

The Toronto World

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FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 28.

The Willing Conscripts.

Many of the draftees, under the Military Service Act will be men who come gladly to the colors, eager to fight for liberty and civilization. They may have had good reasons for not volunteering up to this time. Some of them took the position that all should serve, and held back until the government adopted the common-sense and all but universal plan of conscription. But in this lies the danger that the slackers will lag behind under the compulsory as they did under the voluntary system. The proclamation soon to be issued will make nearly 700,000 men liable to military service; the government is only authorized to draft 100,000. Hence the possibility of those who come first being taken first. Undoubtedly in some sections of the country men subject to the proclamation will not respond until they are sent for, and others will go to considerable time and expense prosecuting their claims for exemptions before the military tribunals and the appellate courts.

Canada, unlike Britain and the United States, has a conscription law without registration. This course was deliberately adopted as more economical and expeditious, and it may work out all right. From a purely military standpoint the result will be splendid, because men of good spirit will be chosen. Many think it might have been wiser, however, for the government to have adopted the recommendation of Brigadier-General Senator Mason, and have registered all Canadians of military age before the need for conscription became imperative. General Mason suggested registration in connection with the voluntary system, and in an able speech delivered in the Dominion Senate on May 4, 1916, he said:

What I would propose for Canada would simply be a registration of all men of military age, from 18 to 45, and have them divided into classes so that men would be classified according to their ability to serve at the front, or the necessity for them remaining at home for war purposes or other purposes of the country. I would not go as far as they have gone in England, because that is both expensive and extensive, more so I think than was necessary; but I would like to see registration adopted along the lines I have just stated. The effect would be, as Lord Milner states there, economy; men would not be allowed to offer themselves if the nature of their occupation rendered it necessary that they should remain in the country. On the other hand, men who are eligible for service, physically fit, but unwilling to go, would be urged to enlist; and the recruiting officer, having lists of those ear-marked men, as I might call them, would know to whom to go and whom to let alone.

The need for more men has become so imperative that none can doubt the necessity for more conscription legislation by the next parliament. General Mason recently placed before the senate and the country some startling figures on the subject of casualties and enlistments. For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1917, the casualties among infantrymen numbered 67,036, while the enlistments during the same period only totaled 42,523, leaving a shortage of 24,513. For the months of April and May, 1917, the record is even more alarming. In brief tabular form they read:

Infantry casualties	21,364
Infantry enlistments	3,002

Shortage..... 18,362

This appalling ratio has continued through the summer and fall, until now it can be fairly said that only one man volunteers for every ten men who are put out of action. Sir George Foster therefore computes that the maple leaf will disappear from the western front by the middle of next summer unless the conscription law is promptly and efficiently carried out.

Pretty Small Potatoes.

There is not the slightest doubt that to the average citizen the food controller is the most interesting official in the Dominion, and, may we say it with all due respect, the most unsatisfactory. Nine people out of ten probably who read the statement yesterday about the report of the fruit and vegetable division on the price of potatoes, with the food controller's subsequent comment, went away with the impression that potatoes would be \$1.25 a bag after October 1. But the food controller did not say so. He assured us all that he had power to fix prices, more power even than Mr. Hoover—power to do anything he please. He won't please, however, altho everybody is saying, "Do please."

The committee reports that potatoes should be \$1.25 a bag, but Mr. Hanna has not pleased yet. By the first of October potatoes may be \$3, for all we know; and then Mr. Hanna will tell us that it would never do to confiscate the property of those who have purchased in good faith.

"There must be no hoarding of potatoes this year," declares Mr. Hanna, and he denounces the miscreants that leave car loads of them to freeze on the track so as to reduce the supply and enhance prices. "Such an action should be made a criminal offence," he says. Should be! But if it should, why is it not? Is he not food controller, with plenty of power, and can't he get an order-in-council passed at once as a war measure making such a crime subject to the criminal courts?

