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Young Canada Club

By DIXIE PATTON

BIRD FUN

The other morning, about daybreak, there blew up a terrible thunderstorm, which made folk lie quaking in their beds and wondering whether or not their house would be struck next, but it didn't affect the little feathered folk out doors that way at all. Apparently they liked it. They twittered and chirped about, fluttered from tree to tree and shrub to shrub, and probably asked each other what they thought of the weather, and how it was likely to affect the crop of worms.

Was it because the material for new houses was to be had for the taking that these bird families were so unconcerned about the uproar of the heavens, do you suppose?

DIXIE PATTON.

WAR

I think that war is a bad thing even tho it may be for a good cause like that for which we are fighting today.

In war time the best men in the country are taken, and altho some come back safe, thousands are injured for life, and many are killed.

Then think of what the soldiers have to go thru. They have to stand in the trenches for days, generally knee-deep in mud and run the risk of being killed at any minute. Think of the dreadful guns, explosives, and all kinds of machines for killing men and I am sure you will agree with me that war is a dreadful thing. Then after the war what happens? Taxes are high, lots of banks and factories are closed because of the war and many people are out of work and have a very hard time. If you look in your history you will be able to find this after nearly every war especially after the struggle with Napoleon when the people had to pay such high taxes that the poor were scarcely able to keep themselves.

Of course it is very glorious to win a victory especially for a good cause, and we all admire the soldiers, but what is that to the thousands of men and all the money that the country has lost?

ANNIE GIRLING.

Wawanesa, Man.

Age 12.

WHAT I THINK ABOUT WAR

I think war is a bad thing for some of the people because it makes them hard and cruel. War isn't good for countries that are engaged in it because it makes the prices of sugar and flour go up. It makes people starve for want of food. It makes them go without any clothes. It makes people suffer from severe wounds. It makes the homes lonely and sad by killing off their fathers and sons, and leaving their mothers, wives and babies to starve.

In some of the countries war is good to make the people rich. It is a good thing to make money go up.

VIOLET DIMMICK.

Gilbert Plains, Man.

Age 11.

WAR

I think war is really a bad and cruel thing, because they kill so many people in war. Just think how a person is punished when he kills somebody! Just think how many soldiers lie wounded on the battlefield! When a person is hurt badly at home everyone takes pity on him or her, but in war it is different. Sometimes the poor wounded ones must lie there unpitied, uncomfortable, perhaps a day or so, altho I think the good and kind people will bring the poor wounded ones in the hospitals and comfort them. I don't think there are enough nurses to tend to the sick, so it would be wise if more girls would go and tend to the sick and wounded soldiers. How would you feel, or how do you feel, if any of your relations—mother, father, sister, brother or any body of your relatives would die? Wouldn't you be oh, so sorry? None of our family has died yet, but I've seen how saw others have been.

But how must the poor mother and children feel, when they get the news that their father or brother is killed? How sad they must be! Not long ago I read a story of France. A little girl and her mother had to sit in the cellar. Their house had been burnt down. They had had nothing but a little dry bread. The little girl had a thin little kitten. The kitten's mother had been

eaten by the people. If the people will eat cats you can imagine how hungry they must sometimes be. Don't you think it would be better if we would spare a new dress and send the money away to the little boys and girls who are in need of food?

Altho many are killed, it shows which are heroes, or do you think that any coward would go against the showers of bullets? That can't be. They really must be heroes, who go and fight against the enemy. It does not only show the real heroes, but also the real patriots. They are ready to give up their lives for their own good country.

PAULINE HINZ.

Age 14.

Laird, Sask.

WHAT I THINK OF WAR

War is a very bad thing in very many respects. The very word "war" means open hostility, and everyone knows that a hostile person, country or anything is one of the worst things. So of course since war means the same it is the same.

War is bad, first, for its social relations. That is, a country which was on good terms with two or three other countries would, when these countries went to war, side with one or the other, and then from that time on would be enemies to the other country. War stops people from visiting back and forth between the countries. It also stops a considerable amount of trade which weakens the countries.

Then the war destroys horses, for many of the men have to have horses to ride. These are shot as well, and are generally the best in the country.

There is also a great waste of money. There is money spent for ammunition, guns and other destructive apparatus. The soldiers have to be paid, as well as the nurses, doctors and veterinarians. Hospitals have to be supported, and the money used for all this could be put into better use in the country if it was not for war. But, of course, when we have war we must have the money to carry it out, and this money is generally gotten by taxing the people heavier, which keeps them poor, so you see this is another bad thing war causes.

Right where the war is carried on there is a great amount of land wasted by burning down the trees, by digging trenches and then by being the burying ground of so many men and horses.

War kills the men, the strongest and best of them, too. The young men who would be the leaders of the next generation and the old men whose duty it is to teach the young men are all taken, and finally shot by the enemy like dumb brutes. Women, too, are often shot when they are doing their duty nursing the wounded. Now, who could think of war as anything but bad, cruel and wicked?

There are many homes destroyed. Some in the midst of the battlefield are either destroyed by fire or shell or used for the benefit of the soldiers. Then there are homes broken up which are hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles away from the battlefield. This is caused by father or son leaving for the cause of the war, perhaps never to return again.

Often when there is war men are forced to go to kill the enemy, while they would have had no thought of it if the war had not forced them to. The Bible says, "Thou shalt not kill." This law is sacred and should be kept, but was there ever a war where some person did not kill someone else?

FRANCES HOOVER.

Venn, Sask.

Age 15.

WAR

I do not think war is of any use, because there are many lives lost. They are not all killed, but some are wounded and are not able to work any more.

Some fight to get more land. The generals play the most important part in war and hold the laws. They do not do very much fighting themselves. They fight with swords and guns. When they enlist they have to go and train.

HAZEL JOPLING.

Age 12.

Fairlight, Sask.