

NOTHING DISTINCTIVE ABOUT WAR POETRY

Big Bard of Present-Day England Still to Arise, Says Siegfried Sassoon.

SELECTIONS WELL RECEIVED

Siegfried Sassoon, soldier and poet, spoke at Convocation Hall last night before a large audience, who listened to the opinions on war and its results from the lips of one who had felt both, and had no evidence to offer of having found anything of good in either. That the young Englishman made a most favorable impression was evident by the close attention given him and by the appreciation which met the subtle touches of humor that came out here and there in the course of the address.

Beginning with Mr. Robert Bridges, "the official" fountain head of poetry in England and a superb carver in the art of words, the speaker gave the roll of poets "who at this moment are endeavoring to produce the goods." Sir William Watson was spoken of as having probably received all he had hoped for—a knighthood. Mrs. Alice Meynell was remembered for her excellent work. A. E. Housman had written one good poem. Sir Herbert Trench was commended upon as belonging to any age but this. Yeats, Maeterlinck, Thomas, T. S. Eliot, who has an influence among the super-intellectuals; J. C. Squire, poet and editor of the new London Mercury; Thomas Hardy and G. H. Laurence, son of a coal miner, and a real genius, were all remembered. For the most part, however, it was the opinion of the speaker that poets during the war had used any phraseology except that of the war and that as a result there was nothing distinctive among the English poets to leave its mark upon the poet to rise and wash all of the present right out, and he for his part would not object.

Mr. Sassoon said that there was no more ridiculous phrase than "the game of war," which was so commonly used. War is not a game. War is a business in which the thing required is efficiency. From his viewpoint there is nothing in war and its results are entirely evil, but if there is to be another war in ten or fifteen years then we should be efficient in order to meet it.

The second part of the address was devoted by Mr. Sassoon to the reading of a number of his own poems, which, however, contradicted his statement that the present will have no effect on the future, the strong pictures described in language which made the sordid scenes of the trench and dug-out live in very realistic form before his audience, ensuring them life in the years to come.

Among the selections were "Dreamers," telling of what the men were thinking "when the guns began"; the "Attack," depicting the "lines of grey muttering faces"; an incident on the Hindenburg line, describing the search of a soldier as he walked among gruesome things of life and death "fifty feet below the very bloom of battle overhead"; "Suicide in the Trenches," the "Big Base Camp," "Does It Matter?" "Everyday Sang" and the "White Hawthorne Tree," were among the selections given, the author being rewarded with long and genuine applause. An intimate sketch of Bliss Carman, the Canadian poet, was given by Mr. Peter McArthur, who told of his acquaintance with Carman, which began thirty years ago in the office of The New York Independent when Carman was editor and McArthur was employed to write some quatrains to help fill a weekly page. The Bohemian life during which they were "temporarily in temporary difficulties" was interestingly told by Mr. McArthur, who also read from the writings of his old friend, one of Canada's favorite poets. The evening was a benefit to Carman. Professor Dale presided.

SITUATION BEST EVER.

Herbert Lewis, the well-known business manager for the International Association of Machinists in Toronto, addressed large meetings held in Hamilton this week on behalf of the big drive for membership. He reports the situation better even than anticipated.



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YORK COUNTY AND SUBURBS

WOODBINE HEIGHTS NEEDS PUBLIC HALL

That a permanent community hall is a real necessity in the Woodbine Heights district is the unanimous opinion of the residents and a strong effort is being made by the building committee, recently appointed by the Woodbine Heights Ratepayers' Association, to erect a suitable building. According to the statement of a member of the committee there are six thriving organizations with no permanent place of meeting in Woodbine Heights, namely, the G. W. V. A., Sons of England, Daughters of the Empire, Orange Lodge, Ratepayers' and Women's Auxiliary. These associations will be approached regarding co-operation in the scheme.

SOME STREETS IMPASSABLE.

Much inconvenience is at present experienced by the residents of the Woodbine Heights district owing to the bad state of the roads north and south of Danforth, in some coal dealers refuse to deliver coal, particularly in the section lying north of the city limits. The thoroughfares, however, in the Woodbine Heights section, owing to the sandy nature of the soil, are in fair condition with good roadbeds.