Mr. Hanna says the problem is how to get people to eat the potato drop, which is twenty million bushels greater than last year, and provides a ten million bushel surplus. One way, and the best way, and in the belief of many the only way, is to keep prices down. Mr. Hanna is not satisfied with anything so easy as the adoption of the price at \$1.25 a bag. He has a more elaborate plan which is calculated to postpone doing anything until the car loads of potatoes

are freezing on the tracks once more, and prices are about \$1.25 a peck. This is the trouble with Mr. Hanna. When we want a hair-spring trigger action, he works with a slow fuse a mile long.

Mr. Hanna is strongly of the opinion that no undersized potatoes should be used for consumption in the larger centres. It isn't safe to say very much about small potatoes in this connection, but when this report is considered and the disposition of it, small potatoes is the only thing to be thought about.

Volunteers and Draftees.

We have two indignant letters—one from a lady, one from a gentleman—on two phases of the war organization. The lady is of the opinion that none of the draftees should be allowed to win the same uniform which has been honored and glorified by the volunteer soldiers; and the gentleman thinks we should have no compulsory service at all, because, he states, "The Kaiser can be beaten by a British volunteer army." Our two friends represent the opposite poles of feeling in this matter, but a little reason will make their sentiment practical. Everyone must sympathize with the ideal aims which both have in view, but life is an eternal compromise with opposing ideals for the purpose of overcoming the worthless thing.

It would be splendid if every man who is drafted into the army by law could be graded according to his willingness to go. It is surprising to many to find how large a proportion of the volunteers were compelled or constrained to go by various conditions and influences, and crept unwillingly at first, but could not evade the pressure of public opinion or the influence of friends and relatives. On the other hand, there are many who would have been glad to go who felt the necessity of recognizing the obligations and responsibilities of their civil life, and who will be delighted to be relieved of these by the call of the national authority. These men are as truly volunteers in spirit as any who have gone to the front.

There are others again who, poor in spirit, unable to muster the preliminary courage of the man who finds an easy attraction in the recruiting sergeant's ribbons, yet when he finds himself in the ranks, inspired with the mysterious strength of esprit de corps, turns out to be as brave as a lion and does deeds of distinguished valor. The records of the war, the intimate letters and diaries, the numerous narratives of personal experience that have been published, are full of these things.

This brings us to the second letter and the hatred of our friend, representative of such a large and influential class, who object to anything savoring of "conscription." What we have is not conscription, the many authorities are strong for that. We have only the selective draft, by which enough men who are better fitted to serve at the front than to do anything else at home will be chosen to carry on the work of those who have been defending us and fighting our battles for three years past.

It would have been glorious if a volunteer army of Britain's could have beaten the Kaiser. Unfortunately that is just the difficulty. The Kaiser has come very near beating us. Our volunteers were exhausted. Our armies were on the decline. Those who talked so finely about the brutality of Germany and the sorrows of Belgium were not sufficiently strong in action to keep the ranks full. Great Britain had to adopt conscription, if we call it that, tho we prefer to say national service. The French, Belgian, Italian, Serbian and Russian armies are already conscript armies, as are those of our foes. For a small war a volunteer army served very well, but when the whole world goes to war those who think that a voluntary army is sufficient for the chief combatant are a little behind in understanding the situation. Our great ally, who has saved the situation, who has made it certain that whatever happens the war will be won, adopted compulsory service from the start. It was the only wise, the only reasonable, the only democratic thing to do. All the soldiers of the United States are on the same footing.

Nor is it un-British to adopt the selective draft or compulsory service. In the very dawn of the national life among the Anglo-Saxons military service was compulsory. Those who were exempt were slaves. It is much the same in Canada today. The basis of the Norman hosts was compulsory service, those who were hired being despised as mercenaries, tho they were strictly volunteers. The Tudors and the Stuarts also used conscription, and Cromwell and the parliamentary forces relied upon it. Nor can we ever forget as long as we are Britons that the great naval wars of England were supported by the press gang, the most iniquitous form of conscription ever practiced, and the pressed men proved to be as heroic and as patriotic in most cases as any in the crew.

