

getting the fair market price of the balance of their crop.

FRENCH RELINQUISHES COMMAND

The retirement of Sir John French from the command of the British forces on the Continent did not come as a surprise to those who have been following the war closely. Sir John has been in command in France and Flanders ever since the commencement of the war, and sixteen months of severe and incessant strain have made it necessary for him to ask to be relieved of his responsibility. The official announcement states that General French relinquished his command at his own instance, and while it is quite likely that his retirement took place at the wish of the Army Council, he leaves the front honorably and without any reflection upon his ability or devotion to the Empire. The fact that the King and Government recognize the value of Sir John French's services is shown by the fact that he has been made a Viscount and appointed Commander-in-Chief of the troops stationed in the United Kingdom, an appointment which he has accepted. Sir John French is succeeded as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in France and Flanders by Sir Douglas Haig, who has also been at the front since the commencement of the war as commander of the first army corps. He was very highly praised by General French for his distinguished services in the retreat from Mons and also later when the British advance began. Sir Douglas Haig is a Scotchman, fifty-four years of age. He fought under Kitchener in the Soudan and was with French in South Africa. When the failure of the British Army to push home the success gained at Loos in September was under discussion in Parliament it became evident that the responsibility rested between the Divisional Staff, under Sir

Douglas Haig, and the General Staff at Sir John French's headquarters. It is evident from the change in command that the authorities have now decided in favor of Sir Douglas Haig. Sir John French has been a good leader, but being human it was not to be expected that he would not make mistakes. His successor now has a chance to show that he can do better, and if he does not succeed we have no doubt that the Army Council will not hesitate to replace him.

THE PATRIOTIC FUNDS

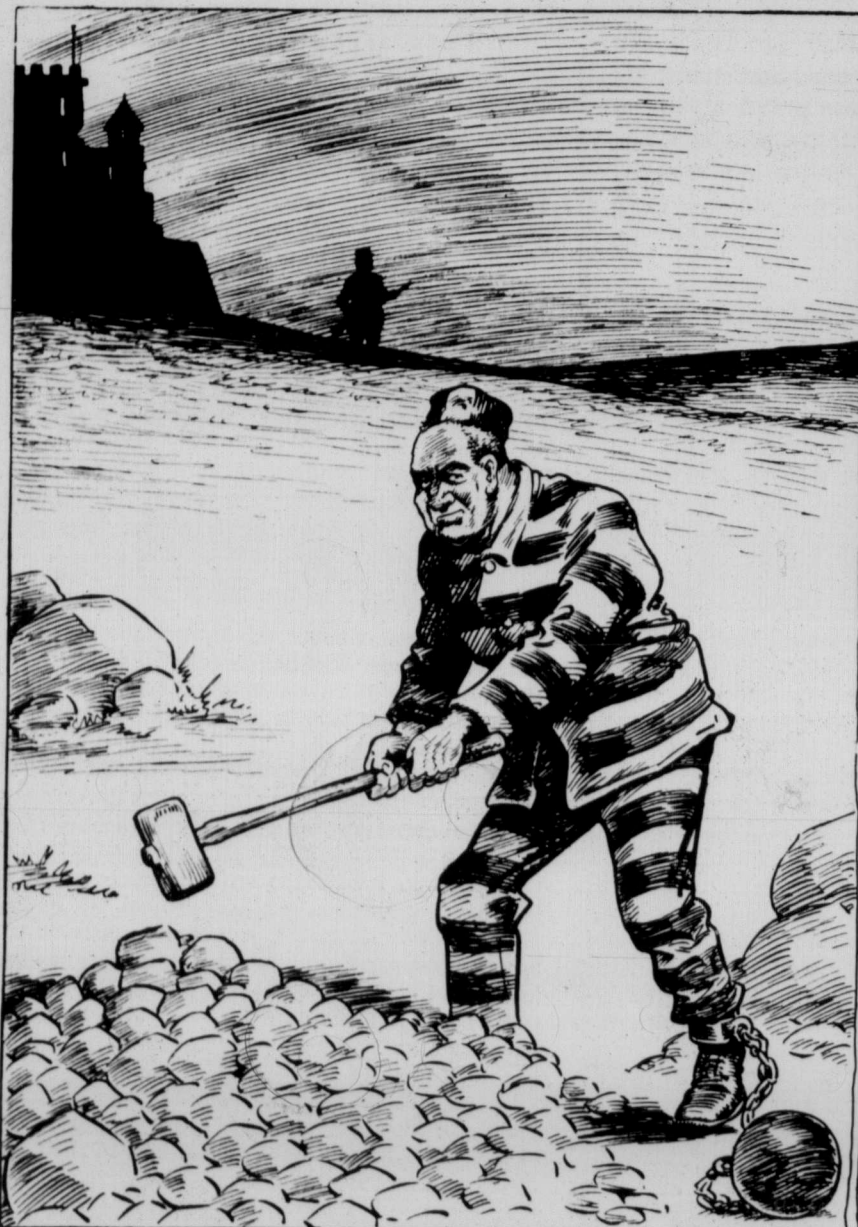
Steadily growing stronger is the demand that the work now being done by the Patriotic, Red Cross and Returned Soldiers Funds should be taken over and financed and carried out by the Dominion Government. No one can give the matter a moment's thought without recognizing the fact that the support of the dependents of soldiers and the care of the wounded, disabled and convalescent fighters is a national obligation. These things are just as much a part of the cost of the war as the payment, clothing and feeding of the troops and there is no more reason why they should be left to charity. Under the present system of supporting the Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross Society and the Returned Soldiers Association by voluntary contributions, the burden is most unequally distributed. It is not always those who are best able to give who are most generous, and while some who are financially benefitting by the war are giving little or nothing, others whose incomes have been reduced are striving to give all that they can. It is not right either that families of soldiers or the wounded and convalescent soldiers who are in the hospital or recovering their strength at home should be forced to become the objects of charity. Under the

voluntary system there is great inequality in the treatment which is given to different people. Some get more than they need and others, partly, perhaps, thru their own shrinking from the acceptance of charity, are left in want.

It is understood that the Manitoba Legislature which meets in January will pass a law imposing a tax of one mill on the dollar upon all the land in the province for the purpose of raising money for the Patriotic Fund. This is a right step and the only criticism we would offer is that the tax might be considerably larger. One mill on the dollar is equal to one dollar on a thousand, which is almost too small to be worth bothering about. Such a tax will not raise sufficient money to maintain the Patriotic Fund and if the principle is admitted of raising funds for this purpose by taxation, we do not see any reason why the whole instead of only a part of the funds should not be so raised. The provincial tax on land values can be very readily collected by the provincial authorities calling upon the council of each municipality to provide its portion based upon the total assessment of the municipality. The municipal council will then in its next budget make provision for the raising of this sum by increasing its own tax rate by a corresponding amount. The same system could be extended to raise the whole of the provincial and even the federal revenues, and the experiment of raising funds for patriotic purposes in this way in Manitoba will be a very interesting demonstration of the method in which revenues can be collected by means of the taxation of land values.

A young man employed by a Winnipeg publishing firm has given a year's salary, \$1,600, to the Red Cross Fund. He is physically unfit for active service. Now watch the rush of war contractors follow this example.

WHEN BOTH "DO THEIR BIT"



THE WAR CONTRACT GRAFTER



THE SOLDIER

The soldier has been "doing his bit" for nearly seventeen months. None of the Canadian war contract grafters have begun to "do their bit" yet.