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# The Red and White

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## S T A F F

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## Editorial.

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ONCE more the wheel of time has completed a revolution in the scholastic cycle bearing us on its round to Commencement Day. Once more we have arrived at that destination so remotely distant at the beginning of each College year and yet how short a time we seem to have been on the journey. For some of us this is the last halt over the old familiar road, and henceforth we must choose our way among the maze of trails which lead through life's entangled wild and terminate at our final resting place. That we may choose this path aright has been the special care and concern of our Alma Mater during the time she has exercised her benign tutelage over us; and if we err in our choice and lose ourselves in the wicked byways of



the world, it is because we have failed to follow in the direction indicated by her teachings. For others of us this Commencement does not involve the serious considerations and forecasts which confront the graduate. For those the Closing Exercises but mark the end of a year of study and the opening of a holiday season to prepare for a resumption of student duties during another term. The scholastic year '14—'15, though uneventful for this eventful time, will be one of pleasant recollections. The usual good measure of success attended class work and in athletics the standard of former years has been well maintained. The student life has been one of happy associations and we, who now say good-bye to Old St. Dunstan's wish those, who have yet to complete their College Course, years as bright and happy as was our last.



ELSEWHERE in this issue we publish a paper, read before the "Academia," on the partition of Poland. In that essay is reviewed clearly and concisely the political history of that country leading up to and centring around the time of its dismemberment when internal weakness made it a prey to the empire-lust of Prussia, Russia and Austria. This paper is of especial interest at the present time as it gives us a further insight into the conditions which render Poland today the most unhappy of the unhappy countries now engulfed in the vortex of war.

A great deal has been written about the plight of Belgium and no doubt much more could be written before we could form anything like an adequate conception of the actual state of that war-wasted land; but heart-rending as the Belgian story may be, that of luckless Poland is even more poignant.

The Belgians fought and are fighting a common enemy and have shed their blood in defence of a land which they know to be their own. The Poles, Alas! against whom are they fighting? In many instances their own kindred. As a result of the annexation of Polish territory, Austria numbers among its subjects about 3,000,000 Poles; Germany about 5,000,000, and

Russia exercises dominion over some 15,000,000. In each of these countries the Poles have been compelled, according to the demands of compulsory military service, to fight for their masters, and thus we see men of the same blood, but separated by the machinations of political intrigue, forced to wield weapons of death against each other. And what is to be the reward of all this sacrifice and suffering? Does the treatment received at the hands of their dictators during the last hundred years or more, encourage them to place any confidence in the promises made to them at the outbreak of this war? Will the remembrance of Siberian exiles and Cossack murders tend to persuade them that the Czar's pledge of Polish Autonomy is sincere? Can the Poles recall the flogging of children and gaoling of parents for no other offence than refusing to learn or teach their religion in the language of their conquerors, and still believe that Germany means to grant them "political and religious liberty?" How can they believe other than that these offers are but bribes to arouse their enthusiasm in this conflict, that they may serve as instruments to further extend the sway of their masters. Every consideration of the Poles' present predicament excites pity if not indignation. Not only are they compelled to fight "brother against brother," not only are they sacrificing their lives in the despairing hope that perhaps this time the word of their sovereigns will not be dishonoured, but also must they witness and be a party to the devastation of the land which was once their own kingdom, once the home of distinct race, now desolated by hunger, pestilence and death and all the other miseries following in the glorious wake of war. Such indeed are the glories of war. When will sober reflection ever bring mankind to a fuller realization of what war means, and awaken a birth of more Christain ideals in the methods adopted for the settlement of international differences?



THE proceedings of the last session of parliament at Ottawa revealed instances of fraud and dishonesty in connection with the sale and purchase of military



goods, which are a blot on the honored name of our country. And the great pity is that a reflection has been cast upon Canada's reputation for integrity because a few men have so demeaned themselves as to make our duty to the Empire a medium for catering to their venal propensities. It is disgusting to think that anyone claiming the rights and protection of Canadian citizenship should be so small-souled and such a slave to sordid cupidity that he should conspire to pilfer his country in her time of need, and to jeopardise the personal well-being of her brave volunteers in order to enrich himself thereby. That such persons are within the pale of our Dominion, however, investigation has shown to be true. Whilst every nerve of our national organism was at a tension under the stimulus of war's exigencies, whilst the most earnest efforts were being bent towards assisting the Mother Country in accomplishing the greatest undertaking ever attempted by her, whilst brave Canadian sons were sacrificing every earthly ambition—even their very lives—in the cause of the Empire, in the midst of all this display of unselfish patriotism a band of vampires sought to glut their craven appetites on the pilfered pelf of exploited military supplies. Those guilty of this crime are greater enemies to our country than the Germans themselves, and justice should be done to them accordingly. It is reassuring to the confidence we repose in our statesmen that Sir Robert Borden has risen superior to party politics and fearlessly denounced those of his own supporters on whom suspicion fell. We hope that this weeding out of political "grafters" will be continued until their extermination will leave the people no reason to fear that the proceeds of the war taxes will be appropriated to any other than strictly legitimate purposes.



ALL reports from the War Zone indicate that terrible fighting is almost continuously in progress. The Germans seems to be fighting with desperation to effect a stratetic offensive movement before the new war levies of the French and British come up for action.

The German objective on the West, at present, is Calais, and repeated attacks in that direction have been repulsed by the Allies. The fiercest fighting during the last few weeks has occurred around Ypres where the enemy have hurled attack after attack on the Allies' position, at the cost of thousands of human lives on both sides. Our Canadian soldiers are receiving their baptism of fire and blood at the front, and have done deeds of valor on the battlefield worthy of veterans. At Langemarck, the recapture of the guns from the Germans was a feat of daring which recalls the famous charge of the Light Brigade.

In the East the Russians have suffered some reverses, but past events of this war lead us to believe that the resourcefulness of their arms will render this check only temporary. In the Dardanelles the Allies are slowly but steadily pushing onward. Since the beginning of the war, the Germans have many times set at naught international laws and treaties supposed to govern the conduct of modern warfare; but their latest crimes in this respect—the use of asphyxiating gases in battle, and the sinking of the *Lusitania* with its passenger list of non-combatants and neutrals—are gross examples of a reversion to the murderous tactics of the ages of barbarism and piracy. What retribution may be exacted of Germany by the United States for the loss of American lives in the *Lusitania* disaster, is now the speculation of the world. It remains to be seen whether that "strict accountability" means anything more than the Academic musings of Pres. Wilson. That Germany is playing a losing game, and is now making a desperate rally, would appear from her wholesale disregard of all the conventions of war. However near to her actual condition this inference may be, we fear that she can yet sustain the brunt of battle long enough to involve the loss of very many more brave lives.



WITH this issue closes the last number of Volume Six of Red and White and also our connection with the College Journal. In vacating the editorial chair, we do not presume to pass judgment upon our own work, yet we