

The Herald

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National Service

Literature

One of the most valuable of recent literary contributions to the great cause is a booklet by Professor Stephen Leacock, entitled "National Organization for War." In this booklet, Dr. Leacock makes an urgent call for national thrift and national saving. He attacks in vigorous style the evils of extravagance at this crisis in Canada's history, and by trenchant phrase and apt illustration disposes of various common errors in regard to individual spending of money during war time.

This pamphlet was originally published by Dr. Leacock himself, but the National Service Board were so convinced of its value in connection with their Thrift Campaign that they have had it republished and have undertaken its distribution. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the National Service Board at Ottawa, or by applying to the National Service Director in any Province.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BOOKLET.

"The months through which we are now passing are critical for the fate of the British Empire. The war has lasted nearly two years and a half. There is no sign of an end. Our enemies have devastated Belgium and enslaved its people. They have overrun Poland and taken to themselves its vast resources in corn and food. The iron of Lorraine, the salt mines of Galicia, and the oil fields of Roumania are in their hands. They stand firmly entrenched on the western front from the sea to Switzerland. Their own coastline from Holland to Denmark has thus far proved impregnable."

"As against this we have done much. German commerce is driven from the sea. The German colonies are conquered. France has placed in the field one-sixth of her population. England has raised an army of five million men. From overseas a steady stream of transports crowded with our troops moves towards the heart of the Empire. The whole of the neutral world is under contribution to our arms. Its factories are turned to arsenals. British wealth that represented before the war some twenty billion dollars in its foreign investments is being traded for the munition of war."

"In the moral sense the Allied peoples have done still more. Belgium's defiance of tyranny, the grim devotion of those whom we used to call the light-hearted people of France, and the cheerful gaiety of the 'stolid' English nation that will not retaliate, that still plays fair when murder and piracy are turned against it, that buries with military ceremony even the raiders who have slaughtered its children, that hurls its bombs in Flanders as a new form of cricket, and turns even its dangers and its heroism into a form of sport—these are the things that have called forth the admiration of the world."

"As against this the German brow is dark with the shame of the torturer and the murderer. There are cries that echo to us from the wastes of the Atlantic, and that will echo still through centuries of time."

"But we only deceive ourselves if we hide the fact that the fate of the war—and with it all that is best in the world—hangs in the balance."

"What are we to do?"
 "Our soldiers in the field have done, and are doing, all that

heroism can inspire and all that endurance can fulfil. We are doing our share at home? We go about our tranquil lives scarcely disturbed. Here and there, the swift dart of death, that strikes "somewhere in France," reaches with its double point, somewhere in Canada, a mother's heart. We pause a moment in our sympathy, and pass on. To and fro we go about our business. We pay our easy taxes, and subscribe to our so-called patriotic loan, so issued that the hungriest money-lender in New York is glad to clamor for a share of it. We eat, drink, and are merry, or at least not sad, professing a new philosophy of life as our sympathizers grow dull to the pain and suffering that we do not share."

"Are we, the people of Canada who are at home, doing our proper part to win the war?"

"If a war were conducted with the full strength of a nation, it would mean that every part of the fighting power, the labour, and the resources of the country were being used towards a single end. Each man should either be fighting, with such extra food and such few clothes as were needed for themselves while engaged in the task."

"This is war economy. This is the fashion in which the energies of a nation would be directed if some omniscient despot directed them and controlled the life and activity of every man."

Closure At Washington.

The filibustering by a few Senators in the closing hours of the late Congress succeeded as we have already pointed out, the passage of the President's protection bill. President Wilson, most naturally, is not well pleased at this manner of conduct, and Washington intelligence informs us that he placed squarely before the senate the responsibility for changing its rules during the special session so that filibustering by a small group of senators cannot prevent action by Congress. In the meantime he is preparing to take such steps as he can to meet the crisis and defend American rights. In his inaugural address today he declared "we stand firm in armed neutrality," and added: "We may even be drawn on by circumstances, not by our own purpose or desire to amercise an assertion of our rights as we see them, and a more immediate association with the great struggle itself. While the arming of merchantmen is the step most considered. It is pointed out that the President has the right to convoy American vessels. This course has been opposed by the navy department, however, principally for strategic reasons."

Another step suggested is that the shipping board take over American merchantmen, arm them as naval auxiliaries, and send them abroad. The president has been inclined to believe that certain old statutes still in force might prevent him from furnishing guns to merchantmen, but some of his advisers hold that a broader and truer interpretation of these laws will show that they have no application to the present situation.

