

THE HOHENZOLLERN'S TOTTERING DYNASTIES.

The debacle of the great houses of Hohenzollern and Hapsburg after 500 years of power in Central Europe should be viewed with satisfaction by the proletariat of the two German Empires, which should lighten the hardships sure to follow the collapse of the late partners in crime and infamy. That the three H's of Europe, the Hohenzollern, the Hapsburg and the Hun, have not to go appear to be the ominous outlook of the Junkers of both empires, and the sooner the better for the peoples not only of Germany but of the entire world.

Always treacherous, grasping, conscienceless, vain and scheming, the Hohenzollerns have wrought as much harm by their efficiency as the Hapsburgs have by their incompetency and vanity.

The founders of both houses were robbers, and their descendants have been robbers ever since. The Hohenzollern took his start from the castle of the founder in the Swabian Alps, the "High Toll House," where tolls were forcibly exacted from merchants from Switzerland and Italy to the Imperial city of Nuremberg. The original Hapsburg took his name from his castle, named the "Hawks' Nest" (Habichtsburg), which was the home of the robber bands he led against unprotected traders and open towns.

One of the Hohenzollerns helped the first Hapsburg (Rudolf I) to the throne of the Holy Roman Empire in 1272, and another Hapsburg (Ferdinand III) made "All Highest's" ancestor, Frederick, the first King of Prussia for a consideration of \$6,000,000 and 10,000 soldiers.

Then, as the years rolled by, after robbing their neighbors, they fell out and the Hohenzollern robbed the Hapsburg. Finally the two robbers conspired to rob the rest of the world, and having at last been run to earth by Chief Commissioner Foch and Inspectors Haig, Pershing and Diaz, of the police force of civilization, the Austrian robber has thrown up his hands and is crying for mercy, while the Hohenzollern is hiding amidst his armed band of plunderers, fearfully awaiting his momentary arrest and punishment for his infamous crimes.

Since the Emperor Sigismund sold Brandenburg to Frederick Hohenzollern 500 years ago there have been many Hohenzollern rulers, but only three of them could lay claim to greatness—"All Highest," grandpa, old William, the first Kaiser who was elected in 1871; grandpa's great-grand-uncle, Frederick II, commonly called the great, and Frederick's great-grandfather, familiarly known as the "Great Elector," the father of the first King of Prussia. They were all robbers, every mother's son of them.

From the time the Great Elector's grandfather stole Prussia from the order of Teutonic knights, which he had been the sworn head, to the time Frederick I bought his title of King of Prussia in 1701, the electors of Brandenburg had been scheming for empire. Although the laughing stock of other kingdoms, Frederick I assumed an importance prompted by his vanity which startled the great Prince Eugene, commander of the Hapsburg forces, into exclaiming that the ministers of the Holy Roman Empire who had confirmed his title of king ought to be hanged.

After Frederick I came the father of Frederick the Great, whose principal business appeared to be kidnapping six-footers for his guards, and whose principal amusement was caning his soldiers when they neglected to keep their equipment bright.

His son, the great Frederick, was undoubtedly a great soldier, but in his first battle, Hohenfriedberg, he was so frightened that he ran away, and it was with the greatest difficulty his generals induced him to return to the battlefield to celebrate the victory they had won. This Frederick was a conscienceless robber, who gloried in his crimes, and with true Hohenzollern bravado excused them on the ground of expediency. He has been described as bearing up against a world in arms, with a bottle of poison in one pocket and a quire of bad verses in the other. In his defeats, however, he never used the poison. He consoled himself by writing bad verse instead.

He stole Silesia from the Hapsburg when the latter was in trouble, and stole West Prussia and Posen from Poland when, with those other big robbers of Europe, the Hapsburg and the Romanoff, they divided the nation of Silesia among themselves.

His successor, his nephew, Frederick William II, has been described by his own uncle, Prince Henry of Prussia, as a "fat, indolent, mistress-loving good-for-nothing."

It was his son, Frederick William the Third, who lost Prussia to Napoleon, who held from 1806 to 1813 the whole west bank of the Rhine. Dantzic, Hamburg, Poland and over half of the Prussian kingdom in the hollow of his hand and who compelled the Hohenzollern king and the Hapsburg emperor to kowtow to him like a couple of lackeys.

Frederick William the Fourth, who succeeded to the throne which had been strengthened by the return of all the Prussian lands taken by Napoleon, by the Congress of Vienna in 1815, to which were added the Rhineland provinces and Westphalia, was declared insane and had to abdicate in favor of All Highest's grandpa, who maintained the reputation of the Hohenzollerns as robbers by unsheathing his shining sword and stealing Schleswig-Holstein from Denmark and Alsace-Lorraine from France, after which he was made the first emperor of the Germanic Confederation.