DEATH OF LUMBERMAN.

Perry Switzer, lumberman, who was injured in a lumber camp near Halleybury, Ont., about one month ago, died in the General Hospital on Tuesday last in his 25th year. The remains were taken to Trull's undertaking parlors, 80 Danforth avenue, from where they were shipped to Gooderham, Ont., for interment. The late Mr. Switzer, who was single, is survived by his parents, who reside at Gooderham and his sister, Mrs. Timball, 15 Goswami avenue, Rollmorden.

G. W. V. A. AUXILIARY

In connection with the Woodbine Heights branch G. W. V. A., a women's auxiliary was recently formed at the residence of the president, Lumsden avenue.

Officers were elected and a strong working committee appointed. The matter of permanent headquarters was discussed.

CHURCH REDECORATED.

Waverley Road Baptist Church, which has been in the hands of the decorators for some time past, will be reopened on Easter Sunday with special services by the pastor, Rev. J. H. Boyd. Special Easter music will be rendered by the choir, under the leadership of Frederic Thomas, choir-master.

The estimated cost of the interior improvements is \$2,000. Exterior work will be undertaken at a later date.

WEDDING AT THE BEACH.

A wedding of local interest was celebrated in Waverley Road Baptist Church yesterday afternoon when Margaret Amy Dies and William Stuart Verner, returned veteran, were united in marriage by Rev. J. H. Boyd, pastor, in the presence of a large gathering of relatives and friends. The bride who is the sister of Bill Dies, the blind war veteran, was given away by her father, George Wilmut Dies, and the bridesmaid was her sister, Lina A. Dies. The groomsmen was J. E. Seaton. Miss Winifred Thomas played the wedding march. Mr. and Mrs. Verner left on their honeymoon for New York and will reside in Williamson road on their return.

HUMOROUS CHURCH CONCERT.

Under the auspices of the E. Y. M. F. the annual display and grand concert was held at the Earlicourt Central Methodist Church last night, when a crowd of young people filled the spacious church. There was singing and music by the orchestra, drill, parallel bar exercise, boy relay races, floor pyramids, dumbbell exercises and a humorous sketch, entitled "Is He In?" by Hubert King and company. There was also some clever and daring slack wire acts and basketball games. Rev. E. C. Hunter presided. The proceeds go to the association.

DANCE AND EUCHRE.

A dance and euchre was given at the Belmont Hall, St. Clair avenue, last night in connection with the Earlicourt G.W.V.A. There was a large attendance and the veterans' orchestra furnished the music. Refreshments were served by the ladies' auxiliary.

SOME BOXING BOUTS.

The staff and patients of the Dominion Orthopaedic Hospital will give an entertainment at the Belmont Hall, G.W.V.A., on Tuesday evening. Some special boxing bouts will be staged and the proceeds will be handed over to the hospital patients.

FUNERAL TODAY.

Mrs. Agnes Yule died at her residence, 28 Hamilton street, from influenza after a few days' illness, in her 66th year, and is survived by her husband, John Anderson, and a large family grown up. The funeral will take place this afternoon at St. John's Cemetery, Norway. Rev. J. Rodger, St. John's Presbyterian Church, will officiate. The undertaking arrangements will be carried out by L. W. Trull, Danforth avenue.

VETERAN WEDS.

The wedding of Miss Emma Rothwell Finlayson and Nelson Powell Talbot, returned veteran, took place last night at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Finlayson, 11 Grandview avenue. Rev. J. R. Patterson, pastor Simpson Avenue Methodist Church officiated, and the bride was given away by her father. The bridesmaid was Stella M. Talbot, sister of the bridegroom, and Richard H. Reid acted as best man. Many relatives and friends were present.

WILL HEAR CONTROLLER.

Controller Ramsden will address the

Riverdale Ratepayers' Association at their meeting in Leslie Street School on Tuesday next on the Toronto Street Railway purchase.

STONE IN DEVIL'S DIP.

