr. Briggs or the lean and hungry Dr. Weiss we cannot tell, but these two jackals of Alvo von Alvensleben are busily engaged in creating trouble at Seattle. Both made a fat living in Vancouver for many years through their connection with German interests and have no doubt supplied the German Intelligence Office with any information they may have been able to pick up, but at the present time they are exceedingly bitter against this city. It is a well-known fact that a man usually hates the person to whom he has done an injury, and this may account for some of the bitterness. The man Briggs, or Brix, as he is known in his own country, victimized the city to a considerable extent when here and knows that he will never be able to come back. He escaped just in time.

The opinions expressed by the Seattle “German Press” are not particularly interesting, and we made the above quotation merely to show the venom which actuates these former residents. When we look back upon the days before the war, when any cast-off German or Austrian who chose to give himself a title could come to Vancouver and become immediately one of the elite, we wonder at our own gullibility. Never was there any attempt to look into the antecedents of these shady gentlemen from Europe. They were taken at their own valuation and treated with every mark of respect. For this we must hold many of our leading citizens to blame. Attracted by the idea that our German visitors controlled much capital, they were embraced as long-lost brothers and invited to help themselves. It is an everlasting shame to the community, but the lesson has been learned.

We shall never forget a libel action brought by Alvo von Alvensleben against a little German printer named Blochberger, in which we were concerned as a witness for the defence. The fact which weighed most heavily with the jury was that von Alvensleben had brought capital into the country and Blochberger was a person of little or no importance. Blochberger lost the case solely on these grounds, for with practically no exceptions, the witnesses for von Alvensleben were in his immediate employ or interested with him in various transactions.

Vancouver has much to be sorry for. The people have been doubly fooled in the character of the Germans for the simple reason that they did not understand the motives of the German people. Admitting this, humiliating as it may be, is it not time to call a halt? An agitation has already been started to have all alien enemies interned, and although this agitation has not yet borne much fruit, there is hope in the future. It cannot be impressed too strongly upon the people of this city that Germans who have not taken out naturalization papers, and many who have in recent years, are an active menace to the community. They will stop at nothing to gain their own ends and surely we need no further proof of their duplicity and murderous intentions than has been given during the past few weeks.

Last year when the mayor and aldermen assumed office it was decided to do away with the submission of money bylaws, with one small exception, owing to the financial stringency. This year the council by a meagre majority, but a majority all the same, decided to ask the ratepayers to ratify bylaws amounting in the aggregate to nearly three-quarters of a million dollars, and the reason given is that there is a money stringency. It is all the same—scarcity of money, no bylaws; paucity of funds, bylaws. Different mayors see through different glasses and the ratepayers foot the bills. When the question comes to be decided in the court of appeal—that is, in the polling booths—it is just probable that there will be a reply to those members of the council who consider that this is a fit and proper time to carry out their schemes, a time when everyone is systematically following out a policy of retrenchment, both in business and in their homes. But the full dinner pail promise is one that must be fulfilled and in order to fulfill it, it is indispensable that a certain section of the community put their hands deeply into their purses and produce the wherewithal to carry out the fulfilling process. There is a time in which to do everything, and looking at the matter from a standpoint that cannot be called interested, we wonder if this is the proper time to ask the ratepayers to pay up and look pleasant, for in effect that is what it amounts to. At the present juncture it's a case of heads I win, tails you lose.

But who are the men who will ultimately reap the benefit of all this generosity at the expense of other people? Are they Canadians? Within recent times we have had a sample of the class of men that Mayor Taylor and his supporters in the council want to clothe and feed with other people's money, and this, too, at a time when the mayor and aldermen, or a majority of them, declined to agree to a reduction in their emoluments. We have nothing to say against the men who have made Vancouver their home, no matter what their nationality may be, so long as their conduct is that of respectable citizens, but what we do say, and what we would impress on the council, is that when financial conditions are of such a nature as to preclude the idea of heavy expenditure in any branch of business, the time could not have been more ill-chosen to impose an additional burden on those who primarily are the sufferers and eventually on another class of the community from whom, in an indirect way, a considerable amount of the additional expenditure must come. This proposal to ask the

ratepayers to sanction these bylaws therefore strikes at practically every wage-earning class for the benefit of men whose claim to a full dinner pail is based on the support they have accorded Mayor Taylor in the last civic campaign.