The real fear that most anti-conscriptionists harbor is the bogey raised by some foolish persons, that because we must replenish our armies now by whatever necessary means we have at our disposal, we shall therefore continue to be a military nation after the war and build up such a militaristic system as Germany has done.

All history is against the idea. Those who are forced to serve are usually least inclined to endure such conditions. The more draftees there are, the stronger will be the influence against militarism. It is the volunteers who have the military spirit, and it is they who are fighting. Our volunteers are of a different stamp and our draftees will be noble comrades for them, we doubt not.

Other People's Opinions

RETURNING THANKS.

Editor World: We desire to express thru the medium of your valued columns our thanks and appreciation for the hearty cooperation and support of those ministers, and the churches and other societies who have made it both pleasant and possible for us to place before their members and the citizens generally the claims of our organization in the cause of kinship.

Hamilton Cassels, president,
Associated Kin of C.E.F.

SIX MONKS ACCEPTED FOR MILITARY WORK.

Six of the monks at Mount St. Bernard's Monastery, Whitwick, Leicestershire, are being called to the colors, three having been passed for foreign service and three for home service, while one was medically rejected. Hitherto they have been exempt from military service—but it is understood that the conditions in this regard have been modified by the war office. It is 73 years since the monastery was opened when the first mass was said there by the late Cardinal Wiseman.

THE TORONTO WORLD

CURING BATTLE-BORN STUTTERING.

BY P. TYE.

Prte. A—goes back to France tomorrow. He has spent 18 months in hospital learning to speak. "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers." That is a longer hospital term than usual.

He didn't want to go back (none of them do), but it goes in another of those important little trivialisms which these war weeks are filled. It means that England's army surgeons have discovered a way to cure stuttering. But their discovery, like scores of other valuable by-products of the war, goes unnoticed before the immediate urgency of the latest from Petrograd, the daily "unprecedented" artillery duel in Flanders and the other scorchings at the Newcastle race meeting.

This is the way the discovery is described: "The actual treatment is too complicated for description before any but physicians, but it classifies stuttering with the phobias, hysteria and anxiety neurosis. It is based on the theorem that no matter how great an effort the stutterer may consciously put forth to cure himself, his stuttering, his unconscious desire to preserve his ailment as a safeguard against the society of other people, is greater—at base, a timidity neurosis. In other words, there are practically two classes of stutterers: those who do not stutter and those who do."

"We have discarded all the old ways of treating stutterers, many of them widely known frauds, advertised by quacks who have made excellent incomes out of them. The election cure we have found to aggravate the difficulty in most cases. The 'talking' cure results in a queer, strained voice which is more grotesque in the end than the stuttering was in the beginning. The hypnotic treatment I personally have had no faith in. I have never heard of a cure by hypnosis."

"Our discovery which so far has proven successful, is aimed in the direction of a complete relaxation of mind and body, a restoration of confidence, and the establishment of an equilibrium of emotion, a correctness of thought and of character."

Prte. A—, on the night of Dec. 22, 1915, was detailed as sentry on the deathhouse in a camp in France, with instructions to knock the door every fifteen minutes to frighten the rats away. He went on at 9 p.m., and duly kicked on the door. At 9.15 p.m. he kicked on the deathhouse door again, and a voice from within answered his kick: "What are you all you kicking about?"

Prte. A—fainted. He was found unconscious the next morning 100 yards from the deathhouse door, and lay unconscious for six days. He was taken to a hospital, where a medical examination made his causality clear. He was then sent to England, a confirmed stutterer, altho never before in his life had he been a stutterer. (The cause of the deathhouse kick was a drunkard soldier whom a comrade had looked in earlier in the day to sober up, and who had been forgotten.)

Hospital Social Service.