Following out the President's ideas in the matter of closure the Democratic and Republican conference agreed at their conference to recommend to their party caucuses a change of the rules so by a two-thirds vote in the Senate debate could be shut off and dilatory tactics prevented. They slightly changed the wording of the resolution framed at their previous meeting and this will be submitted at their caucuses for April.

The President has called an extra session of Congress for April 16th. He also gave orders for American ships to arm at once.

No Embargo on Potatoes

Ottawa advices of the 8th, contain the following: There will be no embargo on potatoes and there will be no commandeering of supplies. This was decided upon at a meeting of the cabinet today. There is no necessity for action at the present time. A thorough canvass of the potato situation throughout Canada has been made by Hon. Martin Burrell and from every available source, commercial and governmental, it is learned that there is at least in the country a supply of one and a half million bushels over and above the domestic requirements for food and seed. The only provinces in which there is a shortage of potatoes are Ontario and possibly Quebec, and the probability is that the provincial authorities have taken steps to meet the situation. In British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island there are large surpluses of potatoes. In some quarters there has been a fear lest there should be a shortage of seed, but it was the consensus of opinion of ministers today that the farmers themselves will take care of that situation.

Thus passes for the present at any rate the nightmare of a potato shortage. Sir George Foster, acting prime minister, made the following statement after the cabinet meeting: Information gathered from official and unofficial sources from all parts of Canada indicates a substantial surplus of potatoes over and above seed and food requirements. Under these circumstances the government does not think that at present an embargo is justified."

The whole affair was carried out with great gallantry, and the "bag" of prisoners amounted to one officer and forty-four other ranks, besides great damage to the enemy's defenses, dugouts and trenches, not to mention the heavy losses inflicted. The troops engaged encountered stiff opposition before reaching their objectives. "No Man's Land" at this particular point is a mass of shell holes, the ground being torn to pieces by months of continuous fighting. The ground rises gently from our right brigade front to the enemy's lines. Over such a terrain the troops on the right advanced, despite a heavy rifle and machine gun fire. The enemy front line was reached and crossed, his dugouts were destroyed and such Germans as were left were killed. The heaviest fighting occurred when the support line was reached. Here, Lieut.-Colonel Kemball, C. B., was killed. He was in the thickest of the fighting, leading his men into the disputed trench. Lieut.-Col. Beckett led his men till their objectives were all but reached, but was killed while collecting his men, scattered by crossing the mass of shell holes and craters. Their objective was reached. After one and one-half hours in the enemy lines, during which time great damage was done and valuable information was gained, our troops retired. During the retirement the enemy suffered heavy losses from our artillery fire, which closed down behind our men as they left the German trenches. In addition to this important operation no less than five smaller raids were carried out with signal success. At three a. m. on the 27th Feb. a party entered the enemy trenches. The net result of the expedition was three prisoners, with the establishing of important identifications, at least ten Germans were seen dead in their trenches and eleven occupied dugouts bombed. Our casualties were two slightly wounded.

Progress of the War

London, March 3—Fighting continues to prevail on various sectors of the Somme and Ancre fronts in France. North and South of the Ancre the London war office reports the British have made additional gains in the latter northwest of Iries. East of Couchavesnes, in the Somme sector, the British report the raiding of a German trench, and the scattering of German forces who were massing for a counter-attack. Berlin, on the other hand, reports the repulse of a British attack east of Bouchavesnes which was delivered after heavy artillery preparation. It is probable that the German official communication refers to an engagement on Monday, while the British communication specifically mentions early Tuesday morning as the time of the successful raid.

London, March 6—The following communique was issued today by the Canadian war records office. Early in the week (of Feb. 26) the enemy made one or more attempts to imitate the dashing raids which are carried out almost daily along the line of the Canadian front. Since the last effort they have been content to act wholly on the defensive, for apparently they are now convinced that raiding the Canadian lines do not pay. On the night in question a party of fourteen Germans rushed one of our Lewis gun posts. The night was extremely dark, and the enemy party managed to elude our patrols. Of the two men on duty with the gun one rushed to the dugout nearby to warn the rest of the men. The Germans were too close for the gunner to train his gun, on them, and they were able to overpower the gunner and grab his gun. This success was evidently the limit of their ambition, for without attempting anything further they ran off with the gun. This success was evidently the limit of their ambition, for without attempting anything further they ran off with the gun. They were pursued across No. Man's Land by the gun crew, who threw bombs at them with such success that the Huns dropped the gun and fled. Meanwhile a sergeant and corporal on duty in the trench nearby ordered a "stand to." The corporal went along the trench to the right, and the sergeant to the left. The corporal met three Germans, and