According to the latest report of the Dominion Census and Statistics Department, which has been issued with and by the authority of Sir George Foster, “the price for horses other than for army purposes is much lower than last year.” Isn't there some mistake

the part of the civic authorities to the observance of their holidays and that despite the recent international complications between the United States and Great Britain, the danger of a rift in those relations was never contemplated.

## “ONLY ANOTHER SCRAP OF PAPER”



The question has often been asked why we in Vancouver who have been holding forth on the scarcity of money and particularly on the lack of funds wherewith to relieve local distress, have been so generous when it comes to assisting the Red Cross Society and kindred organizations which have the welfare of the men who are fighting the battles of empire so much at heart. There are some who contend that it is the duty of the government who sent the men to the front to care for them in every way, but there are things to which official red tape pays little or no attention and that is just where the Red Cross Society steps in, and that is why the responses to the appeals have been on so generous a scale. The British Government, we rest assured, has not overlooked anything that will tend to maintain the army as the finest fighting force known. Still, there are a hundred and one details that must and do escape attention, and here is where the community individually and collectively is needed. The Red Cross Society is doing a work that only the Red Cross sisters could do and nowhere is this more clearly recognized than in official circles. Funds are absolutely necessary to continue that work in the manner in which it ought to be done. The citizen who remains at home must come to the assistance of his brother who is doing a man's part at the front and in no better way can he do this than by shouldering some financial responsibility, even as the soldier is shouldering his, without a murmur. Vancouver has responded nobly to the appeal. In the face of economic conditions her citizens have put forth a supreme effort in this hour of the empire's trial, and those who have contributed, even in small degree, have the satisfaction of knowing that their money will be expended to bring comforts, medical and physical, to the men who are battling in the cause of civilization.

### Vancouver Gives to the Red Cross

The probable formation of a coalition cabinet in Britain is one of the most unexpected turns in the affairs of the Empire that could have happened, though it is not an unknown condition of affairs there. This combination of bodies having one common object of attainment has been found indispensable before in the Motherland and the position in which the country is now placed certainly seems to be one which demands some extraordinary action along that line. It cannot be expected that the arrangement will be permanent, though the war might be the means of bringing about, if not a complete abolition of the party system in Britain, some system under which all parties will be represented in the government of the day. As early as 1782 the first coalition ministry was formed when Fox and North found it convenient to enter into an agreement at a period in the history of the country that meant the sinking of all political differences for the time being. The Whigs and the followers of Sir Robert Peel in the years 1852-53 similarly relegated all political animosity to the background for the common weal. The last occasion on which a fusion of parties was considered the proper course to adopt was when the then Lord Salisbury invited both Conservatives and Liberal-Unionists into his cabinet. The latter at that time were in the minority, but their services to the Conservative cause in helping to defeat Gladstone's programme of self-government for Ireland were such that they could not be overlooked.

### Coalition Cabinet Noteworthy Step

Today Britain needs a fusion of all political creeds. By common consent party politics have been dropped in face of the danger that threatens the country from without. Events have taken place which have rendered changes imperative if country is to be put before personal ambition. It is an unfortunate fact that the latter element has entered into the present conflict, but it is equally fortunate that it applies to not more than two members of the present British cabinet. It is, however, recognized that where personal ambition is thrown into the scale, the interests of the country are apt to be neglected, and such a condition cannot be thought of for a moment at the present juncture. Premier Asquith has taken the only course open to him at a time when the country requires the strongest men it can command in the counsels of the nation.

While no one will deny that Vancouver is one of the most beautiful places in Canada, thanks to Nature and the artistic temperament of its citizens, much remains to be done in various parts of the city that will stand a renovating, and in other portions that have already come under the hand of the gardener. The war and civic matters have been occupying the attention of householders, but while we continue to take an active interest in the war let us not overlook matters that vitally concern the health of the community. What Vancouver requires just now is a thorough cleaning up, north, south, east and west. Let us emulate the housewife and get about our spring cleaning in a fashion that will leave no doubt of our intentions. Here and there, in places undreamt of, piles of rubbish have been allowed to accumulate, and where rubbish is, there will disease breed and spread. Spring clean by all means. Start right now, make it a daily task until it is accomplished and Vancouver will look all the better for it and its citizens will derive incalculable benefits in more ways than one.