The Problem of the Sub-Normal. The new conception of service to mankind is nowhere more strikingly evidenced than in a hospital. Here medical science, not only cures human ills, but with its new social service, seeks to solve community problems by making an intensive study of those evils that are the underlying causes of disease and untimely death. No service today is more important than that which seeks to help a man to a better understanding of human beings from the mental and moral, as well as the physical, standpoint.

What are the community problems that are brought to a hospital to be treated? Those of the insane, the feeble-minded, those suffering from venereal diseases, occupational diseases, industrial accidents, the unmarried mothers, and other social cankers. How many of all these things can be prevented? If we had an enlightened public and a social conscience? Eventually state medicine will take up these problems energetically, but in the meantime the hospital, by its public interest and its best to awaken public interest and create a broader knowledge.

Feeble-Minded Predominate. In three years at the psychiatric clinic of the Toronto General Hospital over 248 people have been examined, 451 of whom were insane and 133 feeble-minded. Of these there have been 147 cases of insanity, many of the remainder figure continually in juvenile court, police stations, in the Mercer, the Haven, the rescue homes, the hospitals and sanitariums. The insane, the feeble-minded, and to their own hurt. A farm colony suited to their needs could soon be self-supporting, and we would be doing them the greatest service by guarding these individuals from the results of anti-social acts.

In two and a half years there have been 18 babies illegitimately born in the hospital. What is there in store for these children? Why do they die so early? The mentally defective, the morally defective mothers? What about the moral fibre of the unknown fathers with their evaded responsibilities? When will we have laws that will protect the weaker ones among us?

Social Diseases. Finally, there is the problem of venereal diseases. In the patient department since December, 1916, there have been 1,000 cases of venereal diseases, 100 for syphilis 898 patients suffering from this disease alone, and the dangers from gonorrhoea are as great, if not greater. These specified problems form a vicious circle. The insane, the feeble-minded, and the morally impetuous create venereal disease and illegitimacy, and they in turn produce feeble-mindedness and insanity. With this knowledge given to the public by the hospital thru its social service department, all social agencies will be capable of more intelligent action. The clergy must have a better understanding of their people, the teachers of their pupils in the school, the lawyers and the clients of the social agencies will be capable of more intelligent action. The clergy must have a better understanding of their people, the teachers of their pupils in the school, the lawyers and the clients of the social agencies will be capable of more intelligent action.

Our social service department is not merely that of curing diseases or giving relief in poverty, but rather educating the normal to a higher sense of responsibility to himself and his neighbor, and protecting the abnormal against himself and the normal and immoral forces that surround him. In Canada, with its boundless opportunities, its open spaces, there should be little sickness, and people should be taught that all preventable diseases is little less than a crime against society.

The social service department of the Toronto General Hospital, with its knowledge and statistics, stands with helping hands outstretched to the world for the social betterment of humanity.

MOTHER AND SON



FIGHTING THE HUN IN FRANCE AND CANADA

POLITICAL NEWS

There seems to be something like a lull in the political activity which immediately followed the prorogation of parliament. The local politicians on both sides are confident of a December election, but there are signs of postponement.

The most significant thing that would have been an election this year is the fact that Sir Thomas White, the minister of finance, has decided on a big campaign for the new Canadian war loan of one hundred and fifty millions of dollars, and that it will need all his attention and all the attention of the people to whom the appeal is to be made during the months of October and November; and that the needs of the money for the country and for the war, and to assist the mother country in her purchases of munitions and provisions in Canada, are so pressing that they could not afford to have the flotation interfered with by political discussions and partisan appeals. In fact, Sir Thomas White has gone to the bankers and bond dealers of the country, and they have framed up a campaign, to be given during the next fortnight, to get the public to take up the bonds in large and small amounts, and to do this they have organized a Dominion-wide plan for advertising and canvassing. Those, therefore, who have the flotation of the loan at heart, including the minister of finance, will not care to have it go hand-in-hand with an election fight.