Since the frost has come out of the ground the new fill-in on the East Gerrard street Devil's Dip, recently completed by the works department, has sagged to some extent, and large quantities of crushed stone are now being placed on the surface.

The Dominion Bank branch at the corner of Dufferin and Eglinton is nearly finished and new stores have also been erected on the avenue. Land selling in this district is fairly brisk.

"The End of the Road."

The last two performances of "The End of the Road," the remarkable photoplay, which filled Massey Hall to capacity last night, take place today at 2.30 and 3.15 p.m. Patrons who have not yet purchased tickets for either performance are earnestly requested, for their own convenience, to buy them in advance at the Victoria street ticket office, which is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The photoplay, which is endorsed by the Canadian National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, is a remarkable drama, dealing with a vital subject of today. Richard Bennett is co-star with Claire Adams, a beautiful Canadian-born girl who for some time lived in Toronto.

Invite Chief Justice Mathers To Head Council of Industry

Winnipeg, March 31.—Chief Justice Mathers of the court of King's bench will be asked to assume the chairmanship of the joint council of industry under the industrial conditions bill, it was learned today. The aim of the provincial government in setting up the joint council of industry is to bring employee and employer together for discussion of all difficulties arising.

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HAMILTON

Hamilton, March 31.—At a meeting of the board of control on Thursday afternoon plans will be laid for a war on local bakers. The board of commerce will likely be asked to conduct an inquiry into the bakery business to ascertain why bread is dearer in Hamilton than in Toronto, London and other cities.

At a special meeting of the members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters' and Butcher Workers' Union in the Soldiers' Hall last night, a strike vote was taken, which resulted in the union unanimously deciding to quit work tonight unless the demand for increased pay, an eight-hour day and recognition of the union. About 300 men are affected.

At the board of control meeting this afternoon to hear applicants for the position of city treasurer no decision was reached.

Alexander McMillan, former policeman, who was injured while overseas, was appointed license inspector to succeed John Brick.

At a meeting of the suburban area commission it was decided that so far as advisable the work under the commission's jurisdiction will be done by contract this year. The work of the Hamilton police department for the year 1937 was reviewed on the subject.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY MEMBERS IN CAUCUS

The caucus of the Conservative members in the legislature yesterday decided to watch jealously all legislation introduced by the government trenching upon or threatening the principle of constitutional responsibility of the administration.

The coming franchise act is especially supposed to need watching. The party also discussed the convention to be held and went on record for an epoch-making rally of the party.

Grand River Municipalities To Discuss Great Waterways

Brantford, Ont., March 31.—(Special.)—Boards of trade and chambers of commerce of the municipalities along the Grand river will convene in Galt on April 15 to discuss the great waterways scheme and Grand River flood prevention. The former would mean much to Brantford if action could be taken to force the opening of Port Dover harbor, for which these municipalities have been fighting for many years past.

Need Men for Farm Work Within the Next Few Weeks

Winnipeg, March 31.—About 1,500 men for farm work and 5,000 for other branches, will be required within the next few weeks by the employment service of Canada. J. A. Bowman, the provincial superintendent, stated today. Wages offered to the farm laborers are \$75 per month for experienced men. Married couples for farms get about \$110 per month, the superintendent said.

Allied Reply to Holland Puts End to Correspondence

The Hague, March 31.—The entente's reply to Holland's last "kaiser note" is regarded as ending the correspondence on the subject.

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VERY SUBSTANTIAL GAIN IN CUSTOMS RECEIPTS

Ottawa, March 31.—(By Canadian Press.)—An increase in the total customs receipts for the fiscal year ending today, amounting to \$28,233,377, is shown by the monthly statement issued from the customs department. Receipts for the fiscal year ending today totalled \$184,805,078, while last year they were only \$165,471,702. For the months of March alone the increase this year was \$8,270,481 over March, 1937. The total receipts for the month this year were \$21,277,978, while last year they were \$12,907,488.

GUILTY OF MANSLAUGHTER

Winnipeg, March 31.—Jack Clements, another of the accused in the trio accused of the murder of W. J. DeForge last October, was found guilty of manslaughter by a jury this afternoon. A recommendation of mercy was added to the verdict.

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