### Why Not Start to Clean Up?

Any American who has lived for a considerable time in either Vancouver or Victoria will remember keenly the hostility towards our nation constantly displayed by a certain element there. Choleric letters given prominent space in the papers harp on every real and imagined fault or flaw of our character and protest against the least advantage given us, and this ill esteem is shown in a hundred other ways. We had always thought that the relations between Americans and Canadians were of the most cordial character in the Dominion. Now, on the authority of the “Crier,” we find we have been dreaming, that both parties have only been too anxious to get at each other's throats, and that only Providence and good luck obviated such a calamity. At the same time it is peculiar, in view of these extraordinary conditions, that American citizens in Vancouver are so cordially welcomed everywhere, that there is no hindrance on

The submarine game is one which two or more can play. This is not a novel proposition, but it is one whose truth is in danger of being overlooked. The performances of the German submarines, which have culminated in the Lusitania massacre, may have caused many to forget that the British underwater craft have a record of brilliant achievements unsullied by atrocity of any kind. Two of them have recently been working havoc among the Turkish gunboats and transports in the Sea of Marmora. This exploit involved the passage of the Dardanelles, for the destroyed Turkish vessels were near Constantinople itself when they were torpedoed. Nor is this raid the only instance of the skill and courage that direct the British submarines. In December last a submarine commanded by Lieutenant Holbrook torpedoed the Turkish battleship Messudieh in the Dardanelles. The Messudieh was of 10,000 tons displacement and probably as efficient as vessels of the sultan's navy ever become. The dashing British commander was decorated and promoted “to encourage the others,” who to their credit be it said have failed less from lack of skill than from lack of opportunity to equal his achievement.

### Two Can Play at Any Game

It must be borne in mind that Great Britain offers a far more conspicuous target for submarines than does Germany. So far as is known there is not a German merchant ship of any value on the great seas, certainly not a liner. What is believed to be the last German steamer in the Pacific was snapped up a few days ago. In the open Atlantic there is not a German keel, and with the exception of a small light squadron near Ostend all the warships under the Kaiser's flag save the submarines keep close to the German coast. The British vulnerability to submarine raids is proportional to Great Britain's merchant marine and war fleet. There is not an ocean but which bears British merchant vessels or British cruisers. German submarines can scarcely miss hitting something even if it is no more important than a local steamer. Great Britain is forbidden to retaliate in kind if it would, for the sentiment of its navy and its people would prevent it from committing such an atrocity as the Lusitania massacre. Were there a German liner at sea it would be in imminent danger of capture, but its passengers and crew would be in no danger whatever of being blown to pieces or drowned.

here?” If our memory serves us aright, two—or was it three—mallard ducks were deemed sufficient for a charger. No matter whether the aforesaid charger was spavined or not, the price was a few ducks. In fact of that we are told that the price has gone up.

### Weird Story from Seattle

There is a paper published in Seattle known as the “Town Crier.” Outside the limits of that city it appears to be unknown, but by some means a copy has reached Vancouver. This estimable organ of private opinion has something to say of Vancouver in particular and Canada in general. Recent events in this city, are referred to in a way that indicates the “Crier's” knowledge of affairs here to be somewhat hazy. For instance, we are told that after the fires on the bridges “Many members of the German colony were thrown into jail.” We cannot remember that any person was arrested in connection with these outbreaks, though this Seattle production may have sources of information unknown to the Vancouver papers. Further on there is the statement that “mob violence” was the order of the day, and between the lines there is the suggestion that for any German to poke his head out of his domicile was tantamount to inviting a bullet. But the cream of this effusion is yet to come. Here is what the “Crier” has to say regarding the life led by citizens of the United States who have the misfortune to reside in Vancouver:

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