His son Frederick, father of All Highest, reigned but a few months, dying of cancer, and in 1889 All Highest succeeded to the throne. The first thing he did was to place himself in front of 500,000 bayonets and declare his divine right, unheath his shining sword and announce that henceforth Hohenzollern was to be spelled with a big H and Germany with a little g.

He dropped his pilot, Bismarck, in 1890, and since then he has strutted

across the stage of history the vainest, most absolute, most conscienceless and most hypocritical military mountebank that ever produced, declaiming that "Grandpa, Frederick the Great, and the Great Elector" would have been sainted had they lived in medieval times.

And now he is likely to end the rule of the race for ever after plunging through his unholy greed for power, the entire world into the most destructive, murderous and desolating war in history.

And all the Hohenzollerns from Frederick the first elector of Brandenburg to William the witless, the Hapsburgs from Rudolf the Founder to Carl, the surrenderer, are not worth the little fingers of the brave and noble young King of Belgium, or the courageous old king of Serbia, whose nations the Teutonic bullies tried to submerge to gratify their lust for power.

Lift Y. M. C. A. Smoke Ban.

New York.—Abolition of the "no smoking" signs in buildings of the Young Men's Christian Association is suggested in a letter to general secretaries sent through the country today by Dr. George J. Fisher, head of the physical department of the international branch.

While each branch of the association, according to Dr. Fisher, decides to what extent, if any, smoking shall be permitted on its premises, he has addressed the secretaries as an adviser, in view of conditions created by the return to civilian life of large numbers of soldiers and sailors. His advice, he said, was that all arbitrary ruling on the use of tobacco be done away with and that association propaganda against smoking be carried on through educational information presented to men showing interest in it.

"Extenuating circumstances," Dr. Fisher stated, "seemed to make it necessary for the association overseas to distribute tobacco," but he declared that experimental research on the subject, results of which had been printed and distributed to general secretaries in this country, showed that smoking is physically injurious.

Deadly "Flying Torpedoboot."

England had in operation several months before the armistice was signed a new flying craft described as a "flying torpedoboot." This is said to be the deadliest weapon ever produced for use against the Huns.

The craft is designed to dive suddenly and swiftly from the clouds toward an enemy vessel and when about 50 feet above it discharge a torpedo directly at it, then soar rapidly upward again. The whole operation is so sudden and quick that the enemy has not time to train his guns on the torpedoboot, it is said. A torpedo from one of these machines is credited with having destroyed a Turkish transport carrying 3,000 troops. The invention, reports say, had the Germans greatly worried for they were unable to devise any means of defending their ships, naval bases, etc., against it. A mother ship carrying 20 of the new machines, each ready for summary action if the Huns attempted any treachery, was among the vessels that met the German fleet at the time of its surrender.—Ex.

A Natural Refrigerator.

A man who lives in Montana has a well from which a current of air constantly flows at about thirty degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature of a refrigerator. He has built a small room over the well to use as an iceless icebox, and by means of an underground pipe has connected the well with a room in a store which he operates. Thus he makes double use of the air for refrigerating purposes. In the winter the current of air is warmer than the outside air and so the store-room may be used to keep articles from freezing.

No explanation for this current of air has ever been found. No open passage was discovered in the well when it was dug, but the air seemed to come from every direction from the gravel at the bottom. At the opening in the basement of the store, the force of the air is sufficient to blow a hat out of the pipe.—Ex.

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DUMB ANIMALS "DID THEIR BIT"

The tributes now paid to animals which "did their bit" in the war remind us of the diminished part which has come to be played in battle by the horse. Time was when armies unprovided with horses to carry the war into combat were unthinkable. There are piled-up equine remains in Europe which show that even primitive man galloped as well as marched against his enemy, and the tradition as well as the use runs all through recorded history.

Egyptian, Persian, Greek, Roman and Carthaginian employed cavalry in their campaigns; up through the middle ages came the man on horseback to function spectacularly in the Peninsular war, the Napoleonic wars, the Crimean war, the Franco-Prussian war and even the Balkan wars. But when trench-fighting superseded the sweeping cross-country charges of light brigades and heavy brigades ceased.

In some theatres of the war just closed we have seen cavalry used with decisive effect, notably in the Gallipoli defense at the Dardanelles. But on the western front there has been little large-scale fighting on horseback. That uses were found even there for horses may be gathered from the announcement that 750,000 of them are now being released from the British army. But it comes tempered with the statement that the percentage of losses among British army horses during the war has been "considerably less than that experienced by British commercial firms before the war."

Meanwhile the new warfare has brought other animals to the front, and among them the dog has unquestionably had his day. For nearly two years, up to the signing of the armistice, the British war office has been sending out from its war dog school of instruction hundreds of trained animals, along with men to take charge of them as keepers. Employed as messengers in the field, these dogs are described in a report issued by the school as exhibiting "a skill, courage and tenacity that were amazing."