was ordered to halt. In his hand he held a pistol, used for firing star shells. This he promptly discharged in the face of the leading German, and also fired his rifle. He was wounded in the jaw himself. At the same time the party fled, leaving a sack of bombs in the trench. The main event of the week on the Canadian corps front was a raid of a German line on a more extended scale than usual. In fact the "raid" was really a "minor operation," covering as it did, a frontage of nearly 2,000 yards and penetrating the enemy lines to a depth of 700 yards in one place.

Paris, March 7—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads: "On the Verdun front our batteries took under their fire enemy detachments in the northern outskirts of Malincourt Wood. We effectively shelled German organizations in the Eparges Wood. The artillery fighting was quite active in the sectors of Maisons De Champagne and Embermenil. There is nothing to report on the rest of the front. "The Rumpel (airplane) which fell on March 6 inside our lines north of Laval, Pizard, the fifth enemy airplane over which this plot has triumphed." Belgian communication: "A reciprocal bombardment was carried out east of Ramscapelle and north of Dixmude."

Paris, March 8—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads: "In Champagne after intense artillery preparation our troops succeeded in capturing the greater part of a salient occupied by the enemy on February 15 between Butte Mesnil and Maisons De Champagne. One hundred prisoners, among them two officers, remained in our hands. "On the left bank of the Meuse our artillery fire overturned German organizations between Hill 304 and Avocourt wood. In Alsace our batteries dispersed a strong enemy detachment south of Carnay." Belgian communication: "There is nothing to report."

London, March 8—British cavalry is now within eight miles of Bagdad. This statement was made today by Major-General F. B. Maurloe, chief director of military operations at the war office. General Maurloe said the Turks made no defense of Ctesiphon. It had been believed that the Turks might offer serious resistance when Ctesiphon was reached. This town is about twenty miles below Bagdad. The British war office indicated that little opposition has been offered by the Turks since the fall of Kut-el-Amara on Feb. 26. The British have advanced nearly 100 miles in that time.

London, March 8—An official statement issued tonight says that the British forces found Ctesiphon evacuated, and their cavalry spent Tuesday night 8 miles south of Bagdad. The statement says: "Telegraphing Tuesday at midnight, General Maude reported that little opposition had been encountered by our pursuing troops Tuesday, though a high wind and a sand storm rendered marching auspicious. "A Turkish force which attempted to oppose our advance at Lail Monday had evacuated its positions by Tuesday morning, and our cavalry passing Ctesiphon, which was found to be unoccupied, bivouaced for the night near Bawi, six miles southeast of Diahah, which is situated at the confluence of the Diahah river and the Tigris, eight miles from the southern outskirts of Bagdad. "During Monday and Tuesday 85 Turkish gun were captured."

The Turks are being harassed on three sides by forces of the Entente Allies. British troops under General Maude, operating along the Tigris river in Mesopotamia, have driven the Turks back until British cavalry is within eight miles of the south-

ern border of the important town of Bagdad. To the northeast in Persia the Russians have gained further advantages over the Ottoman forces, in retreat westward from Hamadan, having occupied the town of Kangaver. Another army of King George, operating against the Turks in Palestine, has pressed them back northward almost to the gates of Jerusalem. At last reports the Turks in all three regions were in retreat. Whether it is their purpose to make a stand at Bagdad has not become evident.

On the other fronts bad weather is keeping the operations down to minor engagements and artillery fighting. On the front held by the British in France slight additional successes have been achieved in the Ancre Valley and near Baches, but southwest of Chaulnes and south of Aves the Germans raided British first line positions after heavy bombardments and captured a few men. In the Champagne the French have won from the Germans a salient captured Feb. 15 between Butte

Mesnil and Maisons De Champagne, taking more than a hundred prisoners. Bombardments are in progress at other points on the French line.

London, March 10—The Chronicle says that it is virtually certain that the British troops are now in Bagdad after a series of splendid successes.

Berlin reports the release of Americans and other neutrals who were captured on the Yarrowdale, and taken to Germany.



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