

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Germany takes effective measures against enemies at home. Exorbitant prices are prohibited.

It may be well that the general election promotion went sufficiently far for the men behind it to reveal themselves.

Through the Red Cross Fund the men who are not fighting have a chance to discharge part of their debt to those who are.

Swat the spy. But make sure first he is a spy. There are tens of thousands of good Canadians of German and Austrian origin.

The war is said to be costing Europe over forty million dollars a day. And Europe to the third and fourth generation will have to "pay, pay, pay."

Germany's attitude is that of the Cree and Blackfoot Indians before the advent of the white man brought to them the restraints of civilization.

"If thine enemy hunger, give him food." The German and Austrian reservists who are prevented from leaving Canada must not be allowed to starve.

The pen or the sword controversy has taken on a new form. German officers have commandeered type in newspaper offices to meet the demand for lead by ammunition factories.

It is passing strange that The Toronto Weekly Sun can see the injury of an obstructive and discouraging Federal tax but cannot see the application of its own logic to municipal taxation.

Alberta's legislation putting a special tax of about six cents per acre per year on agricultural land held out of use follows a New Zealand precedent that was remarkably successful. It stimulates industry and discourages speculation.

Conditions in the women's cells at the jail are under discussion. Every declared reform by the authorities will be welcomed by the public. It will be easy to forget how long or how deplorably they were needed after the need has been met.

The newspaper organ of the German Socialists condemns bitterly the German Government's attempt to induce farmers to employ military prisoners as agricultural laborers in preference to unemployed Germans "because they are cheaper."

"In the ashes of Nationalism few live coals remain," says The News. It is therefore reasonably certain that Boss Cochrane, the Borden Government's live wire in Ontario, will not arrange for another Bourassa visit to Sudbury when election time comes around again.

The sale of Ontario's timber will bring a smaller return by about half a million than was expected by the Government. Although the money received for this property is erroneously and deceptively classed as revenue it would not be well to increase it by bargain-day methods.

The Winnipeg Telegram, regarded as speaking for Hon. Robert Rogers, declares there was no agreement between the political parties in Canada not to hold an election during the stress of war. Neither is there any agreement between the parties not to steal each other's sheep or cattle. Agreements in such things are not usually regarded as necessary.

During the hearing of a case of alleged fraud in the Police Court it was stated by the Crown Attorney that "the accused made the others believe that there was someone in the Government with whom he had influence to procure the contracts." An official of the Dominion Police testified that in discussing a prospective contract for army shoes the accused had told the others that there was a party in Ottawa who also had to receive a share in the commissions, whereas, as he had admitted to the official, there was no such fourth party. Parliament may have to see about that "fourth party" itself later on.

The requirement that all passenger ships shall be equipped with a supplementary system of electric lighting was not the outcome of the Empress disaster, since the rule was made last winter though only coming into effect with the new year and the Empress was lost in May. Long ago, and frequently, The Globe pointed out the need of an emergency lighting equipment in case of damage to the regular system. This was emphasized particularly in relating the experience of Dr. John Cayen in the wreck of the Republic off Boston. He said that the most terrifying thing about it all was the darkness that prevailed throughout the ship very shortly after she was struck, and while panic-stricken passengers were groping their way out of the bowels of the great vessel, whose passages are much of a maze even in daylight.