The story is one of successful message bearing through darkness, mist, rain and shellfire over every sort of difficult ground; wounded sometimes, but ever faithful to his task, the animal "carried on" and often brought in a few minutes the order or information which it would have taken a human runner hundreds of times as long to bring. The great German drive in March last part of the British line was cut off by a severe enemy barrage. A

Highland sheep dog, released with an urgent appeal for reinforcements, ran three kilometers in ten minutes and a terrible disaster was averted by the arrival of a French colonial division.

On many other occasions the dogs conveyed information of vital importance, frequently gave notice of enemy patrols at great distances and were in all these ways "the means of saving countless lives and much valuable property." Many of the animals thus employed were gathered in from homes for lost dogs, and the school regards it "as an interesting fact, and not without a certain pathos, that many a brave soldier owes his life to some poor, untrained, stray dog."

Another British report deals with the activities of the pigeon service. Beginning with the year 1916, this service had the use of about 20,000 birds, mainly contributed by British workmen, who are "pigeon fanciers" from boyhood up. Transferred to different areas of the fighting zone, the pigeons were employed as carriers, the message being contained in a tiny aluminum cylinder attached to the bird's leg.

In this way mine sweepers were enabled to send information of mines newly laid and of other dangers of the coast. In France and Italy, at Malta, Mudros and elsewhere airmen owed their lives to the pigeons; one machine which fell into the sea twenty-two miles from Dundee was saved with its occupants by a bird which carried the appeal for help at the rate of a mile a minute.

At the battle of Arras a dangerous German concentration was seen from tanks more than twenty miles from the British line, and that menace was smashed through a warning conveyed by pigeons. And it was another pigeon, also released from a tank, which made possible the capture of Monchy. Here is a record of service which should raise the "beasts that perish in our estimation and make 'kindness to animals' more of a duty than ever.

Had a Reason.

The people of the little frontier town had met to decide upon a suitable name for the place.

"Mr. Chairman," said the man with a rasping voice, rising in the back part of the hall, "I move that we call this village 'Old Glory.'"

"What is your reason for making such a motion as that?" demanded the chairman.

"Because, sir," rejoined the other, "this is nothing but a flag station."



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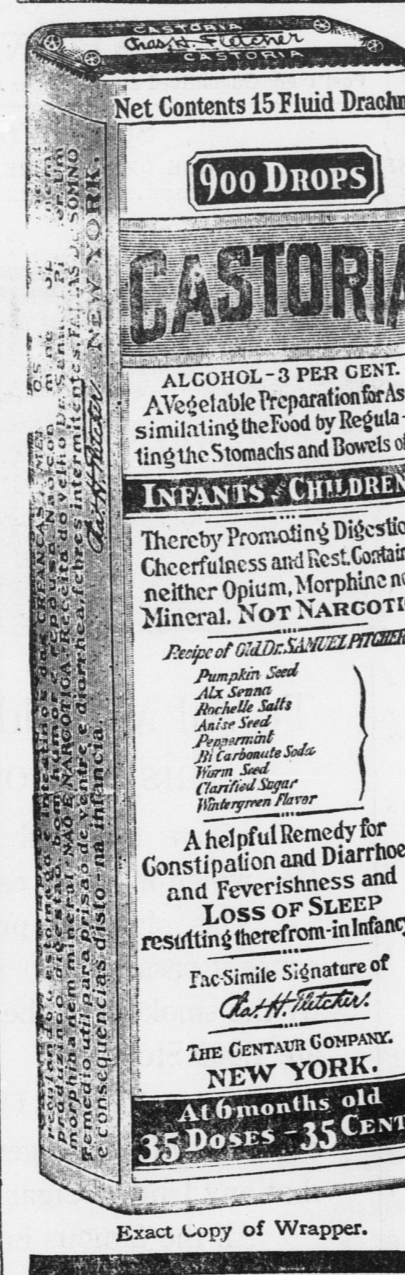
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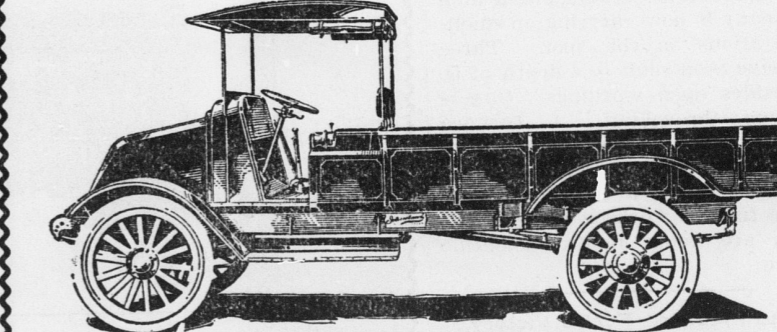
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