Moreover, the conscription law is not being delayed, nor yet is it being rushed, and the government can scarcely have the election until the conscription law is in working order and producing results.

From Ottawa come rumors of union government, and they are reinforced by press despatches from the west. Parliament is to be dissolved next week, but writs for the election of a new parliament will not be issued for some time after that, and until they are issued we cannot know what the date of the election will be. Nearly all the nominating conventions in this province have been called off for the present. As a prom-

inent Conservative politician put it yesterday: "We cannot hold our conventions until we know whether we are nominating a Unionist or Conservative candidate."

Hugh Guthrie, conscriptionist Liberal M.P. for South Wellington, is to address his electors on Oct. 2. If anything like a union government has been formed, Mr. Guthrie should know all about it. He is the one conscriptionist Liberal who has, since the passage of the conscription bill, consistently supported every measure brought forward by the Borden government. All the rest "backslid." Dr. Michael Clark of Red Deer took no part in the debate upon the federal franchise bill, but it is generally known that he did not favor the measure.

The Montreal Gazette thinks it is all rubbish to talk of Sir Wilfrid Laurier having a solid Quebec behind him. Quebec, it points out, is by tradition Conservative. Even in landside years, like 1904 and 1905, the popular majority in favor of Laurier was very small. The conscription bogey, it believes, will disappear when the people see the law actually in operation. Men of high standing are serving on the local tribunals, and they have been chosen from both political parties. The Gazette is, therefore, quite confident that the government can carry a number of seats, if its case is fairly and moderately presented. The cry that Quebec is going solid for Laurier, the Gazette thinks, is raised by the politicians of both parties, who hope to gain something by making Quebec "an Ishmaelite of the federation."

Ex-Speaker Marol, writing in the Montreal Herald, says the judges in Quebec have made admirable appointments to the local tribunals. In nearly every case the mayor or the village notary has been selected, and the people already feel that the law is to be moderately and fairly enforced. Altho Mr. Marol, as a member of the house, bitterly opposed the conscription bill, he now declares that Canadians, as law-abiding people, must not only obey the conscription law, but do whatever they can to make its administration a success.

It is significant, however, that Hon.

Albert Sevigny, minister of inland revenue, who carried Dorchester last January before conscription was introduced, is now to contest Gaspé. This might indicate that Mr. Sevigny finds the anti-conscription feeling too strong for him in his present riding. It is also reported that Mon. Rodolphe Lemieux may run in Gaspé against Mr. Sevigny.

Three knights, much in the public eye, and more or less mentioned in connection with the passage of the conscription bill yesterday, they were: Sir Clifford Sifton; Sir George Foster and Sir Edward Kemp.

CANADIANS ON LEAVE FIND LONDON LONELY?

Chaplain, in Letter to the Press, Asks That English Homes Welcome Officers.

London, Sept. 27.—Is London unfriendly to overseas officers on leave? Not intentionally, perhaps. Nevertheless, many Canadian officers come to the conclusion apparently that for them in the metropolis, and they get the idea that Londoners are unsociable with the man from the dominions. An army school chaplain, who has been writing to the papers here pleading that the lonely Canadian may be welcomed into English homes during his period of leave, instead of being left entirely to the grimacious and often questionable society of hotels. "Officers of the Canadian corps," says the chaplain, "are, for the most part, a fine type of high-spirited gentlemen, whom it would be both a privilege and a pleasure for any English family to entertain." As being left entirely to the grimacious and often questionable society of hotels. "Officers of the Canadian corps," says the chaplain, "are, for the most part, a fine type of high-spirited gentlemen, whom it would be both a privilege and a pleasure for any English family to entertain." As being left entirely to the grimacious and often questionable society of hotels.

Eddie—"Let's sneak round behind the barn an' smoke a cigarette." Sammy—"Too likely to get caught. Ever since Dad swore off New Year's Day, he's been sneaking around there to smoke his own."

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